



MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Independence Visitor Center Corporation and the Independence Historical Trust
Host a Virtual Fundraising Event, the Independence Soirée**
Watch the online event on Friday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. INHT.org/soiree

WHAT: Independence Historical Trust (previously Friends of Independence National Historical Park) hosts an annual fundraising gala every autumn in front of Independence Hall. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **fundraising event has gone virtual**, and for the first time, includes a co-hosting organization, the **Independence Visitor Center Corporation**.

The theme of the **Independence Soirée** commemorates the **100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment**, in recognition of the suffragists and all women who have fought for equality. For her lifetime contributions to equality for all, sports icon **Billie Jean King** will receive the **2020 Year of the Woman Award**.

WHY: The virtual fundraiser supports the operations of both organizations in providing a world-class welcome to the Philadelphia region, and preserving the sites where the nation was founded for future generations.

WHERE: View live stream at INHT.org/soiree or PHLvisitorcenter.com/soiree

WHEN: **Friday, September 25, 2020, 7 p.m.** (live stream preview begins 6:30 p.m.)

WHO:

- **Billie Jean King**, Honoree, 2020 Year of the Woman Award winner
- **Aunyea Lachelle**, Emcee, NBC10 Philadelphia lifestyle and entertainment reporter
- **Hon. Thomas J. Ridge**, Award Presenter, 2019 Guest of Honor
- **James J. Cuorato**, President and CEO, Independence Visitor Center Corporation
- **Karen D. Kaufman**, Treasurer, Independence Historical Trust
- **Dianne L. Semingson**, Co-Chair, Women 100 Advisory Committee
- **Elena Popchock**, Exhibition Developer, National Constitution Center

About the Independence Historical Trust (INHT): Independence Historical Trust, a 501(c) 3, is the official philanthropic partner of Independence National Historical Park, the national park that protects, preserves and interprets Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and the 54 plus historical acres located in the City of Philadelphia. As such, INHT invests your philanthropic dollars in park programs and initiatives to support.

About the Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC): The Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC) is a Pennsylvania nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, which operates in cooperation with the National Park Service, Visit Philadelphia, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Philadelphia, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The IVCC manages the Independence Visitor Center, the official visitor center of the greater Philadelphia region and primary point of orientation for Independence National Historical Park, the City of Philadelphia, the Southern New Jersey and Delaware River Waterfronts, and Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania.

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