



Media Contact:

Stephanie Fanelli-Bambach

sfanelli@signature57.com

484-213-5968

Philadelphia Visitor Center and PHILADELPHIA250 Form a Strategic Alliance in Support of City’s Plans for 2026 Semiquincentennial Celebration

January 24 2025 (PHILADELPHIA) — [PHILADELPHIA250](#) and the [Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation](#) (“Visitor Center”) today announced a strategic alliance to ensure an integrated and holistic approach to planning for the community-focused semiquincentennial celebrations across Philadelphia. President and CEO of the Visitor Center, Kathryn Ott Lovell – with support of the City of Philadelphia, the PHILADELPHIA250 Board of Directors, and the Visitor Center Board of Directors and staff – will provide strategic direction and leadership to both organizations. Additionally, Michael Newmuis, 2026 Director for the City of Philadelphia, will serve as Honorary Co-Chair of PHILADELPHIA250 alongside former Pennsylvania Governor, The Honorable Edward G. Rendell, the board chair of PHILADELPHIA250, ensuring the nonprofit remains in lockstep with the City’s vision for this important commemoration.

“As the birthplace of America, it is important for Philadelphia to create an experience that not only celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence but also ignites the spirit of democracy for the city of Philadelphia, the country and the world,” **said former Pennsylvania Governor, The Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Chairman of PHILADELPHIA250.** “By forming a strategic alliance with the Visitor Center, I am confident PHILADELPHIA250 will continue the incredible momentum we have built to execute a successful community-powered commemoration that is of the people, by the people, and for *all* people.”

Kathryn Ott Lovell, President & CEO of the Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation and new leader of PHILADELPHIA250, added: “Leaders in Philadelphia have been working tirelessly – some for nearly a decade – to prepare for this historic moment for our city. With less than a year remaining until 2026, time is of the essence to seize this opportunity. This partnership between the Visitor Center and PHILADELPHIA250 will allow us to align our efforts and our resources. When all eyes are on Philadelphia as the epicenter of American Democracy in 2026, we will be ready to welcome every citizen of Philadelphia, the Delaware Valley, and the rest of the world and invite them to be part of this extraordinary celebration.”

PHILADELPHIA250 will continue its work with neighborhoods and the City of Philadelphia to create dynamic celebrations of community and civic pride that invite locals and visitors to collectively experience the 250th Anniversary of the United States. Building upon the foundation that PHILADELPHIA250 has created, the new partnership will work collaboratively to achieve common goals and make 2026 a springboard for Philadelphia’s future.



“The City of Philadelphia views the historic commemoration in 2026 as an opportunity to bring the celebration directly to neighborhoods across Philadelphia, ensuring communities across the city are at the heart of this momentous occasion,” said **Michael Newmuis, 2026 Director for the City of Philadelphia and Honorary Co-Chair of PHILADELPHIA250**. “This next chapter for PHILADELPHIA250, in partnership with the Visitor Center, will help drive a bold and inclusive vision for 2026. Under the leadership of Governor Rendell, I am honored to support Kathryn and her team in making this celebration reflective of and meaningful to the people of Philadelphia.”

For more information, visit philadelphia250.us.

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ABOUT PHILADELPHIA250

PHILADELPHIA250 is the nonprofit organization recognized by the City of Philadelphia to coordinate and lead the City’s plans for the 250th anniversary of American independence. Our “By the People, for all People,” community-led anniversary approach invites the people of Philadelphia to share their stories, declare civic actions and leave lasting legacies that make Philadelphia a more equitable and resilient city for future generations. In concert with a growing group of local stakeholders (50+ cultural, tourism and civic organizations) and key partners at the city, state and national levels, we are coordinating a year-long series of activities, events and programs that will ensure 2026 is a collective, inclusive moment for the City of Philadelphia, the country and the world. Our mission, as well as the initiatives that will shape the City of Philadelphia’s 250th, are supported in part through the generosity of PHILADELPHIA250 Founding Partners, Comcast, and Independence Blue Cross. To learn more and to get involved, visit philadelphia250.us.

ABOUT PHILADELPHIA VISITOR CENTER CORPORATION

The Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation (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 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.