

WORLD HERITAGE CITY NEWS

A Publication of Global Philadelphia Association
and the World Heritage City Project

March 2024 | Issue 21



Preserving & Celebrating

World Heritage USA Conference: San Antonio's Success and Philadelphia's Parallel Journey in Heritage Preservation

San Antonio is the second World Heritage City in the United States

San Antonio, Texas joined Philadelphia as a United States World Heritage City in 2015, and it has made extraordinary efforts in bringing recognition to and preserving its World Heritage sites. In early November, representatives from cities across North America gathered in San Antonio to observe and discuss their successes and strategies at the World Heritage USA conference. Nominations for World Heritage designations are submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee by the US government, specifically the Department of the Interior, through the National Park Service's Office of International Affairs. Only sites already included on the official US World Heritage Tentative List are eligible. World Heritage USA takes on a leadership role in promoting World Heritage across the country, mirroring the role that Global Philadelphia plays at the city level.

Philadelphia leaders traveled to the fellow World Heritage City to join in on the important discussions. The Philadelphia delegation included GPA President Zabeth Teelucksingh, former Acting Deputy Director of the City of Philadelphia's Department of Planning and Development Martha Cross, and Stephanie Augello, World Heritage Coordinator for Moravian Church Settlements and Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a town that hopes to have its Moravian Church Settlements designated as World Heritage Sites in the near future.

Much of the conference centered on managing interactions with different communities involved in World Heritage sites. In discussions of cultural recognition and visibility, the conference brought attention to San Antonio's large Native American population, collectively referred to as Coahuiltecan, whose land is a part of the World Heritage site itself. Admiration was expressed for the World Heritage Office for including Native American leaders and centering their valuable ideas and contributions.

GPA stays committed to growing recognition of World Heritage by being involved in many international conferences and creating new, informative initiatives in Philadelphia.

Dr. Rev. Leon Sullivan’s Legacy: From Philadelphia to Africa

Marginalized groups globally have long faced unequal opportunities, a struggle that is still evident today. Dr. Rev. Leon Sullivan, a Philadelphia resident for over 50 years, led initiatives promoting job market equality, impacting thousands and leaving a revered legacy worldwide.

After growing up in West Virginia, Sullivan moved to Philadelphia as an avid civil rights activist whose commitment to eliminating economic injustice inspired his founding of an organization focused on helping his community.

Through Sullivan’s creation of Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc. (OIC) in Philadelphia, those in need in the Black community have had an avenue to find employment and access career resources since 1958. This organization provides opportunities to engage in education programs and job training so that people from disadvantaged communities might improve their economic situations or transform their futures. OIC Philadelphia has changed over 50,000 lives, offering training to more than 400 individuals per year in areas such as culinary arts, digital media, financial services, and more.

OIC expanded across the country and the world with 7 OICs forming in Africa. The organization unites people seeking better circumstances and those fighting for economic justice in an international network. Through OIC Philadelphia and its affiliates, OIC Philadelphia President Sheila Ireland shared that their goal is to let people know that “no matter where you are economically, we are still a collective and there are still opportunities and hope.” The organization also continues to be inspired by Dr. Rev. Sullivan everyday.

Celebrating Philadelphia’s World Heritage City Status: Honoring Michael A. Nutter and Promoting Global Connections



This year’s World Heritage City Celebration (WHCC) was a lively and rewarding event for the Global Philadelphia Association (GPA) and its guests. GPA presented the event at the Crystal Tea Room in Philadelphia, a treasured Philly National Historic Landmark. The occasion marked the celebration of Solidarity Day of World Heritage Cities, a day in which all World Heritage Cities are invited to celebrate their shared commitment to recognizing heritage once a year with the Organization of World Heritage Cities. Global Philadelphia honored our World Heritage City by recognizing former mayor and City Council member, Michael A. Nutter, to whom GPA presented the Gloy Award for Distinguished Global Leadership.



As the major honoree of the night, Nutter treated guests to a deep and revealing fireside chat with famed Philadelphia anchor, Jim Gardner. The two

discussed topics such as the history and image of the city, its involvement in the international community, and the significance of Philadelphia being the first American World Heritage City.

GPA celebrates “Solidarity Day of World Heritage” annually, and continues to share the importance of world heritage through immersive experiences.

Education

5th Global Teach Connection Summit: Adapting Teaching Practices for a Globalized World

Educators and international partners gathered over Zoom at this year’s Annual Global Teach Connection Summit, held on November 8th by the Drexel University School of Education. GPA’s own Zabeth Teelucksingh was one of the esteemed guest speakers at this webinar, which sought to improve global teaching competencies for educators in a globalized world. Topics ranged from success stories in new teaching methods to educational tools and resources that can be used to educate students on culture and globally-relevant curriculum. Teelucksingh’s portion of the webinar addressed global teaching through the lens of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, an area of expertise for the GPA president.

Teelucksingh pointed out the necessity of implementing meaningful structure in education, especially on ways to become active citizens both in and outside the classroom. She explained, “in a complex world, we need frameworks that can help us to better understand things that are going on around us, and also to better highlight things that are of importance to our world and common understanding... both UN Sustainable Development Goals and the World Heritage construct are very helpful in those two domains.” Through her descriptions of the origins and missions of the UN SDGs, Teelucksingh connected these ideas to educational frameworks that can be used to help students become more globally-minded.

GPA seeks to educate the public so that everyone can work together towards not only embracing sustainability, but also recognizing the importance of global community-building in this conversation. Our intention is to connect communities and educate people to help create a more collaborative and informed world.

The OWHC: Bringing Together International Cities for Heritage and Sustainability



Created in 1993, the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) is an international, non-profit NGO that brings together and fosters collaboration between cities with UNESCO World Heritage sites. This group of historic cities share the common goal of defending universal human values and protecting cultural heritage, wherever they may be located.

Headquartered in Québec City, the organization is administered by the General Secretariat, supported by five Regional Secretariats, and represented by mayors of the member cities. The OWHC aims to push forward policies, strategies, and projects that allow cities to tackle future challenges related to heritage and sustainability.

Global Philadelphia’s fellow, Kynaat Moosvi, attended OWHC roundtables, during which member cities give presentations about their challenges and insights, opening opportunities for other cities to work with them. “While they were based in different cities,” Kynaat explains, “if there were specific problems, they still shared a lot of similarities. They wanted to improve their cities in addition to preserving their cultural heritage.”

Mayors and representatives from various World Heritage Cities discussed challenges posed by tourism, such as traffic and pollution, impacting local communities and historic areas. Initiatives like pedestrian zones and tourist access limits were proposed to prioritize citizens. Cities addressed over-tourism concerns through grassroots efforts like tree planting and green spaces. Brussels tackled real estate pressures on historic buildings, suggesting solutions to the housing crisis. The Regional Secretariat discussed preserving traditional craftsmanship and art through training centers. Colonia de Sacramento, Uruguay, aims for community engagement through heritage preservation and educational programs.

Looking ahead, cities will meet for the 17th OWHC World Congress in Cordoba, Spain in September 2024. Members are preparing for the next phase, the “New Urban Project,” which aims to bring cities closer to an ideal of livable, inclusive, and resilient cities. GPA is organizing a Philadelphia delegation to attend the 2024 Fall Congress. Contact zabeth.teelucksingh@globalphiladelphia.org for more details.

Philadelphia’s Canvas for SDG #8 and Economic Growth at School of the Future

The Global Philadelphia Association has unveiled a new mural - SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. GPA’s initiative to feature SDG 8 in the form of a public art aligns seamlessly with the city’s efforts to position itself as a global hub for economic progress. As a global and growing city, Philadelphia is actively working towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 8, which underscores the importance of sustained per capita GDP growth, technological innovation, economic diversification, and improvements in global resource efficiency. The 10x10 mural that sits on the exterior wall of The Philadelphia School District School of the Future on Parkside Avenue, crafted by Faysal Adger, serves as a captivating visual representation of these goals and the city’s current initiatives.



Sponsored by TEACHERS&, the unveiling took place on November 28th, and was seen by a wide range of attendees - students, GPA members, non-profit associates, and the general public - all united by the shared goal of Decent Work and Economic Growth. The crowd heard from a wide variety of speakers, including City Representative Sheila Hess, Artist Faysal Adger, School Principal John Smith, TEACHERS& President Neferteri Strickland, We Love Philly Founder Carlos Aponte, and GPLEX Program Director Kejsi Sahaj. Speakers talked about the importance of Decent Work and Economic Growth, highlighting the measures that Philadelphia organizations and companies are taking in the business, education, cultural and nonprofit sectors to revolutionize the way they are approaching technology education and a changing workforce.

During the unveiling, Faysal stated proudly, “I want to bring people together with this mural, and I want to celebrate sustainable economic growth which will help us all be stewards of the earth. I feel blessed to be a 17-year-old, Black male, living with brain cancer creating art in Philadelphia. God is good! I hope this mural is just one of many! Thank you all.”

Awareness & Ownership

A Look Into The City of San Antonio’s World Heritage Office

Gaining World Heritage City (WHC) designation is an exciting feat for a city and an accomplishment

that should be celebrated. After becoming a WHC in 2015, San Antonio, Texas set to work developing plans and strategies to make the most of the city's new status.

San Antonio is setting the standard for the way it manages World Heritage sites and expands programs devoted to World Heritage education and recognition. The city has its own World Heritage Office run by Colleen Swain, a San Antonio native.



In an interview with GPA, Swain shared how The City of San Antonio World Heritage Office came to be and its role in the community.

Following WHC designation, San Antonio's local government held multiple public conversations which sought to educate the public on what World Heritage is and garner thoughts on use of the land of the World Heritage site and improvements to visitor experience. The Missions are historical yet fully-functioning churches and the largest collection of Spanish colonial architecture in the United States. Swain shared that the forums led to a new understanding of what a World Heritage site could do for a community; residents reasoned that they were the ones going to the churches and living nearby, so the improvements should be done with them in mind.

With this insight in mind, the office was created to "leverage the World Heritage site as a catalyst for social economic change, and there was potential for increased economic development" if the local

government and communities could work together, which they have since proven capable of and excelled at.

Having an office specifically devoted to World Heritage is a game changer that demonstrates San Antonio's deep commitment to World Heritage. Philadelphia has many organizations that demonstrate a devotion to World Heritage and Philadelphia heritage, such as GPA and National Historic Landmark organizations, and that interest is continually growing. When emphasis on celebrating World Heritage is established and governmentally recognized as an important facet of a city or town's identity, initiatives surrounding World Heritage can have more positive influences on communities.

Global Philadelphia is glad to contribute to World Heritage USA and represent Philadelphia and its heritage connections through the OWHC.

GPA in the Community - Fall 2023

The Association is present at numerous community events in and around Philadelphia sharing heritage and educational resources

The Global Philadelphia Association was involved in a variety of different global and cultural events that took place across the city this past fall, including Chasing LOVE: A Welcoming Week Global Cultural Celebration with the traveling Syrian refugee puppet Little Amal, the Latin American Book Fair with Taller Puertorriqueño, and the Philadelphia Unity Cup hosted by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

The Global Cultural Celebration with Little Amal sought to show that refugees and immigrants of all backgrounds and nationalities are welcome in Philadelphia, and reinforced GPA's commitment to uplifting diverse, international communities across the city. On the GPA website, each major immigrant/refugee community representing a global region (Africa, Asia, South & Central America, the Caribbean, Europe & more) has its own page with a plethora of information including history and

facts, restaurants, businesses and organizations, and existing resources that are available across Philly.



The Latin American Book Fair theme for 2023 was “Celebrating Heritage, Language, and Culture” and was held in October. As a community partner for the event, GPA gave out copies in multiple languages of the Learn Philly Heritage Coloring Book. Fitting right into the fair’s theme, this book is meant to help children, from ages 5 to 11, become familiar with the historical and cultural heritage of Philadelphia, while having fun and being creative.

Lastly, GPA attended the 2023 Unity Cup that was also held in October. The tournament offered a platform for the city to foster inclusivity and international camaraderie through the universal language of soccer, ultimately setting the stage for the FIFA World Cup™ in 2026. GPA’s attendance and extensive coverage of the tournament reinforced its commitment to uplifting the global profile of Philadelphia.

Global Reach

GPA Leads Philadelphia Delegation to OWHC Regional Secretariat in Bruges

In October, the Global Philadelphia Association represented Philadelphia at the Organization of

World Heritage Cities’ Regional Secretariat in Bruges, Belgium and joined in a conversation about climate change in the context of world heritage. With a packed itinerary, attendees had the opportunity to learn about other cities’ ideas through lectures and discussions, reflect on their own cities’ plans and successes, and be immersed in elements of Bruges’ heritage that exemplified sustainable efforts.

Philadelphia’s delegation included Zabeth Teelucksingh, President of GPA, Daisy Van Hoof Mertens, Philadelphia’s representative of Flemish in the World, Jonathan Burton of Independence Historical Trust, and Omar Woodard, Chief Philanthropy Officer of HRS Management.

The workshop options exemplified the heritage of Bruges and the way the city is practicing sustainability and addressing the ongoing effects of climate change. The OWHC delegations also celebrated Béguinage’s 25th anniversary of becoming an official UNESCO World Heritage site.



One workshop offered a tour of an English Convent, and another group visited the canals around Bruges to learn about the threat of increased water levels in the wake of climate change. Given the shifting environment, there are plans to keep the canals viable in the present as the effects of climate change are felt, continuing the theme of exploration into how sites and the various components of a city’s heritage can be made more sustainable and effective with present-day changes.

For GPA, this conference provided a way to showcase the important work the organization is doing for

Philadelphia in the international sphere. GPA is a leader in encouraging recognition of world heritage and its continued relevance to the global community, and has been for almost a decade. GPA is constantly working to expand global connections and continue learning from the global community.

Philadelphia's Historic Unity Cup Women's Tournament: A Step Towards Inclusivity and Empowerment

Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, etched its name in history this fall with the launch of the inaugural Philadelphia International Unity Cup Women's Tournament. Riding the wave of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup™, this expansion marked a momentous stride towards inclusivity and empowerment, resonating with the global community advocating for the recognition and support of women in sports.

The Philadelphia International Unity Cup, an annual soccer tournament proudly sponsored by the city, has stood as a beacon of unity. It has been a celebration of the diverse immigrant communities that represent countries from multiple continents. Over the years, the tournament has provided these communities with a stage to showcase their passion for the beautiful game, fostering connections, and dismantling cultural barriers in the process.

This year's groundbreaking addition of the Women's Tournament elevated the Unity Cup to new heights of inclusivity. Eight teams representing countries from around the globe—Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Germany, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States—converged on Philadelphia's soccer fields. The tournament, kicking off on Saturday, September 16, 2023, and unfolding on weekends throughout September, became a melting pot of diverse cultures, fostering a spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie.

As Philadelphia prepares to host the FIFA World Cup™ in 2026, the inclusion of the Women's Tournament in the Unity Cup this year holds

broader implications. The tournament has become not just a local event but a part of a global movement to elevate women's sports and inspire the next generation of athletes.

Philadelphia has been a proud supporter and sponsor of the Unity Cup since its creation in 2016.

Features

Preserving Philadelphia's African American Heritage: Stories of Restoration and Recognition

As the steward of a community of 67 NHLs in Philadelphia, GPA provides a map of landmarks and activates events

It's no secret that Philadelphia is a city rich with history and home to iconic art. Some of the most notable artists of the country have lived right in this city and produced creative works while they did so. Among these famed creatives are Marian Anderson, John and Alice Coltrane, Henry O. Tanner, and Paul Robeson. These past residents of Philadelphia are not only engrained in the city's history, but key contributors to African American culture.

The homes they lived in are just as important, because it gives members of the community and tourists alike an image of the places in which they may have created art, started a family, or reminisced on their past successes. With each individual living in these respective homes at different times, their houses have all been in various stages of disrepair or restoration. A look into how these homes are doing now and what communities are doing to preserve them can show which ones may need more financial or communal support, but how all are deserving of visits and recognition to keep their structures, and the memories within them, alive.

A well-preserved home with a fully flourishing historical society, the National Marian Anderson Museum recognizes the wonderful art and

achievements of the Philadelphia-born singer. The red-brick home on South Martin Street, or Marian Anderson Way, is complete with a unique entertainment center in the basement. Anderson bought the historic home in 1924, during a time when African American individuals were not permitted to go out socially, so Anderson would host and entertain friends and fellow artists in her own home. She embarked on tours across the country, Europe, and Latin America throughout the 30s, and eventually gave her final concert in 1965.

A few blocks from the Marian Anderson Residence Museum sits the John Coltrane House. One of the most admired musicians of the mid 1900s, John Coltrane lived on North 33rd Street during the 40s, with his wife and fellow jazz musician, Alice. Within the late 19th-century, red-brick home, John created his iconic jazz album, *Giant Steps*. The home itself has been designated as a National Historic Landmark, honoring the Coltranes and recognizing their presence in Philadelphia's history.

With the NHL designation at risk if the home's upkeep was not tended to, the home's most recent owners and the Strawberry Mansion Community Development Corporation (SMCDC) partnered to restore the landmark, with repairs taking place over almost two decades. The John and Alice Coltrane House is now run by the SMCDC community-based nonprofit and officially became the John Coltrane Museum and Cultural Arts Center, which have become integral parts of the larger ongoing initiative to revitalize the historic Strawberry Mansion neighborhood and create a gateway into the community."

Up the street from the Coltrane House, Henry Ossawa Tanner grew up and developed his love of painting within his childhood home off of Ridge Avenue. An internationally acclaimed African American artist, Henry O. Tanner spent most of his life abroad, creating famous artworks from the late 19th-century until the 1920s. Deemed an unsafe structure and listed as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust

for Historic Preservation in 2023, the Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites (CPCRS) is answering the call and urgently trying to raise money for stabilization efforts alongside Friends of Henry O. Tanner House and the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia.

Another African American artist, who was also an actor and activist, spent the final years of his life in Philadelphia, in what is now known as the Paul Robeson House and Museum. Paul Robeson was the son of a former enslaved man, a graduate from Columbia University's law school, a successful actor and singer, and an avid civil rights activist. He traveled the world performing and advocating for civil rights, then settled in Philadelphia to live with his sister until he passed away in 1976. Due to his contributions to art, politics, and Philadelphia, the West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance (WPCA) took ownership of the home and dedicated it to sharing Paul Robeson's legacy with the community.



Consider visiting and supporting these sites firsthand to witness the legacies of these artists and find your own avenue of inspiration. By doing so, Philadelphia can further preserve its collective heritage, ensuring that African American history becomes more integral to its culture and remains at the forefront of the minds of both residents and visitors.

These three sites are featured on Global Philadelphia's map of the 67 NHLs in our city. The

map is available at globalphiladelphia.org/national-historic-landmarks.

Bordeaux, France: A Model of Sustainable Infrastructure and Cultural Preservation

Spotlight on a partner city in the OWHC Network

Variations in infrastructure are often what make cities around the globe unique and memorable. Take Bordeaux, France, an important port city in the southwest of France, as an example. It is home to the Place de la Bourse, a beautifully expansive building right on the Garonne River, a short distance from the Pont de Pierre, a historic bridge from the Napoleon era. These sights are not found anywhere else in the world, and Bordeaux's enticing museums and landscapes are only one part of what makes this city so important.

The architecture is stunning, as Bordeaux is a World Heritage City (WHC) and has particular emphasis on infrastructure. This focus makes the city a strong candidate to exemplify SDG #9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

According to the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), Bordeaux displays an "exceptional urban and architectural transformation that continued through the 19th century up to the present time." The steadfast commitment to revitalizing its infrastructure has boosted tourism and is promising for the city's future, ultimately building a culture of forward-thinking innovation that exemplifies some efforts that are necessary to achieve SDG9 and maintain that status.

UNESCO also credits Bordeaux's infrastructure, stating how the city has "more protected buildings than any other French city except Paris." Protecting buildings is integral to preserving history and cultural heritage, as well as a testament to the integrity of the infrastructure of the country. The Place de la Bourse was built almost 300 years ago and encapsulates the architectural Golden Age of Bordeaux, as it was the first building completed

during that era. In addition, surrounding buildings such as the Grand Théâtre and the Cours du Chapeau contribute to Bordeaux having one of the most renowned 18th century architectural ensembles in all of Europe. These buildings will continue to commemorate the history of Bordeaux and highlight its unique architectural development.

As a port city, Bordeaux has a rich history in the port industry and it became prosperous due to trade. The connection of people at the city also made it a place for the exchange of different cultural ideas, which continues today and contributes to the city's individual identity. This demonstrates the relation between the protection of history with the ability to educate and connect people from around the world, which is what World Heritage Cities and GPA aim to do. In a unique connection to Philadelphia, tradesman and philanthropist Stephen Girard was born in Bordeaux, traded between Bordeaux and Philadelphia, and eventually established Girard College in Philadelphia.

As one of the few World Heritage Cities in the United States, Philadelphia aims to be a progressive example of sustainable development, as Bordeaux is in France. Philadelphia's preservation of history and cultural heritage is unique; no other city is the home to Independence Hall, a recognized World Heritage Site, nor to lesser globally-recognized historical landmarks like the Edgar Allen Poe National Historic Site or the Philadelphia Masonic Temple.

Yet, Philly still has work to do in achieving equity and sustainability. In regards to SDG9, Philadelphians can promote the protection and recognition of historic buildings and encourage use of public transportation. Other areas that are necessary to address, such as access to healthy food options, poverty rates, and the cost of education and healthcare, serve as reminders of the progress that Philadelphia can make and what it can learn from other world heritage cities abroad. The city will be more global, liveable, and inclusive if these goals are put at the forefront of the government and the public's minds.

2024 Key Dates

International Day of Monuments and Sites

April 18th

World Heritage City Celebration

September 5th

World Heritage Week

May 19th-25th

City of Philadelphia Welcoming Week

September 8th-17th

SDG #2: Zero Hunger Unveiling

May 23rd

OWHC General Secretariat Cordoba, Spain

September 24 - 27th

Juneteenth

June 19th

Globy Awards

December 9th

Independence Day

July 4th



If you are interested in sponsoring:

- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 14: Life Below Water

Please contact our SDG Coordinator, Finn Martel.

finn.martel@globalphiladelphia.org

World Heritage Week is currently in the planning stages for 2024. If your organization or business would like to take part, please contact Event Coordinator, Gary Wooten.

gary.wooten@globalphiladelphia.org