



Media Contacts:

Elissa Hill

On Behalf of Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation

ehill@signature57.com

814-952-1170

Tamara Yvette Day

On Behalf of Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation

tday@signature57.com

571-435-5304

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**‘United For Independence’ 2024 Service Day Shines a Light on
Philadelphia’s Historic National Park**

*Historic District Partners form new coalition to advocate for Independence
National Historical Park*

June 7, 2024 (PHILADELPHIA)—Today, more than 130 staff members representing Philadelphia’s Historic District museums and institutions on and around Independence Mall, along with volunteers, came together for a first-ever Historic District-wide day of service in support of Independence National Historical Park (INHP). The effort was a kick-off to the Historic District Partnership’s United for Independence coalition, an effort to support and advocate for additional resources for INHP.

“Independence National Historical Park is the reason people visit Philadelphia – to celebrate the incredible history we have right here in our backyard. The Park is the epicenter of our Historic District and allows every other institution here to prosper,” said Kathryn Ott Lovell, President & CEO, Philadelphia Visitor Corporation. “Philadelphians shouldn’t see this park as just something for visitors and tourists, but OUR national park and something we should take ownership of. The Historic District Partners are coming together like never before to support the Park and advocate for the resources it deserves to properly welcome the world in 2026.”

The inaugural United for Independence Day of Service is supported by Subaru of America, Inc. in conjunction with their work helping to protect America’s national parks. The event is designed to shine a spotlight on the benefits INHP brings to Philadelphia’s economy, culture,



and overall quality of life. According to National Park Service data, INHP's annual impact on the local economy is \$228 million.

"Independence National Historical Park is the most iconic cultural park in the National Park System. There is nowhere else in this country that provides this kind of deep cultural and historical experience for visitors," said Jonathan Burton, Director of Development, Independence Historical Trust. "But there are significant needs for both public and private funding to help the Park reach its full potential. We are proud to come together with the Historic District Partners to support the Park with a new, collaborative approach to advocating for these resources."

Independence National Historical Park is Philadelphia's only national park. According to the National Park Service, "INHP represents the founding ideals of the nation, and preserves national and international symbols of freedom and democracy, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were both debated and signed inside Independence Hall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site."

"Philadelphia's cultural community has grown up around the rich storytelling history offered here at Independence National Historical Park," added Michael Norris, Executive Director of Carpenters' Hall and Chair of the Historic District Partners Advocacy Committee. "The park plays a critical role in our progress, as a city, a tourist destination, and as a nation. As a Philadelphian, it is an honor to support our own, and only, national park!"

The United for Independence 2024 Service Day was planned ahead of peak tourist season to celebrate the incredible historic and cultural amenities Philadelphians can enjoy right in their own backyard.

Members of Philadelphia's Historic District Partnership include:

- African American Museum of Philadelphia
- American Philosophical Society
- Arch Street Meeting House
- ArtPhilly 2026
- Carpenters' Hall
- Christ Church in Philadelphia
- Congressman Brendan Boyle's Office
- Delaware River Waterfront Corporation
- Elfreth's Alley
- Faith and Liberty
- Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia



- Historic Collaborative of Philadelphia
- Historic Philadelphia Inc. (Betsy Ross House, Franklin Square, History Makers)
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- Independence Historical Trust
- Independence National Historical Park
- Independence Seaport Museum
- Museum of American Revolution
- Museum of Illusions
- National Constitution Center
- National Liberty Museum
- Old City District
- Philadelphia Police Department
- Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation
- Science History Institute
- Senate of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- SEPTA
- The Athenaeum of Philadelphia
- The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History
- Visit Philadelphia
- WHYY

###

About the Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation:

The Philadelphia Visitor Center (PVCC) connects visitors to memorable, authentic, and fun Philly experiences at our four visitor center locations: 6th and Market, City Hall, Love Park, and the Parkway. It facilitates the operation of the Independence Visitor Center, the primary point of orientation for Independence National Historical Park and the official visitor center of the Philadelphia region, including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. PVCC also operates the LOVE Park Visitor Center, Parkway Visitor Center, City Hall Visitor Center, The Philly PHLASH seasonal public transit service, and The Liberty View, a private event space at The Independence Visitor Center overlooking the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall. For more information, please visit www.phlvisitorcenter.com.