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#RedWhiteBlueToDo #PhiladelphiaHistoricDistrict

Red, White, & Blue To-Do FACT SHEET Philadelphia Historic District, July 2, 2024

Philadelphia Historic District partners present the first-ever Red, White, & Blue To-Do celebration on July 2, 2024, 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 our nation’s founding. This monumental occasion promises to be a memorable experience for all, featuring the Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade, festooned decor, concerts, games, extended visitation hours at area historic attractions, restaurant specials, and much more.



Red, White, & Blue To-Do Schedule of Events – Tuesday, July 2, 2024

- 9 – 11 am: The fun begins with flag raisings, museums and historic sites openings, special recognitions, and Children’s Naturalization Ceremony 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.*
- 11am: **Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade** kicks off at the National Constitution Center, traveling along Independence Mall. ([Pre-registration to march in the Pomp & Parade is required](#), but everyone is invited to watch along the parade route.)
- 11 am – 3 pm: Welcome America’s Go 4th & Learn: Carpenters’ Hall 250th Anniversary
- 12 pm: Parade arrives at the endpoint at Carpenters’ Hall
- 2 – 5 pm: Musical performances at four locations throughout the Historic District (Arch Street Meeting House, African American Museum in Philadelphia, National Liberty Museum, and Elfreth’s Alley - full schedule below*)

4 – 7 pm: Extended hours and special events at various historic sites and food and drink specials throughout Old City

Philadelphia Historic District Attractions July 2 Happenings

Betsy Ross House, Children's Naturalization Ceremony, 9 am

239 Arch Street

Thirteen children from around the world take the Oath of Citizenship during this moving ceremony in the courtyard, part of the inaugural Red, White, & Blue To-Do. FREE.

historicphiladelphia.org

Athenaeum of Philadelphia, *300 Years of the Carpenters' Company*, 9 am – 7 pm

219 South 6th Street

Stop in to explore three centuries of the Carpenters' Company and informal building tours.

FREE. philaathenaeum.org

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

320 Arch Street

Explore the burial ground and building as you follow clues and explore the hidden history of the Meeting House. The activity is fun for all ages, especially kids. Families will also enjoy hand-on activities throughout the day. FREE. historicasmh.org

Carpenters' Hall: Welcome America Lego Event, 10 am – 4 pm

320 Chestnut Street

Make Lego buildings with help from members of the Carpenters' Company, leading architects, engineers, and contractors, plus family-friendly activities in the courtyard. The event is presented in partnership with the Franklin Institute, whose first exhibit in 1824 was held in Carpenters' Hall. FREE. carpentershall.org/2024

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, *Satire as Political Speech*, 10 am – 5 pm

1300 Locust Street

Drop-in activities will explore the ways Americans have used cartoons to poke fun at political opponents and to draw attention to serious issues. Draw your own cartoons to make sure your voice is heard. A special appearance by Pulitzer-winning cartoonist Signe Wilkinson at 2 pm.

FREE. portal.hsp.org

Museum of the American Revolution, Red, White, & Blue To-Do Happenings, 10 am – 7 pm

101 South 3rd Street

Meet historical figures, create your own flag and more! Plus, enjoy outdoor activities on the plaza all day long. Outside activities are FREE; others free with admission. amrevmuseum.org

National Liberty Museum, *Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness*, 10 am – 7 pm

321 Chestnut Street

Outside the museum, find games and activities and inside, a Creation Station with button making, a photo booth, and a collaborative art experience all designed to focus on art as civil dialogue. Free with admission. libertymuseum.org

Arch Street Meeting House, 11 am – 3 pm

320 Arch Street

At Arch Street Meeting House, the Science History Institute will be exploring the science of the Revolution, sharing the history about spies. Visitors will be able to write messages in invisible ink and create their own coded messages. FREE. sciencehistory.org

Independence Seaport Museum, Red, White, & Blue To-Do Special Offerings, 11 am – 3 pm

211 South Christopher Columbus Boulevard

Join the museum for special Seaport Storytimes at 11 am and 1 pm, and a special Triple 6-pounder salute from Olympia to celebrate the occasion at 1 and 3 pm. Free with admission.

phillyseaport.org/calendar

18th Century Garden, Colonial Kids' Quest from Historic Philadelphia, Inc., 11:30 am
339 Walnut Street

The Declaration of Independence has gone missing. Help track it down during this fun, interactive puppet show. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

Betsy Ross House, Old-Fashioned Carnival Games, 12 – 4 pm

239 Arch Street

As part of the inaugural Red, White, & Blue To-Do, try your hand at some old-time carnival games in the courtyard and leave with patriotic prizes. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

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

599 Market Street

Curated by and for local artists, the Red, White, & Blue To-Do 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

National Constitution Center, Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade, 11 am

525 Arch Street

A highlight of the Red, White, & Blue To-Do, the parade kicks-off at the Constitution Center with a variety of youth performance troupes, miniature, hand-decorated floats, and community members decked out in patriotic flair. FREE. constitutioncenter.org

Signers' Garden, Fun With the Declaration, 11 am – 3 pm

5th & Chestnut Streets

The American Philosophical Society sponsors fun activities related to the Declaration of Independence. Don't forget to stop by the museum also from 10 am – 5 pm. FREE.

amphilsoc.org

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, Freedom Quest Scavenger Hunt, 11 AM - 4 PM

101 South Independence Mall East

Explore the Museum by floor and learn how Jewish Americans embraced American freedoms. Our scavenger hunts, designed for ages 3-12, make this journey educational and fun. Hello Gorgeous! Win a pair of tickets to see *Funny Girl* from The Weitzman! Join our #WheresBarbra contest for a chance to win tickets to the July 17 Philadelphia premiere of *Funny Girl!* Here's how: Find Barbra Streisand objects or films within the Museum; snap a selfie; share on Instagram; tag @WeitzmanMuseum; use #WheresBarbra. Three winners will be chosen for the Academy of Music performance. The Museum and Store are open 10 am - 7 pm.

Declaration Station at the Museum of the American Revolution, 12 – 4 pm

101 South 3rd Street

Experience Philadelphia 250's Declaration Station—a mobile, pop-up collective civic project to gather what people think is still important about the Declaration of Independence today, why

that matters to the city and society we live in and dream of, and what role people want to play in making them a reality. Free, outside the Museum. philadelphia250.us

Franklin Square, Red, White, & Blue To-Do Special Offerings, 1 – 3 pm
6th & Race Streets

Meet and greet with Wonder Woman, patriotic red, white, & blue temporary tattoos, and free fun for children. Hear true stories of history at the eight Once Upon A Nation Storytelling Benches around Historic Philadelphia and receive a star for each one on the Once Upon A Nation 13-star flag. Redeem the completed flag at Franklin Square for a free carousel ride and special surprises.

African American Museum in Philadelphia, Red, White & Blue To-Do at AAMP, 2 – 8 pm:

701 Arch Street

The party kicks off with Mad Beatz Philly's Block party on the plaza and continues in the gallery with light bites and music by DJ Lady FX at 5 pm. A historical interpreter portraying Frederic Douglass asks, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" in a thought-provoking program at 6:30 pm, followed by a discussion led by local scholars. The current exhibit, *Imprint: Dox Thrash, Black Life & American Culture* will be open for tours. \$19 adults; \$15 child/senior/student/military. aamp.org

Signers' Garden, Colonial Muster by Historic Philadelphia, Inc., 2 pm & 3 pm
5th & Chestnut Streets

The Continental Army is looking for a few good kids. New recruits will join a Revolutionary War soldier to learn what it takes to fight for freedom. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

Independence Mall, 18th Century Games, 4 – 7 pm
Between Market & Arch and 6th & 5th Streets

Independence Historical Trust, in partnership with Independence National Historical Park invites you to try your hand at games including Hoop & Stick, Graces, Ball & Cup and Jacob's Ladder on the lawn next to Independence Visitor Center. FREE. inht.org

National Constitution Center, Taste of History Trivia Night, 5 – 7 pm
525 Arch Street

Wrap up the inaugural 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 as the Center kicks off Civic Season 2024. FREE. constitutioncenter.org

Independence National Historical Trust, 5:15 pm

Liberty Bell Viewing Window (near Chestnut Street, across from Independence Hall)

Join the Twilight Tours for a free walking tour of Philadelphia's National Park. Explore the people and sites where America united in support of liberty, vigorously pursued independence and, ultimately, formed "a more perfect Union." Free. Approximately 60 minutes.

inht.org/twilight-tours/

African American Museum in Philadelphia, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?, 5 – 7 pm:

701 Arch Street

This dramatic reading and reenactment addresses this fascinating topic, embracing the spirit of Frederick Douglass, who first asked the question. Enjoy bites and beverages and a tour of the current exhibit. FREE. aampmuseum.org/calendar

American Philosophical Society, 1776, 6 – 8:30 pm

427 Chestnut Street

End the day with a screening of the 1972 movie musical *1776* in Benjamin Franklin Hall. FREE. Register at amphilsoc.org

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

Red Radio Flyer Wagon Floats

- **Birthday Cake Float** – This handmade float features an oversized layer cake covered in millions of silver and blue flakes of chunky glitter. The eight-foot-tall creation is decorated with stars, circles, and over five hundred strips of red-and-white and blue-and-white star half bows. This is the only float that has been pre-made, and was conceived and constructed by parade producer Todd Marcocci of Under The Sun Productions Inc. It took him nearly 48 hours to fully create the final finished product.
- **American Flag Float** – Volunteers in Philadelphia will simulate the same techniques and processes that volunteers execute at the Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, California. For the American flag float, volunteers will hand-glue close to 200 white faux carnation heads, 200 red faux carnation heads, and around 100 blue faux carnation heads. The fifty stars on the flag will be made of individual leaves from faux white cherry blossom branches. This creation will be mounted onto wooden wagons that will be used as the base of the float, and then pulled along the parade route by an adult volunteer.
- **Liberty Bell Float** – What will five pounds of onion seeds, ten pounds of flax seed, and six hundred Hemlock pine cones create on this float? The Liberty Bell! The silhouette of the Liberty Bell will be created using white glue and placing thousands of flax seeds on the body of the bell, and then volunteers will glue over 600 Hemlock Pine cones on the top of the bell. The pine cones were harvested from the Pennsylvania State Tree - The Hemlock Pine Tree.
- **Declaration of Independence and Independence Hall Float** – While Independence Hall is the focus of America's most historic square mile, the trees that surround Independence Hall will actually be created by volunteers to flank the rear of the float. The volunteers will hand-glue hundreds of green leaves onto branches creating trees behind the Independence Hall facade and also in front of it. A printed version of the Declaration of Independence will be featured in the center of the float.



- **Stars Float** – Focusing on the stars in the American Flag, volunteers will create a huge star for the rear of the float where they will glue on thousands of red cranberry seeds, white rice, and purple statice flowers to create the red, white, and blue centerpiece of his float. In addition to the centerpiece star, various stars will trim the float.
- **Stripes Float** – The stripes float will focus on the stripes of the American Flag. Rather than featuring strong straight lines, the float will have abstract stripes made of pool noodles to give the stripes movement as the float travels along the route. The varied lengths of pool noodles will be wrapped in red, white, and blue ribbons capped off by metallic sprays.
- **Horticultural Float** – Flowers have been an important part of life for countless years, so it makes sense to feature a horticultural float in the parade. The float will be made by volunteers and will feature faux red roses, white faux roses, and blue/purple wisteria.
- **Fireworks Float** – Volunteers will create a variety of fireworks rockets where they will paint and decorate quikrete concrete form tubes. The traditional tubes used for making cement forms for posts, mailboxes, or flag poles will be cut to varying sizes and capped off with metallic tops to make it look as though the fireworks are exploding.

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

- Native Nations Dance Theatre
- York Middle School Fife And Drum Corps
- Dance 4 Life Dancers
- National Park Service Color Guard
- 215 Extreme Youth Football Cheer
- Philadelphia Filipino Association
- The Diamonds Of Jenks Academy For The Arts And Sciences Step Team
- Philadelphia Police Cadets Honor Guard
- Gente De Venezuela
- West Powelton Drumline
- Keystone 250th Kid
- Along with families decorated in red white and blue
- John Adams

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 four locations on the afternoon of July 2.

- ***Elfreth's Alley, 126 Elfreth's Alley Rear Garden***
3:00 – 3:45 pm Dan Blacksberg's Freilachs Music (Klezmer)
4:00 – 4:45 pm Callahan, McComiskey and Kelly (Irish)
- ***National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut Street***
2:15 – 3:00 pm Spirit Wing (indigenous storytelling and dancing)
3:15 – 4:00 pm Los Bomberos de la Calle (Puerto Rican bomba y plena)
4:15 – 5:00 pm Dolphin and LaPrelle (Appalachian songs and ballads)
- ***African American Museum in Philadelphia, 701 Arch Street***

- 2:00 – 4:00 pm Mad Beatz Drumline Hip Hop Block Party (drumline and live hip-hop)
- **Arch Street Meeting House, 320 Arch Street**
 - 2:15 – 3:00 pm Philly Suns Lion Dancers (Chinese Lion Dance)
 - 3:15 – 4:00 pm Rubble City String Band (old-time)
 - 4:15 – 5:00 pm Project Capoeira (Brazilian Capoeira)

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

- **Dan Blacksberg's Freilachs Music**
 - Dan Blacksberg's Freilachs Music shares a modern, yet timeless klezmer sound anchored by Dan's trombone. One of the world's leading klezmer trombonists, Dan has taken the trombone from its traditional role behind the scenes as an accompaniment instrument and put it firmly in the spotlight. Freilachs Music was the term that Dan's grandmother-in-law called the music we normally know as klezmer. When Dan first played Yiddish music for her at an early meeting, she exclaimed "How did you learn to play that Freilachs Music?" This is how Dan can honor his extended family history and the yiddish history of his native Philadelphia to create a sound that is rooted in the past and is relevant to today.
- **Callahan, McComiskey and Kelly**
 - One of the most virtuosic, eclectic and innovative trios performing traditional Irish music anywhere in the U.S. and abroad. World-renowned musicians Brendan Callahan (fiddle), Sean McComiskey (accordion) and Darin Kelly (guitar) have more than 100 years' worth of collective experience performing all over the world, and their unique brand of evocative, expressive playing honors the ancient traditions of Irish music, while offering fresh perspectives of its possibilities.
- **Spirit Wing**
 - Spirit Wing is the contemporary Native American musical group most commonly known for playing dancers' breaks at Powwows and at festivals across the region. The married duo of Barry Lee (guitar and vocals) and Barbara Andrews-Christy (flutes and vocals) are dedicated to the traditional Native American music and storytelling of the Eastern Woodlands.
- **Los Bomberos de la Calle**
 - Los Bomberos De La Calle is a musical group that performs traditional and contemporary styles of Bomba & Plena music from Puerto Rico as well as jamming out at local parks for the community. They have been blessed to perform and share this soulful music at many events such as the annual Hispanic heritage festival in Philly, the 2015 Mummies Day Parade, the annual feria de barrio festival, annual sugar cane festival, Kimmel center/songs left behind, The Mann center, and many more. Their mission is to give a piece of Puerto Rican culture to Philly and the surrounding areas, and to preserve, educate, and serve the community with this vibrant, energetic and soulful music from Puerto Rico. This music is the music of the people and brings everyone together young and old.

- **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.
- **Mad Beatz Philly**
 - Mad Beatz Philly positively influences the life and career trajectories of young drummers from Philadelphia. In this special two-hour block party outside the African American Museum in Philadelphia, Mad Beatz Philly will throw a party featuring a DJ, emcees from around the city, and a live drumline playing hip hop cadences. Since Mad Beatz Philly's founding in 2013, they have engaged more than 100 high school drummers in Kensington and West Philadelphia, of which more than 1/5 have found careers as professional musicians and teachers across Philadelphia and beyond.
- **Philadelphia Suns**
 - The Philadelphia Suns is a 30-year-old community service organization based in Philadelphia's Historic Chinatown neighborhood. The group will appear at the Arch Street Meetinghouse on July 2 to demonstrate the 1,000+ year-old Chinese Lion Dance, traditionally performed during the Chinese New Year and other special occasions.
- **Rubble City String Band**
 - The Rubble City String Band performs an entertaining mix of old-time, bluegrass, folk, country and blue music. They regularly play square dances and have a monthly residency at Abyssinia Upstairs on the fourth Thursday of every month.
- **Project Capoeira**
 - Project Capoeira organizes the largest Brazilian culture celebration in Pennsylvania, Brazilian Day Philadelphia. The group teaches capoeira, a folk and martial art that highlights self-expression and balance in life, at 12th and Race streets.. Adenilson Dos Santos, the organization's artistic director, oversees capoeira groups in five continents, eight countries, and 11 states. His cultural work has been recognized by both the U.S. and Brazilian governments.

Special thanks to The Weitzman Museum's Director of Public Programs, Dan Samuels, for creating this diverse representation of communities that enrich our city and nation.

Old City Specials

Neighborhood restaurants will be showing off their red, white, and blue spirit as well with a variety of discounts, treats, or specialty cocktails. Participating businesses include:

- **3J's Cafe**
 - Biscuits & Sausage Gravy
 - Southwest Bowl
 - Sweet Dreams Crepes
 - You and Me Iced Latte

- Blue Bunny Lemonade
- [AMINA](#)
 - **Amina's Shooting Star Cocktail** - Cherry limeade vodka with lemonade and grenadine, topped with a rocket pop (\$10)
- [Campo's](#) – \$3 Yuengling Lagers
- [Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar](#) – \$7 Red and White Sangria
- [Forsythia](#) – Baba Au Rhum Dessert
- [Khyber Pass Pub](#): A specialty cocktail and zero proof mocktail
 - **American 76** - A French 75 inspired with pear vodka, lime, champagne, and hpnotiq/blue curacao
 - **Benedict Arnold** - Hibiscus tea with lemon juice, all the bitters New Orleans bitters, and topped with club soda
- [Kick Axe Philadelphia](#)
 - Free Red, White, and Blue water ice with the purchase of axe throwing and/or when you purchase a giant pretzel.
- [Las Bugambilias](#) – Stars & Stripes Tart
- [Royal Boucherie](#) – Red & White Negronis

For a complete list of restaurants and their offered specials, visit oldcitydistrict.org.

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

Red, White, & Blue To-Do Decorating Days

To prepare for this historic celebration, Wagon Decorating will take place at the National Constitution Center, free and open to the public. Anyone can help create one of the official wagon “floats” for the Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade, but space is limited and [advanced registration is encouraged](#). The District will have Red, White, & Blue To-Do Decorating Days from June 29 -July 1, 2024, 10 am – 1 pm and 2 – 5 pm.

Decoration Stations will be available at each of the Philadelphia Historic District attractions and partner organizations for visitors to festoon themselves for the parade.

The District itself will get a boost of bunting, balloons, and begonias to bring a festive atmosphere throughout Independence Week.

Know the History

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
- Elfreth’s Alley
- Franklin Square
- Historic Philadelphia, Inc.
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- Independence National Historical Park
- Independence National Historical Trust
- Independence Seaport Museum
- Museum of the American Revolution
- National Liberty Museum
- National Constitution Center
- Old City District
- Independence Visitor Center
- Science History Institute
- Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History

About the Red, White, & Blue To-Do

A partnership of cultural and historical institutions and Old City businesses, the Philadelphia Historic District has created a new event for 2024 and beyond—the Red, White, & Blue To-Do—to take place on July 2. John Adams declared that July 2 should be a day of “pomp and parade” from one end of the continent to the other. Philadelphia’s Historic District will welcome the world to celebrate in the place where it all began. The Red, White, & Blue To-Do will take place throughout America’s most historic square mile with the Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade, festooned decor, concerts, games, extended visitation hours at area historic attractions, restaurant specials, and much more. The Red, White, & Blue To-Do will debut on July 2, 2024, continuing to get bigger and more joyful each July 2 through 2026 and beyond, creating memories for residents and visitors. For more information, including a list of participating institutions and businesses, visit phlvisitorcenter.com/red-white-blue-to-do-philadelphia-pa.

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Photos courtesy of the National Constitution Center.

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