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# WORLD HERITAGE CITY NEWS

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

## PRESERVING & CELEBRATING

### Monumental Marvels: Highlights from GPA's Events on the International Day of Monuments and Sites

The International Day of Monuments and Sites is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Philadelphia as a World Heritage City. GPA partnered with organizations and National Historic Landmarks across Philadelphia to host events that highlighted our city's history and cultural heritage, and our team went and experienced the tours and celebrations of this day alongside the public.

Germantown Sites with GPA President Zabeth Teelucksingh featured tours of historical sites highlighting significant aspects of American history. Rittenhouse Town, established by William Rittenhouse in 1687, was the first paper mill in British North America. Visitors learned about the lives of early settlers and David Rittenhouse, a prominent scientist and founding father.

The Johnson House Historic Site provided insight into the Underground Railroad, showcasing how the Johnson family sheltered enslaved people. Guests explored secret hiding places and learned about the risks and methods involved in aiding escapees.

The Stenton Museum, once home to James Logan, shifted its focus to honor Dinah, an enslaved woman who saved the house from British forces. Stenton celebrated Dinah Day and unveiled a new memorial in her honor.



In North Philadelphia, Founder's Hall at Girard College, renowned for its Greek architecture, offered tours detailing its history and preservation. The nearby Eastern State Penitentiary and churches such as The Church of Saint James the Less and The Church of the Advocate highlighted their historical significance and architectural beauty.



The Athenaeum of Philadelphia displayed a collection from the Napoleon family, including personal items of Joseph Bonaparte. Special tours showcased historical documents and art, enhancing public understanding of Philadelphia's rich heritage.

The involvement of numerous National Historic Landmarks in IDMS 2024 emphasized Philadelphia's unique historical significance and GPA's efforts to promote heritage awareness.

## Exploring Our City of Neighborhoods: News of the Northeast

Northeast Philadelphia is a diverse community loaded with rich culture from every nearly inch of the globe, which is why **Global Philadelphia's Northeast Project** holds high value for diversifying Philadelphia's heritage reach.

This neighborhood has grown to be a home for many, with language being a crucial component of the Northeast's allure for immigrants. Post Cold War America saw an influx of immigrants from ex-Soviet territories. One frosty winter after another immigrants settled into the Philadelphia boroughs and made them their own, learning the ways of the United States and taking it upon themselves to found organizations that aim to aid future immigrants follow the same journey to the Northeast.

Northeast Philadelphia is home to culturally enriching dining spots like Georgian Bread, a small restaurant and bakery offering hot and flavorful Georgian cuisine that transports diners without the need for a flight. As part of GPA's Northeast Project, which focuses on researching cultural organizations in the area, many organizations were found to have deep international ties, particularly with Eastern Europe, due to the area's significant immigrant population. For example, the New World Association provides ESL classes and citizenship test preparation to help immigrants acclimate to life in America.

The Northeast Project has also highlighted Glen Foerd, a museum with an elegant mansion and 18 acres of rare trees, gardens, and a vineyard, which focuses on environmental education through hands-on experiences. These organizations are aligned with GPA's mission to highlight culture and heritage in Philadelphia. The Northeast Project is just the beginning of spreading awareness about Northeast Philadelphia's potential as a multicultural center, featuring diverse communities such as Ukrainians, Georgians, and Turkish.





## From Treasury to Museum: The Transformation of America's First Bank for the Nation's 250th Anniversary

In a historic project bridging heritage and finance, the First Bank of the United States is set to transform into a museum of economic history in time for America's 250th anniversary in 2026. Located in Old City near the Museum of the American Revolution and the Liberty Bell, this building will trace America's fiscal evolution with \$22.2 million in federal funding. The origins of the bank trace back to Alexander Hamilton, whose vision and advocacy led to its creation in 1795.

This article is the first in Global Philadelphia's series on the city's preparations for 2026.

The First Bank established a national currency, stabilized the post-war economy, and laid the foundation for America's financial systems. After its charter wasn't renewed in 1811, Stephen Girard took control in

1812, significantly impacting Pennsylvania's industries until the bank's inclusion in Independence National Historic Park in the 1950s.

Now undergoing transformation, the bank, a National Historic Landmark, will open as a museum exploring themes of land, work, money, slavery, and trade. This will be its first opening to the public since 1976. Set to be unveiled in 2026, the museum will join Philadelphia's network of museums, offering new opportunities for historical exploration and cultural enrichment.

## GPA in the Community:

March 14: Guild House History Hotel Pop Up Social

March 14: Solas Awards Social

March 27: Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting

April 13-14: Cherry Blossom Festival, Fairmount Park

April 18: International Day of Monuments and Sites

May 19-25: World Heritage Week

June 14: Black Music Month Event Social, World Cafe Live

June 15: Juneteenth - Johnsonhouse Tabling Johnsonhouse

June 20: World Refugee Day

June 27: Unity Cup Draw

July 1: Philadelphia Zoo 200th Anniversary

July 2: Carpenters' Hall 250th Table Carpenters Hall

September 5th: World Heritage City Celebration



# EDUCATION

## Empowering the Future: How Philadelphia’s Youth Embrace the Sustainable

The United Nations Foundation (UNF) is a pivotal organization dedicated to supporting the mission and work of the United Nations. Established in 1998, the Foundation mobilizes resources and partnerships to address global challenges such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 ambitious objectives aimed at eradicating poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all by 2030. The Foundation plays a crucial role in fostering collaborations between governments, businesses, and civil society to drive transformative change.

“Adger appreciates how both the SDGs and art bring people in his community together.”

Recently, one of the artists who worked with GPA for SDG #8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, **Faysal Adger**, was featured in a United Nations Foundation’s article that discussed the ways in which young people in America are paying closer attention to the SDGs. Following the completion of the mural and the community unveiling where he was invited to give a speech, he noted that he “appreciates how both the SDGs and art bring people in his community together.”

By amplifying the work of these young changemakers, Philadelphia sets a powerful example of how cities can harness youthful innovation to drive meaningful progress on a global scale. The ongoing collaboration between organizations like the United Nations Foundation, local partners, and the youth underscores the critical role of

multilevel partnerships in realizing a sustainable and equitable future for all. Global Philadelphia remains motivated to continue this mission.

## SDG #2 Unveiling: Zero Hunger with Philabundance



During this year’s World Heritage Week, the Global Philadelphia Association (GPA) unveiled Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #2: Zero Hunger. The event, in partnership with The GIANT Company, Philabundance, and Mural Arts Philadelphia, showcased



a mural by Philadelphia artist Branche Coverdale inspired by childhood cartoons to powerfully convey a world without food insecurity. The artwork features a fridge full of food, symbolizing a community where no one worries about hunger.



Speakers at the unveiling included **Loree D. Jones Brown**, Philabundance’s CEO, **Michael Davis**, the founding partner of Budd Bioworks, **Tim Santoro**, Vice President of Greater Philadelphia at GIANT, **Rob McNeill**, Board Chair of Global Philadelphia Association, and the project’s artist **Branche Coverdale** were also at the event to speak about the importance of collaboration and their commitment to alleviating hunger and putting an end to food insecurity as one of the city’s long term goals. A special thanks was extended to **GIANT** for their generous \$3,000 donation to **Philabundance**, an organization dedicated to ensuring no one goes hungry while healthy food goes to waste.

The mural serves as a visual reminder of the goal to end hunger by 2030 and encourages the community to stay informed and engaged in the fight against food insecurity.

GPA has organized 14 SDG unveilings with 14 different artists since the beginning of the Sustainable Development Mural Campaign to build a network of 30 different grantees and sponsors dedicated to a more sustainable Philadelphia.

## Global Philadelphia Unveils New Mural on Drexel’s Campus for SDG #13 Climate Action

On June 5th, the Global Philadelphia Association unveiled a mural by Salvadoran artist **Calo Rosa**, part of the project to highlight the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. This mural represents SDG 13: Climate Action, featuring a young woman against waves and trees, with a bright pink “Climate Action” message and birds of paradise flowers. It is located on the side of Drexel University’s Disque Hall, near the Korman Quad entrance.

Sponsored by **Essity**, a global hygiene and health product company, the unveiling coincided with World Environment Day. Essity’s grant to the **Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education** supports various sustainable development initiatives, including



environmental education, permanent art collections, land stewardship, and wildlife rehabilitation.

Speakers included **Rogelio Minana** (Drexel), **Amy Bellcourt** (Essity), **Erin Mooney** (Schuylkill Center), **Rob McNeill** (GPA), and artist **Calo Rosa**.

Collaboration between different sectors, as demonstrated by GPA’s mural projects, is crucial for achieving the SDGs. Partnerships with Essity and the Schuylkill Center bridge the gap between corporate and nonprofit efforts, addressing global issues that affect both Philadelphians and the global community.





## AWARENESS & OWNERSHIP

### Philadelphia's World Heritage Week 2024: Celebrating Cultural Heritage and Community Partnerships

Since Philadelphia was chosen as the first World Heritage City in America in 2015, Global Philadelphia Association (GPA) has proudly connected the city with individuals domestically and abroad. For the ninth annual World Heritage Week (WHW), GPA organized ten activities from May 19 to May 25, celebrating Philadelphia's global heritage with diverse events.

The week began on Sunday with the Woodmere Art Exhibit, featuring student artwork from eight Philadelphia district schools, influenced by Venezuelan-born artist **Henry Bermudez**. GPA President Zabeth Teelucksingh and Event Coordinator Gary Wooten attended the celebration.

On Monday, GPA participated in a conversation with Danish Ambassador **Jesper Moller Sorensen** and World



Affairs Council CEO **Lauren Swartz**, discussing the new direct flight from Philadelphia to Copenhagen and its potential economic benefits.

GPA's **Young Professional Network** toured Philadelphia City Hall, exploring its historic rooms, while "Dare to Declare!" on May 22nd, hosted by The Welcoming Center and PHILADELPHIA250, focused on Philadelphia's history and future.

A highlight was the SDG #2 mural unveiling on May 23rd, focusing on Zero Hunger, created by artist Branche Coverdale and sponsored by The Giant Company. Speakers included GPA Director **Zabeth Teelucksingh** and Philabundance CEO **Loree D. Jones Brown**.

World Heritage Week 2024 celebrated Philadelphia's cultural heritage and commitment to international cooperation, featuring diverse activities and discussions on sustainable development and economic growth.

### World Heritage Week May 19th - 25th

- » Woodmere Art Exhibit - educational art program with Philadelphia school district schools
- » Sustainable Development Goal #2 Unveiling, Zero Hunger with Philabundance
- » City Hall Tour
- » World Affairs Council - Diplochat: Denmark
- » Caribbean Transnational Identity in Art Lecture with Sharon Bloomfield Hicks
- » Summer Heat Safety Workshop - City of PHL Health Department
- » Dare to Declare! A Conversation About the Declaration of Independence
- » GPLEX360: Recruitment and Networking Event
- » Soccer Clinic with Philly Parks & Recreation
- » Echoes of the Land: Chronicles of West Africa - HYENAS
- » Tango Dance Workshop - Beginner





## Global Philadelphia Shares Insights to Boost Moravian Bethlehem's World Heritage Ambitions

The Global Philadelphia Association (GPA), a committed advocate for protecting and promoting Philadelphia's heritage and global profile, recently engaged with a group of nearly **75 CEOs, stakeholders, and community members in Moravian Bethlehem at the 1869 Luckenbach Mill to share invaluable insights from nearly a decade of promoting Philadelphia's World Heritage City status.** This historic exchange aimed to provide guidance and share resources.

Moravian Bethlehem achieved the milestone of being named **the first multinational World Heritage designation in the world** after its nomination by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The site's inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list was announced on July 26th in New Delhi at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee.

During GPA's President Zabeth Teelucksingh's presentation to the group, she emphasized the potential that World Heritage status holds for Moravian Bethlehem. She highlighted how the designation could enhance global awareness, promote educational and research opportunities, and boost tourism. However, the true focus was on the importance of partnership, networking, and community engagement.

The "Moravian Church Settlements" nomination included the Pennsylvania site as well as two sites in Herrnhut (Germany) and Gracehill (Northern Ireland, UK). This is an extension of the World Heritage Site Christiansfeld in Denmark, a Moravian Church settlement.



# GLOBAL REACH



## Exploring the Future of World Heritage Engagement: Insights from the OWHC Workshop in Berlin

As a young professional navigating the vast landscape of communications, GPA's Emerging International Journalism Program's editor Jessica Barber's journey this past March to Berlin for the World Heritage in Young Hands workshop proved to be an eye-opening experience. Hosted by the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), this three-day event brought together passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds across North America and Northwest Europe, all committed to one common goal: fostering a deeper connection between young people and our world's cultural treasures.

With sixteen city representatives at the workshop as well as the OWHC regional secretary, the focus of the conference was to brainstorm and create

innovative strategies to engage the younger generation, aged 12 to 22, in the preservation and stewardship of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, develop new programs for youth activation, and to drive

interest towards celebrating the importance and relevance of world heritage.



Throughout the workshop, exemplary youth engagement initiatives from various World Heritage Cities served as sources of inspiration. From Berlin's innovative use of tour guides reflective of the city's diverse population to Krakow's vibrant contests and workshops centered around cultural traditions, each success story underscored the transformative power of meaningful youth involvement. As Global Philadelphia's representative, Jessica was able to share innovative initiatives taking place right here in our World Heritage City, such as World Heritage Week held annually in May.



Amidst the intensive workshop sessions, participants were immersed in Berlin's cultural scene and heritage sights, touring the historic Alte Stadthaus, attending a piano and vocals concert at Nicolaihaus, and visiting Museumsinsel with a personalized tour, all highlighting the importance of preserving shared heritage.

Equipped with newfound knowledge and inspiration, Global Philadelphia looks forward to continuing the journey of empowering young people to become stewards of our world's cultural heritage in Philadelphia and beyond.





## Three Campuses, Three Continents, Three World Heritage Cities: Temple University Continues to Expand Its Global Footprint

For over four decades, Temple University Japan (TUJ) has been at the forefront of providing top-tier American education in Tokyo. Now, as TUJ enters its fifth decade, it is poised to extend its reach even further with the inauguration of a new satellite campus in the historic city of Kyoto, a city with one of the world's largest collections of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This expansion marks a significant milestone in TUJ's commitment to offering global education opportunities, enriching the academic journey of students from around the world.

Scheduled to commence operations in January 2025, TUJ Kyoto represents an unparalleled opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the Kansai region of Japan. Situated amidst the captivating landscape of Kyoto, students will find themselves in the heart of Japan's imperial capital, where tradition meets modernity. The campus's proximity to iconic landmarks such as the Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine provides an inspiring backdrop for academic exploration, fostering a promising environment for cultural exchange and personal growth.

**Emilia Zankina**, a Global Philadelphia Association board member and dean of Temple Rome, emphasized the importance of Temple's commitment to promoting cultural heritage and expanding educational opportunities. "Temple Rome is one of the longest-standing American programs in Italy with a history of close to 60 years," said Zankina in a recent Temple publication.

As Temple University expands its presence across three continents, it not only enriches the academic experiences of its students but also celebrates and promotes cultural heritage. As both a valued GPA and SDG #10 sponsor, Temple University has many similar goals and ideals that revolve around boosting opportunities to promote world heritage for young Philadelphians. With Temple's two off-site campuses integrated with World Heritage sites, GPA sees a valuable opportunity to engage young people in the stories of world heritage and foster their interest in global cultures.



### Discovering Heritage Abroad: Organization of World Heritage Cities Travelling Scholarship

Since 2018, the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) has offered young people aged 18-28 the opportunity to visit World Heritage Sites in North America and Europe through a €1,000 scholarship. This program, paused from 2020-2022 due to Covid, aims to provide young adults with direct experiences of World Heritage Sites and encourages them to share their journeys on the OWHC travel blog. Among the recent scholarship recipients is Aidan DeLuca, an architectural designer from Philadelphia with a strong interest in urban design. With the scholarship, Aidan plans to visit Brussels and Berlin, focusing on the public health, safety, and amenities of these cities and comparing them with those of Philadelphia.

## FEATURES

### A Global Conversation with Henry Bermudez



In honor of World Heritage Week, Global Philadelphia Association (GPA) highlighted Venezuelan artist **Henry Bermudez**, whose work explores political and internal conflict stemming from instability in his home country. Bermudez, now based in Philadelphia, blends cultural influences from Venezuela, Italy, Mexico, and the U.S. His early inspiration came from Borbures, a Venezuelan village with imaginative, multicultural mythologies. In 2003, Bermudez fled to the U.S. due to political threats in Venezuela, and his art evolved to reflect themes of displacement, colonialism, and mythology.

Through a partnership between Global Philadelphia Association and Woodmere Art Museum, the two organizations offered an art education program to Philadelphia district schools inspired by Bermudez’s work. Eight Philadelphia schools have participated in the program, including **Esperanza Charter Academy, McClure, Solis Cohen, Kennedy Crossan, Spring Garden, Lingelbach, Shawmont, and Jenks Academy for Arts and Sciences Schools**, culminating in an exhibition in Woodmere Art Museum’s Millard Children’s Gallery.

During the May 19 opening reception, attendees viewed student artwork influenced by Bermudez’s vibrant paintings, which draw on Latin American rainforests and cultural mythologies. Reflecting on his artistic journey, Bermudez said, “I talk to my students about how I have applied all of these images that I have learned in these different places and how they converge from simple ideas of feelings into art.” His teaching encourages students to explore diverse cultural myths and express them creatively.

### David Briel’s Trip to Rwandan World Heritage Site: Kigali Genocide Memorial

In a world shaped by historical scars and ongoing conflicts, the journey towards reconciliation offers hope. Recently, I had the privilege of speaking with **David Briel**, Deputy Secretary of the Office of International Development (OIBD PA), about his visit to the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Rwanda. As America’s first World Heritage City, Global Philadelphia Association’s journalism program highlights the experiences of regional leaders like Briel at world heritage sites, promoting discussions on preserving collective heritage.

#### *What is a Global Conversation?*

Global Philadelphia Association conducts interviews offering new insights into Philadelphia’s current and potential involvement in global projects and how leaders of the Philadelphia region are taking great strides towards creating a more global Philadelphia.



Global Philadelphia Conversations





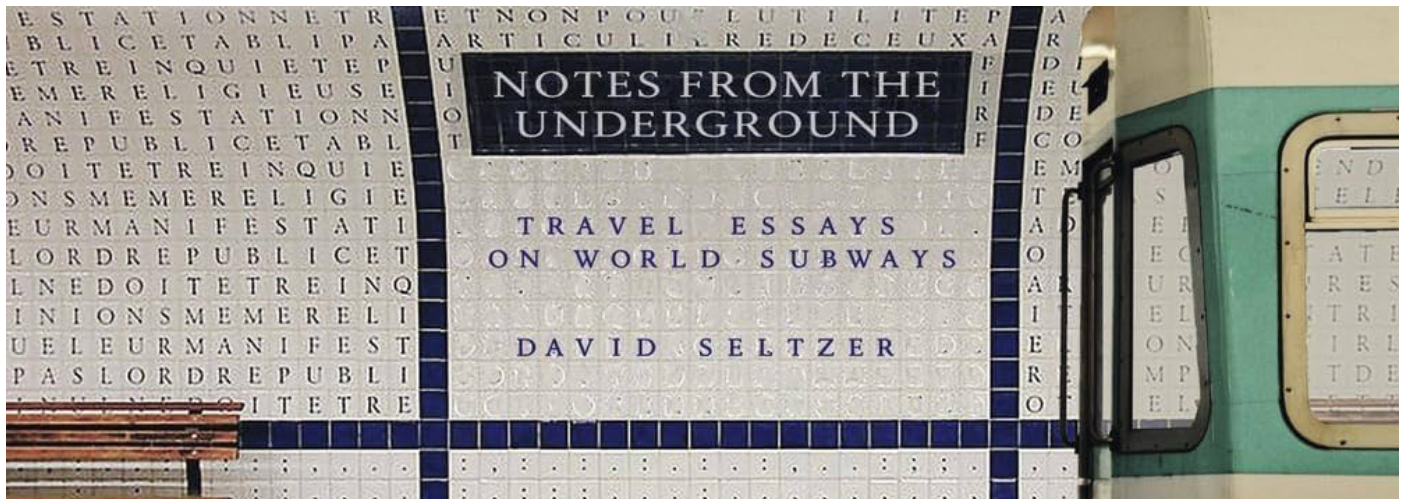
Rwanda, once known for tragedy, has become a symbol of resilience. Briel reflected on the country's transformation, noting its growing reputation for stability, cleanliness, and hospitality. Amid stunning landscapes, the Kigali Genocide Memorial stands as a powerful reminder of Rwanda's past and its journey toward healing. Briel emphasized the significance of the memorial, sharing how he witnessed Rwandan military personnel undergoing training there, symbolizing a nation's efforts to reconcile and unify.

Beyond its UNESCO World Heritage status, the Kigali Memorial holds deep meaning for Rwandans and visitors. "Given the fact that the genocide took place

just 30 years ago, Rwanda has made substantial efforts to reconcile and rebuild the country with a forward-looking trajectory that prioritizes economic development," Briel stated. His tour guide, Jean Paul Niyomugabo, owner of Classic Compass Tours, added, "The memorial ensures that the memory of the genocide is preserved for future generations, fostering healing and reconciliation."

Niyomugabo encourages visitors to educate themselves on Rwanda's history, recommending they visit the memorial first as "it is the most informational place in the country in regards to pre- and post-colonial, genocidal, and modern history."

Briel's visit underscores the value of world heritage sites, not just for their historical significance but for promoting shared humanity and cross-cultural understanding. Rwanda serves as a powerful example of how confronting history can pave the way for a brighter future.



## "Notes from the Underground" by David Seltzer: A Book Review

Millions of people use public transport globally, but few truly understand how subway systems function or the history behind their design. Thanks to enthusiasts like **David Seltzer**, author of "Notes From the Underground: Travel Essays On World Subways," anyone interested in subway designs, architecture, and maps can become more informed riders. Seltzer's book provides deep insights into the cultural, historical, and social contexts of subway systems worldwide, including New York, Beijing, Stockholm, and Moscow.

David Seltzer, a native Philadelphian and historian, frequently contributes insights to Global Philadelphia Association (GPA), notably as a National Historic Landmarks researcher. Having worked as a financial advisor and investment banker, Seltzer has long utilized public transportation systems in New York and Philadelphia.

No book on subways would be complete without mentioning the Southeastern Pennsylvania

Transportation Authority (SEPTA). Seltzer humorously covers the Philadelphia system, contrasting it with the more complex maps of New York, Paris, and Mexico City.

“Philadelphia’s straightforward design makes it easy for even the most directionally challenged to navigate, making the book ‘a must-read.’”

After traveling through the subways of London, Tokyo, Glasgow, and beyond, one might gain a newfound appreciation for these systems. “Living in Philadelphia as a non-native, the subway has always been an intimidating feat,” Seltzer writes, but his unique perspective and captivating descriptions could change even the most anxious riders’ views on public transit.

If you are interested in sponsoring:

» SDG 14: Life Below Water

Please contact Zabeth Teelucksingh.

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**World Heritage Week is currently in the planning stages for 2025.** If your organization or business would like to take part, please contact Event Coordinator, Gary Wooten.

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## 2024 Key Dates

**SEPTA**  
**Sustainable Development Goals**  
**Exposition with Global Philadelphia**  
October 9th

**SDG #15 Life on Land Unveiling**  
October 28th

**National Historic Landmark Social**  
October 17th

**SDG #12 Responsible Consumption**  
**and Production Unveiling**  
November 13th

**Globy Awards**  
December 9th

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