The pandemic has negatively impacted Philadelphia’s cultural and historical institutions, with many museums closed to visitors and cultural events cancelled. However, the resilience, creativity, and adaptability of our city cannot be underestimated, and many of these institutions quickly pivoted to continue to serve their communities and offer new and innovative ways to learn, create, connect, and come together. GPA has been highlighting the numerous online and outdoor events and programming available as well as news on reopenings and preservation matters. This includes a social media campaign continuing our efforts to promote the city’s 67 National Historic Landmarks.

GPA’s World Heritage Program Manager Melissa Stevens gave a talk for the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides on Oct 14. Her discussion was entitled “What Does it Mean to be the Nation’s First World Heritage City.” Stevens introduced the "what" and "why" of the World Heritage City designation and how this unique status provides an excellent opportunity to explore the city’s diverse heritage and global connections with tour groups of all ages.

GPA hosted the panel discussion “Reopening Historic Sites During COVID-19” on Aug 10th. Historic sites have unique challenges in keeping both the public and historic objects and buildings safe. The panelists presented best practices for preparing historic sites for reopening during COVID-19 that addressed both public health and historic preservation concerns. The panelists were Dr. Cheryl
Bettigole, Director of the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention for the City’s Department of Public Health; Nancy Van Dolsen, Chief Executive Officer of Cliveden of the National Trust; Beth Beatty, Executive Director of Fort Mifflin; and Gwen Ragsdale, Executive Director of the Lest We Forget Museum of Slavery.

Many sites with outdoor areas saw increased visitation from local tourists in the summer. Most sites have developed online and virtual programming and tours, which are especially helpful as museums have recently had to once again close to indoor visitors.

**Educating Global Kids with Roots**

GPA has launched a new program, Heritage Storytime, which is a series of monthly storytime episodes presented virtually for children. Each episode will focus on a heritage-related theme and will feature a children’s book read-along as well as complimentary learning materials and activities. Heritage Storytime nurtures our desire to tell stories about our lives and heritages, past and present, and to learn through these stories. This program is especially important now due to the constraints that COVID-19 has imposed on teachers and families.

Heritage Storytime

For our first episode entitled “Oney Judge’s Daring Escape from Slavery,” GPA partnered with the African American Museum of Philadelphia and the Lest We Forget Museum of Slavery to bring you the story, My Name is Oney Judge by Diane D. Turner. The episode aired on Nov 19th and will be re-aired Dec 16th. It will be available to stream online soon on GlobalPhiladelphia.org and LearnPhillyHeritage.org. The next episode is planned for the last week of Jan 2021.

We have begun producing an educational e-newsletter highlighting the region’s global heritages. Each issue is published on the GPA website and presents information on one heritage community’s culture and contributions to Philadelphia, their historical and global context, local organizations, online learning resources, and opportunities to connect and learn more virtually. Past issues have highlighted Philadelphia’s Latinx, South Asian, Caribbean, African American, Catholic, and Japanese communities.

The LearnPhillyHeritage.org website now has over 250 resources available for anyone interested in heritage education resources and information. This website is administered by GPA as part of the Philadelphia World Heritage Education Program. Some resources include:

**Association of Public Art:** The APA seeks to respond to the conditions of our time while interpreting and preserving public art for future generations.

**Neighbors/Vecinos** (The Puerto Rican Philly Experience): Supported by The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, Neighbors/Vecinos’ explores the history of the Puerto Rican neighborhoods of Philadelphia and their similarities to other migrant experiences.

**CC Morris Cricket Library:** This is the largest collection of cricket literature and memorabilia in the Western Hemisphere and includes over a thousand volumes and related items of Cricket history.

*(continued on page 5)*
2020 Philadelphia World Heritage Celebration

On Sep 10th, GPA successfully managed and conducted a virtual event to celebrate our fifth year of Philadelphia being a World Heritage City.

During this year’s virtual World Heritage City Celebration, GPA recognized the incredible work and partnerships that have helped showcase Philadelphia’s global impact:

- Educating hundreds of kids through free and low-cost resources
- Launching a first-of-its-kind Philadelphia National Historic Landmarks map
- Hosting the biennial Global Philly Expo to showcase the international activity of our residents
- The appointment of Mayor Kenney to the Board of Directors of the Organization of World Heritage Cities

We were honored to recognize world-class music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin from the Philadelphia Orchestra, for his outstanding contributions to our global community. Nézet-Séguin is recognized for his musicianship, dedication, and charisma. He has established himself as a musical leader of the highest caliber and one of the most thrilling talents of his generation.

Nézet-Séguin has taken The Philadelphia Orchestra to new musical heights in performances at home; in Philadelphia neighborhoods; and around the world. His concerts of diverse repertoire attract sold-out houses, and he continues to make connections within Philadelphia’s arts community, showing his commitment to engaging music lovers of all ages across the region.

Vai Sikahema, morning news anchor for NBC10 News Today was the emcee for the night’s festivities.
The festivities featured performances by Philadelphia’s own Kevin and Michael Bacon, together known as the Bacon Brothers band; internationally renowned classical pianist Lang Lang; the inaugural U.S. Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman; and Philadelphia native and Grammy Award-winning, soul-jazz and hip-hop/funk innovator Jeff Bradshaw.

There were also special video messages from Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney; National LGBT Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President Jonathan Lovitz; Stephen Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Global Affairs Canada; Nadine Girault, Quebec Minister of International Relations; Lee Minaidis, Acting Secretary General, Organization of World Heritage Cities; MSNBC’s Ali Velshi; and 98.1 WOGL’s Marilyn Russell.

This year’s World Heritage City Celebration commemorated five years of the World Heritage City Project and ten years as a non-profit for the Global Philadelphia Association. The Celebration was an occasion to invest in the implementation of the World Heritage City Strategic Plan and is the driving funding source to keep the project moving forward.
Building WHC Awareness & Ownership

GPA celebrated Philadelphia’s fifth anniversary as a World Heritage City by hosting a week of virtual heritage events and festivities on social media from May 26-30, 2020 for World Heritage Week. In addition to these events, GPA held a #GiveBack campaign to raise money for the Nationalities Service Center in support of immigrants and refugees affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the week, GPA celebrated local businesses, organizations, Philadelphia’s heritage preservation, and gender equality initiatives. The Spread Our Seal campaign invites local businesses and organizations to place a static cling of Philadelphia’s World Heritage City seal on their front window, thereby showcasing their city pride. As of now, over 60 businesses and organizations across Philadelphia’s city council districts are participating in the program.

The Philadelphia World Heritage Coloring Book was streamed in English, Spanish, and Japanese to honor Philadelphia’s international communities and to teach children to take pride in themselves and in Philadelphia’s cultural and historical sites. Thursday focused on celebrating the city’s women leaders and featured a live-streamed musical performance by local jazz legend Sherry Wilson Butler. On the final day of World Heritage Week, GPA closed with giveaways for the World Heritage City Seal, Philadelphia Heritage Map, and the Philadelphia World Heritage Coloring Book.

The Festival concluded on the evening of July 4th with a star-studded performance by award-winning singer and actress Cynthia Erivo, the Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia, and singer-songwriter Jason Derulo, recorded from the Met Philadelphia and broadcast by NBC10.

Extending Philadelphia’s Global Reach

For GPA’s Sustainable Development Goals Campaign, Saint Joseph’s University (SIU) and GPA are collaboratively working on an art project focusing on SDG No. 4: Quality Education. GPA is pleased to announce that we have chosen the second artist, Ann Northrup, for the second mural on SIU’s Campus. Ann Northrup is a Philadelphia painter and muralist who has taught drawing and design in many colleges and universities. The other SDG No. 4 artist is Isabella Akhtarshenas, a versatile graphic designer and multidisciplinary artist. The location of these murals has been finalized and will be located in the library of SIU’s Campus, while the second will be based in Gompers Elementary School.

GPA is honored to be working with Temple University on an art project based on Sustainable Development Goal.
number 10 which is reduced inequalities. The project is currently in the planning stages. In addition to this, Harry and Katherine from the Harry and Catherine Halloran Family Trust has now sponsored SDG No. 16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Global Philadelphia has selected artist Gabe Tiberino to work on the Mural Arts project focusing on SDG 1: No Poverty. Tiberino is a Philadelphia-based artist who comes from an esteemed family of artists. The Tiberino family legacy and talent are showcased at the Tiberino Museum, located here in Philadelphia.

US/ICOMOS held their International Symposium and Conference: U.S. World Heritage and Social Justice in the 21st Century on Nov 12th and 13th. Sessions conducted on day one focused on international examples of monuments associated with oppression, World Heritage Sites and slavery, interpretation of Civil Rights Sites, and social justice and Indigenous Peoples. The sessions on day two were focused on discussions about World Heritage and Indigenous Peoples’ struggles for social justice, interpreting Indigenous homeland World Heritage Sites, and diversifying and decolonizing World Heritage.

The OWHC Regional Secretariat for Northwest Europe and North America, together with the host city Luxembourg, held a virtual meeting and webinar on the topic of “Livability in World Heritage Cities” on September 24th. There was an introductory presentation on defining “livability” in a World Heritage context by Professor Christer Gustafsson, an expert in Heritage Conservation from Uppsala University in Sweden. Attendees were invited to participate in the discussion by answering polls about livability and World Heritage in their own cities.

The OWHC has just announced the launch of the 6th edition of their International Video Production Competition. This competition is intended for young people of two age groups: 14-17 years old and 18-21 years old. The theme this year is “New beginning. New vision. New city.” Videos will be chosen at the local level to be entered into the international competition where a cash prize will be awarded to the winners by the OWHC. The local deadline will be in May 2021 and more details will be announced soon on the GPA website.

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We welcome you to send your stories to Melissa Stevens (melissa.stevens@globalphiladelphia.org) for inclusion in the next Quarterly.