

IVCC Press Clips, September – November 2019

September 2019

[Mike Jerrick spins Fox29's Ya Gotta Try This food feature into a charity event](#), *Philadelphia Inquirer* (September 5, 2019)

[Honey, mushrooms, and blues: Weekend festivals — and the Eagles! — are back in season in this week's 'Things To Do'](#), *WHYY* (September 5, 2019)

[Freebie Friday: Pumpkin spice donuts, festivals, yoga and more](#), *6ABC* (September 6, 2019)

[Campus Philly Welcomes College Students to Philadelphia with CollegeFest 2019](#), *PHL17* (September 6, 2019)

[Philadelphia trains more than 2,000 people in 1 day to be 2020 'Census Champions'](#), *Philadelphia Inquirer* (September 17, 2019)

October 2019

[Sweet tooth: Yuengling, Hershey's team up to brew chocolate porter](#), *Philadelphia Business Journal* (October 1, 2019)

[Independence Blue Cross and Not Impossible Reception](#), *Philadelphia Style Magazine* (October 16, 2019)

[Photos: Exclusive event celebrating B. PHL Innovation Festival](#), *Philly Voice* (October 17, 2019)

[PECO executive honored for role as Philly booster](#), *Philadelphia Tribune* (October 29, 2019)

Hershey's Kitchens Halloween Event Family Fun at Independence Visitor Center, *CBS3* (October 31, 2019)

[A Very Hershey Halloween at the Independence Visitor Center](#), *NBC10* (October 31, 2019)

November 2019

[Philadelphia honors veterans with parade and festival](#), *Philadelphia Tribune* (November 4, 2019)

[Historic Holiday Pass offers discounts at museums, attractions, restaurants, shops](#), *Philly Voice* (November 14, 2019)

[Philly industrial development chief John Grady stepping down to join uCity Square developer](#), *Philadelphia Inquirer* (November 20, 2019)

[Read About the Philanthropic Patrons and Players in the City of Brotherly Love](#), *Philadelphia Style Magazine* (November 21, 2019)

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Mike Jerrick spins Fox29's Ya Gotta Try This food feature into a charity event

by [Michael Klein](#), Updated: September 5, 2019



It started, as so many things do, with a chat between coworkers.

Fox29's Mike Jerrick recalls the day seven years ago when Meredith Eells, then a producer on the *Good Day* show, was raving about the strawberry-shortcake-stuffed French toast served at Green Eggs Cafe in South Philadelphia, capping her tout with the line “ya gotta try this!”

From there a *Good Day* food segment was born, and five years ago, Fox29 gathered two dozen restaurants at the Independence Visitor Center for the first Ya Gotta Try This tasting event attended by 700 people.

It's coming back on Oct. 21 at the catering venue Vie by Cescaphe (600 N. Broad St.) as 40 chefs and restaurateurs serve food at the walk-around tasting event. This time, it's a benefit. Recipient will be the nonprofit organization CORE (Children of Restaurant Employees). Barry Gutin, a partner at Cuba Libre and a CORE board member, is co-chair.

CORE steps in when disaster strikes. It helped the family of chef Eli Kulp, who was severely injured in the wreck of an Amtrak train in 2015, with transportation to join him during his rehabilitation in Atlanta as well as child care for his then 3-year-old son upon his return home.

Participating chefs and restaurants include Townsend Wentz of Oloroso, A Mano, and Townsend; Nick Elmi of Laurel, ITV, and Royal Boucherie; Josh Lawler of the Farm and Fisherman; Guillermo Pernot of Cuba Libre; Jose Garces of Stella; Jean-Marie Lacroix of Brûlée Catering; and Brian Duffy of Ardmore Q.


WHYY



Honey, mushrooms, and blues: Weekend festivals — and the Eagles! — are back in season in this week's 'Things To Do'

By [Tonya Pendleton](#) • September 5, 2019



 (Honey Festival/Sara Plonksi)

Weekend festivals — including some dedicated to honey and blues music — and the Eagles are back in season in this week's "Things To Do."

[Philadelphia Honey Festival](#)

Glen Foerd on the Delaware, Grant Ave. and Milnor, Philadelphia

Friday, Sept. 6; 5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Wyck Historic House, 6026 Germantown Avenue Saturday, Sept. 7; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bartram's Garden, 5400 Lindbergh Blvd.

Sunday, Sept. 8; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free to attend

The 10th annual Honey Festival is a three-day, three-venue event that showcases the importance of honey and its many varieties. In partnership with the [Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild](#), the Honey Festival will offer tastings, local beekeeper presentations, a bee-bearding demonstration, free boating, a Bee-Happy Hour, live music, a Honey Home Brew challenge, a children's Bee parade, and more. Events vary by venue, so check the schedule for the venue or activity that works best for you.

Excerpted:

[College Fest 2019](#)

Dilworth Park

1 S. 15th Street, Philadelphia

Saturday, Sept. 7; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free to attend

College Fest, an annual celebration for new and returning college students takes place Saturday in Dilworth Plaza. Food, games, prizes, product demos, presentations, and more are part of the outdoor festival geared specifically to students attending college in the greater Philadelphia area. **Free admission to 11 local museums and free rides on the Philly PHLASH downtown loop are included. Advance registration is recommended, but not required.**



SHOPPING

Freebie Friday: Pumpkin spice donuts, festivals, yoga and more

Friday, September 6, 2019



It's Freebie Friday and we are entering the first full weekend of September. That means we're cool to talk about pumpkin spice and all of its autumnal glory.

FREE PUMPKIN SPICE DONUT

Now through Sunday, [Krispy Kreme](#) is offering a free original or cheesecake filled Pumpkin Spice donut. But there's a catch. Customers need to bring in a disappointing pumpkin spice-flavored item that they aren't a fan of - that includes anything from the list of products out there - hummus, dog treats, you name it. Krispy Kreme will then exchange that item for one free pumpkin spice donut of your choice.

FREE COLGATE SMILE KIT

With the school year just underway, [Colgate](#) is bringing back a promotion for kindergarten and first grade teachers. Sign up and get a free Bright Smiles Bright Futures Kit. It comes with toothbrushes and toothpaste for 25 kids.

FREE COLLEGE FEST

September 7th is [Campus Philly's CollegeFest](#) at Dilworth Park, in front of City Hall. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., there are giveaways, music, games and more. When students register, they also get free admission to select museums and cultural attractions all day, plus free rides on the Philly PHLASH Downtown Loop.

FREE HONEY FESTIVAL

Now through Sunday, it's the [Philadelphia Honey Festival](#) at three historic locations. There's fun for the whole family, including open hive demonstrations, honey extractions and tastings. It's happening at Glen Foerd on the Delaware on September 6th, Wyck Historic House on September 7th and Bartram's Garden on September 8th.



Campus Philly Welcomes College Students to Philadelphia with CollegeFest 2019

POSTED 10:19 AM, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019, BY [PHL17 MORNING NEWS](#), UPDATED AT 10:17AM, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019



If you're a new college student in the Philadelphia region, CollegeFest is the place you want to be on Saturday, September 7th!

CollegeFest has been around for more than 15 years. Campus Philly's President Deborah Diamond said Philadelphia is the only city in the country to welcome students in this way.

"We roll out the red carpet, we introduce them to the city, make everything free for them that day and it's just an extraordinary way to kick off the school year," said Deborah.

Dilworth Park will be filled with games, local musicians and giveaways from Campus Philly's partners like Citizen Bank Park and Ikea. Students attending will also receive free admission to museums and select organizations across the city and free rides for the day on the Philly PHLASH® Downtown Loop.

Participating museums and organizations include:

- Philadelphia Museum of Art
- The Franklin Institute
- Eastern State Penitentiary
- Museum of the American Revolution
- Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
- National Constitution Center
- The Fabric Workshop and Museum
- Rodin Museum
- Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University
- National Liberty Museum
- American Philosophical Society
- Reading Terminal Market (exclusive scavenger hunt)
- Walnut Street Theatre (discounted tickets)

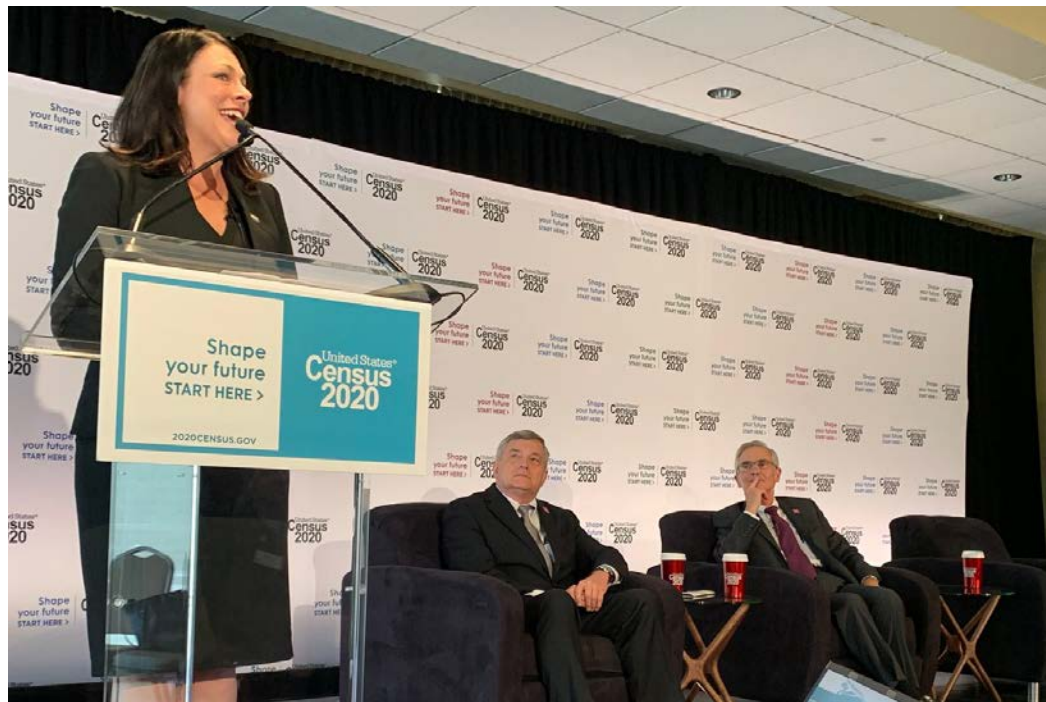
The event runs from 10 AM until 3 PM at Dilworth Park. Visit CampusPhilly.org for more information and registration details.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Philadelphia trains more than 2,000 people in 1 day to be 2020 ‘Census Champions’

The director of the U.S. Census Bureau said he wants to use Philly as a model.

by **Michaelle Bond**, Updated: September 17, 2019



A handful of people were gathered Tuesday afternoon around a conference table at the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau when a federal official interrupted their special training with words of gratitude. They were learning to become “Census Champions.”

“I just want to thank you. You’ve got a big job ahead of ya,” said Tim Olson, the associate director for field operations for the U.S. Census Bureau. “You guys are sort of the shining example to the nation. What you’re doing here is just amazing.”

They were among more than 2,000 people in the city and surrounding counties who trained on Tuesday to spread accurate information about the census in their communities and to persuade their neighbors to participate next year.

[Philly Counts 2020](#), a city census initiative, organized the more than 70 trainings, many hosted by community organizations. The [city also has partnered with FactSumo](#), a Duolingo-esque learning app, to offer the training online and via app.

Steven Dillingham, director of the Census Bureau, said his agency wants to use Philadelphia as a model.

Dillingham and his employees were in Philadelphia on Tuesday to mark Constitution Day in the city where the Constitution was signed on Sept. 17, 1787, and to encourage every person living in the United States to participate in next year’s census, the population count mandated in [Article 1, Section 2](#).

IVCC Press Clips, September – November 2019

Dillingham called the census “the cornerstone of our democracy” at a news conference at the Independence Visitor Center.

The 2020 Census will determine the disbursement of [hundreds of billions of federal dollars to state and local governments](#) each year over the next decade. The number of seats each state gets in the U.S. House depends on the population count. States will use the count to redraw voting districts in the redistricting process that starts in 2021. Businesses use the data to decide where to operate and nonprofits use it to evaluate needs. Local officials use it to better understand the makeup of their neighborhoods and plan services.

Joseph Pizzoli, 74, took PATCO from his home in Lindenwold, Camden County, to attend a training in Center City. Pizzoli, a retired commercial real estate tax consultant and Army veteran, said he wanted to do something meaningful with his leisure time. He plans to use what he learned Tuesday to educate fellow members of the organizations to which he belongs, including the Knights of Columbus and veterans and church groups.

“What struck me,” he said, “is the fact there is so much on the line.”

He and other trainees role-played conversations with hypothetical reluctant neighbors.

Fernando Armstrong, director of the Census Bureau’s Philadelphia Regional Office, said, “We need everyone’s help to make 2020 a successful census.”

In six months, the Census Bureau will ask every person living in the country to fill out questionnaires online, by mail, or by phone. It’s the first decennial census in which the government is encouraging everyone to choose the online option, which is easiest and cheapest for the bureau. But it also presents challenges, especially in cities such as Philadelphia in which large swaths of communities do not have easy internet access.

The debate for more than a year over the Trump administration’s desire to add a citizenship question to the forms is another challenge. Although the question will not appear due to the [U.S. Supreme Court’s order blocking the question](#) and the administration’s subsequent [decision not to pursue it](#), officials inside and outside of the bureau believe the controversy surrounding it will still dissuade some people — particularly immigrants — from participating.

Area community-based organizations such as Make the Road, VietLead, and the Philadelphia Chinese United Association hosted Tuesday’s trainings, which were available in several languages: American Sign Language, English, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, Korean, Vietnamese, and Cantonese. Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church held a training when congregants usually attend their weekly bible study. The John C. Anderson Apartments, LGBTQ-friendly senior housing, and the Community College of Philadelphia also hosted trainings. The city hosted some for city employees.

Part of the city’s strategy for next year’s census, said Stephanie Reid, executive director of Philly Counts 2020, is “engaging a large, diverse range of community-based organizations that have a deep and wide reach in historically undercounted communities,” including racial minorities and immigrants.

“We are absolutely thrilled by the support we’ve received from every corner of Philadelphia,” Reid said.

Sweet tooth: Yuengling, Hershey's team up to brew chocolate porter

By [Kennedy Rose](#) – Digital Producer, Philadelphia Business Journal | Oct 1, 2019, 11:26am EDT



Two of Pennsylvania's most recognizable brands have come together to marry beer with chocolate.

[D.G. Yuengling & Son](#) Inc. and Hershey Co. (NYSE: HSY) partnered to create a limited-edition chocolate porter made from Yuengling's Dark Brewed Porter and Hershey's chocolate.

"When we thought about it: America loves beer, and America loves chocolate, so what better way to celebrate 190 years of brewing, than to combine these two iconic Pennsylvania brands for our fans to enjoy," [Jen Yuengling](#), vice president of operations and sixth generation brewer at Yuengling, told the Philadelphia Business Journal in an email.

Yuengling took its 190-year-old porter with caramel and dark roasted malts to brew the beer with Hershey's chocolate. The Pottsville-based brewery says the beer can pair well with cheeses and desserts, as well as barbecued and smoked meats.

The beer will be available on-draft only from mid-October to February.

The 4.7% alcohol by volume porter is Hershey's first foray into beer. The chocolate maker recently opened its [first cafe](#) in the Independence Visitor Center, complete with a s'mores station and Philadelphia-branded offerings. Hershey's has 1,400 local employees and about 16,500 around the world.

PHILADELPHIA STYLE

Independence Blue Cross and Not Impossible Reception

October 16, 2019 | Parties



On October 16, 2019 Independence Blue Cross hosted a reception at Independence Visitor Center to reveal their partnership with the Not Impossible Labs headed by Mick Ebeling.

The new collaboration will explore opportunities in innovation and invention to create solutions for adults with disabilities. Guests enjoyed cocktails and lite bites by Brûlée Catering.



OCTOBER 17, 2019

Photos: Exclusive event celebrating B. PHL Innovation Festival

BY HUGHE DILLON *PhillyVoice Contributor*

EVENTS B. PHL Innovation Fest



HUGHE DILLON/FOR PHILLYVOICE

Daniel J. Hilferty, chief executive officer of Independence Health Group told the guests 'the center of healthcare innovation is here in Philadelphia,' at the B.PHL reception on Oct. 16, 2019, at the Independence Visitor Center.

On Wednesday, Oct. 16, at the Independence Visitor Center, Daniel J. Hilferty, chief executive officer of Independence Blue Cross, hosted a special B. PHL Innovation Festival reception to celebrate the B. PHL Innovation Festival.

During the reception, Hilferty announced the collaborative Absurdity Project with Mick Ebeling's Not Impossible Labs. One of the first projects they're planning is to improve the quality of life for individuals living with memory disorders.

Check out the photos from the exclusive reception below:



HUGHE DILLON/FOR PHILLYVOICE

Lisa Thomas Laury, retired broadcast journalist with 6ABC in Philadelphia, moderated a Q&A with Mick Ebeling, entrepreneur and founder of Not Impossible Labs, and Daniel J. Hilferty at the B.PHL reception at the Independence Visitor Center on Oct. 16, 2019.



HUGHE DILLON - EDWARD CORYELL/FOR PHILLYVOICE

Edward Coryell Sr., Brian Tierney of Brian Communications and Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney at the B.PHL reception at the Independence Visitor Center on Oct. 16, 2019.

IVCC Press Clips, September – November 2019



HUGHE DILLON/FOR PHILLYVOICE

Brian Lobley of IBC; Deputy City Representative Elka Battle-Murillo; Philadelphia City Representative Sheila Hess; Michelle Hstand, director if innovation for IBC; Michael R. Vennera. senior vice president and chief information officer at IBC; and Terry Booker, vice president of corporate development and innovation at IBC, attend the B.PHL reception at the Independence Visitor Center on Oct. 16, 2019.



HUGHE DILLON/FOR PHILLYVOICE

The Rev. Dr. Lorina Marshall-Blake, president of the Independence Blue Cross Foundation, and Patricia Marshall Harris attend the B.PHL reception at the Independence Visitor Center on Oct. 16, 2019.



HUGHE DILLON/FOR PHILLYVOICE

Richard Levins and Dr. Vail P. Garvin, FACHE, the president and CEO of the Central Bucks County Chamber of Commerce were in attendance at the B.PHL reception at the Independence Visitor Center on Oct. 16, 2019.



HUGHE DILLON/FOR PHILLYVOICE

Patrick Dudley, innovation director at IBC, Colleen Dudley and Peter S. Panageas, senior vice president of sales at IBC attend the B.PHL reception at the Independence Visitor Center on Oct. 16, 2019.

IVCC Press Clips, September – November 2019



HUGHE DILLON/FOR PHILLYVOICE

Pedro A. Ramos, president and CEO of the Philadelphia Foundation, and Jane Golden, executive director of Mural Arts Philadelphia are photographed at the B.PHL reception at the Independence Visitor Center on Oct. 16, 2019.



HUGHE DILLON/FOR PHILLYVOICE

Brendan Happe and Bill Green, the Philly Moon Men, attend the B.PHL reception at the Independence Visitor Center on Oct. 16, 2019.



PECO executive honored for role as Philly booster

Ayana Jones Tribune Staff Writer | Oct 29, 2019



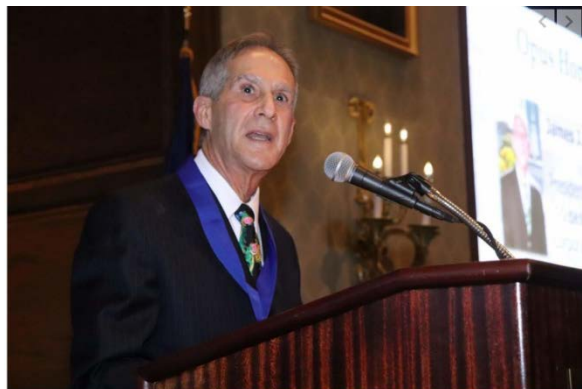
Romona Riscoe Benson will be honored this week at a gala for the Philadelphia Hospitality Inc. — PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE PHOTO/ABDUL R. SULAYMAN

[Buy Now](#)

When Philadelphia Hospitality Inc. honors three executive leaders this week for their efforts in helping to make Philadelphia a year-round destination, Romona Riscoe Benson will be among them.

Benson, director of corporate and community relations at PECO, will receive the organization's Helmer Award for her leadership in supporting education, the environment, arts and culture and neighborhood development programs in the region.

"It's always an honor to be recognized by organizations within our service region. It always signals to me that the PECO leadership team (and) the corporate relations team continue to have an important focus on impacting the communities that we serve," Benson said.



"I certainly appreciate it from that standpoint and I don't stand alone with this recognition — that it's not just me. It is really a team that gets things done at this company."

Philadelphia Hospitality also will recognize Philly POPS President and CEO Frank Giordano and Independence Visitor Center President and CEO James Cuorato on Wednesday during its annual Vision Gala.

"Frank, Romona and Jim individually and collectively are stalwarts to their organizations and to the region," said John Kroll, chairman of the Board of Directors of Philadelphia Hospitality.

IVCC Press Clips, September – November 2019

“Their work speaks to the core values of the Vision Awards. And what’s so terrific is that the region’s tourism and hospitality community, hoteliers, attractions, educational institutions with a focus on tourism, corporate leadership and people who are passionate about our region will come to fete them.”

Benson has more than 25 years of strategic leadership in nonprofit management, community affairs, event and convention planning, and tourism development.

Benson has led PECO’s corporate and community relations team since 2012.

Before she joined PECO, Benson served as president and CEO of the African American Museum in Philadelphia, where she led a turnaround strategy, and directed a multi-million dollar building renovation project and installation of a nationally recognized exhibit on the early life of African Americans in Philadelphia.

Benson owned her own consulting services firm — Riscoe & Associates, Inc. — for 12 years. Prior to that, she served five years as the executive director of the Philadelphia Multicultural Affairs Congress (now PHL Diversity).

In her current role, Benson manages PECO’s corporate social responsibility strategy, which includes the company’s philanthropy, employee giving, sponsorships, vulnerable customer outreach and employee engagement programs. She has represented PECO in a number of region-wide initiatives, including the papal visit in 2015, the Democratic National Convention in 2016 and the NFL Draft in 2017.

“More than anything else, I have a great opportunity to work with people to advance the things that we want to do to move the needle — improving circumstances for communities within our service region,” Benson said.

One of the biggest challenges her department faces is trying to level set expectations of what organizations seek from PECO in terms of financial support, she said.

“Sometimes we’re not able to support a request at the level that an organization would like and it’s so important for organizations to do some background work to understand what we actually focus on and what become our priorities in the community,” Benson said.

“We are now focusing quite a bit of time and resources looking at workforce development and how we can help to support and connect dots for people while they are looking for work.”



OCTOBER 31, 2019 4:54 PM

A Very Hershey Halloween at the Independence Visitor Center



Hershey's Kitchen at Independence Visitor Center is offering a day of free activities for Halloween. There will be face painting, meet-and-greet with costumed characters, and most of all free candy.



October 31, 2019 at 5:00 pm

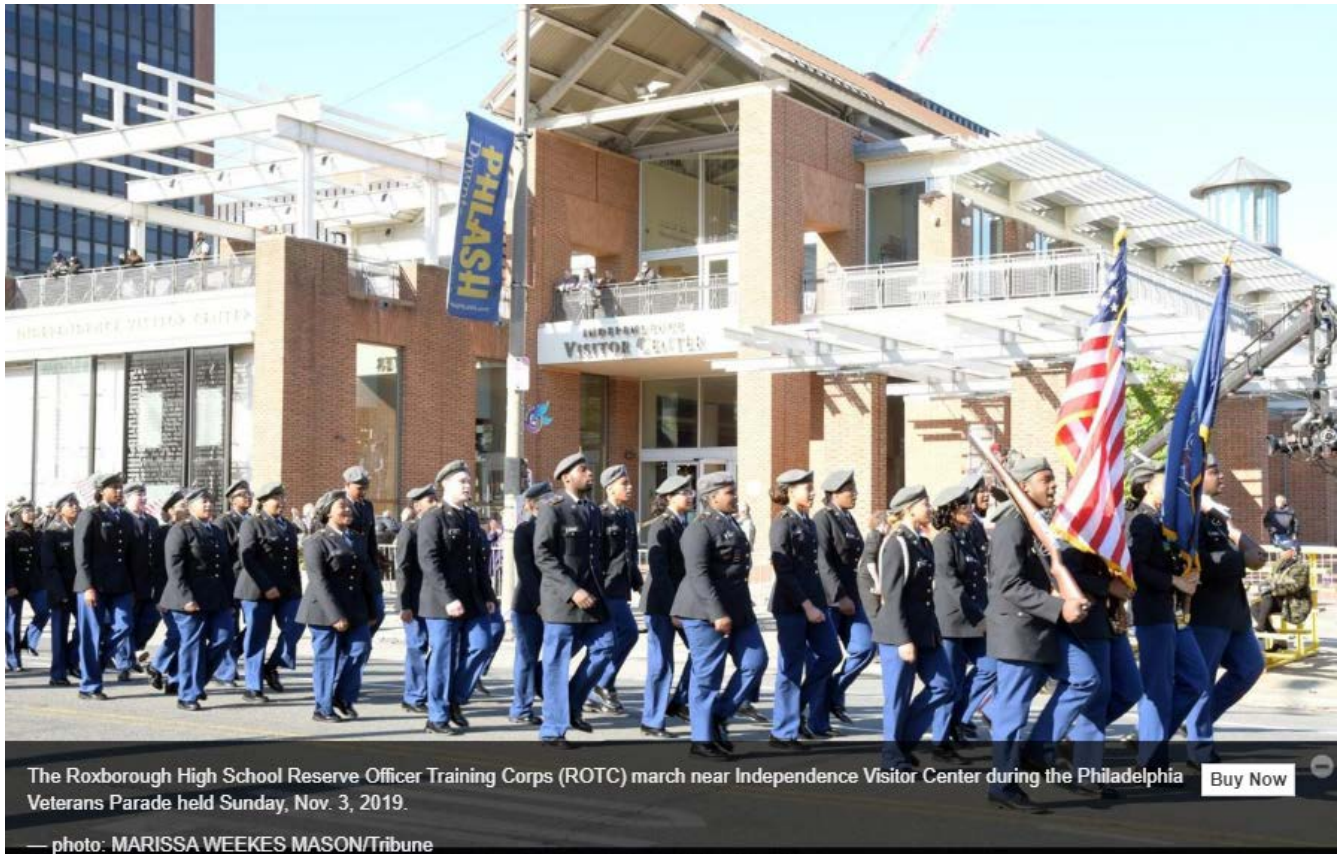
Hershey's Kitchens Halloween Event Family Fun at Independence Visitor Center





Philadelphia honors veterans with parade and festival

Nov 4, 2019



The Philadelphia Veterans Parade, a non-profit which hosts an annual parade and festival honoring the sacrifices of veterans in the tri-state region, was proud to hold the 5th Annual Philadelphia Veterans Parade on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019, at Independence Hall. The event, which precedes the actual national Veterans Day (Monday, Nov. 11), had more than 150 organizations involving over 7,000, participants and 21 veteran service organizations.

The parade route began at Juniper and Market streets with a brigade of over 250 motorcyclists. It continued east on Market Street, concluding at North 5th Street where the Veterans Festival took place. Simultaneous to the parade's kickoff, paratroopers made a dramatic coordinated jump and descended onto the Independence Mall landing.

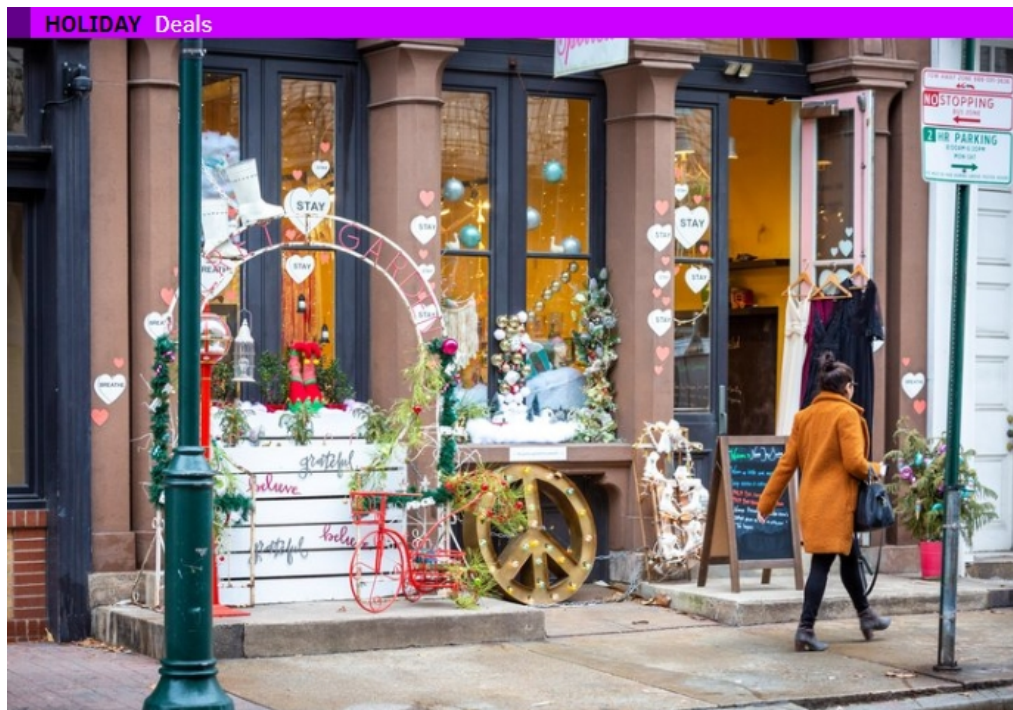


NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Historic Holiday Pass offers discounts at museums, attractions, restaurants, shops

The deals are available through the end of December

BY **SINEAD CUMMINGS** *PhillyVoice Staff*



Historic Philadelphia Inc. has announced something new for 2019: the Historic Holiday Pass powered by PECO.

The pass, which can be [downloaded](#) starting at 4:30 p.m. today, offers discounts at museums, attractions, restaurants and boutiques in Old City

Pass holders can enjoy deals through Tuesday, Dec. 31.

For example, show your Historic Holiday Pass at [Franklin Square](#) and get two tickets to mini golf for the price of one. At [Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest](#), ice skating admission is buy one, get one with the pass.

At the National Museum of American Jewish History, receive 10% off gift shop purchases, while both the National Constitution Center and African American Museum in Philadelphia will take \$2 off admission for pass holders.

All of the deals will become available online later this afternoon.

Also, if you plan on spending time in Philly's Historic District this winter, you may want to take advantage of the Philly PHLASH. The bus provides daytime service (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) to 20 stops located near popular attractions on weekends through Sunday, Nov. 24, and then daily from Friday, Nov. 29, through Monday, Dec. 30.

IVCC Press Clips, September – November 2019

New for the 2019 holiday season, the PHLASH will offer a special evening service to seven stops, as well.

The fee to ride the PHLASH is \$2 per person per ride, or \$5 for a one-day pass. A two-day pass is also available for use on two consecutive days for \$8. Children ages 4 and under, seniors and SEPTA Key holders ride for free. More information can be found on the [PHLASH website](#).

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Philly industrial development chief John Grady stepping down to join uCity Square developer

by **Jacob Adelman**, Updated: November 20, 2019



Wexford Science & Technology LLC has hired longtime Philadelphia economic-development leader John Grady to oversee its Northeast U.S. operations and attract life-science and technology tenants nationwide, a potentially valuable new asset for the development firm as it continues to grow its already substantial presence in the city.

Grady will step down from his role as president of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corp., a nonprofit partnership between the city government and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia, after his successor is announced in January, Mayor Jim Kenney's office said Wednesday.

Wexford concentrates on life-science and university-affiliated projects, such as its uCity Square complex in West Philadelphia. Grady will join the Baltimore-based firm as senior vice president and Northeast region executive. Joseph Reagan, who now holds that position, will take on a new executive vice president role overseeing development nationally but will remain in Philadelphia.

Grady will bring to the role a deep understanding of — and meaningful connections within — the city's public agencies and private development interests that he worked with on the job.

"We're looking at his experience working at PIDC in attracting companies to the Philadelphia market," Reagan said of Grady. "It seems a logical expansion of his skills doing that at PIDC to be doing that" for Wexford projects.

Grady joined PIDC in 1998 to lead the acquisition and development of closed military bases throughout South Philadelphia and became the agency's president in 2011.

Since then, he has been instrumental in nearly every major commercial-development initiative pursued by the city, from the transformation of the Navy Yard into a growing business park that will soon host [its first full-](#)

IVCC Press Clips, September – November 2019

[time residents](#), to the [rebirth](#) of the Gallery at Market East shopping mall as Fashion District Philadelphia, to Philadelphia's [bid to host](#) Amazon.com Inc.'s second headquarters.

Under Grady's watch, PIDC also bolstered its business lending to make more than 500 loans of more than \$150 million over the last seven years in nearly all the city's zip codes, while building a portfolio of more than 60 community-development projects, including health clinics, schools, and neighborhood retail centers, totaling more than \$600 million in investment, the mayor's office said.

"John Grady has served PIDC and our city with passion, skill, and integrity for more than two decades as a forceful advocate for growth throughout all neighborhoods of Philadelphia," Kenney said in a statement. "We will miss his commitment and dedication but look forward to working with him in the next phase of his career with Wexford."

Grady said in the news release that "it has been a privilege and an honor to serve Philadelphia and the city-chamber partnership."

Grady will join Wexford three years after the development firm became a private entity [spun off from](#) Blackstone Group-affiliated BioMed Realty L.P. As Northeast executive, he will oversee projects in Pittsburgh, Hershey, and Providence, R.I., in addition to the uCity Square office-and-residential district.

uCity Square is slated to eventually encompass 6.5 million square feet of retail, residential, office, and lab space on 27 acres of existing buildings and vacant land owned by Wexford and the nonprofit University City Science Center. The project's first new office building, 3675 Market St., opened late last year.

James Cuorato, a former city commerce director who is now president of the Independence Visitors Center, said Grady's experience coordinating projects between government agencies and private businesses, often involving complex public financing mechanisms, was likely a big selling point for Wexford.

To work with the sort of institutions that Wexford targets, "you need a good perspective on the private sector, and you also have to be politically savvy," Cuorato said. "And John has all those qualities."

Grady's move echoes that of William P. Hankowsky, who stepped down from leading PIDC in the mid-2000s to become the chief executive of the developer Liberty Property Trust.

After Hankowsky left PIDC to run Liberty, the agency chose the company — in a process overseen by Grady — to be the main developer of the Navy Yard's central business enclave. It also went on to develop the city's two tallest skyscrapers for Comcast Corp.

"That's a direct analogy: public sector to private sector," Philadelphia commercial property consultant Bill Luff of CRE Visions LLC said of the Hankowsky comparison.

While government connections have not been a deciding factor in determining private-development partners — at least not in recent decades — Grady's reputation for getting things done for Philadelphia at PIDC could tip the scale in Wexford's favor on projects where the city has a say, Luff said.

"Totally even playing field, everything scored the same, and one person you've known for 20 years has done a marvelous job: 99 out of 100 people would make the same decision," he said.

PHILADELPHIA STYLE

Read About the Philanthropic Patrons and Players in the City of Brotherly Love

By Antonia DePace, Kristin Detterline, Joann Greco and Jessica Tzikas | November 21, 2019

At the intersection of art and philanthropy sits these Philadelphia notables, working to elevate the city's premiere cultural experiences.



Patron - Ajay Raju

The Pamela + Ajay Raju Foundation supports the Philadelphia Museum of Art through IntXchange, a philanthropic initiative designed to build Philly's growing creative community by attracting leading global artists. Consider the far-reaching impact of the "Covering Letter." In 2016, the foundation gifted the contemporary work by Mumbai's Jitish Kallat to the museum, where Ajay Raju is a trustee. Its exhibition earned raves from *The New York Times*, which inspired South Asian artists and collectors to donate 10 pieces to the foundation for the annual Christie's South Asia auction. The proceeds were used to buy a hands-only kiosk for CPR training that was gifted to the American Heart Association and is now located in the Independence Visitor Center. Says Raju, "It's a convoluted chain of events, but, in the best possible way, it really demonstrates the reach that a dynamic, gravitational force that an institution like the Art Museum can have across our broader civic and cultural realms."