2019 Globy Awards

GPA hosted the 5th annual Globy Awards and Luncheon on December 9, 2019 in celebration of five global leaders at the cross-section of Philadelphia’s international businesses and communities. Every year, the Globy Awards honors leaders whose work has elevated Philadelphia’s status on the global stage.

The 2019 ceremony was hosted at The Westin and opened with remarks from GPA’s Board Chair Robert J. McNeill and Executive Director Zabeth Teelucksingh. After lunch was served, the emcee for the awards ceremony, National LGBT Chamber of Commerce’s Senior Vice President Jonathan Lovitz, took to the podium to introduce the awardees. In particular, the 2019 awardees represented the inclusivity and innovative spirit ingrained in the fabric of Philadelphia.

The 2019 awardees included:

• Global Community Leadership: Julie Coker Graham, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau President and CEO.

• Global Corporate Leadership: Osagie Imasogie, Phoenix IP Ventures Senior Managing Partner and Founder.

• Global Education: Amid Ismail, BDS, MPH, MBA, DrPH, diplomate ABDPH, and Dean of the Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry.

• Heritage Award: Cynthia MacLeod, Independence National Historical Park (INHP) Superintendent.

• Lifetime Achievement: Jay H. Shah, CEO, Hersha Hospitality Trust.

Before everyone returned to the bustle of the workday, GPA announced the winners of the

UNESCO World Heritage Site Castillo San Felipe del Morro in Puerto Rico
Globy Awards’ highly anticipated raffle prizes. This year’s big-ticket prizes included tickets to see the Trans-Siberian Orchestra in concert from 98.1 FM WOGL and a framed National Historic Landmark map.

The 2019 Globy Awards was sponsored by Brandywine Realty Trust, Holt Logistics, Safeguard Global, Valley Forge CVB, Urban Engineers and Progressive Business Publications. In addition to this, the 2019 Globy Awards spotlighted the work of Cradles to Crayons, a local charity dedicated to providing children living in poverty or low-income situations with the resources needed to thrive in school and at home. To do this, Cradles to Crayons collects new and nearly new children’s items, which they package at their warehouses and distribute to local disadvantaged children.

Preserving & Celebrating Historical & Cultural Assets

The GPA team visited the holiday displays at all six Fairmount Park historic houses on Dec 20th for “A Very Philly Christmas.” Every year, these historic house museums adopt a theme and extravagantly decorate in period styles and create holiday and Christmas tree displays. The houses are beacons of neighborhood heritage in Philadelphia.

The team learned about the daily lives of the houses’ families and heard fascinating stories about the impacts on individuals living during the volatile Revolutionary era. We also learned how to make plum pudding in the wash pot and heard about the now extinct “Turnspit dog” bred to run in a wheel and turn roasting meat in the fireplace.

Woodford Mansion’s holiday theme this year was “Philadelphia World Heritage” and they invited students from Mander Center to create ornaments displaying their favorite heritage sites in Philadelphia. GPA’s Community Coordinator Gigi McGraw attended their tree-decorating event celebrating World Heritage with the Mander kids.

GPA worked with Visit Philadelphia and PHLCVB to present a National Historic Landmark (NHL) Marketing Workshop on Jan 21. NHL site managers and project partners worked together to contribute ideas and suggestions to collectively promote all 67 NHLs in Philadelphia. This project idea came from the On the Table Philly luncheon held last Oct and builds off of the Philadelphia Heritage Map created last year.

GPA received an On the Table Philly Activate Grant from the Philadelphia Foundation to plan an NHL Open House Day.
The Open House will be held April 18th - the International Day for Monuments and Sites. Visitors will tour the NHLs for free and participate in special Open House Day programming and events for the whole family. You can learn more and reserve tickets at nhl-open-house.eventbrite.com.

Educating Global Kids with Roots

On Jan 30th St. Mary Interparochial School held the St. Mary Soiree at the Union Trust Ballroom to celebrate the school and its partners and to fund their facilities and support physical improvements. More than 200 supporters attended the event. GPA was honored to receive their Partner in Academic Excellence Award in recognition of our World Heritage collaborative program with the school. Throughout the 2019-2020 academic year, students have been learning about Philadelphia and its designation as a World Heritage city. Teachers have used the Philadelphia World Heritage Coloring Book as an educational tool to explore personal heritages and what it means to be global citizens.

St. Mary will culminate the World Heritage program with two events held this spring. On May 20th their 18th Annual Walkathon will celebrate Philadelphia as the first World Heritage City and students will walk to important heritage sites while raising money for their school. On May 28th, the school will hold a Family Celebration where students will showcase their “World Heritage City” academic and artistic work.

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from the Philadelphia International Airport, the Coloring Book will soon be available in Japanese, just in time for Japan Philly 2020. The Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia is presenting JapanPhilly2020 as a full year of art, business, and cultural events celebrating the city’s connection with Japan. They have also sponsored copies of the Japanese Coloring Book. GPA will be presenting family-friendly activities celebrating the Japan-Philly connection at the annual Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival on April 4-5.

Building WHC Awareness & Ownership

The Philadelphia World Heritage Community Program has made significant progress over the past few months. The Spread Our Seal campaign is designed to promote Philadelphia’s World Heritage City status. The goal is to place 100 of the Philadelphia World Heritage City seals throughout the city. To date, the seal is displayed at 66 sites in all 10 of Philadelphia’s city council districts. Through this project, GPA has elevated awareness of Philadelphia’s heritage by engaging with local businesses and connecting with communities outside of the Center City District.

The Heritage Storytelling project has documented the rich histories and cultures of Philadelphia’s diverse communities. Completing 16 interviews in seven communities across the city, GPA has provided Philadelphians with a platform to share the traditions, customs, and events that have fundamentally shaped their
lives. In doing this, GPA has sought to honor Philadelphia’s diversity by providing a more comprehensive look at the evolution of the city’s neighborhoods.

On MLK Day, five members of GPA’s team celebrated Dr. King’s legacy by volunteering at the African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP). As the finale of an entire weekend of King-themed programming, AAMP’s celebration provided visitors with the opportunity to not only tour the museum but to participate in the Citizens Bank Scavenger Hunt, see reenactments of Dr. King performed by Carlo Campbell, visit with the Phillie Phanatic, watch a presentation on African American children’s books, and attend a concert.

GPA is launching a new podcast “Lifting the Lid: Philadelphia’s Heritage Stories and Beyond,” which will feature expert insights into our region’s rich cultural heritage and opportunities for global impact. Check out our first episode: "Philadelphia’s Hidden Heritage."

Extending Philadelphia’s Global Reach

Philly will soon have its first direct flight connection to Africa! American Airlines is offering a direct flight to Casablanca, Morocco, in partnership with Royal Air Morocco. This new flight will provide a gateway into other African cities and will strengthen the city’s connection to the continent, especially for the many African immigrants living here. The city has large populations from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, and Nigeria. It is expected that these communities as well as the city and the region will benefit from the increased access for tourism, trade, and business opportunities.

The meeting confirmed the new leadership of Robert J. Quarles van Ufford as Secretary General of the OWHC. He has vast experience in the field of cultural heritage, including as the Director of the National Monument Organization of the Netherlands, President of ICOMOS Netherlands, and Secretary General of the National Committee for UNESCO in the Netherlands. He will join us in Philadelphia for the World Heritage Celebration Sep 10th. The next World Congress of the OWHC will be held June 2-5, 2021 in Quebec City, Quebec with the theme of enhancing livability in world heritage cities.

Key Upcoming Events

Apr 4-5 Cherry Blossom Festival
Apr 18 Open House Day: National Historic Landmarks
May 25-29 World Heritage Week

Join us on September 10th for The Philadelphia World Heritage City Celebration where we will honor Yannick Nézet-Séguin

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