



#RedWhiteBlueToDo #PhiladelphiaHistoricDistrict

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Red, White, & Blue To-Do 2025 FACT SHEET **Philadelphia Historic District, July 2, 2025**

The Philadelphia Historic District 250th Committee presents the Second Annual **2025 Red, White, & Blue To-Do** celebration for July 2, 2025, part of Philadelphia's 250th celebration.

The Red, White, & Blue To-Do celebration will take place on July 2, 2025, commemorating a day of "pomp and parade," as declared by John Adams in 1776, encouraging visitors to celebrate independence in the place where it all began. A vibrant display of patriotic celebration, Red, White, & Blue To-Do brings together museums, historic sites, and local businesses in America's most historic square mile to honor the nation's founding. The Red, White, & Blue To-Do will also take place on July 2, 2026.

The 2025 celebration begins with museum and historic site openings and a flag raising with Betsy herself at the Betsy Ross House. The morning really gets going with the **Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade** featuring 13 whimsical red wagon floats decked out with Philadelphia icons and patriotic flair along with parade groups such as drill teams, cultural dance troupes, and families representing the diversity of the city. Launching from the National Constitution Center, the parade travels on a longer route than the 2024 path, passing the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, then ending on 3rd Street, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets.



As the parade ends, more free fun ensues with the All-American Block Party, produced in partnership with Wawa Welcome America, on 3rd Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets, where visitors can enjoy music, games, family-friendly activities, highlights from Historic District attractions, and food trucks and seating. The afternoon and evening will be filled with a carefully curated and culturally diverse lineup of free musical street performances at eight locations (doubled from last year!) throughout the Historic District. Festive happy hour specials throughout Old City continue the celebration along



with extended hours and special events at various historic sites into the evening. The day concludes with Wawa Welcome America's Salute to Service Concert on Independence featuring The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus. This free concert will take place at 7 pm on Independence Mall next to the Independence Visitor Center at 6th and Market Streets.

Throughout the day, Decoration Stations will be available at each of the Philadelphia Historic District attractions and partner organizations with festive gear for visitors to festoon themselves. Plus, the District itself will get a boost of bunting, balloons, and begonias to enliven the holiday atmosphere. A special issue of the Historic Philadelphia Gazette will be available at the Independence Visitor Center and other partner attractions with a map and information about how to participate in the celebration all day long. In addition, the Philadelphia Historic District attractions will encourage visitors to return to Historic Philadelphia throughout the remaining summer months with a [Stars, Stripes, and Savings pass](#). For more information, visit phlvisitorcenter.com/red-white-blue-to-do-philadelphia-pa.

Red, White, & Blue To-Do Schedule of Events – Wednesday, July 2, 2025

- 9 - 11 am: The fun begins with museum and historic site openings, special recognitions, and a Flag-Raising Ceremony with Betsy herself at the Betsy Ross House (9 am). *For a full list of historic and cultural attractions and their special activities, see below or visit phlvisitorcenter.com/red-white-blue-to-do-philadelphia-pa.*
- 11 am: **Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade** kicks off at the National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street, traveling along Independence Mall, turning onto Chestnut Street and concluding on 3rd Street. ([Pre-registration to march in the Pomp & Parade is required](#), but everyone is invited to watch along the parade route.) *Details on the Parade are below.*
- 11 am - 3 pm: **All-American Block Party**, produced in partnership with Wawa Welcome America, on 3rd Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets, where visitors can enjoy music, games, family-friendly activities, highlights from Historic District attractions, and food trucks and seating.
- 12 pm: Parade arrives at the endpoint on 3rd Street, between Walnut and Chestnut Streets at the All-American Block Party.
- 2 - 6 pm: **Free Musical Performances** at eight locations throughout the Historic District (New locations for 2025: Betsy Ross House, Carpenters' Hall, Museum of the American Revolution, National Constitution Center. Other locations are Arch Street Meeting House, African American Museum in Philadelphia, National Liberty Museum, and Elfreth's Alley) *Full schedule below**.
 - 4 - 7 pm: **Happy Hour** specials are available at restaurants and bars throughout Old City. *Details are below.*
- 5 - 7 pm: Extended hours and special happenings at various historic attractions. *Details are below.*
- 7 pm: **Wawa Welcome America's Salute to Service: The United States Army Field Band** presented by American Airlines — The U.S. Army Field Band returns to Independence Mall to conclude Red, White, & Blue To-Do with a rousing performance honoring our Soldiers and Veterans, while showcasing the talented musicians and artists in the Army. This free concert is presented by American Airlines and will feature a special performance by Grammy-nominated musical duo, The War And Treaty and will take place at the Independence Concert Series Stage presented by Visit Philadelphia, Independence Mall, 6th & Market Streets.

Philadelphia Historic District Attractions July 2 Happenings

Betsy Ross House, Flag Raising Ceremony, 9 am

239 Arch Street

Kick off the second annual Red, White, & Blue To-Do with Betsy Ross herself and an interactive flag raising to get the party started. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

Athenaeum of Philadelphia, Laurie Olin, *Drawing to See: The Italian Sketchbooks*, 9 am - 7 pm

219 South 6th Street

Stop into the gallery to view the sketchbooks of renowned landscape architect Laurie Olin, created over decades living and travelling in Italy. FREE. Take a tour of the building every half hour starting at 3 p.m. \$10. philaathenaeum.org

American Philosophical Society, APS @ Red, White, & Blue To-Do, 10 am - 7 pm

104 South 5th Street

The museum offers extended hours to view the current exhibition, *Philadelphia the Revolutionary City*. Plus, APS will offer Declaration-related activities and games at the Wawa Welcome America All-American Block Party. FREE. amphilsoc.org

Arch Street Meeting House, Scavenger Hunt, 10 am - 7 pm

320 Arch Street

ASMH has had 20,000 burials occur in its historic grounds – which ones can you find? Explore the 220-year-old meetinghouse and uncover the hidden stories of Quakers in the Revolution. Fun for all ages. More activities will also be available throughout the day. FREE.

historicasmh.org

African American Museum in Philadelphia, Red, White, and Blue To-Do at AAMP, 10 am - 7 pm

Join AAMP for a dynamic day of history, music, art, and community. Visitors are invited to wander the galleries with Revolutionary War hero Ned Hector (11 am - 3 pm), who will share stories from his life and his time as a soldier. Step back in time with photographer Maurene Cooper, who will create 19th-century-style tintype portraits of visitors for free (pre-registration required at aampmuseum.org). Feel the rhythm with MadBeatz Philly on the plaza outside the Museum with live drumming 3:30–5:30 p.m. Then, gather for a powerful fireside chat (6 - 7 pm) exploring the roles and legacies of Black and Indigenous communities during the Revolutionary era. Admission is free all day.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, *Researching the Revolution: A Portal to Philadelphia's Past*, 10 am - 4 pm

1300 Locust Street

Explore the library and learn how to use the Revolutionary City portal, enjoy demonstrations and a craft table where visitors can create projects inspired by documents featured in the portal. From 1 - 4 pm, take a behind-the-scenes tour of the site's vault spaces, showcasing a curated selection of materials from their collection to help bring the portal and Philadelphia's revolutionary history to life. hsp.org

Independence National Historical Park, Red, White, & Blue To-Do Celebrations, 10 am - 7 pm

Independence Visitor Center, 599 Market Street

There are a lot of fun activities going on at Independence National Historical Park. Swing by the park ranger desk at the Independence Visitor Center to find out about daily programs.

FREE. www.nps.gov/inde

Independence Seaport Museum, Celebration Stations, 10 am - 5 pm

211 South Christopher Columbus Blvd.

Be on the lookout for stations throughout the Museum featuring family-friendly activities.

Free with admission. phillyseaport.org

Science History Institute, *Revolutionary Science*, 10 am - 5 pm

Don't miss an exciting day of revolutionary science and the history of fireworks. Learn the science behind British soldiers' red coats, a preview of the upcoming fireworks exhibition, an exciting science and Revolution themed scavenger hunt, and insights into daily life during the Revolution. FREE. sciencehistory.org/rwbtd

Independence National Historical Trust, Colonial Games, 11 am - 3 pm

South 3rd Street between Walnut & Chestnut Streets

Join the Trust at the All-American Block Party on 3rd Street for fun 18th Century games and trading card photo opportunities.

Independence Visitor Center, *Red, White, & Blue To-Do Craft Fair*, 11 am - 4 pm

599 Market Street

Curated by and for local artists, the craft fair features Philly-themed souvenirs, locally-made crafts, and fun gifts. Stop by for a showcase of the best of the City's contemporary makers and artisans. Curated by Art Star. Pay-as-you-go. phlvisitorcenter.com

Liberty Beer Garden, *Red, White, & Blue Celebration*, 12 - 10 pm

50 North Independence Mall East

Relax with all day food and drink specials. phlvisitorcenter.com

Franklin Square, *Red, White, & Blue To-Do Special Offerings*, 1 - 3 pm

6th & Race Streets

Meet Wonder Woman, get patriotic, temporary tattoos, and enjoy more free fun for kids. Pick up a 13-star flag when you hear true stories of history at Once Upon A Nation Storytelling Benches around Historic Philadelphia, get a star from each bench of the eight benches and redeem the completed flag for a free carousel ride and special surprises. FREE.

historicphiladelphia.org

Historic St. George's Museum & Archives, *Candle Making*, 1 - 3 pm

326 New Street

Visit the museum for a hands-on experience where you can create your own tapered candles and wax seals – perfect for gifts, letters, or simply enjoying a bit of traditional craftsmanship.

This event is for all ages. FREE. hsgmuseum.org

National Constitution Center, *Trivia Night*, 5 - 7 pm

525 Arch Street

Wrap up the Red, White, & Blue To-Do by grabbing a bite, exploring exhibits, and showing off your trivia skills in the birthplace of American democracy. Enjoy free food, games, tours, and a trivia contest. FREE. constitutioncenter.org

Carpenters' Hall, *Cocktails and Congress*, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

320 Chestnut Street

Step back in time to 1774 where you'll have a front row seat to all the action at the First Continental Congress. Watch the Founders debate independence in the place where it happened and enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres during the performance. Produced by Historic Philadelphia, Inc. in partnership with the Carpenters' Company. \$50.

historicphiladelphia.org

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, *Book Launch Party for Antisemitism in America* by Senator Chuck Schumer, 6 pm

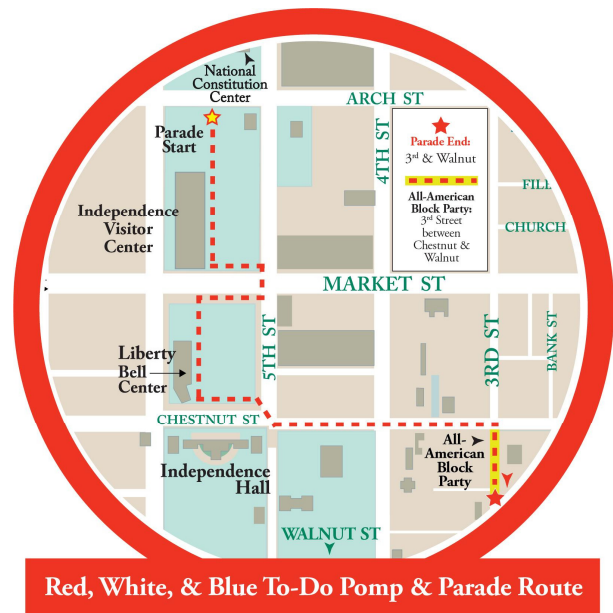
101 South Independence Mall East

Join Senator Chuck Schumer and Michael Solomonov for an essential conversation on the growing threats to Jewish life in America, the lessons of history, and the steps needed to combat rising hate. FREE. theweitzman.org

Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade Elements

Thirteen Red Wagon Floats – The wooden red wagons are made in the United States by the Amish community and decorated by professional float makers and local volunteers.

- **Birthday Cake** – The all-new Birthday cake float is a six-layer cake representing the six 50-year milestones of our nation: 1776, 1826, 1876, 1926, 1976, 2026. The cake is decorated with custom-printed sequin fabric featuring red and white stripes and white stars on a blue background. For this year, the top of the cake will feature the numbers 2 4 9, representing the 249th birthday of the U.S.A.
- **Declaration of Independence and Independence Hall** – While Independence Hall is the focus of America's most historic square mile, the trees that surround Independence Hall are created by volunteers to flank the rear of the float. The volunteers hand-glued hundreds of green leaves onto branches creating trees behind and in front of the Independence Hall facade. A printed version of the Declaration of Independence will be featured in the center of the float.
- **Betsy Ross House** – A three-dimensional version of the Betsy Ross House is created using natural materials like the Tournament of Roses parade, adorning the image of the famous home with hot pepper flakes, crushed pine cones, white rice, and black onion seed, with Betsy Ross flags (the 13 stars) flanking the float.
- **U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines 250th** – 1775 was the year when the United States Army, Navy, and Marines were each established in Philadelphia. This float features the emblems of each of the three branches of the military and the flags for each of the three branches. This is a once-in-a-lifetime float for this parade and also the nation.
- **Stars** – Focusing on the stars in the American flag, volunteers created three stars - one red, one white, and one blue with thousands of red cranberry seeds for the red star, white rice for the white star, and purple statice flower petals for the blue to create a very cool display of the three large stars. Each of the stars are trimmed with gold nautical rope.
- **American Eagle** – “Old-school construction” is at the center of this float with a flowing cascade of chicken wire. Volunteers placed pom-poms in the openings on the chicken wire to create a flowing display of red, white, and blue capped off by a statue of the American bald eagle.
- **Stripes** – Focusing on the stripes of the American flag, this float replaces strong straight lines with abstract stripes made of pool noodles to give them movement as the float travels along the route. The varied lengths of pool noodles are wrapped in red, white, and blue ribbons capped off by metallic sprays.
- **Love** – This float is filled with hearts and a three-dimensional version of the famous LOVE statue. This is thought to be the first time the LOVE statue has been recreated using parsley, cranberry seed, and purple statice flower petals.



Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade Route

- Martha Washington's Rose Garden – The first First Lady of the United States, Martha Washington, loved roses and this float features a trellis covered in flowing faux red roses. The front part of the float is adorned with layers of different roses in various colors, making for a beautiful display of a rose garden that Martha would have loved.
- Carpenters' Hall – A two-dimensional Carpenters' Hall is made of natural materials like hot pepper flakes for the bricks and various other natural products to enhance the display.
- Youth Hands Across America – This fun float features many hands. Youth volunteers traced their hands on a piece of paper and then colored in the shape. The individual cutouts are then formed into an arch, creating a rainbow.
- American Flag – This float, created for the first Pomp & Parade in 2024, features hundreds of faux carnation heads. The flowers in the colors of red, white, and blue create a fluffy American flag.
- Fireworks – A variety of fireworks rockets are painted and decorated on shipping tubes. The tubes are cut to varying sizes and capped off with cardboard tops.



To enhance all floats, bubble machines and sound systems will be used to add fun and entertainment along the route.

Performing and Marching in the Pomp & Parade

78th Army Marching Band, New Jersey

America250PA Keystone Kid, Pennsylvania

Central York Middle School Fife and Drum Corps, Pennsylvania

Cradle of Liberty Council, Scouting America, Pennsylvania

Dance 4 Life Dancers, Delaware - *Performing to a Song Written by Parade Producer, Todd Marcocci, "America My Home Sweet Home"*

Diamonds of Jenks Academy Drill Team, Pennsylvania

Enon Trinity Drum Line and Drill Team, Pennsylvania

Filipino American Association, Pennsylvania

Gente De Venezuela, Pennsylvania

John Adams, Pennsylvania

Kingsway Regional High School Marching Band, New Jersey

Miss Philadelphia Teen

National Park Service Color Guard, Pennsylvania

Native Nations Dance Theatre, Pennsylvania

Northern Hunter Elite Cheerleaders, Pennsylvania

Nuuzakun Mexicano, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Police Explorer Cadets, Pennsylvania

Russell's Dance and Baton Studio, Pennsylvania

Tiny Towne Academy, Pennsylvania

United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Pennsylvania

West Powelton Drumline, Pennsylvania

All-American Block Party

The Wawa Welcome America All-American Block Party will take place on 3rd Street, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets from 11 am - 3 pm on July 2. The free fun will include an interactive All-American Mural, music, PECO Kids Zone with games and chalk art, highlights and family-friendly activities from Historic District attractions, and food trucks and seating. Entertainment will include DJ Sophia, Dance for Life, and the 78th Army Field Band.

Red, White, & Blue To-Do Musical Performances

The Philadelphia Historic District will come to life with a carefully curated lineup of musical street performances in eight locations on the afternoon of July 2 between 2 and 6 pm.

- **Museum of the American Revolution, 101 South 3rd Street**
 - 3:15 - 4:00 pm Youba Cissokho (Manding griot)
 - 4:15 - 5:00 pm Sonqo (Andean folk)
 - 5:15 - 6:00 pm Apsara Angels Dance Inc. (Traditional Cambodian drumming & dance)
- **National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street**
 - 3:15 - 4:00 pm Los Bomberos de la Calle (bomba y plena)
 - 4:15 - 5:00 pm Austin Marlow Trio (jazz)
 - 5:15 - 6:00 pm Barakka (Traditional Turkish music - acoustic)
- **Carpenters' Hall, 320 Chestnut Street**
 - 3:00 - 3:45 pm Dan Blacksberg's Freilachs Music (klezmer)
 - 4:00 - 4:45 pm Son Revoltura (son jarocho)
 - 5:00 - 5:45 pm Philadelphia Suns Lion Dancers (Chinese lion dance)
- **Arch Street Meeting House, 320 Arch Street**
 - 3:15 - 4:00 pm Mariachi Flores (mariachi)
 - 4:15 - 5:00 pm Polkadelphia (polka)
 - 5:15 - 6:00 pm Project Capoeira (Brazilian capoeira)
- **African American Museum in Philadelphia, 701 Arch Street**
 - 3:30 - 5:30 pm Mad Beatz Philly Block-Party (Youth Drumline, hip hop)
- **Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street**
 - 3:00 - 3:45 pm Rubble City String Band (old time)
 - 4:00 - 4:45 pm Karter Jaymes (soul)
 - 5:00 - 5:45 pm Ursula Rucker and Little Lives (Poetry and Music)
- **Elfreth's Alley, 126 Elfreth's Alley Rear Garden**
 - 3:15 - 4:00 pm Amadou Kouyate (Manding griot)
 - 4:15 - 5:00 pm The Misfortunes (Irish music)
 - 5:15 - 6:00 pm Dolphin and LaPrelle (Appalachian Ballads and Songs)
- **National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street**
 - 3:00 - 3:45 pm Spirit Wing (Native American music of the Eastern Woodlands)
 - 4:00 - 4:45 pm Ami Yares (Mediterranean Americana)
 - 5:00 - 5:45 pm Sug Daniels (Black Americana)



About the Red, White, & Blue To-Do Musical Performances

- **[Youba Cissokho](#)**
Born to a griot family in Senegal, West Africa, Youba is a 72nd generation Kora Player. He performs traditional Mandinka and Wolof music, as well as modern style mixed with Jazz, Reggae, and Afro Beats. He comes from a musical family; his dad, Issa Cissokho, is the saxophone player in the legendary Orchestra Baobab. Youba has traveled all over the world performing kora and is now located in Philadelphia. Currently, he is performing across the East Coast for private events, ceremonies, weddings, yoga retreats, classical & modern dance, and in clubs.
- **[Sonqo](#)**
SONQO means heart in the Quechua, the language of the Incas, which is still spoken in several countries in South America. SONQO consists of a group of musicians from different backgrounds who are united to preserve the traditions, culture, and music from our ancestors the Inca Empire and previous civilizations. The group was founded in 2004. SONQO plays authentic Andean music with a variety of traditional instruments that originated during the Pre-Columbian times in combination with the stringed instruments brought by the Spanish conquistadores. These include traditional zampoñas, quenás, quenachos, antaras, zencas, rondador, ocarinas, moxeños, charango, mandolin, guitar, bombo, wankara, Peruvian cajon, claves, rainsticks, and chances.
- **[Apsara Angels Dance Inc](#)**
Apsara Angels Dance Inc is a non for profit Khmer Cambodian traditional dance organization with groups based in Philadelphia, PA, Voorhees, NJ, and Arlington, VA.
- **[Los Bomberos de la Calle](#)**
Los Bomberos De La Calle is a Musical Group who performs traditional and contemporary styles of Bomba & Plena music from Puerto Rico as well as jamming out at local parks for the community. The group also offers many assemblies and workshops throughout the year. Los Bomberos De La Calle has performed and shared this soulful music at many events such as the annual Hispanic heritage festival in Philly, Mummies Parade in 2015, the annual feria de barrio festival, annual sugar cane festival, Kimmel Center/songs left behind, The Mann center, and many more. The group's mission is to give a piece of Puerto Rican culture to Philly and the surrounding areas. Los Bomberos de la Calle is here to preserve, educate and serve the community with this vibrant, energetic and soulful music from Puerto Rico by collaborating with afterschool and in school programs as well as classes on the weekend for drumming and dancing. This music is the music of the people and brings everyone together young and old.
- **[Austin Marlow Trio](#)**
Austin Marlow is one of Philadelphia's amazing and multi-talented drummers lifting up the city's legendary jazz scene. He is currently the drummer for SNACKTIME as well as Omar's Hat. With SNACKTIME, Marlow served as the house drummer for the pilot season of Late Night with Jason Kelce during the lead up to super bowl LIX. Before all of that, Marlow toured the world with the legendary soul band, The Stylistics. He'll be joined by a duo of talented Philadelphia based musicians for a magical set in honoring the spirit and long tradition of jazz music in Philadelphia.
- **[Barakka](#)**
Based in Philadelphia, PA, Barakka is a unique blend of Turkish Folk Rock and Anadolu Rock, mixing eastern and western instrumentation pioneered by artists like Barış Manço and Erkin Koray. Their specialized brand of music derives its unique sound from a melding of traditional Turkish music, classic Middle Eastern music, and the band's own original songs. Led by Istanbul native singer/songwriter/guitarist, Barış Kaya, this

multi-ethnic group of seasoned musicians has been playing in the United States and Turkey for the better part of a decade, and is currently working on their second album, due for release later this year.

- **Dan Blacksberg's Freilachs Music**

Dan Blacksberg is Philadelphia's leading klezmer – keeping musical traditions alive along with a small group of other tradition bearers around the city. Dan's playing and band leading are rooted in the tradition – in the traditional klezmer trombone riffs found in early 1900 shellac recordings, from the mentorship of living links to the tradition like Pete Sokolow and Elaine Hoffman Watts, to community learning of Klezkamp and Klezkanada. His practice is animating the history of our music to provide power to Jewish people and beyond. He has led the Kol Tzedek Simcha band since 2017, and regularly performs with everyone in the klezmer world – from New York to Poland. Contributing to the oral history of Jewish music, he hosts the Radiant Others podcast, where he interviews the movers and shakers of Klezmer and Ashkenazi music. Every 3rd Thursday, you can find him Upstairs at Abyssinia leading Di Hoykhe, a rip-roaring klezmer session with a rotating cast of musicians.

- **Son Revoltura**

Son Revoltura is a Philadelphia-based music collective dedicated to sharing and evolving the Afro-Indigenous Mexican folk tradition of son jarocho. Founded in 2014 by Ximena Violante and Yared Portillo, the group brings communities together through inclusive, free workshops and dynamic performances at cultural events across the city. Their music blends traditional sones with verses that reflect contemporary social issues like immigrant rights and community preservation. Led by queer and trans artists, Son Revoltura emphasizes accessibility and self-expression, fostering a vibrant, inclusive space for cultural resilience and joy.

- **Philadelphia Suns Lion Dancers**

The Philadelphia Suns Lion Dance troupe is a vibrant, volunteer-driven community group that has been preserving and sharing Chinese cultural traditions in Philadelphia for over four decades. Founded in 1972, the Suns have grown into a multigenerational organization dedicated to cultural education, youth development, and community engagement. Their lion dance program is a cornerstone of this mission, offering open practices to all ages and skill levels, and performing throughout the year at Lunar New Year parades, weddings, schools, and cultural festivals. Beyond its cultural significance, lion dancing also serves as a major fundraiser supporting the Suns' youth sports teams and outreach programs. Led by longtime director Harry Leong, the troupe continues to inspire pride, leadership, and connection across generations.

- **Mariachi Flores**

Mariachi Flores is a vibrant family mariachi band rooted in Philadelphia, founded in 1987 by Porfirio Flores and his six children. Born in Mexico City and raised on the rich traditions of mariachi, the siblings have been performing together since childhood. Their music blends heartfelt vocals with the spirited sounds of vihuela, guitarrón, trumpet, and violin, delivering a dynamic repertoire that spans romantic boleros, lively sones, and festive rancheras. Beloved throughout southeastern Pennsylvania and beyond, Mariachi Flores brings authenticity, passion, and joy to every celebration, honoring their father's legacy with every note.

- **Polkadelphia**

A tuba, trombone, trumpet, and accordion walked into a bar lamenting the lack of fresh approaches in the genre of polka. Two rounds and one passionate conversation later,

Polkadelphia was born. Whether rocking out at the local biergarten or strolling through the bustling tents at Oktoberfest they always bring the haus down!

- **Project Capoeira**

Project Capoeira, Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve, develop, and share Capoeira, a Brazilian folk art that combines elements of martial arts, music, dance, and acrobatics. Their activities grow intercultural understanding and a sense of community through arts education and social outreach. The organization uses Capoeira as a vehicle to promote other Brazilian arts and to preserve Brazilian culture in Greater Philadelphia.

- **Mad Beatz Philly Block-Party**

Mad Beatz Philly positively influences the life and career trajectories of young drummers from Philadelphia communities with the following goals:

- Leverage the intellectual processes inherent in developing individual excellence to build initiative, habitual improvement, and a growth mindset
- Impress the value of positive communication self-awareness, emotion regulation, and patience in the collaborative process of team drumming
- Model the positive results of a growth mindset, collaborative effort, and responsible decision-making to younger performers under the guidance of successful alumni-mentors

Since Mad Beatz Philly's founding in 2013, they have engaged hundreds of high school drummers across the city, of which more than two dozen have found careers as professional musicians and teachers across Philadelphia and beyond.

- **Rubble City String Band**

The Rubble City String Band is a Philadelphia-based old-time ensemble known for its lively, foot-stomping performances that celebrate the rich traditions of Appalachian and American roots music. Regularly featured at the West Philly Square Dance series, they provide the rhythmic backbone for community gatherings that emphasize inclusive, gender-free calling and spirited social dancing.

- **Karter Jaymes**

Karter Jaymes is a Baltimore-based singer-songwriter who once served as the drummer for Philadelphia legend Teddy Pendergrass, whose groundbreaking work in R&B and soul left an indelible mark on American music. Jaymes has carved out his own niche as a versatile acoustic artist, blending elements of blues, folk, and alternative soul in his work. A two-time Grammy nominee, his songwriting credits include hit tracks recorded by artists such as Jaheim and Little Mix, with one of his songs achieving platinum status. Drawing from his rich musical heritage and his experience with one of soul's most influential figures, Jaymes continues to captivate audiences with his heartfelt, genre-crossing performances.

- **Ursula Rucker and Little Lives**

Little Lives is a Philadelphia-based musical collective led by singer-songwriter Miles Orion Butler, known for crafting soulful, poetic songs that explore themes of hope, love, and social justice. Featuring acclaimed spoken word artist and activist Ursula Rucker, their music weaves together folk, jazz, and R&B influences to create a rich tapestry of sound and meaning. With collaborations from members of the Sun Ra Arkestra, Amos Lee's band, and Philadelphia's own jazz luminaries, Little Lives offers a dynamic blend of music and spoken word that speaks to the heart of community and resilience. Their performances are a testament to the power of art to inspire change and bring people together.

- **Amadou Kouyate**

Amadou Kouyate is a master musician and oral historian, continuing a 150-generation legacy of Manding Diali from West Africa. Born in Washington, D.C., he performs on the 21-string kora and traditional drums like the djembe and koutiro, blending ancient songs with contemporary jazz and blues influences. His performances have graced stages from The Kennedy Center to Carnegie Hall, and he has collaborated with groups such as Sweet Honey in the Rock and the National Symphony Orchestra. As an educator, Kouyate has served as an artist-in-residence at institutions including the University of Maryland and UMBC, sharing the rich traditions of West African music and storytelling with students and audiences alike.

- **The Misfortunes**

Hailing from the heart of Philadelphia's vibrant Irish music scene, The Misfortunes bring the raw energy and rich tradition of Irish folk music to life. This trio—Patrick Carroll (Uilleann pipes, whistles), Steve Stanislaw (banjo, fiddle, vocals), and Tim Buchanan (guitar, mandolin)—first crossed paths at local trad sessions, where their shared love for the tunes naturally evolved into a band. Patrick and Steve have been playing together for years, weaving intricate melodies and driving rhythms that capture the soul of Irish music. With Tim recently joining the fold, The Misfortunes have found a fresh dynamic, blending tight instrumentation with the spontaneity and storytelling at the heart of the tradition.

- **Dolphin and LaPrelle**

Elizabeth LaPrelle and Brian Dolphin are a married duo who share a love of bright vocal harmonies, eerie traditional songs, and heartfelt originals. Elizabeth is a world-renowned ballad singer and scholar from rural Virginia and Brian is a songwriter, producer, and ethnomusicologist who has studied folk music all over the world.

- **Spirit Wing**

Spirit Wing is a six-time Native American Music Award nominated duo with Seneca and Muncie roots who educate about the history and traditions of Native American culture and history from across the Eastern Woodlands. The group uses traditional and original songs and dances to teach about the history and culture.

- **Ami Yares**

Ami Yares is the still small voice emerging from the shores of the Mediterranean and Atlantic, bearing his soul to make it sound for you to do the same. Called “one of Woody's children” by Peter Yarrow, Ami brings a bit of Richie Havens, Cat Stevens, and Robbie Robertson into his universe. With the past at his back and the future calling, Ami is more than just present. Hear/feel/see/experience his songs of relentless perseverance and hope. “Yares wields his 12-string guitar as if it were an entire orchestra, backing his vocals with a dense, rich cascade of sound” (AXS).

- **Sug Daniels**

Sug Daniels is a Delaware-born, Philadelphia-based, singer-songwriter, storyteller, and producer who is using the tools around her to capture the emotions of an era. Daniels' work is as colorful, vulnerable, and charismatic as her personality. She thoughtfully combines elements of folk, rock, and soul alternatives to create personal and tender music interlaced with messages of truth and positive change. Her single release with Don Giovanni Records, “When I'm Gone,” garnered well-deserved attention from local and regional radio and venues and opened new paths. After years of touring with The Black Opry, playing official showcases in SXSW 2022, and supporting acts such as Sarah Shook & The Disarmers, Molly Tuttle, Adeem The Artist, Buffalo Nichols, Daniels is working on her debut studio album “I Believe In You” set to be released in the fall of 2025.

Special thanks to the Weitzman Museum's Director of Public Programs, Dan Samuels, for curating the musical performances and for creating a diverse representation of communities that enrich our city and nation.

Old City Happy Hour Specials

On July 2 from 4 - 7 pm, the following Old City restaurants will be offering festive cocktails, specials, and more:

- 48 Record Bar
- American Vegan Center
- The Avery
- Calandrino's Old City Vino
- City Cruises
- Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar
- Fork
- Khyber Pass Pub
- Kick Axe Throwing Philly
- Positano Coast
- Spasso Italian Grill

For a complete list of restaurants and their happy hour specials, visit

<https://www.oldcitydistrict.org/events/red-white-blue-do-old-city-restaurant-specials>.

Red, White, & Blue To-Do has received support from the Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial.

Public Participation Encouraged

During the **Red, White, & Blue To-Do Decorating Days**, anyone can help create one of the 13 official wagon “floats” for the Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade. The public is invited to participate in the free Red, White, & Blue To-Do Decorating Days, guided by parade producer Under the Sun Productions, which will take place from June 28–July 1, 2025, 11 am - 1 pm and 2 - 5 pm at the National Constitution Center. *Space is limited and [advance registration is encouraged](#).*



Families are encouraged to sign up to participate in the Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade. ([Pre-registration by June 27 to march in the Pomp & Parade is required](#), but everyone is invited to watch along the parade route.)

Why Are We Celebrating on July 2?

The official Independence Day—July 2, 1776—came to be when the Second Continental Congress voted in Independence Hall to approve a resolution declaring: “That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.”

John Adams thought July 2 should be marked as a national holiday for generations to come: “The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epoch, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival...It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade with shews, Games, Sports, Guns,

Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this continent to the other from this Time forward forever more,” Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail Adams.

The Declaration of Independence was signed by representatives from the Colonies two days later, on July 4, 1776.

Philadelphia Historic District Partners

A variety of cultural and historical sites will participate in the Red, White, & Blue To-Do:

- African American Museum in Philadelphia
- American Philosophical Society
- Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust
- Athenaeum of Philadelphia
- Betsy Ross House
- Carpenters’ Hall
- Delaware River Waterfront Corporation
- Elfreth’s Alley
- Franklin Square
- Historic Philadelphia, Inc.
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- Independence National Historical Park
- Independence National Historical Trust
- Independence Seaport Museum
- Independence Visitor Center
- Museum of the American Revolution
- National Liberty Museum
- National Constitution Center
- Old City District
- Science History Institute
- Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History

About the Philadelphia Historic District 250th Committee

Led by Vince Stango, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the National Constitution Center and Amy Needle, President and CEO of Historic Philadelphia, Inc., the Philadelphia Historic District 250th Committee is a group made up of a variety of cultural and historical sites throughout America’s most historic square mile. The 250th Committee aims to create a unique and memorable experience for visitors to Philadelphia’s Historic District in 2026, driving engagement with partner organizations through a well-defined, interconnected experience. The Philadelphia Historic District 250th Committee strives to create a legacy of improvements, enhancements, and increased accessibility of the city’s astounding array of existing cultural assets and historical treasures by developing sustainable activations to extend to 2026 and beyond. The Committee created the Red, White, & Blue To-Do celebration and will produce the 52 Weeks of Firsts celebration every week of 2026. For more information about the Red, White, & Blue To-Do, visit phlvisitorcenter.com/red-white-blue-to-do-philadelphia-pa. For more information about 52 Weeks of Firsts, visit visitphilly.com/52firsts.

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Photos by Shoot from Within Photography and Jason E. Miczek.

For high-resolution images, visit the press room at https://bit.ly/RWBTD_PressKit.