

African American/Africana Studies

The Johnson House Historical Site

A vital stop on the Underground Railroad

The Experience

Constructed in 1768, the Johnson House was inhabited by the Johnson family until 1908. During the 1800s, the home became vital to the Underground Railroad movement. Harriet Tubman was sheltered and fed here with the enslaved Africans she would later guide to Lucretia Mott's nearby home in Cheltenham.

CONTACT INFO

6306 Germantown Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144
215.438.1768
<http://www.johnsonhouse.org>

Philadanco

Diverse works in an African-American based repertoire

The Experience

Sought after nationally and internationally, PHILADANCO! tours the world as Philadelphia's unofficial ambassador. Schedule your Philadelphia visit around one of its home runs, because whether they are swirling in ankle-length chiffon to music by Ravel in La Valse or strutting Black Panther attitude in Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's Hand Singing Song, PHILADANCO!'s dancers blaze across the stage in the joy of dancing.

Popular works by great African-American choreographers like Bebe Miller, Ronald K. Brown and David Brown that sometimes deal with issues of black history are regularly programmed. Now the resident dance company at the Kimmel Center's Perelman Theater, this largely African-American company is expanding its repertoire, commissioning choreographers like Trey McIntyre, Danny Ezralow and Alonzo King.

CONTACT INFO

9 North Preston St
The Philadelphia Dance Company-PHILADANCO!
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.893.1999
<http://www.philadanco.org>

The African American Museum in Philadelphia

Celebrating and interpreting African-American history and culture

The Experience

With a rich collection of fine and folk art, photographs, memorabilia and costumes, this museum in Philadelphia's historic district traces the experiences and contributions of African-Americans from the kingdoms of Africa through captivity, enslavement and emancipation in America to the present. The museum's expansive scope encompasses the story of African American life in all its permutations, focusing on topics such as family life, the visual arts, entertainment, politics, and sports.

Exhibits have celebrated female sculptors, black doll collecting and Philadelphia's legacy in music. As an affiliate of

the Smithsonian Institution, the museum often links its exhibits to national and international trends. The museum's gift shop is stocked with a wide selection of books and videos, African textiles, and African American jewelry and prints

CONTACT INFO

701 Arch St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.574.0380
<http://www.aampmuseum.org>

Juneteenth Celebrations in Philadelphia

With its rich African American heritage, Philadelphia is the perfect spot to mark this holiday

19th June is official Juneteenth, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; celebrations are near that date every year; examples of past events:

Drumming Up the Spirits: Historic Walking Tour guides participants through the original site where the first 150 enslaved Africans arrived in Philadelphia. The tour includes stops at historic attractions related to early African American history and culminates at Washington Square, also known as Congo Square, where drumming, dancing and historical re-enactments take place. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Columbus Boulevard and Chestnut Streets, 215.222.8882, www.pennsylvaniajuneteenth.com

Families can explore their connection to Juneteenth at the National Archives Mid Atlantic Region, which contains a wealth of information for tracing African American family history and understanding the larger picture of post-Civil War changes. *Following Families to Freedom* takes place from 12 - 2 p.m. Entrance on Chestnut Street between 9th and 10th Streets, 215.606.0100, www.archives.gov/midatlantic

Founded in 1862 to support the policies of President Abraham Lincoln, The Union League has hosted U.S. presidents, heads of state and visiting dignitaries from around the globe. This tour delves into its Civil War history, its role in Philadelphia and its position as a supporter of African American civil rights during the 1860s and 1870s. 10 - 11 a.m. Broad and Sansom Streets, 215.563.6500, www.unionleague.org

During visits to **Mother Bethel AME Church**, the Civil War & Underground Railroad Museum and **The Johnson House Historic Site**, visitors experience first-person accounts that evoke the moral and spiritual battles of conscience waged by black and white Philadelphians who risked their lives and personal liberty as station masters on the Underground Railroad. The *Taking a Stand for Freedom: Philadelphia's Underground Railroad* trolley tour runs at 9:30 a.m. every third Saturday of the month from June 17 through October. 5th and Market Streets, 215.389.TOUR, gophila.com/neighborhoodtours

The Johnson House Historic Site hosts an encampment of the Third United States Colored Troops, who demonstrate how they recruited and trained new soldiers to fight for the Union cause. Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas re-enactors on hand to help. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Germantown Avenue and Washington Lane, 215.438.1768, www.johnsonhouse.org

The annual Freedom Celebration Parade and Family Festival begins with a procession at the All Wars Memorial at 20th and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and ends at the Lincoln Statue in Fairmount Park. Following the parade, there is a fun-filled day of activities, including art, music, dance, poetry, food vendors and more. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. 215.222.8882, www.pennsylvaniajuneteenth.com

For Freedom in Life & Death: The Civil War History Buried at Laurel Hill tells the stories of General Thomas Kane, who served as an agent on the Underground Railroad, and Colonel Alexander Cummings, the Superintendent of Troops of African Descent in Arkansas. These men and others like them are the focus of a tour commemorating Juneteenth and the Civil War at historic **Laurel Hill Cemetery**. 2 - 4 p.m. 3822 Ridge Avenue, 215.228.8200, www.thelaurelhilccemetery.org

An afternoon Inside the **Historical Society of Pennsylvania** (HSP) celebrates Philadelphia's African American past with a look at rarely seen items from the HSP collections, including the Emancipation Proclamation, William Still's original Underground Railroad diary and selections from the Pennsylvania Abolition Society papers. During a panel

discussion, local experts explore the history and legacies of African American history in Philadelphia. 2 - 5 p.m. 1300 Locust Street, (215) 732-6200, www.hsp.org

The Juneteenth commemoration at [The African American Museum in Philadelphia](#) features one of the only official copies of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Abraham Lincoln. The program includes a reading of the document by children from the Freedom Theater, historical re-enactments and a military honor guard. 12 - 2 p.m. 701 Arch Street, 215.574.0380, www.aampmuseum.org

CONTACT INFO

for each year's particular event lineup, links are embedded above

Also consult

The Independence Visitor Center

<http://nps.gov/inde>

and

<http://www.visitphilly.com>

Marian Anderson Historical Residence/Museum

Preserving the legacy of one of the world's greatest contraltos

The Experience

See the quaint home that Marian Anderson purchased in 1924, right across the street from the Union Baptist Church where she sang as a child. Here you will find a marvelous ensemble of memorabilia, books, rare photos, paintings and even films regarding the great contralto's life.

Various rooms, with hardwood floors and lace curtains (which Anderson adored), are dedicated to musical programs, lectures, audiovisual presentations and even private lessons. There's even an artists-in-residence program at the home, which was purchased by Blanche Burton-Lyles, a concert pianist and protégé of Anderson's. Burton-Lyles is also founder and president of the Marian Anderson Historical Society, Inc., dedicated to preserving Anderson's legacy by mentoring outstanding classical artists.

CONTACT INFO

762 S. Marian Anderson Way (aka Martin Street)

Philadelphia, PA 19146

215.732.9505

<http://www.mariananderson.org>

Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church

The oldest parcel of land continuously owned by African-Americans

The Experience

Walk on hallowed ground when you visit Mother Bethel AME Church, the mother church of the nation's first black denomination. Founded in 1797, the church rests upon the oldest parcel of land continuously owned by African-Americans.

The church memorializes Reverend Richard Allen, its founding pastor and first bishop. A basement crypt serves as as museum, housing Allen's tomb and other intriguing artifacts including original pews and the original pulpit constructed and used by Reverend Allen. Recently installed exhibits depict the church's role as an underground Railroad station. While visiting the church don't miss its collection of huge stained glass windows with both religious and Masonic images.

CONTACT INFO

419 S. Sixth St

Philadelphia, PA 19147

215.925.0616

<http://www.holyexperiment.org/pages/bethel>

The Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection

Stories from the Underground Railroad to Paul Robeson

The Experience

Gothic-revival Sullivan Hall houses a collection that has become a destination for African-American scholars. Pause before entering the reading room and see a modest but impressive exhibition selected from the collections. Inside, researchers have access to more than 30,000 items on the black experience: books, manuscripts, sheet music, pamphlets, journals, newspapers, broadsides, posters, and photographs.

Among the rare published works in the collection are first editions by Phyllis Wheatly, W.E.B. DuBois, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, and Paul Lawrence Dunbar, among others. There are more than 500,000 photographs by John Mosely, the 20th-century photographer of entertainers, Negro Baseball League players, the Penn Relays, leaders and life of Pennsylvania.

CONTACT INFO

12th and Berks Mall
Philadelphia, PA 19122
215.204.6632
<http://www.library.temple.edu>

The Philadelphia Doll Museum

Presenting black dolls as artifacts of history and culture

The Experience

As it traces the evolution of black dolls, with a two-headed Topsy-Turvy Doll in a red-checked dress and folk art dolls made of rags and cornhusks, the Doll Museum presents visual images of how black people have been perceived throughout history. The more than 300 dolls displayed chronologically, from African wooden "ancestor figures" to black bisque dolls manufactured in Germany and France in the late 19th century, shed light on the history and craft of doll-making.

The collection also showcases celebrity dolls; American-made favorites, such as Amosandra and Sara Lee; and some of Roberta Bell's African-American Heritage dolls in authentic period clothing, including one of Reverend Richard Allen at the pulpit of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church.

CONTACT INFO

2253 North Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19132
215.787.0220
<http://www.philadollmuseum.com>

American Studies (More found under History)

National Constitution Center

The world's only museum dedicated to the U.S. Constitution

The Experience

It's only four pages long, but the U.S. Constitution is among the most influential and important documents in the history of the world. The 160,000-square-foot National Constitution Center explores and explains this amazing document through high-tech exhibits, artifacts, and interactive displays. In the star-shaped Kimmel Theater, powerful music, a live actor and 360 degrees multi-media images tell the story of *We the People*.

Don judicial robes to render your opinion on key Supreme Court cases. Take the Presidential oath of the office. E-mail your congressperson from the Citizens Café. In Signers' Hall, where life-size bronze figures of the Constitution's signers and dissenters are displayed, visitors can choose to sign or dissent. One of the original public copies of the Constitution is on display.

CONTACT INFO

525 Arch St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.409.6600
<http://www.constitutioncenter.org>

The Liberty Bell Center

Dramatic new home of the internationally known symbol of freedom

The Experience

The Liberty Bell has a new home, and it is as powerful and dramatic as the Bell itself. Throughout the expansive, light-filled Center, larger-than-life historic documents and graphic images explore the facts and the myths surrounding the Bell. X-rays give an insider's view, literally, of the Bell's crack and inner-workings. In quiet alcoves, a short History Channel film, available in English and eight other languages, traces how abolitionists, suffragists and other groups adopted the Bell as its symbol of freedom. Other exhibits show how the Bell's image was used on everything from ice cream molds to wind chimes. Soaring glass walls offer dramatic and powerful views of both the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, just a few steps away.

CONTACT INFO

Independence Mall
6th and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.965.2305
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

Franklin Court

Museum and exhibitions dedicated to Benjamin Franklin

The Experience

Inventor. Publisher. Diplomat. Statesman. Scientist. The life and accomplishments of America's favorite Renaissance man are celebrated in a museum complex tucked behind the city's busy streets. A steel frame structure, nicknamed the "ghost house," rises up from the ground, outlining the shape and dimensions of Franklin's home.

Like any couple, Benjamin and his wife Deborah had strong opinions about their home's design and décor and excerpts from their correspondence about the topic are embedded in the walkways surrounding the house. Descend into the adjacent underground museum to discover some of Franklin's many inventions including his glass "armonica"

(a musical instrument), library chair and music stand. A 20-minute film narrated by David Hartman tells the story of Franklin's amazing life.

CONTACT INFO

318 Market St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.965.2305
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

Independence Hall

Birthplace of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution

The Experience

They risked everything, "their lives, their fortune and their sacred honor." During the blistering summer of 1776, fifty-six courageous men gathered at the Pennsylvania State House and defied the King of England. Eleven years later, representatives from 12 states gathered to shape the U.S. Constitution, finally creating one unified nation.

The guided tour, led by National Park rangers, begins in the courtroom where lawyers from opposing sides shared tables and law books. George Washington's "rising sun" chair dominates the Assembly Room which is arranged as it was during the Constitutional Convention. In the adjacent West Wing, the original inkstand used to sign the Declaration and an original draft of the Constitution are displayed.

CONTACT INFO

5th and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.965.2305
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

Anthropology

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

Unearthing the riches of the world's cultural heritage

The Experience

If you called its 12-ton Egyptian sphinx "one in a million," you'd be right: it is just one in a collection of nearly a million objects at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, one of the world's finest archaeological/anthropological museums.

During the last century, the museum sponsored more than 350 worldwide scientific expeditions, which yielded most of the artifacts here, including Sumerian cuneiform clay tablets (the world's oldest writing), Egyptian mummies, a crystal ball once owned by China's Dowager Empress, an Apache tipi, and 4,500-year-old jewelry from the Royal Cemetery at Ur (in modern-day Iraq).

The classical galleries of Greek, Etruscan and Roman treasures has just reopened after a \$3 million renovation; other noteworthy galleries cover ancient Canaan and Israel, Egypt, Africa, Buddhism, native Alaskans, and Polynesia.

CONTACT INFO

3260 South St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.898.4001
<http://www.museum.upenn.edu>

The Academy of Natural Sciences

One of the world's foremost natural history museums

The Experience

The discoveries that rocked the world then and now share four floors of exhibit space in this family-friendly museum that showcases the Academy's remarkable collections. The fully constructed Giganotosaurus, one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs, towers over Dinosaur Hall, also home to fossils from the Hadrosaurus foulkii, discovered in New Jersey in 1856. You can climb inside a tyrannosaurus rex skull, try on horns and claws, and dig for fossils.

Multitudes of butterflies from Kenya, Costa Rica and Malaysia flit around you in a simulated tropical rain forest. Large game animals acquired in the 1920s and 1930s are mounted in 3-D painted dioramas that replicate their natural habitats; for Philadelphians of that era, this was their first sighting of an Indian tiger or a wildebeest.

CONTACT INFO

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.299.1000
<http://www.acnatsci.org>

The Wagner Free Institute of Science

An unusual natural science and history museum in its original Victorian setting

The Experience

While just coming to the Wagner Free Institute of Science's Victorian building is a treat, it is only a precursor to the vast 100,000-specimen museum on the brightly-lit second floor. There are stuffed birds and small animals in antique glass cases and complete skeletons of larger animals, like a buffalo and an English draft horse, spotted around the floor in between.

The animal exhibits may be more prominent, but don't miss the many cases of minerals, insects, shells and, especially, the fossils. There are oddments that are fascinating without being bizarre—mastodon teeth, huge corals, rattlesnake hides. The interpretations around the exhibits explain the changes in the science of the Victorian era with ours today.

CONTACT INFO

1700 West Montgomery Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19121
215.763.6529
<http://www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org>

Art

Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania

Preserving and presenting architecture, in a National Historic Landmark

The Experience

How bombastic-yet logical! In the bowels of architect Frank Furness's most outrageous work—a structure that looks

more like a steamboat than a library-resides an archive celebrating the dynamism of architecture. University of Pennsylvania's Architectural Archives preserves drawings, sketchbooks, models and manuscripts of more than 400 designers who worked over three centuries.

Students or scholars pour over collections at the study tables, and there's always a special display in the Kroiz Exhibition Gallery. The architects represented are nearly all university-related, which pretty much amounts to a Philadelphia who's who: Paul Philippe Cret, Frank Miles Day, Wilson Eyre, Cope and Stewardson, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mitchell/Giurgola, and Louis I. Kahn. Furness, of course, is a favorite.

CONTACT INFO

220 South 34th St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.898.8323

<http://www.design.upenn.edu/archives>

Art In City Hall

Contemporary art and craft exhibits in Philadelphia's City Hall

The Experience

Discover fine art on display year-round, in special display cases on the 2nd and 4th floors of the landmark Second Empire-style building of City Hall. Art in City Hall mounts three group shows a year, each on a different theme, and always featuring artists of the Philadelphia area. Guest curators, invited jurors or members of an advisory council choose the artists, keeping ideas fresh and quality high. Recent exhibits have looked at examples of digital art, artwork made in glass, and images of City Hall, for its 100th birthday. Over 800 artists have been showcased through this program so far.

CONTACT INFO

Broad Street and JFK Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.683.2123

<http://www.phila.gov>

Arthur Ross Gallery

Ever-changing lineup of tightly focused exhibits on the University of Pennsylvania campus

The Experience

This intimate gallery presents a year-round schedule of exhibitions, including objects from the University's collections, as well as from other major public and private collections, often with an ethnographic or anthropological focus.

Past exhibits have included looks at the quirky portraits of Village Voice photographer Sylvia Plachy, the luminescent abstract expressionist oils of Jon Schueler, and an examination of the work of architect William L. Price, who studied with Frank Furness, the masterful Philadelphia-based architect of the building in which the gallery is located.

CONTACT INFO

220 South 34th St
Fisher Fine Arts Library of the University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.898.2083

<http://www.upenn.edu/ARG>

Brandywine Workshop

Printmaking studio, showing fine-art prints made by invited artists

The Experience

Behind the quiet limestone facade of a converted firehouse lies the Brandywine Workshop, one of the city's celebrated ventures in graphic arts. Since 1972, Brandywine Workshop has been inviting visual artists to work in its lithography workshop, creating original, limited-edition artworks that are available for sale.

The Workshop's high-ceilinged galleries show the fine-art prints in its collection. And by now it's an impressive collection, ranging from such well-known artists as Jacob Lawrence and Kenneth Noland, to exciting artists from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds—John Dowell, Pedro Ospina, Diane Pieri and Betye Saar among them.

CONTACT INFO

730 South Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19146
215.546.3675
<http://www.brandywineworkshop.com>

Esther M. Klein Gallery

Art meets Science

The Experience

Housed in the lobby of the University City Science Center, the Esther M. Klein Gallery is committed to creating a space where art and science can interact in positive ways. The gallery's signature series, *Art in Science*, puts on shows about once a year that reveal interconnections between art, science and technology. One *Art in Science* show focused on the theme of electricity, and in another, three artists collaborated on an art installation involving steam.

The Klein Gallery often showcases individual artists, such as Bruce Samuelson and Harry Anderson (known for his whimsical lamps made of found objects), and also features group shows from the communities of police officers, firefighters and prisoners.

CONTACT INFO

3600 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.387.2262
<http://www.kleinartgallery.org>

Institute of Contemporary Art

Museum introducing provocative contemporary artists for more than 40 years

The Experience

Ever since Andy Warhol and his entourage caused a near-riot here in 1965, the ICA has been shaking up the city with shows revealing the hottest and coolest trends in contemporary art. The ICA has led the way with the first-ever museum shows of Warhol, Laurie Anderson, Agnes Martin, Robert Indiana and other influential artists.

The wide-open spaces and ultra-high ceilings of its building on the Penn campus, opened in 1990, allow plenty of room for artists to let loose with multimedia installations that climb, hang or scatter through the galleries. Recent shows have looked at fashion icon Rudi Gernreich, bad-girl painter Lisa Yuskavage, and the young collaborative group Space 1026.

CONTACT INFO

118 S. 36th St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.898.5911

<http://www.icaphila.org>

Moore College of Art & Design

The first and only women's college of art and design in the nation

The Experience

Showing work in its two large, airy galleries, Moore College has set a standard of excellence in its exhibit program. The Paley Gallery seeks out significant artists who deserve wider attention from the U.S. and abroad; a highlight is their biennial Moore International Discovery Series. The Levy Gallery offers a showcase for artists of the Philadelphia region, often grouped by interesting themes.

The first women's visual art and design college, maybe it's not surprising that Moore has put on shows highlighting the contributions of women artists, such as the *Gloria* exhibit which featured the wild feminist art of the seventies, and another show which compared three Philadelphia artists of different generations: Mary Cassatt, Alice Neel and Karen Kilimnik.

CONTACT INFO

20th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.568.4026
<http://www.thegalleriesatmoore.org>

Nexus Foundation for Today's Art

An artist-run, non-profit gallery supporting local emerging and experimental artists

The Experience

Still going strong after more than 40 years, Nexus anchors the Old City gallery scene with its striking, consistently interesting shows. Cutting-edge artist-member exhibits of installations, photography, sculpture and painting alternate with equally thought-provoking curated and invitational shows.

CONTACT INFO

1400 N. American St, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19122
215.629.1103
<http://www.nexusphiladelphia.org>

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

A masterful collection of American art housed in a historic Frank Furness building

The Experience

A jewel nestled in the heart of Center City, the Pennsylvania Academy's vast collection of American art boasts treasures by local and national luminaries such as Charles Willson Peale (founder of the Academy), Thomas Eakins (who taught here), and the Wyeths. One of Gilbert Stuart's portraits of George Washington is a special source of pride for locals, as are other well-known paintings by artists such as Winslow Homer, John Singer Sargent, Edward Hopper and Cecilia Beaux, to name just a few.

Wildly colorful and extravagantly detailed, this 1876 National Historic Landmark building designed by Frank Furness and George W. Hewitt provides an extraordinary setting for the collection. The grand stair hall—decorated with gold

leaf, silver stars, intricate carvings and bronze ornaments—beckons visitors to discover the riches within.

CONTACT INFO

Broad and Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.972.7600
<http://www.pafa.org>

Rodin Museum

Largest collection of Auguste Rodin sculptures outside France

The Experience

The greatest hits of the famed 19th-century sculptor are all here—bronze casts of Eternal Springtime, The Gates of Hell, The Burghers of Calais, and, of course, The Thinker. Bold, energetic and emotionally intense, these works are set in a temple-like building down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which administers the collection.

All told, you'll find more than 120 of the French master's sculptures here, as well as a fascinating collection of drawings, paintings and studies. The variety of works on hand offers the perfect opportunity to contrast and compare the ways in which Rodin used and re-used the same stances, and even body parts, throughout his work.

CONTACT INFO

Benjamin Franklin Parkway and 22nd St
Philadelphia, PA 19101
215.763.8100
<http://www.rodinmuseum.org>

Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery at The University of the Arts

Main gallery of the University of the Arts

The Experience

Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery at The University of the Arts has established itself as a place to go for thought-provoking shows reflecting new or important trends in contemporary art. If it's a solo show, it may be an artist of international stature: of avant-garde film-maker Yvonne Rainer, conceptual artist Vito Acconci, abstract painter Thomas Nozkowski or sculptor Alice Aycock.

Group shows have looked at the progressive design group Memphis, photographers who "stage" reality, and even an group homage to Stanley Kubrick's landmark film "2001." A front window right on Broad Street's Avenue of the Arts features changing installations.

The University of the Arts also has department galleries devoted to media arts, photography and illustration, and a student-run gallery, around its Broad Street campus.

CONTACT INFO

333 South Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.717.6145
<http://www.uarts.edu/about/rosenwald-wolf-gallery>

Woodmere Art Museum

Salon-style displays of American paintings and decorative arts

The Experience

The Woodmere Museum's building, an elegant stone mansion in the Chestnut Hill area, makes the perfect backdrop for shows of art in the realist tradition, from the 19th century to the present. Recent exhibits have featured landscape painter William Trost Richards, Susan Macdowell Eakins, and Philadelphia's modernist icon Arthur B. Carles.

The museum's permanent collection of over 2,500 artworks is also strong in art of the region, with paintings by Pennsylvania Impressionists Edward Redfield and Daniel Garber, illustrators N.C. Wyeth and Violet Oakley, and many others.

CONTACT INFO

9201 Germantown Ave (at Bells Mill Road)
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215.247.0476
<http://www.woodmereartmuseum.org>

Philadelphia Art Alliance

The oldest multi-disciplinary arts center in the U.S., overlooks Rittenhouse Square

The Experience

You never know what you're going to discover at this stately stone mansion on leafy Rittenhouse Square. But whether it's contemporary oil paintings, vintage photography or, hey, a retrospective of avant garde Dutch jewelry, walking through the ornately-designed rooms of this 1906 palazzo-like building is a treat in itself.

The Art Alliance has a long history of showcasing luminaries. For example, in 1936, architects LeCorbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright presented lectures and painter Andrew Wyeth had his first solo exhibition here. In 1937, Martha Graham inaugurated her modern dance lecture series at the Art Alliance.

CONTACT INFO

251 South 18th St
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.545.4302
<http://www.philartalliance.org>

Biology

The Academy of Natural Sciences

One of the world's foremost natural history museums

The Experience

The discoveries that rocked the world then and now share four floors of exhibit space in this family-friendly museum that showcases the Academy's remarkable collections. The fully constructed Giganotosaurus, one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs, towers over Dinosaur Hall, also home to fossils from the Hadrosaurus foulkii, discovered in New Jersey in 1856. You can climb inside a tyrannosaurus rex skull, try on horns and claws, and dig for fossils.

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game animals acquired in the 1920s and 1930s are mounted in 3-D painted dioramas that replicate their natural habitats; for Philadelphians of that era, this was their first sighting of an Indian tiger or a wildebeest.

CONTACT INFO

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.299.1000
<http://www.acnatsci.org>

Mütter Museum

Medical wonders in an architectural gem

The Experience

The Mütter Museum is a riveting storehouse of the history of anatomy and medicine. The collection of more than 20,000 items is designed to give the layman a beneath-the-surface perspective of what physicians study. There is a panoply of the abnormal preserved in fluid, from enlarged organs to diseased body parts, along with illustrations of the normal, in the form of anatomical and pathological models in wax, plaster and papier mache.

An enormously enlarged colon and a 7'6" skeleton are among the highlights. Connections to the famous include Marie Curie's electrometer, Dr. Benjamin Rush's medicine chest and, most spectacularly, the death cast of Chang and Eng, the original "Siamese Twins," whose autopsy was performed in the museum.

CONTACT INFO

19 South 22nd St
College of Physicians of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.563.3737
<http://www.collphyphil.org>

The Wagner Free Institute of Science

An unusual natural science and history museum in its original Victorian setting.

The Experience

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CONTACT INFO

1700 West Montgomery Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19121
215.763.6529
<http://www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org>

Bartram's Garden

America's birthplace of gardening

The Experience

Join a morning bird walk or just catch a breeze along the River Trail in the place where gardening first took root in America. Stroll through the upper kitchen garden and the fragrant flower gardens or visit the riverside meadow, brimming with grasses and wildflowers. With its riverfront location and beautiful view of the Philadelphia skyline, Bartram's Garden also appeals to more active visitors. The dock, with access to the lower Schuylkill River, is a popular put-in for boats. There are also popular [river cruises](#) that run during the spring and summer months.

COME PREPARED

The garden is open daily year-round, while the Bartram House, a National Historic Landmark, is open for tours March through December. May and October are the busiest months.

CONTACT INFO

54th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19143
215.729.5281
<http://www.bartramgarden.org>

Morris Arboretum

A romantic Victorian landscape garden

The Experience

Stroll through the classical English landscape structures and sculpture gardens at Morris Arboretum, a 92-acre Victorian arboretum in the Northwestern corner of Philadelphia. Watch for birds as you enjoy the elegant beauty of the 19th-century grounds, complete with a formal rose garden, majestic old trees and unusual plants from North America, Asia, Africa and Europe.

Kids love the garden railway, which trundles through a miniature landscape, and delight in the hidden tunnel underneath the Mercury loggia. On some summer evenings, adults can bring a blanket and a picnic, pick a lush spot on the lawn and enjoy a soothing evening of live jazz.

CONTACT INFO

100 Northwestern Av
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215.247.5777
<http://www.morrisarboretum.com>

Business

Stephen Girard Collection

The treasures of a man of good taste and good deeds

The Experience

Artifacts from the domestic and business life of one of the richest men in 19th-century America is housed in Founder's Hall, a grand Greek Revival building on the 43-acre Girard College campus. Born in France in 1750, Stephen Girard was a Philadelphia-based banker and shipping magnate.

After helping to open the China trade to the Western world, Girard brought home great porcelains from the East and supplemented them with English and French furniture, silver, textiles and paintings. These are now part of one of America's best collections of fine and decorative arts from the early national period, 1780-1830. The archival collection includes Girard's log books, maps, charts and business papers, all meticulously kept with receipts and other data.

CONTACT INFO

2101 South College Ave
Girard College
Philadelphia, PA 19121
215.787.2680
<http://www.girardcollege.edu>

Classics

Philadelphia Rare Books and Manuscripts

The written treasures of America and Europe, early books and manuscripts

The Experience

Located in a turn of the century house in Philadelphia's Frankford neighborhood, PRB&M is strictly an antiquarian concern, maintaining about a dozen distinct mailing lists in the areas shown between the bars above. Mexicana and other Latin Americana go to ca. 1850, and Bibles in exotic languages to ca. 1870, but nearly everything else they sell dates from before 1820—most categories from well before. Specialists in primary sources, they sell a few used, scholarly, out-of-print books; and while chance and extreme irresistibility beget exceptions, their early stock is *raison d'être*. The partners are members of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America and the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers; David Szewczyk is a past president of the ABAA's mid-Atlantic chapter.

The stock of all eras and origins is chosen for importance, beauty, romance, and rarity—conformable to the classic standards of bookselling practice and private and institutional collecting—but emphases beyond the standard and classic define its character. PRB&M's overarching interests are in international, intercultural interaction and influence; in peculiar local customs and powerful, passing passions; and in the stresses, and losses and gains, of societies and their minorities and underclasses as they engage with and ponder each other. They document the spread of printing, i.e., of ideas; they are fascinated by the issues of colonial history and the struggles of independence. They most savor, in a word, expressions of change and of BECOMING.

CONTACT INFO

2375 Bridge St
Philadelphia, PA 19137
215.744.6137
www.prbm.com

The Rosenbach Museum and Library

A wonderland for lovers of books and antiques

The Experience

Tucked away among the elegant 19th-century townhomes near Rittenhouse Square, The Rosenbach Museum & Library houses one of the world's great collections of manuscripts, literature and rare books.

A list of some of the treasures amassed by the Rosenbach brothers is amazing in itself: Lewis Carroll's own copy of *Alice in Wonderland*, a first edition of *Don Quixote*, James Joyce's handwritten manuscript for *Ulysses*, and the earliest extant letter from George Washington. But the real treat is to see them among the Egyptian statuary, Persian rugs, 18th-century furniture and Thomas Sully paintings that graced the 1860s mansion during the Rosenbachs'

lifetime. The library has more than 130,000 manuscripts and 30,000 rare books; the museum boasts the largest U.S. collection of miniature portraits painted in oil on metal.

CONTACT INFO

2008-2010 Delancey Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.732.1600
<http://www.rosenbach.org>

East Asian

Asian Arts Initiative

Dive into the Asian-American experience by way of the arts

The Experience

The Asian Arts Initiative is a community arts center located in the heart of Philadelphia's historic Chinatown. The organization provides an important political and cultural voice for Asian Americans by way of the arts. Ideas are shared and the Asian-American experience is put on display.

Visual arts, theater, dance and music are all given equal time to shine at AAI, where visitors range from teenagers to senior citizens. While local participants provide much of the action at AAI, the institution has quite a few out-of-towners drop in. Popular New York City DJ Kuttin' Kandi, as well as the four-member spoken word group *I Was Born with Two Tongues*, are regular hits.

CONTACT INFO

1315 Cherry St, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.557.0455
<http://www.asianartsinitiative.org>

The Japanese House and Garden (Shofuso)

Serenity and elegance in Fairmount Park

The Experience

Enter a place of harmony and tranquility, where the large stone statue of the Buddhist deity Jizo keeps silent watch over the Shofuso in its home away from home in Fairmount Park. Explore the Pine Breeze Villa, fragrant from its tatami mats and hinoki bark roof; across the wooden bridge, a tea garden leads past lanterns to the ceremonial teahouse complex. Follow the stepping-stone pathway alongside Japanese maples, azaleas and handsome conifers; behind the house, walk onto a small island in the koi-filled pond. Graceful cherry, plum and dogwood trees rain delicate pink and white petals in the spring. A bamboo grove and a stone pagoda donated by the city of Kyoto complete the ornamental garden.

CONTACT INFO

4700 States Dr
Philadelphia, PA 19131
215.878.5097
<http://www.shofuso.com>

English

Free Library of Philadelphia Rare Book Department

Highlights of book history preserved for posterity

The Experience

The Rare Book Department is a worthwhile adventure. It resides on the third floor of the grand Beaux Arts building that house the Free Library of Philadelphia. When you arrive ring the entrance bell beside the glass door and brace yourself for a pleasant plunge into 4,000 years of history.

Samplings of the 100,000 books and manuscripts will be on view in cases strung along a hall that leads to the reading room. Poe has been featured; you might see illuminated manuscripts, incunabula, early American children's books, Pennsylvania-German Fraktur or works by Charles Dickens, A. B. Frost, Munro Leaf or Howard Pyle.

CONTACT INFO

1901 Vine St
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.686.5416
<http://www.library.phila.gov>

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

American history starts here, at 13th and Locust Streets

The Experience

Research in a handsome, monumental Reading Room is the main purpose here, but large exhibition cases are carefully installed for the walk-in visitor. Nearly every topic in American history is represented in this century-old, brick and marble building, and the exhibitions reflect the collection's strengths. The society maintains approximately 560,000 printed books and 19 million manuscript items, including William Penn's archives.

There are extensive autograph collections of Americans and Europeans; 35,000 prints and maps; 20,000 watercolors and drawings; 250,000 photographs; and thousands of broadsides, sheet music and ephemera. Whatever may be on view, know that you are also in the same building as a printer's proof of the Declaration of Independence, Martha Washington's cookbook, muster rolls of the Union Army, and General George Meade's account of the Battle of Gettysburg.

CONTACT INFO

1300 Locust St
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.732.6200
<http://www.hsp.org>

The Rosenbach Museum and Library

A wonderland for lovers of books and antiques

The Experience

Tucked away among the elegant 19th-century townhomes near Rittenhouse Square, The Rosenbach Museum & Library houses one of the world's great collections of manuscripts, literature and rare books.

A list of some of the treasures amassed by the Rosenbach brothers is amazing in itself: Lewis Carroll's own copy of Alice in Wonderland, a first edition of Don Quixote, James Joyce's handwritten manuscript for Ulysses, and the earliest extant letter from George Washington. But the real treat is to see them among the Egyptian statuary, Persian

rugs, 18th-century furniture and Thomas Sully paintings that graced the 1860s mansion during the Rosenbachs' lifetime. The library has more than 130,000 manuscripts and 30,000 rare books; the museum boasts the largest U.S. collection of miniature portraits painted in oil on metal.

CONTACT INFO

2008-2010 Delancey Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.732.1600
<http://www.rosenbach.org>

The Library Company of Philadelphia

The country's first lending library still displays its vast holdings

The Experience

Just off the Avenue of the Arts, The Library Company of Philadelphia specializes in every aspect of the history of early America and Philadelphia. Ever-changing free exhibits draw from its half-million rare books, 75,000 graphics and 160,000 manuscripts. It is a main repository of old prints and photographs of Philadelphia and its environs.

The Library Company's collections complement those of many other Philadelphia institutions, including the Atwater Kent Museum, The Rosenbach Museum & Library, and The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The Library Company is free to the public and visitors are welcome to view the current exhibit. Researchers, too, from high school students to established scholars, are welcome to use the wide-ranging collections.

CONTACT INFO

1314 Locust St
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.546.3181
<http://www.librarycompany.org>

The University of Pennsylvania—The Walter & Leonore Annenberg Rare Book and Manuscript Library

The intellect flourishes in this intellectual inner sanctum

The Experience

Modern elevator doors open onto a hall paneled in authentic medieval oak, carved to represent open books. To the left is a gallery lined with cases featuring highlights from the collections as diverse as American poetry to the Italian Renaissance, from the papers of Marian Anderson to a collection of Shakespearean promptbooks.

A glass door leads to the reading room where scholars and students consult selections from 250,000 of the library's rarities. At the other end, another door opens up onto an unforgettable bit of authenticity: a Victorian library interior built in 1881 by Henry Charles Lea, Philadelphia publisher and reformer. Lea's love of books is readily apparent in this living tribute to the printed word.

CONTACT INFO

3420 Walnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.898.7088
<http://www.library.upenn.edu>

Environmental Studies

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

Explore the natural world

The Experience

Four miles of hiking trails traverse the 400 acres of woods, streams, ponds and fields of Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, the first environmental education facility ever established within the limits of a major metropolitan area in the country. You'll find indoor and outdoor activities for all ages, including the discovery center Children's Museum, a seasonal butterfly house, an environmental art gallery, a native plant nursery and a bookstore. Look for the environmental art installations and innovative land restoration research sites along the trails, and be sure to ask about the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic, which treats injured, orphaned and sick native wildlife.

CONTACT INFO

8480 Hagy's Mill Rd
Philadelphia, PA 19128
215.482.7300

<http://www.schuylkillcenter.org>

Wissahickon Environmental Center

An environmental education center at the northern tip of Fairmount Park

The Experience

Pack a picnic lunch and spend the day exploring the forest, wandering through the meadows or hiking the trails encircling the Wissahickon Environmental Center. Even if you're not up to the challenge of the steep trails, many paths are flat, so you can enjoy an afternoon of easy walking or hiking.

This is a favorite spot among birders. To keep track of sightings, you can download the [Birds of the Wissahickon chart](#) from their website. And on weekends when the Center is open, you can participate in maple sugaring, moon walks, birding hikes, bug walks and other activities.

CONTACT INFO

300 Northwestern Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215.685.9285

<http://www.fairmountpark.org/WissahickonEC.asp>

Fairmount Park Horticulture Center

Home of the Centennial Arboretum, 27 acres of majestic Asian, European and North American trees

The Experience

With a small pond, a creek, a wetland and a network of paths, picnics are a favorite family activity at this historic arboretum in Fairmount Park. The Display Gardens contain perennials, herbs, an accessible garden, everlastings, a demonstration garden and a vegetable garden. Perennial Gardens, a butterfly garden and the Puryear Pavilion in the trees are other sites to explore. Take a stroll by the tranquil reflecting pool. Gaze upon Gambol I and II, two silver horses prancing in place along Belmont Avenue.

The Horticulture Center, including a greenhouse and exhibition hall, were built in 1976 atop the site of Horticultural Hall. The famous Japanese House and Garden (are known as Shofuso) is located inside this center, which was originally the site of Lansdowne, the country seat of Governor John Penn. Later, it was the site of Horticultural Hall, a botanical display house and garden built for the 1876 Centennial Exhibition. Unfortunately, the Hall burned in 1955.

CONTACT INFO

100 N. Horticultural Dr
Philadelphia, PA 19131
215.685.0096
<http://www.fairmountpark.org/HortCenter.asp>

The Philadelphia Zoo

Animals and plants thrive at America's first zoo

The Experience

One of the best laid-out and most animal-packed zoos in the country is set among a charming 42-acre Victorian garden with tree-lined walks, formal shrubbery, ornate iron cages and animal sculptures. The zoo has garnered many "firsts" in addition to being the first zoo chartered in the United States (1859): the first orangutan and chimp births in a U.S. zoo (1928), world's first Children's Zoo (1957), and the first U.S. exhibit of white lions (1993), among others.

In addition to its animals, the zoo is known for its historic architecture, which includes the country home of William Penn's grandson, its botanical collections of over 500 plant species, its groundbreaking research and its fine veterinary facilities.

CONTACT INFO

3400 West Girard Ave (34th St. and Girard)
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.243.1100
<http://www.phillyzoo.org>

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

Pennsylvania's largest remaining freshwater tidal marsh

The Experience

With 1000 acres, ten miles of trails and many native wildlife and plants, the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum protects the largest fresh water tidal marsh in Pennsylvania. The marsh, a key stop in the Atlantic flyway, is well-known among birdwatchers — 80 species nest here and 300 have been recorded. But sporting enthusiasts like it too. There's a canoe ramp, it's open from sunrise to sunset so anglers are happy, and the network of low-lying trails attracts joggers as well as walkers.

CONTACT INFO

8601 Lindbergh Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19153
215.365.3118
<http://www.heinz.fws.gov>

History

Carpenters' Hall

Meeting Place of the First Continental Congress

The Experience

Before the Constitution, before the Declaration of Independence, there was the First Continental Congress. In 1774, delegates from 12 colonies (Georgia abstained), gathered at Carpenters' Hall and voted to support a trade embargo against England, one of the first unified acts of defiance against the King. That alone would justify Carpenters' Hall's fame. But the building itself deserves recognition.

Built by craftsmen for craftsmen, the Flemish bond brick pattern, cupola, and windows are almost flawless examples of Georgian architecture. Inside, a scale model shows 18th century methods used in the building's construction. The delegates' chairs and the original banner carried during the 1788 Constitutional parade are also displayed. The building is still owned by members of the Carpenters' Company.

CONTACT INFO

320 Chestnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.925.0167
<http://www.carpentershall.org>

Christ Church Burial Ground

Graves of Benjamin Franklin and other early American leaders

The Experience

Steps from the Visitors center, explore this historic cemetery and learn about the lives of the men, women and children buried there. They include signers of the Declaration of Independence and other leaders as well as ordinary citizens. Benjamin Franklin is buried there, as is the man who dug his grave. Others include John Dunlap, who printed the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, composer and poet Francis Hopkinson, and medical pioneers Dr. Benjamin Rush and Dr. Philip Syng Physick. Divided into quadrants, the ground is mapped and plots identified with markers where the original inscriptions are gone. (A book of 50 biographies is available for purchase.)

CONTACT INFO

5th and Arch Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.922.1695 ext. 30
<http://www.oldchristchurch.org>

Congress Hall

Home of the U.S. Congress from 1790-1800

The Experience

Like the democratic ideals it once served, Congress Hall is simple, but powerful. The nation's fledgling legislature occupied the former County Court House, a two-story brick Georgian structure that characterized Congress' roles. The House of Representatives on the first floor (Lower House) looks as it did for John Adams' inauguration in 1797—spare and unadorned, with desks for 106 representatives from 16 states.

On the second floor, the recently restored U.S. Senate (Upper House) is more elaborate, with deep green walls and fabric. Carpeting with the American eagle encircled by the seals of the 13 original states dominates the room. Larger-than-life portraits of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI, gifts of the French government, hang in the adjacent committee rooms.

CONTACT INFO

6th and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.965.2305
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

Declaration (Graff) House

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence here

The Experience

The all-important words that created a new nation were written by Thomas Jefferson at the home of Jacob Graff, Jr. Visitors can view first-floor exhibits and a short film regarding Jefferson's endeavors at the home where he rented two second-floor rooms from Graff, a well-known bricklayer.

The recreated Georgian structure on the second floor features the parlor that Jefferson worked in, as well as his bedroom where it's likely he was attended to by a slave who accompanied him from Virginia. Period furnishings, some recreated, can also be seen.

CONTACT INFO

7th and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.965.2305
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

Elfreth's Alley

The nation's oldest continuously inhabited street

The Experience

Butchers. Bakers. Candlestick-makers. Named for blacksmith and property-owner Jeremiah Elfreth, Elfreth's Alley was home to the 18th century artisans and trades-people who were the backbone of colonial Philadelphia. Three hundred years later, the houses on this itty-bitty cobblestone street are still hot properties.

While a modern city has sprung up around it, the Alley preserves three centuries of evolution through its old-fashioned flower boxes, shutters, Flemish bond brickwork and other architectural details. Two adjacent houses, built in 1755, are now a museum and are open to the public. Tiny by modern standards, the two homes were considered average size in their day. During the 19th century, eight families (27 people) shared the two homes, a situation not uncommon for the era.

CONTACT INFO

126 Elfreth's Alley
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.574.0560
<http://www.elfrethsalley.org>

Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center

The nation's first municipal water treatment center

The Experience

The Fairmount Water Works, one of Philadelphia's architectural icons, now is an exciting combination of environmental education, architectural history and cultural heritage. Tucked beneath the decks of this National Historic Landmark, the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center is a very hands-on, very interactive exhibit using computers, joysticks, buttons and videos to highlight the City's water resources.

Push one button to create a rainstorm and follow the water's path through watersheds. Push another and you're operating the watershed flight controller. Or follow the cycle of water from the river to your kitchen sink. A short video traces the origins of the Water Works, the nation's first municipal water system, and makes the engineering not only understandable but interesting, too.

CONTACT INFO

Waterworks and Kelly Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215.685.0723
<http://www.fairmountwaterworks.org>

Franklin Court

Museum and exhibitions dedicated to Benjamin Franklin

The Experience

Inventor. Publisher. Diplomat. Statesman. Scientist. The life and accomplishments of America's favorite Renaissance man are celebrated in a museum complex tucked behind the city's busy streets. A steel frame structure, nicknamed the "ghost house," rises up from the ground, outlining the shape and dimensions of Franklin's home.

Like any couple, Benjamin and his wife Deborah had strong opinions about their home's design and décor and excerpts from their correspondence about the topic are embedded in the walkways surrounding the house. Descend into the adjacent underground museum to discover some of Franklin's many inventions including his glass "armonica" (a musical instrument), library chair and music stand. A 20-minute film narrated by David Hartman tells the story of Franklin's amazing life.

CONTACT INFO

318 Market St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.965.2305
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

Historic Green—the roots of our nation

Independence Square

The Experience

Independence National Historical Park has many titles—including "America's most historic square mile" and "the birthplace of the nation"—and they're not hyperbole. It was here that independence was declared, the Liberty Bell was rung, and the U.S. Constitution was created. Close to 40 buildings from Philadelphia's Colonial, Revolutionary and Federal periods have been preserved; many are beautifully framed by English landscape-style green spaces.

Stately Independence Hall, flanked by Old City Hall and Congress Hall, presides over this tree-shaded square, where on 08 July 1776, John Nixon, clerk of the Second Congress, first read the Declaration of Independence. The former State House Yard is Independence National Historical Park's most historic landscape and the site of the first designed public landscape in America. Look for the statue of Commodore John Barry, "father of the U.S. Navy."

CONTACT INFO

313 Walnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.965.2305

New Hall Military Museum

A history of America's early aversion to, but respect for, military entanglements

The Experience

The recreation of the original home of the Secretary of the Army is curiously small, given the significance of the American Revolution. But early Americans were wary of the military, since their history in colonial times with soldiers and sailors was unpleasant. The artifacts and displays here cleave to that theme. They show that early naval and military build ups were only reactions to attacks, not offensive actions.

Actually, the Navy has more exhibit space at the Military Museum than the Army, since it was at sea that American commerce was more threatened in the country's early years. The Marines also get their due in a first-floor exhibit called "Marines in the Revolution."

CONTACT INFO

320 Chestnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.965.2305
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

The Atwater Kent Museum

Philadelphia's history museum, and Norman Rockwell, too

The Experience

The Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia, located just around the corner from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, is your gateway to Philadelphia History. As you travel through time, you'll see more than 100,000 objects on display, including the wampum belt that the Lenni Lenape Indians gave to William Penn in 1682, furniture used by George Washington during his presidency in the 1790s, and a Phillies jersey worn by Mike Schmidt.

There are materials on the many ethnic groups that call the city home, from early African-Americans to the recent wave of Asian immigrants. The museum also holds a full collection of reproductions of Norman Rockwell's homespun covers for the Saturday Evening Post. John Haviland, who was also the architect of Eastern State Penitentiary, designed the 1826 Greek Revival building.

CONTACT INFO

15 South 7th St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.685.4830
<http://www.philadelphiahistory.org>

Music

Tempesta di Mare

Tempesta di Mare

The Experience

Named for Vivaldi's tempestuous *The Storm at Sea*, concerto, Philadelphia's only baroque orchestra was founded by flutist Gwyn Roberts and lutenist Robert Stone in 1996. Tempesta di Mare, boasting a broad repertoire and zesty

style, ranges from chamber music to fully-staged opera, all performed on authentic baroque instruments.

Performances range from staged opera with a full orchestra to classic chamber music. The ensemble, performing seventeenth- and eighteenth century music, also records for radio and television.

Highly praised from Philadelphia to Prague, Tempesta's *Greater Philadelphia Concert Series* has enjoyed a rapid rise in reputation. Different programs at various locations throughout Philadelphia.

CONTACT INFO

1034 Carpenter St
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.755.8776

<http://www.tempestadimare.org>

Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia

Philadelphia's best known chamber orchestra

The Experience

Artistic director Marc Mostovoy and principal conductor and pianist Ignat Solzhenitsyn lead 30 players, predominately strings of the resident chamber orchestra of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts; excels in lush scores like Barber's Adagio for Strings, Tchaikovsky's Serenade, cool classics like Mozart concertos and baroque concertos by Vivaldi.

COP presents visiting chamber orchestras, such as the Moscow Virtuosi, and unveils commissions, including the premier of Luis Prado's well-regarded fantasy for piano and chamber orchestra. The players, many graduates of the Curtis Institute of Music, are the area's busiest freelancers; they frequently fill in for the Philadelphia Orchestra.

CONTACT INFO

260 South Broad St
The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.545.5451

<http://www.chamberorchestra.org>

Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia

A choral treasure since 1874

The Experience

Philadelphia's oldest continuously performing chorus excels in versatility. Sacred music mixes with secular and European masterworks are programmed alongside new and traditional works from Argentina, Korea, Russia and Mexico. Programs are smartly themed, and collaborations frequently involve the classical chorus in partnerships that are both international and local. Many guest choirs have joined forces with the group, including the Clayton White Singers (gospel), the Philadelphia Korean-American Chorale and the Taiwan Philharmonic Chorus. All this, without ignoring giants of the oratorio repertoire like Handel's Israel in Egypt and Mendelssohn's Elijah.

CONTACT INFO

1218 Locust St
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.735.9922

<http://www.mcchorus.org>

Opera Company of Philadelphia

Major works in the country's most historic opera house

Philadelphia's only producer of grand opera, the Opera Company is home to some of the industry's brightest singers, composers, directors and conductors. The company typically presents four opera productions, six performances each, per season.

The company's performance venue — the Academy of Music — is another draw. In 2002, the Academy of Music, the oldest opera house continuously in use in the U.S., underwent a renovation to remove its 19th-century stage equipment. The Opera Company now has its sets built precisely to The Academy's 21st century dimensions in a production facility owned by the Opera Company itself.

Behind-the-scenes glimpses into the company's productions are provided in "Opera Insights", along with English translations projected above the stage, "A Taste of Opera" lectures providing a look inside current productions, and outreach programs designed to both educate and entertain.

Opera posters by Rafal Olbinski and exquisite costumes by Richard St. Clair enhance the company's production values. Many performances are broadcast and Web cast by WHYY-TV 12 and 91 FM.

CONTACT INFO

1420 Locust St
The Academy of Music
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.893.1999
<http://www.operaphilly.com>

Philadelphia Folklore Project (PFP)

Documenting and presenting Philadelphia's diverse folk arts

The Experience

Whether it's tap dancing, drumming, basket weaving, photography, or gospel singing, the Philadelphia Folklore Project (PFP) leaves no form of folk culture unremarked. Through educational workshops, performances and exhibitions, PFP preserves a record of Philadelphia's folk life, past and present. Its resources include more than 45,000 archived items.

PFP has worked with the Italian, Lithuanian, Cambodian, Latino and African-American communities to create full-scale public events that celebrate the unique contributions these ethnic groups make to American life. Its traveling exhibitions crisscross the country, offering Americans a sense of Philadelphia's nearly 500-year-old folk culture. In 1997 PFP ushered in the first annual Philly Dance Africa program (co-produced with Odunde festival) connecting the city's numerous African communities to its grass-roots African-American dance companies.

CONTACT INFO

1307 Wharton St
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.468.7871
<http://www.folkloreproject.org>

Piffaro, The Renaissance Band

Secular and sacred music of the late Medieval and Renaissance times

The Experience

The late Medieval and Renaissance periods seem to live on when you listen to Piffaro. The sextet recreates the sound of professional wind bands and amateur entertainments from 14th to 17th-century Europe. Together or

separately, recorders, bagpipes, shawms and sackbuts produce raucous, rustic and haunting sounds.

The music's oft-startling rhythms and vibrant sonorities make ancient pleasures timeless. Songs of laughter or tragedy, pageants and liturgical dramas with musicians in costume are performed by instrumentalists and singers trained at Oberlin College, the Rotterdam Conservatory, Milan's Scuola Civica di Musica and the Mannes College of Music.

CONTACT INFO

2238 Fairmount Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215.235.8469
<http://www.piffaro.com>

Spoken Hand Percussion Orchestra

The elemental multicultural rhythms of Philadelphia—skin on skin

The Experience

A powerful blend of Afro-Cuban, West African, Brazilian and Indian drummers, Spoken Hand is a unique percussion ensemble. Spoken Hand allows each style of drumming to flourish within this large collective of musicians, while its innovative arrangements combine traditions both interconnected and disparate.

As world music continues to evolve from a collection of different traditions to a connection between them, Spoken Hand spearheads the conversion to a new tradition. If you attend a Spoken Hand show, you will, of course, be overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the ensemble. But that is only a minor aspect of Spoken Hand's music. Be prepared to be intrigued by the dynamics, the intricate rhythms, the subtleties engendered by the adventures in time and, more than anything, the unspoken language of Spoken Hand. They're based, on a loose basis anyway, at the Painted Bride Art Center, where they perform at least three times a year.

CONTACT INFO

230 Vine St
Painted Bride Art Center
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215 .923.5678
<http://www.spokenhand.org>

The Academy of Music

The Grand Old Lady of Locust Street

The Experience

Philadelphia's most revered performing space is an elegant socialite outside, with a discreet brick and gaslit-façade; inside, it's a prima donna done up in scarlet with gold caryatids and a 5,000-pound crystal chandelier. Napoleon LeBrun built the Academy of Music in 1857, modeling its lavish interior on La Scala Opera House in Milan.

The oldest known opera house continuously in use in the U.S., the Academy is home to the Opera Company of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Ballet and "Broadway at the Academy," a series of national productions. For more than a century, its most famous resident was the Philadelphia Orchestra, which returns every January to play the Academy Anniversary Concert and Ball.

CONTACT INFO

1420 Locust St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.893.1999
<http://www.academyofmusic.org>

The Academy of Vocal Arts

Advanced training for opera singers

The Experience

The only tuition-free institution in the U.S. devoted exclusively to advanced opera studies transforms talented singers into illustrious interpreters. When they are chosen for this competitive, four-year certificate program, many singers already have masters' degrees and are performing in regional opera houses. So, the singing starts on a high note at the fully staged productions in the AVA's historic headquarters, a 19th-century townhouse that includes the 150-seat Helen Corning Warden Theater.

Dramatic values are keen, with singers coached in acting, movement, languages and audition skills. Veteran AVA Music Director Christofer Macatsoris conducts the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia for AVA productions. Opera scenes, art song and oratorio recitals are open to the public.

CONTACT INFO

1920 Spruce St
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.735.1685 tickets
215.735.1685 office
<http://www.avaopera.org>

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Variety programming of established international artists

The Experience

Annenberg's eclectic programming began in its earliest days when it premiered groundbreaking theater like New York's Mabou Mines and continues to the present with The Tallis Scholars Choir. Its series of new music, in collaboration with the Relache Ensemble, helped make household names of then-unknown composers like Philip Glass and Steve Reich.

Today you might hear the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra or Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Dance Celebration (a 20-year collaboration with Dance Affiliates) with its world-class offerings brings audiences to their feet, time after time. Get your Irish up with shows like Michael West's Foley and the National Symphony of Ireland and get your heels clicking with The Klezmatics. But save yourself for Once Upon a Time in Chinese America, Fred Ho's Asian STOMP.

CONTACT INFO

3680 Walnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.898.3900
<http://www.pennpresents.org>

The Curtis Institute of Music

Prodigies flock to one of the world's most select conservatory

The Experience

Legends like Leonard Bernstein and Samuel Barber have studied here, legends like pianists Josef Hofmann and Rudolf Serkin have taught here, and it's still turning out virtuosos like violinist Hilary Hahn. Annual enrollment, all merit-based and tuition-free, numbers about 160 students from myriad nations, whose ages range from 10 to 26.

Curtis graduates perform in most major orchestras in the world, often as principals; half of the Philadelphia Orchestra's musicians are Curtis alumni. Dozens of events are open to the public including the Curtis Symphony Orchestra (with guest maestros such as Sir Simon Rattle); productions by the Curtis Opera Theatre; and faculty, student and alumni recitals.

CONTACT INFO

1726 Locust St
Philadelphia, PA 10103
215.893.7902
<http://www.curtis.edu>

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

One-stop multi-culture on the Avenue of the Arts

The Experience

The brightest light on the Avenue of the Arts is the dazzling regional performing arts center, whose discreet brick exterior rises to a bold 150-foot glass vaulted rooftop for startling views of the city. The spacious and acoustically vaulted facility is rarely dark and on any given weekend might present a jazz quartet, French circus, The Philadelphia Orchestra, pops or family events. Eight resident companies and a variety of touring soloists and ensembles perform here.

The 21st century center's mainstages are the elegant Verizon Hall, whose red mahogany 2,500-seat interior is shaped like a cello and features adjustable acoustical panels and the 650-seat Perelman Theater, with an unusual rotating stage and equipment that enables chamber music, dance and drama. Surrounding the performance spaces, welcoming Commonwealth Plaza encourages visitors to relax, take a coffee at the PECO Café, and browse the Intermission Shop's out-of-the-ordinary arts and kid-friendly gifts.

Residents are the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, PHILADANCO (Philadelphia Dance Company), Peter Nero & The Philly Pops, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet and American Theater Arts for Youth. Sponsoring varied series of its own, the Kimmel also runs the Merck Arts Education Center, which provides arts classes for area youth and adults.

CONTACT INFO

250 South Broad St (Broad and Spruce Streets)
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.893.1999
<http://www.kimmelcenter.org>

Philosophy and Religious Studies

The American Philosophical Society, and Museum

This country's first learned society, established to "improve the common stock of knowledge" (Benjamin Franklin)

The Experience

Benjamin Franklin's influence and the needs of American settlements led The American Philosophical Society in its early days to pursue equally "all philosophical Experiments that let Light into the Nature of Things, tend to increase the Power of Man over Matter, and multiply the Conveniences or Pleasures of Life." Early members included

doctors, lawyers, clergymen, and merchants interested in science, and also many learned artisans and tradesmen like Franklin. Many founders of the republic were members: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Paine, Benjamin Rush, James Madison, and John Marshall; as were many distinguished foreigners: Lafayette, von Steuben, Kosciusko.

Snuggled behind the east wing of Independence Hall is Philosophical Hall, a brick building erected in the late 1780s that was our nation's first museum, national library and academy of science. Inside, changing exhibitions highlight the intersections of science, history and art. Jefferson's handwritten copy of the Declaration of Independence and the Lewis and Clark journals are among the important documents, scientific specimens, patent models, portraits, maps, rare books and manuscripts that comprise this remarkable collection.

Across the street, the library is an international center for research in the history of American science, medicine and technology. Rare and unique items on paper are on display on a rotating basis during business hours.

CONTACT INFO

104 South 5th St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.599.4283
<http://www.amphilsoc.org>

Old Pine Street (Third, Scots and Mariners) Presbyterian Church

The "Church of the Patriots" founded 1768, had many First Continental Congress members as parishioners

The Experience

Old Pine, the third Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, was built of red brick in 1768. Pastor George Duffield was chaplain of the Continental Congress in 1774 and served with General Washington at Valley Forge. Old Pine was then occupied by the British, stripped of its pews and used as a hospital and a stable. A renovation in the mid-1800s transformed Old Pine from Georgian to the present Greek Revival-style, covering the brick with stucco, dividing the interior into two floors and adding a large porch with Corinthian columns.

CONTACT INFO

412 Pine Str
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.925.8051
<http://www.oldpine.org>

Old St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Active parish where Catholicism took root and flourished in early Philadelphia

The Experience

Walking down Willings Alley and through a small walled courtyard, you can imagine this parish as it started in 1733, in a small chapel set back from Walnut Street. The present church, which dates from 1839, features devotional artwork added over the years, including the 1850 stained glass window above the altar, the glass mosaic windows along the north and south walls and the ceiling painting, The Exaltation of Saint Joseph into Heaven, by Italian artist Filippo Costaggini, whose work also appears in the Capitol in Washington, D.C..

CONTACT INFO

321 Willings Alley St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.923.1733
<http://www.oldstjoseph.org>

Old St. Mary's Catholic Church

Philadelphia's second Catholic Cathedral, site of the first religious commemoration of the Declaration of Independence

The Experience

The marble pieta by French sculptor Boucher at the back of the church and two stories of brilliant stained glass windows create a mood of quiet grandeur. Built in 1763, it became a Catholic cathedral in 1810. The interior, redone in 1979, retains historic reminders of its past, including a 1791 baptismal font, brass chandeliers from Independence Hall, and Bishop Conwell's chair from the 1820s. Its cemetery includes the remains of Commodore John Barry, known as the "Father of the American Navy"; General Moylan, aid to George Washington; Thomas Fitzsimmons, a member of the Continental Congress who helped draft the United States Constitution; and Michael Bouvier, great-great-grandfather of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. This historic church is open for visitors when there are no services (although there are no guided or self-guided tours.)

CONTACT INFO

252 South 4th St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.923.7930
<http://www.oldstmary.com/>

Saint George's Methodist Church

Oldest continuously used Methodist church building in America

The Experience

This brick church (14 feet from the Benjamin Franklin Bridge) and its Historical Center present a picture of Colonial life and the beginnings of American Methodism. The unadorned sanctuary, with its simple pews, original floorboards and candlesticks illuminating the balconies, looks as it did when completed in 1792.

The two-room museum has artifacts from 18th- and 19th-century life, as well as personal effects of Methodist leaders, including the bible brought from England by Francis Asbury, the "Father of American Methodists," and the journal of Joseph Pilmoor, the first pastor of St. George's.

CONTACT INFO

235 North 4th St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.925.7788
<http://www.historicstgeorges.org>

Physics and Astronomy

The Franklin Institute, Space Command exhibit

Visit the stars, don't leave earth

The Experience

New 5,000 square foot Space Command exhibit to familiarize visitors with the basic components of the universe, the solar system, the methods used by astronomers to examine very distant objects, and the legacy and future of manned space exploration.

CONTACT INFO

222 North 20th St
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.448.1200
<http://www.fi.edu>

The University of Pennsylvania, College of Physics and Astronomy

The ideas are supposed to be far-fetched

The Experience

Events and Lectures such as: if dark energy is hiding in the form of hypothetical particles called “chameleons,” a team of researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of California, Berkeley, plans to flush them out; Penn researchers’ translocation technique allows for the study of individual proteins without modifying them, and samples taken from a single individual could be analyzed this way, opening applications for disease diagnostics and research.

CONTACT INFO

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Sciences
Physica and Astronomy
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.448.1200
<http://www.physics.upenn.edu>

Politics and International Relations

(See History and American Studies sections for full descriptions of Philly sites)

Independence Visitor Center

CONTACT INFO

6th and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
800.537.7676
<http://www.independencevisitorscenter.com>

Independence Hall

Birthplace of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution

CONTACT INFO

5th and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.965.2305
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

The Liberty Bell Center

Dramatic new home of the internationally known symbol of freedom

CONTACT INFO

Independence Mall
6th and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.965.2305
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

National Constitution Center

The world's only museum dedicated to the U.S. Constitution

CONTACT INFO

525 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.409.6600
<http://www.constitutioncenter.org>

City Hall

The world's tallest masonry building and the largest municipal building in the United States

CONTACT INFO

1 Penn Square (Broad and Market Streets)
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.686.2840
<http://www.phil.gov/property/virtualcityhall>

Honorary Consulate of Germany

CONTACT INFO

4 Penn Center, 1617 JFK Blvd
Suite 340
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.568.5573
Email honconsulphila@aol.com

Consulate General of France

CONTACT INFO

1650 JFK Blvd, Suite 1500
Philadelphia, PA 19107
267.207.2721
<http://www.consulateoffrancephiladelphia.org/>

Consulate General of Israel

CONTACT INFO

1880 JFK Blvd, Suite 1818
Philadelphia, PA 19103
267.479.5800
215.977.7600

<http://embassies.gov.il/philadelphia/>

Consulate General of Mexico

CONTACT INFO

111 South Independence Mall, Suite 310
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.922.4262

Consulate General of Italy

CONTACT INFO

150 South Independence Mall, Suite 1026
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.592.7329

Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration

CONTACT INFO

1500 JFK Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.851.9930

Honorary Consulat of Poland

CONTACT INFO

2538 East Allegheny Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19134
215.634.3300

Consulate General of Austria

CONTACT INFO

123 South Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19109
215.772.7630

Consulate General of Malta

CONTACT INFO

941 Bryn Mawr Avenue
Penn Valley, PA 19072
610.664.7475

Chilean Consulate

CONTACT INFO

111 S Independence Mall, Suite 1002
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.829.9520

Consulate of Panama

CONTACT INFO

124 Chestnut St, Suite 1
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.574.2994

Liberia Consulate

CONTACT INFO

3701 Chestnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.854.6369 and 610.272.5900

Consulate Honorary of Denmark

CONTACT INFO

1650 Market St, Suite 1800
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.864.7059

Royal Norwegian Consulate

CONTACT INFO

1760 Market St, Suite 1111
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.564.5708

Consulate General of The Czech Republic

CONTACT INFO

1653 The Fairway Suite 202
Jenkintown PA 19046
215.805.7777

Consulate of the United Kingdom in Philadelphia

CONTACT INFO

1818 Market St, 33rd floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
212.745.0200

If you do not see the Consulate you wish to find:

CONSULT ONLINE A DIRECTORY SUCH AS

<http://www.consulate-info.com>

The Experience

Unlike embassies most consulates don't have their own website.

A Consulate or Consulate-General is a diplomatic representative office or mission. The head of the Consulate or Consulate-General is a Consul or a Consul General.

A Honorary Consulate is generally a independent person who executes certain consular duties. A Honorary Consulate is headed by a Honorary Consul who often works as the diplomatic representative on a part-time basis and often has limited powers

Theater, Film, Dance

The Pennsylvania Ballet

Widely regarded as one of the premier ballet companies in the nation

The Experience

The Pennsylvania Ballet School and Company were established in 1963 by Barbara Weisberger, a Balanchine protégé. During its first decade, the Company forged the unique identity for which it is still known today: a diverse classical repertoire with a Balachine backbone performed by versatile dancers whose energy and exuberance are the Company's enduring signature. Among other excellences, the Pennsylvania Ballet also offers creative programming through initiatives such as the Family Matinee Series and the Prologue Lecture Series, and educational programs such as Accent On Dance.

CONTACT INFO

1420 Locust St
Academy of Music
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.551.7000
<http://www.paballet.org>

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

One-stop multi-culture on the Avenue of the Arts

The Experience

The brightest light on the Avenue of the Arts is the dazzling regional performing arts center, whose discreet brick exterior rises to a bold 150-foot glass vaulted rooftop for startling views of the city. The spacious and acoustically vaulted facility is rarely dark and on any given weekend might present a jazz quartet, French circus, The Philadelphia Orchestra, pops or family events. Eight resident companies and a variety of touring soloists and ensembles perform here.

The 21st century center's mainstages are the elegant Verizon Hall, whose red mahogany 2,500-seat interior is shaped like a cello and features adjustable acoustical panels and the 650-seat Perelman Theater, with an unusual rotating stage and equipment that enables chamber music, dance and drama. Surrounding the performance spaces, welcoming Commonwealth Plaza encourages visitors to relax, take a coffee at the PECO Café, and browse the Intermission Shop's out-of-the-ordinary arts and kid-friendly gifts.

Residents are the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, PHILADANCO (Philadelphia Dance Company), Peter Nero & The Philly Pops, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet and American Theater Arts for Youth. Sponsoring varied series of its own, the Kimmel also runs the Merck Arts Education Center, which provides arts classes for area youth and adults.

CONTACT INFO

Broad and Spruce Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.893.1999
<http://www.kimmelcenter.org>

As part of Kimmel Center, Inc.'s Education and Community Outreach efforts, Kimmel Center Presents offers schools \$10 subsidized tickets for a variety of performances in the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall and Perelman Theater. **Group discounts** are also available for most Kimmel Center Presents and Broadway at the Academy performances. Please contact Group Sales at 215-790-5883 or visit [Group Sales](#) for more information.

Also as part of Kimmel Center, Inc.'s Education and Community Outreach efforts, Kimmel Center Presents offers free master classes in a variety of disciplines.

MASTER CLASSES are offered Tickets are FREE. Reservations are REQUIRED.

<http://www.kimmelcenter.org/education/masterclasses.php>

PHILADANCO

Officially called The Philadelphia Dance Company, the group is affectionately called Philadanco!

The Experience

Since starting her company in 1970, Joan Myers Brown has been a national force majeure for African American dance. Brown's (the dancers call her Aunt Joan or JB) chief concern is always the artistic quality. More than 600 dancers a year audition for PHILADANCO!'s scarce openings. The few who are chosen are chosen for their artistry and dedication.

Sought after nationally and internationally, PHILADANCO! tours the world as Philadelphia's unofficial ambassador. Schedule your Philadelphia visit around one of its home runs, because whether they are swirling in ankle-length chiffon to music by Ravel in La Valse or strutting Black Panther attitude in Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's Hand Singing Song, PHILADANCO!'s dancers blaze across the stage in the joy of dancing.

Popular works by great African-American choreographers like Bebe Miller, Ronald K. Brown and David Brown that sometimes deal with issues of black history are regularly programmed. Now the resident dance company at the Kimmel Center's Perelman Theater, this largely African-American company is expanding its repertoire, commissioning choreographers like Trey McIntyre, Danny Ezralow and Alonzo King.

CONTACT INFO

9 North Preston St
The Philadelphia Dance Company-PHILADANCO!
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.893.1999
<http://www.philadanco.org>

Arden Theatre Company

The greatest stories from the greatest storytellers

Did you know: The Arden's building in Old City reportedly stands on the site of Benjamin Franklin's bookstore.

The Experience

With a mission to tell "the greatest stories by the greatest storytellers of all times," the Arden Theatre Company presents an annual season of five mainstage productions and two children's works. The Arden's great stories have ranged from lively reinterpretations of classic works by William Shakespeare, Stephen Sondheim and Tennessee Williams, to the work of contemporary playwrights such as Michael Hollinger and Bruce Graham, whose productions have been among the company's 22 world premieres. With every production, the Arden's creative team views the audience as the key collaborator in a journey to engage the imagination.

The Arden Theatre Company uses the same meticulous standards and high caliber of actors and designers for its children's shows as for its adult productions. Each performance is followed by a Q & A session and a chance to meet the cast. The Arden also offers the "Family Usher Network" (or FUN), which gives kids the chance to help seat the audience, take a backstage tour and participate in the onstage, pre-show speech.

Founded in 1988 — in a rented space — by Terrence J. Nolen, Amy Murphy and Aaron Posner, the Arden now has an Old City base with two theaters. The company has a professional children's theater program, the first in the city; a professional apprenticeship program and initiatives to ensure access for people who are disadvantaged and those who have disabilities. Among its numerous awards are 19 Barrymores and four "Theatre Company of the Year" citations from The Philadelphia Inquirer.

CONTACT INFO

40 North 2nd St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.9221122
<http://www.ardentheatre.org>

Philadelphia Folklore Project (PFP)

Documenting and presenting Philadelphia's diverse folk arts

The Experience

Whether it's tap dancing, drumming, basket weaving, photography, or gospel singing, the Philadelphia Folklore Project (PFP) leaves no form of folk culture unremarked. Through educational workshops, performances and exhibitions, PFP preserves a record of Philadelphia's folk life, past and present. Its resources include more than 45,000 archived items.

PFP has worked with the Italian, Lithuanian, Cambodian, Latino and African-American communities to create full-scale public events that celebrate the unique contributions these ethnic groups make to American life. Its traveling exhibitions crisscross the country, offering Americans a sense of Philadelphia's nearly 500-year-old folk culture. In 1997 PFP ushered in the first annual Philly Dance Africa program (co-produced with Odunde festival) connecting the city's numerous African communities to its grass-roots African-American dance companies.

CONTACT INFO

1307 Wharton Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.468.7871
<http://www.folkloreproject.org>

Adrienne Theatre **Home of the InterAct Theatre Company and 1812 Productions**

Collective Performance Space for innovation

The Experience

The Adrienne is a collective space that includes three performance arenas and two dance studios, and is always full of talent bound to grow beyond its narrow walls. The Main Stage on the bottom floor seats 103 comfortably and is the home base for the up-and-coming InterAct Theatre Company. The Adrienne also hosts Philadelphia's sole purveyors of Everyman theatre, 1812 Productions.

InterAct produces new and contemporary plays that explore the social, political, and cultural issues of our time. Founded in 1988, InterAct's aim is to educate, as well as entertain its audiences, by producing world-class, thought-provoking productions, and by using theatre as a tool to foster positive social change in the school, the workplace and the community. InterAct strives to cultivate new voices for the theatre, in developing and producing important new plays that represent our time and place, and introducing new writers to local audiences—and dares to dramatize complex and controversial issues with artistic integrity and fairness.

CONTACT INFO

Adrienne Theatre
2030 Sansom St
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.568.8077
<http://interacttheatre.org/about/>

NOTE: InterAct Theatre Company will be moving to The Drake, 1512 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

PlayPenn

Simpatico Theatre Project

Azuka Theatre

Inis Nua Theatre

will join InterAct as resident partners at The Drake

The Academy of Music

The oldest opera venue continuously in use in the United States

The Experience

With the Kimmel Center, the Academy of Music is the premier art venue on the Avenue of the Arts. In 2002, the Academy of Music, the oldest opera house continuously in use in the U.S., underwent a renovation to remove its 19th-century stage equipment. The Opera Company now has its sets built precisely to The Academy's 21st century dimensions. Home of Opera Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Ballet, the Academy of Music is also Broadway Philadelphia, where Broadway come and run locally.

CONTACT INFO

Office: 1420 Locust St
Venue: corner of Broad and Locust St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.893.1999
<http://www.kimmelcenter.org/events/?venue=1>

Prince Theater

From clothing to film to music and back to film again, an eclectic art venue

The Experience

Before it became the Prince Theater in 2015 or the Prince Music Theater (1999-2014), the building had been a legendary movie theater under two different names: the Karlton Theater (1921-1950) and the Midtown Theater (1950-1995). The Karlton Theater opened in 1921, as a second run movie theater, in a building that existed at least as of 1880 as Jacob Reed's store, a famous clothier.

In 1995 the theater was purchased by a local non-profit, the American Music Theater Festival, and began its transformation into a live theater. The Prince Music Theater, named in honor of Broadway producer and director Harold Prince, opened in March 1999 with the 446-seat main auditorium, and a one-of-a-kind lobby mural that Al Hirschfeld created. The second floor former ballroom was renovated to become a Black Box theater that can accommodate up to 150 people.

After fifteen years of producing world premiere musicals and acclaimed revivals of music theater, the American Music Theater Festival closed operations at the end of 2014. In March of 2015, the Prince Theater building was acquired by the non-profit Philadelphia Film Society (PFS), whose mission is to utilize film's unique capacity to engage a broad cross-section of the community, while further providing access to powerful films from around the world in order to increase education and understanding.

CONTACT INFO

1412 Chestnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.422.4580
267.239.2941 for Philadelphia Film Society administrative office
<http://princetheater.org/>

The Rotunda

Art. Culture. Community. Two rooms, one great tradition.

The Experience

Built in 1911 as a house of worship originally for the First Church of Christ Scientist, it was designed by Carrere and Hastings, the New York-based firm who set the tone of the American classicism of the twentieth century. With its low, tile-roofed narthex, circular main hall (the sanctuary), and oversized windows, the building is of unsurpassed simplicity and elegance recalling Early Christian spaces such as Rome's Santa Sabina. The University of Pennsylvania purchased the building in 1996 and began use of it as an urban studies Arts Initiative; there is now a

Foundation which runs the FRES ARTS art and culture portfolio [Penn's Division of Facilities and Real Estate Services (FRES)].

The Rotunda is part of the University of Pennsylvania. It is a community-gathering place that is fueled by the belief that art is a catalyst for social change and that the arts can lead to the formation of meaningful partnerships between the University of Pennsylvania and surrounding neighborhoods. Over 300 events are offered every year, including live music, film, spoken word, theater, art, dance, education, youth programs, arts incubation, and various experimental genres. As an alcohol-free, smoke-free venue, The Rotunda provides a critical social alternative for all ages. At its core, The Rotunda is a shared space fostering learning, enrichment, and community support while empowering the public to present, produce, and promote their work.

CONTACT INFO

4014 Walnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
<http://www.therotunda.org/>

The University of the Arts

A University, yes, but also galleries, performance spaces and workshop facilities

The Experience

Founded in 1876, in the center of Philadelphia, one of the nation's only universities dedicated solely to educating students in the visual and performing arts, design, and writing. has developed an innovative, flexible approach to developing artists, designers and writers. Nearly 1,900 students are enrolled in 26 undergraduate and 23 graduate programs on a campus in the heart of Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts.

Several professional gallery spaces across the campus showcase the work of visiting artists, both established and emerging, as well as the work of students, faculty, staff and alumni. Gallery One is Philadelphia's only student-run gallery and one of just a handful in the country.

CONTACT INFO

320 South Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19102
800.616.ARTS
<http://www.uarts.edu>

Plays and Players Theatre

100 years old and still vibrant!

The Experience

Plays & Players began in 1911 as a social club devoted to expanding and developing new theater experiences for and by its membership, and with the particular effort to produce "American plays of ideas," an underrepresented genre at the time. During its 100 years of performing, Plays & Players theater company has produced innumerable notable performances — some of the most noteworthy being the world premiere of the acclaimed Broadway *Stalag 17* in 1949, and a childhood performance by actor Kevin Bacon in *Member of the Wedding* in 1974.

In the 1960" they went from being a members only club to an all inclusive professional theatre. The first season of Plays & Players included *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde and *The Learned Ladies* by Moliere, both still popular plays today. On March 14, 1973, Plays & Players Theatre was entered in the National Register of Historic Places. Over the course of the twentieth century, Plays & Players expanded its repertoire beyond community theater to include workshops, classes and more. In 2011-2012, Plays & Players celebrated its 100th season of performances by local artists in Philadelphia.

CONTACT INFO

1714 Delancey St
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.735.0630 Staff
866.811.4111 Tickets
<http://www.playsandplayers.org/>

Society Hill Playhouse

Theatre for people who don't like theatre—or think they don't

The Experience

Society Hill Playhouse is housed in the historic David Garrick Hall, a century-old building with Victorian pressed tin walls, in the Society Hill District, right next to the South Street Corridor. They tout “no highbrow, high-falutin, artsy stuff here.” Most of the productions are new comedies or East Coast premieres, accessible, they reach out and pull you right in—sometimes literally like the long-running “Lafferty’s Wake.” Deen Kogan and husband, Jay, launched Society Hill Playhouse in 1960 as Philadelphia’s “off-Broadway” theatre for contemporary American and European playwrights. Gradually, it developed a niche in populist comedies, and *Nonsense*, scheduled for six weeks, ran for ten years. The Red Room cabaret on the first floor seats 99; the main stage located on the second floor seats 223.

CONTACT INFO

507 South 8th St
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.923.0210
<http://www.societyhillplayhouse.org/>

The Wilma Theater

Theatre without answers—but with plenty of questions

The Experience

The Wilma Theater creates living, adventurous art, engaging artists and audiences in imaginative reflection on the complexities of contemporary life representing a range of voices, viewpoints, and styles. As artistic director Blanka Zizka writes, “as a young person I used to look up to Art believing that I was promised an answer to the question of how to live. But Art turns out to be a big deceiver when pressed to respond to these kind of demands; I’ve found that Art has no answers at all. Art probes, questions, explores, challenges, and invites us to new encounters... I’m attracted to plays that explore themes of identity and belonging, dramatic transformations of human beings, losses, searches for meaning in life, beliefs and passions, betrayal and seduction, the role of time in our lives, memories, and the limitations of language.”

When audience members enter the Wilma, they are invited to encounter somebody else’s story, perspective, or idea; they are invited into an act of collective reflection and imagination, to consider the lives, conflicts, circumstances, passions, and ideas of others.

CONTACT INFO

265 South Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.893.9456 offices
215.546.7824 tickets
<http://www.wilmatheater.org>

The Walnut Street Theatre

The oldest theatre in America, 200 years old in 2009

The Experience

Most noteworthy American actors of the 19th century and many from the 20th century have appeared on stage at the Walnut. Some of the Walnut's shining stars include: Edwin Forrest, Edwin Booth, Edmund Kean, the Drews, the Barrymores, George M. Cohan, Will Rogers, The Marx Brothers, Helen Hayes, Henry Fonda, Katharine Hepburn, Marlon Brando, Jessica Tandy, Ethel Waters, Audrey Hepburn, Sidney Poitier, Lauren Bacall, George C. Scott, Jane Fonda, Robert Redford, Julie Harris, Jack Lemon, and William Shatner. Over the years audiences have clapped and cheered for circus, opera, vaudeville, lectures, music, dance, motion pictures, and of course, the live theatre productions for which it is best known today.

The Walnut began its most recent incarnation as a self-producing, non-profit regional theatre when Bernard Havard took the helm in 1982, founding the Walnut Street Theatre Company with a vision of once again creating theatre in a space that is so steeped in the American theatre's traditions and history. Today, you can experience the realization of that dream when you attend a live performance. With over 56,000 subscribers annually, the Walnut Street Theatre is the most subscribed theatre company in the world.

CONTACT INFO

825 Walnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.574.3550
<http://walnutstreettheatre.org>

The Performance Garage

A space for dance

The Experience

Unique to the Philadelphia landscape, this distinctive dance space was originally a nineteenth-century horse stable and automobile garage. Renovated in December 2002, the Performance Garage was transformed into a versatile dance space, available 7 days a week for rent. The Performance Garage offers studio and production rental space to artists at highly subsidized rates, and currently serves as a home to choreographers, dancers, and educators at all stages of their careers.

CONTACT INFO

1515 Brandywine St
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215.569.4060
<http://www.performancegarage.org>

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

What summer sounds like

The Experience

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts was founded in 1935 under the name Robin Hood Dell Concerts, as the summer venue for the concert presentations of the world famous Philadelphia Orchestra (known from 1935-1976 as The Robin Hood Dell Orchestra in the summer). The Center moved into its present outdoor facility in 1976, and subsequently was designated the Mann Music Center in honor of Frederic R. Mann, a Philadelphia businessman who supported the cause of summer musical performances in Fairmount Park. In 1998, the facility was renamed to "The Mann Center for the Performing Arts" to reflect its larger vision as the City of Philadelphia's premier outdoor summer

performing arts festival, presenting a wide array of cultural programming and popular events that has created a lifetime of memories for generations of Philadelphians.

Marking its 40th anniversary in 2016, on its 20 acre home in West Fairmount Park, the Mann sees itself at an exciting, creative and comprehensive location for all Philadelphia residents and visitors alike as the Delaware Valley's town square—the “go to” place for consistently high quality, compelling, accessible and fun, communal entertainment events, as well as powerful educational experiences. Creating a broad spectrum of high quality, compelling, accessible and fun, communal entertainment experiences in its acclaimed multi-stage campus; providing leadership in arts education, through innovative and high impact collaborative educational activities for young people throughout the Philadelphia region; and being a deeply valued civic asset to everyone in the Philadelphia region and a responsible community stakeholder in West Philadelphia and our immediate neighborhoods.

CONTACT INFO

Theater
5201 Parkside Ave, (52nd and Parkside Ave)
Fairmount Park
Philadelphia, PA 19131
215.878.0400 (information only, no ticket sales)
Executive Offices
123 S Broad Street, Suite 815
Philadelphia, PA 19109
215.546.7900 (information only)
<http://manncenter.org>

Actors Center

Artistic development, acting classes, talent management services, and recording production in Old City Philadelphia

The Experience

The Actors Center was founded by Mr Rodney Robb in 1990, and sets the standard for managing Acting & Voice over talent, child through adult. The Actors center, one of the areas leading talent agencies boasts one of the best children's acting camps in the nation. It is conveniently located in the heart of Philadelphia's Old City District and has provided Professional Management, utilizing a wide network of Casting Directors and Agencies for over 20 years. The Actors Center has helped launch the careers of R.D Robb (A Christmas Story, I triple dog dare you! and the Brady Bunch Movie). Former students include Seth Green (Austin Powers, Buffy the Vampire Slayer), Jessica Dunphy (Sopranos and As the World Turns). Most Current Success Stories include: Mark Indelicato, Role of Justin in ABC's Ugly Betty; Bianca Ryan, the winner of \$1Million dollars of America's Got Talent; Morgan Turner, starred as Kate Winslet's daughter Veda in HBO's Mildred Pierce.

CONTACT INFO

257 North Third St
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.925.7060
<http://www.theactorscenter.com>

Merriam Theater

A part of the Kimmel complex, residence to Philadelphia's most prominent performing arts and touring presentations.

The Experience

The Theatre was built by the Shubert Organization in 1918 (formerly known as the Sam S. Shubert Theatre), and is located within the Avenue of the Arts cultural district of Center City, Philadelphia. It was re-named the Merriam Theater, and in 1972 the theater came under the ownership of the Academy of Music, and is currently owned by the University of the Arts. It is now part of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts complex.

CONTACT INFO

250 South Broad St

Philadelphia, PA 19102

215.731.3333 Broadway concerts

215.893.1999 other tickets

<http://www.merriam-theater.com>

<http://www.kimmelcenter.org>