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***The Global Philadelphia Association Marks Start of GlobalPhilly™ 2013 Exposition with Opening Ceremony, Major Announcement by Mayor Nutter***

PHILADELPHIA - The Global Philadelphia Association officially saw the launch of GlobalPhilly™ 2013 on Sunday, September 15. The first of its kind modern, international exposition will run at different venues throughout Philadelphia until November 1 and will feature over 100 global events and activities across 7 categories: advocacy, arts, commerce, cuisine, education, heritage and sports. More information can be found at [www.globalphiladelphia.org](http://www.globalphiladelphia.org).

GPA Board Chair and President John F. Smith III sums up the month-and-a-half long exposition like this: “GlobalPhilly™ 2013 is about raising the awareness of this region as to its international past, present and future.”

To make GlobalPhilly™ a highly accessible experience, information about the exposition has been consolidated into a “Passport”: a booklet containing detailed listings for the six weeks of events. The free Passport showcases events chronologically, providing the where, when and what of every listing. The printed version features 82 events, but the online version accommodates the 82 and about 20 more. The online Passport can be accessed at [www.globalphiladelphia.org/content/passport](http://www.globalphiladelphia.org/content/passport).

It’s the hope of Global Philadelphia Association Executive Director, Zabeth Teelucksingh, that “GP13,” as it is affectionately known, will show off the international side of Philadelphia, a city inextricably tied to the American narrative of the Constitution and the Founding Fathers.

“I think GP13 really helps to brand Philadelphia. It certainly helps to push the city back out into the international realm,” Teelucksingh says. Major GP13 events include the International Showcase of the World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia, the Penn Museum International Student Reception, several events organized and co-sponsored by Philadelphia’s 36 Consuls, and many, many more.

To mark the beginning of GlobalPhilly™ 2013, an Opening Ceremony was held on the evening of September 16 in Center City. The highlight of the evening was an appearance by Mayor Michael Nutter. Nutter made a major announcement heard by the public for the first time.

Mayor Nutter stated that due to the efforts of multiple individuals and organizations, Philadelphia has been granted the status of an Observing City Member of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC). The Global Philadelphia Association has been a long-term partner in this effort, making Philadelphia the first city in the United States to be part of the OWHC. With this new status, Mayor Nutter and representatives of the City will be eligible to attend the XII World Congress of the Organization of World Heritage Cities in Oaxaca, Mexico this November.

The Mayor’s World Heritage City announcement and the GlobalPhilly™ 2013 exposition are two parts of a host of efforts working in tandem to brand the Philadelphia region as a global hub of commerce and culture.

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*The Global Philadelphia Association is a Pennsylvania nonprofit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3)-certified corporation. Founded by nine institutions in 2010, it has grown to over 120 members today. Its mission is to assist – and encourage greater interaction among – the many organizations and people who are engaged in one form or another of international activity within the Greater Philadelphia Region, to promote the development of an international consciousness within the Region, and to enhance the Region’s global profile.*

[www.globalphiladelphia.org](http://www.globalphiladelphia.org)