Enduring Promise of the American Revolution

WHAT'S INSIDE
Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia
Engaging Students, Educators, and Families
Meet Karla Trotman

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023
History comes to life here.

Every day, visitors to the Museum of the American Revolution encounter the past in tangible ways: climbing aboard a recreated privateer ship, touching a fragment of the last surviving Liberty Tree, and standing in the presence of authentic artifacts that witnessed the beginnings of our ongoing experiment in liberty, equality, and self-government.

Thanks to your support, our national profile continues to grow dramatically as we engage new audiences and develop innovative ways to inspire historical empathy and civic engagement in our rising generations.

In this report, you will read about the many ways we brought history to life. We explored the life and legacy of Black Philadelphian James Forten and three generations of his incredible family in Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia. We launched an online multimedia Timeline of the American Revolution to engage students, educators, and other digital explorers. And we hosted our second Living History Youth Summer Institute for young people who are interested in exploring and interpreting the lives of Revolutionary-era people of African descent.

We also added new treasures to our ever-growing collection, delivered dynamic public programs, and welcomed distinguished guest speakers like Professors Akhil Reed Amar and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. We invite you to read more about these accomplishments.

This year, you won’t want to miss our current special exhibition Witness to Revolution: The Unlikely Travels of Washington’s Tent, which explores the surprising stories behind our most treasured artifact. We have much to look forward to as, together, we approach the 250th anniversary of the nation’s founding in 2026 and our 10th anniversary in 2027.

It is an honor to work alongside our engaged Board of Directors and this exceptionally talented staff as we continue to extend our reach and broaden our impact.

Thank you for all that you do to make this extraordinary work possible. Together, we can ensure that the promise of the American Revolution endures.

Morris W. Ollit, Chairman of the Board

Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, President and CEO
“The humanity is palpable. A refreshing experience.”

– Visitor Lisa B.
OUR MISSION

To uncover and share compelling stories about the diverse people and complex events that sparked America’s ongoing experiment in liberty, equality, and self-government.

OUR VISION

To ensure that the promise of the American Revolution endures.

Read the full magazine online.

ON THE COVER
Jabari Idriss helps erect our hand-stitched replica of George Washington’s tent as part of our First Oval Office Project. This traveling program allows learners of all ages to experience life under canvas during the Revolutionary War.
Using objects, works of art, textiles, documents, and immersive environments, *Black Founders* explored the Forten family’s roles in the Revolutionary War, business in Philadelphia, and the abolitionist movement from 1776 to 1876. During those 100 years, the family also took an active role in defending voting rights and civil liberties for African Americans. The 5,000-square-foot exhibition, curated by the Museum’s in-house exhibition team, served 52,245 visitors during its run from February through November 2023. The exhibition was presented by Bank of America, Comcast NBCUniversal, and the George C. and Esther Ann McFarland Foundation.

The exhibition featured artifacts from nearly 40 lenders and the Museum’s own collection. Highlights included a pew from Mother Bethel AME Church, one of five surviving journals written by James Forten’s granddaughter Charlotte L. Forten, and the only surviving photograph of James Forten’s wife Charlotte Vandine Forten, thanks to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University. Also on view were a portrait of James Forten and his earliest surviving letter, written in January 1800, both on loan from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

The exhibit also featured rare historical objects on loan from descendants of the Forten family, which were on view for the very first time in a public exhibit, including a family Bible that has been passed down through six generations of the Forten family, a Philadelphia-made table once owned by James Forten, and two needlework samplers stitched by two of James and Charlotte Forten’s daughters, Margareta and Mary.

A wide range of resources, including an exhibition catalog, a 360-degree virtual tour that will remain free and accessible online, first-person performances, an educator guide for students and teachers, and a family guide for young visitors were developed to amplify the exhibit.

Called “an essential American story” by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the groundbreaking special exhibition *Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia* brought together — for the first time in a major museum exhibition — more than 100 historical artifacts to tell the inspiring story of free Black Philadelphian James Forten and his family’s tireless pursuit of liberty and equality.

**Scan here to visit the Black Founders Virtual Tour.**
ABOUT JAMES FORTEN
James Forten (1766-1842) was born free in Philadelphia — just a block from where the Museum now stands — and heard the words of the Declaration of Independence read aloud for the first time on July 8, 1776, when he was only 9 years old. Of the more than 500,000 people of African descent living in the United States at the time, more than 90 percent were enslaved; James Forten was part of a small, but growing, population of free people of African descent. At just 14 years of age, Forten joined a privateer ship to fight for American independence during the Revolutionary War. He was captured and held on a prison ship for seven months before being freed during a prisoner exchange. He later became a successful business owner, philanthropist, and abolitionist, and raised a large family with his wife Charlotte Vandine Forten, whom he married in 1805.

A MEMORABLE OPENING CELEBRATION
More than 300 donors, sponsors, lenders, and other special guests joined us for the opening gala for Black Founders. At the event, guests enjoyed a musical performance by St. Thomas Gospel Choir (top right) and access to the exhibition. Descendants of the Forten family (right) were reunited from across the country, including those from California, Georgia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.
A VISIT FROM GOVERNOR SHAPIRO

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro and his family kicked off Black History Month with a tour of Black Founders accompanied by veterans of the Tuskegee Airmen; leaders of Philadelphia’s Black clergy, including from the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas; and Dolly Marshall, a descendant of the Forten family. Governor Shapiro was so inspired by the exhibit that he had reproductions of the portraits of James Forten and Charlotte Vandine Forten hung in the Governor’s Mansion in Harrisburg.

THE FORTEN FAMILY BIBLE

A Forten family Bible — which had never been on public display — was loaned to the Museum for the exhibition by James Forten’s great-great-great-grandson Atwood “Kip” Forten Jacobs (left) and his daughter Taylor Jacqueline Rodriguez Jacobs. In April, the family announced their decision to donate the Bible to the Museum, where it will be on display through the end of 2024. The family heirloom, which was in the possession of six generations of the Forten family, has been described as a “living artifact” because it has been continually updated with the family’s births, deaths, and marriages.

“Wow. Such generosity and a perfect repository for this important piece of history.”
– Gina W. via Facebook

Black Founders BY THE NUMBERS

52,245
Museum visitors
More than 52,000 people visited Black Founders in person.

110,000+
views
Black Founders video content was viewed more than 110,000 times.

780
catalogs
Nearly 780 exhibition catalogs were distributed during the run of the exhibit.
Nearly 3,000 pageviews of the virtual tour were made by more than 700 people.

The exhibition featured more than 100 artifacts from 38 lenders.

Two documents on loan from the National Archives (UK) traveled more than 7,000 miles round trip to be included in the exhibit. The exhibit marked the first time that the Jersey ledger book and the Royal Louis letter of marque were back in the United States since the Revolutionary War.

“Fascinating, thoughtful, and incredibly well done…”

— Visitor Susan S.
THE MUSIC OF FORTEN’S WORLD
At a listening station in the exhibit, visitors heard the music of Francis Johnson, James Forten’s friend and one of the first African American composers to publish his compositions. The music was performed by pianist Steven Page, multi-instrumentalist B.E. Farrow, vocalist Candace Nicole Potts of the Jeremy Winston Chorale, and the Chestnut Brass Company, and included “The Grave of the Slave,” a poem written by James Forten’s daughter Sarah L. Forten that Francis Johnson set to music.

A MODEL OF THE ROYAL LOUIS
The exhibit included a scale model of the Royal Louis (below), the privateer ship that James Forten served aboard in 1781. Captain Stephen Decatur, commander of the ship, led a crew of 200 men, including about 20 men of African descent. James Forten served as a “powder boy” aboard the Royal Louis, helping to transport gunpowder to the ship’s cannons. Rex Stewart, a ship model maker based in Albany, N.Y., built the model for the exhibit. We are grateful to the Landenberger Family Foundation for their support of our living history programs.

BRINGING JAMES FORTEN TO LIFE
In conjunction with the exhibition, we commissioned two original 20-minute first-person theatrical performances from playwright Marissa Kennedy, dramatizing the life and experiences of James Forten. “Meet Young James Forten” featured actor Nathan Alford-Tate and told the story of teenaged Forten joining a privateer ship during the Revolutionary War. “Meet Elder James Forten” featured actor Steve Crum and followed a 72-year-old Forten as he reflected on the progress and challenges of his lifetime.

Performances took place on select weekends in the Alan B. Miller Theater. Live virtual versions of the performances were available to be booked by school groups. We are grateful to Dick and Sally Brickman for their support of our living history programs.

Lawnside, N.J., resident Dolly Marshall is a historic preservation activist who discovered that she is a collateral descendant of James Forten. She served as a powerful ambassador for the exhibition and was featured in the exhibit’s concluding film about the Forten family Bible.

Carlos Del Toro (center), the 78th United States Secretary of the Navy, enjoyed a tour of the Black Founders exhibition led by the Museum’s Curator of Exhibitions Matthew Skic and COO ZeeAnn Mason.
THE FORTEN FAMILY IN FILM

Inspired by the Museum’s special exhibit, public broadcast station WHYY produced a 28-minute film that explores the story of the Fortens, one of Philadelphia’s most influential early African American families. The Museum held a film screening and panel discussion prior to the documentary’s television premiere on Juneteenth. The film was produced as part of WHYY’s Movers & Makers series, which introduces viewers to fascinating people and interesting places in the greater Philadelphia region. We are grateful to PBS for their support of the documentary.

Watch it online here.

A REVOLUTIONARY NEIGHBORHOOD

In conjunction with the exhibition, a Black Founders-themed neighborhood walking tour introduced visitors to sites of the city’s Black history in the Revolutionary era, including the site of James Forten’s family home near Fourth and Lombard streets and Mother Bethel AME Church. We also launched a “Black Voices of the Revolution” tour of our core galleries, which will continue indefinitely.

“The exhibit offers a unique and sweepingly cinematic perspective of this country’s founding, as witnessed by James Forten... all Americans can learn a lot from this family today.”

— Broad Street Review
“A dazzling array of Forten family documents and rarities.”

– BillyPenn.com
Black Founders Special Events and Programs

Highlights of our programming inspired by Black Founders included:

AmRev Presents: Black Founders Women’s History Night with Kerri Greenidge
Author and historian Dr. Kerri Greenidge led a presentation exploring her recent book, The Grimkes: The Legacy of Slavery in an American Family.

AmRev Presents: A Black Founders Legacy of Entrepreneurship
Karla Trotman, CEO of Electro Soft, Inc. and member of the Museum’s Board of Directors, led a panel discussion exploring how James Forten’s experiences as a successful sailmaker and business owner in early Philadelphia compare with those of contemporary Black entrepreneurs. Panelists included Steven Scott Bradley, Jason M. Coles, Nia Eubanks-Dixon, Chef Kurt Evans, and Derek S. Green.

Guests enjoyed a lively concert by The Jeremy Winston Chorale led by artistic director Jeremy Winston, inspired by the musical world of James Forten. The evening included the world premiere of “Man of Colour” by Jeremy Winston, commissioned by the Museum. We are grateful to the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and Carole Haas Gravagno for their support of this event.

Read the Revolution Speaker Series Featuring Dr. Julie Winch and Atwood “Kip” Forten Jacobs
Author and historian Dr. Julie Winch reflected on her groundbreaking book A Gentleman of Color: The Life of James Forten, the first full-length scholarly biography of Forten. She was joined onstage by Atwood “Kip” Forten Jacobs, James Forten’s great-great-great-great grandson.

Now on View: *Witness to Revolution*

Called “the crown jewel in the collection” by the *Washington Post* and the “rock-star object” by *The New York Times*, General George Washington’s headquarters tent from the Revolutionary War is the centerpiece of the Museum, where more than a million visitors have experienced the tent’s power as a symbol of our fragile but enduring American republic.

Now, in our newest special exhibition, *Witness to Revolution: The Unlikely Travels of Washington’s Tent*, more than 100 artifacts from across the country have been brought together for the first time to expand the story told in the Museum’s Washington’s War Tent presentation in the Alan B. Miller Theater that explores the tent’s inspiring journey from the Revolutionary War to today. *Witness to Revolution* opened during Presidents Day Weekend and is on view exclusively at the Museum through January 5, 2025.

Using authentic artifacts, touchscreen interactives, audio and video elements, and immersive environments, the special exhibition brings to life the stories of individuals from all walks of life who saved Washington’s tent from being lost over the generations and who ultimately fashioned this relic’s symbolic legacy.

The exhibition features works of art, rare documents, and significant historical objects from nearly 25 public and private collections across the United States, including George Washington’s Mount Vernon; Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, National Park Service; Tudor Place Historic House & Garden; Virginia Museum of History & Culture; and others.


†deceased
Looking Ahead: *The Declaration’s Journey*

We are looking ahead to our groundbreaking special exhibition, *The Declaration’s Journey*, which will be on display in 2025-26 as the centerpiece of our 250th commemoration of the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration has always meant far more than independence, and its influence has grown as generations of Americans, and people from many other nations, have considered the meaning of its promise of equality and its assertions about the purposes of government.

This special exhibition will engage audiences in an ongoing conversation that can inspire new understandings of the Declaration as a vital point of reference and aspiration for America and its citizenry. The exhibit will be supported by programs designed for a wide range of audiences, with a special focus on K-12 education.

Through more than 100 evocative national and international loan objects and objects from the Museum’s collection, the exhibit will explore how a document designed to explain the rationale for 13 British-American colonies’ secession from the British empire became one of the most world-renowned statements of political rights in human history. How did it inspire more than 100 nations to imitate its example in their own declarations of independence? How do we understand the Declaration of Independence as a living, breathing document?

Artifacts will include the revolving Windsor chair with writing arm owned by Thomas Jefferson, thought to be used when he wrote the Declaration of Independence, on loan from the American Philosophical Society; a Dunlap printing of the Declaration of Independence sent by Jonas Phillips and intercepted by the British, on loan from the National Archives of the United Kingdom; and the Declaration of Independence printed in German in Philadelphia in July 1776, on loan from Gettysburg College, among many others.

We appreciate American Council of Learned Societies, David and Kim Adler, D.M. DiLella Family Foundation, Margaret (Peggy) Pace Duckett, John P. Jumper, Morris W. and Nancy Offit, the Richard C. von Hess Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for their support of planning for this exhibition.
From thought-provoking programs with leading historians and scholars to a lively celebration exploring the intersections of Scottish heritage and the American Revolution, we delivered a rich and engaging variety of mission-driven programs that served many audiences, both onsite and online. Our programs and events delved deeply into the continued impact of the American Revolution and its relevance to our lives today.

DISTINGUISHED BUCHHOLZ LECTURER AKHIL REED AMAR

Preeminent constitutional scholar and Yale University professor Akhil Reed Amar joined the Museum as the distinguished lecturer for the fifth Carl M. Buchholz Memorial Lecture. His talk focused on his most recent book *The Words That Made Us: America’s Constitutional Conversation, 1760-1840*, which provides a history of the American Constitution’s formative decades.

In *The Words That Made Us*, Amar unites history and law in a vivid narrative of the biggest constitutional questions early Americans confronted, and he expertly assesses the answers they offered. His account of the document’s origins and consolidation is a guide for anyone seeking to properly understand America’s Constitution today.

Comcast NBCUniversal, DLA Piper, Lisa Kabnick and John McFadden, Morris W. Offit, and Martha McGeary Snider were supporting sponsors of the 2023 Carl M. Buchholz Memorial Lecture. Additional support was provided by Morgan Lewis and WSFS Bank.
READ THE REVOLUTION
SPEAKER SERIES

Author and historian Dr. Julie Winch joined the Museum for a special presentation reflecting on her groundbreaking biography *A Gentleman of Color: The Life of James Forten*, more than 20 years after it was first published. Joining Winch onstage, Atwood “Kip” Forten Jacobs, the great-great-great-great grandson of James Forten, reflected on how discovering her book — and his own family heritage — changed his life. Winch and Jacobs also discussed their involvement in the Museum’s special exhibition *Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia*.

Dr. Mary Beth Norton presented a lecture titled “Gender and American Resistance to British Authority, 1765-1775: A Reassessment.” Drawing on her award-winning books, *1774: The Long Year of Revolution* and *Liberty’s Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800*, Norton reflected on the advances in scholarship surrounding gender and the Revolution that have emerged since *Liberty’s Daughters* was first published in 1980 and explored men’s and women’s involvement in pre-Revolutionary politics in the context of contemporary ideas of gender.

Dr. Ricardo A. Herrera discussed the Continental Army’s 1777-78 encampment at Valley Forge, uncovering what everyday life was like for soldiers during the darkest and coldest days of the Revolutionary War. Drawing on his 2022 book *Feeding Washington’s Army: Surviving the Valley Forge Winter of 1778*, Herrera shed light on the army’s herculean efforts to feed itself, support local and Continental governments, and challenge the British Army.

William Hogeland presented a lecture titled “Hamilton’s Hub: The First Bank of the U.S. in the Creation of the American Economy.” Hogeland discussed the establishment of the First Bank of the United States, which was the hub of the comprehensive system of national finance created by the first U.S. Treasury secretary, Alexander Hamilton, as well as the bank’s relevance today.

A ST. ANDREW’S DAY CELEBRATION

On St. Andrew’s Day, a national holiday in Scotland, the Museum joined with the St. Andrew’s Society of Philadelphia and Celtic-infused folk band The Chivalrous Crickets for an evening of live music and storytelling exploring the intersections of Scottish heritage and the American Revolution. The evening included a special presentation featuring the sword carried by General Hugh Mercer, which has been on display at the Museum since 2017 as a loan from the St. Andrew’s Society of Philadelphia.
Expanding our DIGITAL OFFERINGS to Reach the World

From launching state-of-the-art online resources to sharing lighthearted videos that answer questions about 18th-century life, we continue to expand and enhance our digital offerings, extending our reach beyond the Museum’s walls and engaging students, teachers, families, and other digital explorers in the stories of the American Revolution and its ongoing relevance.

MULTIMEDIA TIMELINE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

This year, we launched a new interactive, multimedia Timeline of the American Revolution. Using nearly 100 historical objects, works of art, textiles, and documents from the Museum’s rich collection, the online Timeline explores both key moments and surprising stories from the American Revolution through a visually rich and user-friendly digital experience. The Timeline is now available for free to online visitors around the world. It is downloadable for offline use and is Section 508 compliant for online accessibility.

The Timeline features high-quality, zoomable images, descriptions of each object, and links to related material, positioning the objects in their historical context to facilitate exploration of America’s founding and the ongoing relevance of the Revolution for diverse audiences.

Additionally, short videos with Museum experts highlight key features and stories about selected items and allow users to dive even deeper into the history of the American Revolution. Users can even extend their experience by creating and downloading their own curated timelines using the “My Timeline” feature.

The Timeline is a redesign and relaunch of a multimedia timeline that the Museum originally introduced in 2009 — well before the Museum opened — to showcase our collection while creating a useful tool for educators. There was tremendous interest in it from around the world before it became inaccessible due to changing technology.

The Timeline of the American Revolution was made possible in part by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Additional support provided by VisitPA.com, the Achelis & Bodman Foundation, and the Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation.

Scan here to view the Timeline.
**AMREV360 VIDEO SERIES**

We produced engaging new episodes in our AmRev360 video series, which features Dr. R. Scott Stephenson in lively conversation with a wide range of guests. This year, episodes included:

- **History Takes Center Stage**
  with Paul Oakley Stovall
  Actor, singer, playwright, filmmaker, and activist Paul Oakley Stovall’s career has ranged from playing George Washington in *Hamilton: An American Musical* to working for the White House. He joined AmRev360 to discuss his original play *Written by Phillis*, which brings to life the remarkable history of Phillis Wheatley.

- **History is Sweet**
  with the Berley Brothers
  Brothers Ryan and Eric Berley own the Shane Confectionery candy shop and The Franklin Fountain, an old-time, traditional ice cream parlor and soda fountain, in historic Philadelphia. They joined AmRev360 to discuss making historically informed sweets from scratch and the forgotten flavors of America’s past.

- **Exploring Native Cultures**
  with Jordan and Kehala Smith
  Living history interpreters Jordan Smith (Mohawk Nation, Bear Clan) and Kehala Smith (Tuscarora Nation, Turtle Clan) currently reside on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation but travel the world to educate on Native American culture, history, song, and dance. They joined AmRev360 to discuss the importance of exploring Native stories.

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**AMONG HIS TROOPS ONLINE EXHIBIT**

We launched an online version of the successful 2018 Among His Troops special exhibition. The online exhibit explores a newly discovered watercolor of Washington’s encampment at Verplanck’s Point in 1782, painted by Pierre L’Enfant, which we acquired in 2017 thanks to support from the Landenberger Family Foundation. We are grateful for support from the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail of the National Park Service.

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**WHY THE REVOLUTION...? VIDEO SERIES**

In this lighthearted video series, Senior Manager of Gallery Interpretation Dr. Tyler Putman answers questions about the Revolutionary era. Recent episodes addressed such questions as:

- Did people go swimming in the 1700s?
- Did people exercise in the 18th century? Did they play sports?
- What do we know about LGBTQ people in the 1700s?
- What do the words of the Revolutionary-era song “Yankee Doodle” mean?

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Scan here to watch Why the Revolution episodes.

**Scan here to watch AmRev360 episodes.**

“**These segments are the best. Thank you, Tyler, for the learning and the laughs!**”

— Gina W. via Facebook
Digital Initiatives  

BY THE NUMBERS

MAJOR AWARDS THIS YEAR

#6 in USA Today's poll of the 10 Best History Museums in the country

27th Annual Webby Awards Nominee for Virtual Tour of Washington’s Field Headquarters

Silver-level Anthem Award in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion category for its African American Interpretive Program

PA Museums 2023 Institutional Award of Merit for Liberty: Don Troiani’s Paintings of the Revolutionary War

2023 Art-Reach Cultural Access Award for the Museum’s commitment to accessible programming and staff training

Rory Monaghan, Visitor Experience Supervisor, displays the many assets the Museum has developed for guests who are blind or low vision.

This year, 2,592,498 users visited our website, AmRevMuseum.org, to plan their visit and explore our educational resources, totaling more than 2,592,498 pageviews.

The Museum of the American Revolution uncovers and shares compelling stories about the diverse people and complex events that sparked America's ongoing experiment in liberty, equality, and self-government.

The Museum of the American Revolution

BY THE NUMBERS

77,263 pageviews

Our Virtual Tour of Washington’s Field Headquarters has had 77,263 pageviews from 4,654 users since launching in January 2022.

66,429 users

Our 360-degree, immersive Virtual Museum Tour has had 1,656,524 pageviews from 66,429 users this year.

Our digital offerings are supported by the Lenfest Digital Initiative, thanks to the support of Lisa D. Kabnick and John H. McFadden, Martha McGeary Snider, EisnerAmper, The Crown Family, Eileen and Beverly M. DuBose III, The McLean Contributionship, and Morris W. Offit.
The Museum is listed as #4 out of 121 museums in Philadelphia on TripAdvisor.com and #2 out of 26 history museums in the city.

Washington’s War Tent received a three-star rating in the first edition of Michelin’s Philadelphia Green Guide. A three-star rating — the highest recognition possible — denotes an experience “worth a special journey.”

“A must-see for every American.”
– Visitor S.J.

#4

The Museum is listed as #4 out of 121 museums in Philadelphia on TripAdvisor.com and #2 out of 26 history museums in the city.

10,890 kids and their adults

We welcomed nearly 11,000 visitors to our family-friendly discovery center Revolution Place this year for storytelling, living history performances, and craft activities.

100%

We scored 100%, a 4-star rating, on Charity Navigator, the leading charity evaluator in America. This is the highest possible rating and demonstrates the Museum’s trustworthiness as a leading nonprofit organization.

“We had a wonderful time visiting the Museum today! The interactive exhibits and moving features kept us entertained and educated all day.”
– Visitor Joy V.
“I’ve enjoyed @amrevmuseum content and finally got to visit today – WELL WORTH IT. Spent hours enjoying exhibits and artifacts.”
– L.M.A. via Twitter
Our dynamic social media presence continues to grow by the day with more than 117,065 highly engaged fans and followers across our social platforms. This year, our social posts made 9,682,615 impressions and received 504,820 engagements.
For Students

This year, we welcomed 45,383 students and chaperones to the Museum from 23 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., and France. We also served more than 5,499 students and youth across 16 states through our live, interactive online programs. More than 12,732 students from 35 schools visited the Museum or participated in virtual learning opportunities through scholarship support, thanks to The Bergman Foundation, Lisa and Arthur Berkowitz, Chubb, Fulton Bank, The Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust, The Haverford Trust Company, Philadelphia Insurance Companies, Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland, Universal Health Services, Wawa, and The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

Nearly 3,000 students and teachers from 58 schools visited our Black Founders special exhibition during its run. For educators, we launched a Black Founders teacher resource guide, complete with seven modular units, framing essays, ready-to-use worksheets, and a glossary, which are available on our website and were distributed at a variety of workshops and conferences, including in California, Florida, New York, and Texas. We also hosted several Black Founders teacher professional development opportunities — both onsite and virtually — including a session for 125 educators from the School District of Philadelphia.

Engaging Students, Educators, & Families

We were delighted to welcome students and teachers from across the nation into our galleries this year. We also offered an ever-growing menu of virtual programs and resources for students, educators, and other digital explorers to experience from their own classrooms and homes. For families, we enriched our holiday celebrations, living history events, and daily experiences with opportunities for hands-on engagement, play, and intergenerational learning.
We were excited to continue our field trip program in partnership with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, thanks to generous support from the Connelly Foundation. This ongoing partnership provides funding for in-person and online programming to be delivered to high school students within Archdiocesan schools, including transportation costs for in-person visits.

We are grateful to those who have supported our education programs: 1830 Family Foundation, Maguire Foundation, and The Snider Foundation.

“Excellent history about James Forten, Black American patriot. Needs to be an American History curriculum requirement taught in American schools and around the world!”

– Visitor Dorothy B.
For Educators

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
This year, we led online teacher professional development workshops for more than 500 educators from more than 30 states and from as far away as Australia. In the U.S., teachers from Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas, Washington, and beyond, were served through private bookings and through state and national organizations like the National Council for the Social Studies. We are excited to continue to grow our opportunities to support teachers in accurately and effectively teaching about the Revolution, especially as we approach 2026.

TEACHING THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTION
We completed our partnership with Balliol College of the University of Oxford (U.K.), which focused on teaching about the transatlantic slave trade in the Age of Revolution. After bringing U.K. teachers to Philadelphia in Summer 2022 for a weeklong institute, the partnership concluded with Philadelphia educators and Museum staff traveling to England for a second summer of workshops, lectures, fields trips, and robust discussions. We are grateful to American Airlines, Oliver St. Clair Franklin, Krista and Richard Pinola, the Queen’s Jubilee Education Fund and the Jubilee International Education Trust of the Philadelphia Foundation, Anne and Michael Vogelmann, and Andrew and Deborah Webster for their support of this program.

COMING SOON: “DEBORAH’S CHOICE”
Looking ahead, we are excited to release a special filmed performance of our “Deborah’s Choice” theatrical performance, based on the story of Deborah, a Virginia woman of African descent featured in our Finding Freedom digital interactive. Told from Deborah’s perspective as a 16-year-old girl, the performance explores the difficult decision she faced as the British approached Mount Vernon, both the site of her enslavement and of her community. The piece was written by Ang Bey and performed by Taylor J. Mitchell. The project is funded by the Pennsylvania State Society Children of the American Revolution.

DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES

Finding Freedom, an online interactive that explores the lives of five people of African descent during the Revolutionary War, had 490,635 pageviews from 27,768 users this year.

Our multimedia Timeline of the American Revolution has had 84,257 pageviews from 11,759 unique users since launching in April.

Our Virtual Field Trip, created with Scholastic and hosted by young adult author Lauren Tarshis, has received more than 15,372 pageviews from 10,411 users this year.

“Finding Freedom is really fascinating to my students... I am grateful to be able to offer these important resources to my students and to learn WITH them!”

– Gina W. via Facebook
**For Families**

**HISTORY EXPLORER MEET-UPS FOR KIDS**
A highlight of our Winter Break festivities was an engaging History Explorer Meet-Up for kids with the theme “Mountains of Ice and Snow.” Guests — both young and young at heart — considered how Henry Knox would have transported 59 cannons in the middle of winter with limited tools, oxen, and men. As part of our Sail into Spring Weekends programming in April, we hosted an interactive, hands-on History Explorer Meet-Up that explored life as a privateer. During Fourth of July weekend, Meet-Up attendees enlisted in the Continental Army and decided what to take with them in their haversack.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WEEKEND**
Visitors explored Native American history and culture during our annual Indigenous Peoples Weekend in October. A contingent of indigenous dancers sponsored by the Oneida Indian Nation performed traditional Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) social dances on the Museum’s outdoor plaza. Living history interpreters Kehala Smith (Tuscarora Nation, Turtle Clan) and Jordan Smith (Mohawk, Bear Clan) shared stories and crafts from their culture, costuming, and traditions, and engaged guests in conversation about the past, present, and future of their people. Mary Homer and her daughter (both Oneida, Wolf Clan) displayed and sold their traditional Iroquois beadwork, including clothing, jewelry, purses, and more. We are grateful to Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for their support of this event.

**A REVOLUTIONARY SUMMER**
We revolutionized the summer months with a jam-packed lineup of special exhibitions, events, and activities for visitors of all ages, spanning Memorial Day to Labor Day. For Flag Day, we showcased recreated Revolutionary-era flags from our True Colours Flag Project and hosted a flag-sewing demonstration. For Juneteenth, we explored the continuing struggle for equality for all through pop-up talks, discovery carts, theatrical performances, and more. And, to kick off Fourth of July Weekend we hosted a naturalization ceremony followed by a high-energy performance from the West Powelton Steppers and Drum Squad. We also offered special activities and crafts in our Revolution Place discovery center, outdoor walking tours, costumed interpretation, and more throughout the summer months.

**THE BRITISH WERE BACK!**
Another highlight of our fall was our flagship Occupied Philadelphia living history event, which brought dozens of costumed interpreters to the Museum to recreate the British occupation of Philadelphia through walking tours, spy challenges, street theater vignettes, and more. Two sold out History Explorers tours gave kids a special, family-friendly glimpse into the British-occupied city. New this year, Museum Members gathered for a spot of afternoon tea with costumed British soldiers and civilians in the Museum’s Liberty Hall. We are grateful to American Heritage Credit Union for their sponsorship of this event.
“Between the warm welcome from the staff, a bell chorus of Christmas carols, thoughtful, easy way-finding, and a new work of art, I was in love with the place even before I read a label or saw an artifact...”

Visitor Brian A.
MUSIC AND MORE DURING WINTER WEEKENDS

We celebrated the holiday season during Winter Weekends in December with cozy offerings for the whole family. From handbells to harps and more, guests enjoyed festive winter musical performances in the Museum’s atrium, including presentations by The A Cappella Project – Philadelphia, harpist Gloria Galante, The Lyra Society Harp Ensemble, the Pennsylvania Girlchoir, the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, and PhilHarmonia. Plus, visitors of all ages made ornament crafts and had the opportunity to have their likeness captured in a free silhouette to take home as a keepsake or gift, created by silhouette artist Ted Stuessy.

OFFERINGS FOR LIFELONG LEARNERS

For adult learners, we brought back our popular live, online seminars “AmRev 101” and “The American Revolution After 1783.” The interactive seminars, led by Senior Manager of Gallery Interpretation Dr. Tyler Putman, used readings, virtual talks and tours, artifact examination, and class discussion to provide an engaging overview of the ideas that sparked America’s ongoing democratic experiment, an exploration of different historical arguments about the Revolution, and an introduction to the stories of real people from the Revolutionary era.

We also offered opportunities to learn the tricks of 18th-century trades through hands-on exploration of the work of Revolutionary-era artisans and crafts-people with Artisan Workshops. This year, we held online workshops on how to make a sampler and how to make a pinball. Workshops are taught by the Museum’s knowledgeable team of educators and makers, who have years of experience studying and recreating historical objects. Our workshops are suitable for everyone including seasoned makers and new artisans.

“The First Oval Office Project

Every year, we take The First Oval Office Project — our handsewn, full-scale replicas of General George Washington’s Revolutionary War sleeping, dining, and baggage tents — on the road to historic sites as an interactive education and outreach program. This year, we pitched the tent at Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens in Houston, Texas; George Washington’s Mount Vernon in Mount Vernon, Va.; Newport Historical Society in Newport, R.I.; Morristown National Historical Park in Morristown, N.J.; Somerset County Courthouse in Somerville, N.J.; Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters in Harstdale, N.Y.

We also pitched the tent at the University of Pennsylvania’s McNeil Center for Early American Studies as the capstone experience of our Living History Youth Summer Institute. There, students shared with friends, family, and passersby what life was like for Washington and the soldiers, camp followers, and free and enslaved people who made up his “military family” during the Revolutionary War. We are grateful to the National Park Service for support of this program this year.

“Dr. Putman is awesome, a knowledgeable and engaging expert and instructor! Really enjoyed his recent Zoom class and can’t wait to take more!”

– Rebecca B.
Reaching DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

We are committed to reaching diverse communities through initiatives ranging from our free classes for aspiring citizens to our summer program for teens interested in interpreting the lives of people of African descent. We continue to expand and deepen these initiatives as we work to engage all people in America’s founding story.
LIVING HISTORY YOUTH SUMMER INSTITUTE
Eight Philadelphia-area teens (pictured left) graduated from our second Living History Youth Summer Institute. The six-week intensive course was created to cultivate and support a more diverse community of people engaged in the museum field, specifically the area of costumed living history interpretation. As part of our African American Interpretive Program, the course was geared toward teens with particular interest in interpreting the lives of people of African ancestry in the Revolutionary era.

The Museum's African American Interpretive Program was sponsored by Comcast NBCUniversal. Additional support for the Living History Youth Summer Institute was provided by the Frances and Benjamin Benenson Foundation in honor of Morris W. Offit, Bergman Foundation, and National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

MEET THE REVOLUTION SERIES
Throughout the year, we welcomed costumed historical interpreters to explore the voices, viewpoints, and experiences of the diverse people of the Revolutionary era through hands-on demonstrations, storytelling, and conversations, as part of our Meet the Revolution series. This year, interpreters included Hannah Wallace (right, top), who unpacked the lives of three generations of Forten family women as part of our Black Founders special exhibition, and Daniel João Sieh (right, bottom), who helped explore the lives of Asians in the United States in the 18th century, among others.

REVOLUTION AT THE LIBRARY
We were delighted to continue Revolution at the Library, our partnership with the Free Library of Philadelphia to engage kids and families in the dynamic, diverse stories of the American Revolution. Museum educators visited neighborhood libraries across the city to engage families in storytelling and activities. Families participating in the program also received a free visit to the Museum. We are grateful to Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation and Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation for their support of this program.

WELCOMING AMERICA'S NEWEST CITIZENS
This year, more than 55 people participated in our free Citizenship Initiative classes, which support Philadelphia’s growing immigrant population in pursuing American citizenship by preparing them for the United States Naturalization Test. The program is funded by John and Patricia Walsh and Valerie and William Schwartz. Additionally, dozens of new American citizens from across the globe were naturalized at three ceremonies hosted by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Museum’s Liberty Hall last year.

PECO FAMILY MEMBERSHIP
We continue to work to break down barriers to entry through our PECO Family Membership program. The program provides a free, year-long family-level membership to anyone with a Pennsylvania ACCESS Card, which is given by the state to Pennsylvania residents who monitor their government-issued cash, food, or medical benefits with an EBT card. The program is made possible with the support of PECO. Since launching, 963 households have opened a PECO Family Membership.
A FORUM ON RACIAL UNDERSTANDING
With a shared commitment to presenting a more inclusive and accurate telling of history, the Museum and the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust co-hosted candid conversations on race, history, community, and education with the sixth annual Lonaé A. Moore Forum on Racial Understanding during Black History Month. Panelists included Errin Haines, founder and editor-at-large for *The 19th* and an MSNBC contributor, and Dr. Jesse McCarthy, Harvard University professor and author of *Who Will Pay Reparations on My Soul?*

RELAXED EXPERIENCE MORNINGS
We continued our sensory-friendly Relaxed Experience Mornings, during which visitors can experience the Museum’s core galleries in a calm, crowd-free environment. The Museum’s gallery experience is modified with sound and lighting adjustments, limited crowds, hands-on activities, and other accommodations geared toward audiences with sensory sensitivities. Tickets are offered free of charge, thanks to the Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation.

A CERTIFIED AUTISM CENTER
This year, we received a renewed designation as a Certified Autism Center™ (CAC), a status granted by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES). The certification demonstrates the Museum’s commitment to providing a supportive environment to all guests, including those with autism and other sensory disorders. This certification is part of our ongoing effort to ensure that accessibility and inclusion are embedded in everything we do.

A FURRY FIELD TRIP
We were delighted that some furry friends from The Seeing Eye, Inc., the oldest guide dog school in the U.S., came to visit the Museum as part of their training to become Seeing Eye dogs for people who are blind. The Museum is committed to making its facilities, exhibits, and programs accessible for all audiences, and we are happy to welcome service animals to the building.

“This is awesome!
Thank you for making the museum open to people of all abilities.”  
– Zach T.

A TENT YOU CAN TOUCH
For guests who are blind or low vision, we are excited to now be able to enhance our interpretation of Washington’s War Tent and the First Oval Office Project with a 3D printed tent model as well as tactile graphics of the tent’s exterior and interior. The 3D printed model of Washington’s tent was designed by the Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired. It is also included in our special exhibition, *Witness to Revolution: The Unlikely Travels of Washington’s Tent.*
Providing Access  

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- **691 people** visited the Museum using the Bank of America “Museums on Us” program, which offers free admission to Bank of America cardholders on the first weekend of each month.

- **867 people** visited using the Blue Star Families program, which offers free admission to military families throughout the summer.

- **145 people** utilized our free admission for veterans during Veterans Day and Memorial Day weekends, thanks to Comcast NBCUniversal.

- **119 people** visited through the Philly STAMP pass program, which offers free museum admission to Philadelphia teens.

- **976 people** visited the Museum using Art-Reach’s ACCESS Philly Program.

- **3,746 people** visited using library memberships from their local libraries.

“Excellent ... we need more organizations to do this and widen the scope of accessibility while telling the whole story.”

– Visitor Justinian W.
COMMODORE BARRY’S SWORD
The Revolutionary War sword of Commodore John Barry, considered a “Father of the U.S. Navy,” returned to Philadelphia for the first time since 1939 and was unveiled at the Museum on Commodore Barry Day. The sword, which is on loan from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, was displayed in the Oval Office during John F. Kennedy’s presidency. The sword is on view to the general public in the Museum’s McCausland Foundation gallery, which explores the war at sea, through July 2024.

Now on View

IRISH CONSERVATOR NYC
@IrelandinNY

Sept. 13 is Commodore Barry Day!
We celebrate Wexford-born John Barry, saluted as the ‘Father of the US Navy’, whose sword is on display at the @AmRevMuseum in Philadelphia from today.

The sword was a prized possession of President Kennedy, who hung it in the Oval Office.

Stewarding & Growing Our Rich Collection

From George Washington’s headquarters tent to a recently donated portrait of Barnard Gratz, a prominent member of Philadelphia’s early Jewish community, our rich collection of Revolutionary-era objects, manuscripts, textiles, and works of art is at the heart of all we do. We continue to add significant items to our collection through object donations and dedicated funding from individual donors to enhance the Museum’s multifaceted storytelling. By rotating objects on display from our collection and those that are generously loaned to us, we give visitors reasons to return again and again.
THE WAR IN THE SOUTH

After being hidden away for more than two centuries, a rare 18th-century flag is now on public display at the Museum for the first time since the Revolutionary War (above). The blue silk flag served as the regimental emblem of South Carolina’s 2nd Spartan Regiment, marking its position on the battlefield. The newly discovered flag is one of fewer than half a dozen surviving Revolutionary War flags from the South.

The 2nd Spartan Regiment was led by Pennsylvania-born Colonel Thomas Brandon (1741-1802). His family reverently preserved the regimental flag in a small wooden chest that was inscribed with the names of each descendant who inherited it until the mid-20th century. The chest is also on view at the Museum alongside the flag, both of which are on loan from Nick Manganiello and Francine Carrick. The display is on view through 2024 and explores the important, yet lesser-known role that soldiers from the Southern states played in securing American independence. We are grateful for support from The Frances and Beverly M. DuBose Foundation of Atlanta, Ga.

NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT

Five late-1700s and early-1800s handkerchiefs, on loan from Jeff R. Bridgman Antiques, Inc., Offit Capital, and Mark and Rosalind Shenkman, were featured in our second-floor case funded by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard. We also included a handkerchief from our own collection (right) that received conservation in 2022 thanks to the Americana Corner Preserving America Grant Program.

A FLAG WITH THE MOTTO ‘LIBERTY’

This year, we installed the “Liberty” flag, the only surviving example from the Revolutionary War, on loan from the Schenectady County Historical Society. The flag is thought to have been carried by a New York Regiment during the 1776 and 1777 campaigns. This style of flag was very common early in the conflict as Adjutant General Major Bauermester of the Hesse-Cassel contingent at the Battle of Long Island wrote, “We came into possession of eleven enemy flags with the motto ‘Liberty’...” This flag is pictured in the photo of Nicholas Veeder that is part of our “Meet the Revolutionary Generation” wall at the end of the core exhibit.

“I was astonished that you actually had a flag that was from a unit during the war. And for it to say ‘liberty’ on it was just amazing.”
– Gene H.
NEWLY ACQUIRED OBJECTS

Acquisitions included:

• Daguerreotypes of Revolutionary War veteran Peabody Bradford and his wife, ca. 1850, acquired thanks to the support of the Collections Society.

• A 1781 letter from Major General Nathanael Greene to South Carolina Governor John Rutledge, which was acquired thanks to the generosity of the Collections Society.

• An 18th-century silver quaich (below), a shallow two-handled drinking cup or bowl, from the family of Thomas McKean (1734-1817), first governor of Pennsylvania and signer of the Declaration of Independence. It was acquired thanks to the generosity of the St. Andrew’s Society of Philadelphia.

• A December 1776 safety pass signed by Colonel Johann Rall that was used for travel during the war, acquired thanks to the generosity of Dr. Joseph F. Majdan and Mrs. Anita Majdan.

• A pocketbook that belonged to John England, an owner of Principio iron furnace in Maryland. The pocketbook was found at the Cooch House in Delaware and was gifted to the Museum by Richard Rodney Cooch and Anne Cooch Doran.

• Three pillowcases that belonged to Maria A. de Zeng, the wife of Hessian soldier Baron Frederick Augustus de Zeng, acquired thanks to Kim Dalton.

• An Admiral Vernon Teapot, ca. 1740, which was a commemorative item depicting the capture of Spanish colonial city of Porto Bello, reminding British subjects of their shared pride in the Empire and its military victories throughout the world, gifted to the Museum by Ellen and Mickey† Simon.

STONE ENGRAVING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Just in time for July 4, we displayed a rare 1823 engraved printing of the Declaration of Independence that belonged to the last surviving signer, Charles Carroll. On August 2, 1826, Carroll signed the engraving to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the original Declaration signing. The printing was on display along with two rare and related letters by John Hancock (1776) and John Quincy Adams (1832). The items were on loan to the Museum from the Norcross family, George, Sandy, Lexie, and Alex in honor and loving memory of Martin F. McKernan, Jr., Esq., Knight of St. Gregory, September 24, 1945 – August 3, 2021.

WASHINGTON ON BENDED KNEE

We explored the story of George Washington’s prayer “on bended knee” at Valley Forge in our second-floor case funded by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard. The case featured the book The Life of Washington (1808) written by Mason Locke Weems, an evangelical preacher, author, and bookseller, which includes the story of Washington praying while the Continental Army was encamped at Valley Forge, as well as paintings, a print, and postage stamps featuring Washington at prayer, as well as several letters from Washington. The display is on view through May 2024.

“RULE BRITANNIA” GALLERY

A new tea canister (below) commemorating the coronation of King George III and Queen Charlotte in 1761 was added to our “Rule Britannia” case. The canister was acquired in 2021 with support from the Landenberger Family Foundation, James D. and Pamela Penny, and Richard Brown and Mary Jo Otsea. We also added the General Wolfe fireback, purchased in 2022 through the generosity of the Museum’s Collections Society. The fireback was made in Boston around 1765 and features a portrait of Wolfe and an inscription to his memory.
STOLEN ARTIFACTS RETURNED
Fifty artifacts stolen approximately half a century ago were returned to their rightful owners — 17 museums and historical societies — in a repatriation ceremony held at the Museum. The artifacts were recovered through the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Art Crime Team -

Philadelphia Division, the United States Attorney’s Office of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Upper Merion Township Police Department, and the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office.

The objects were from a cold case investigation of thefts of valuable antique firearms and other items that occurred between 1968 and 1979 from the Valley Forge Historical Society Museum in Valley Forge, Pa., and other museums. This was the third repatriation ceremony held at the Museum.

A BROADSIDE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
We installed a New Hampshire broadside of the Declaration of Independence (below) published by Robert L ust Fowle, publisher of The New Hampshire Gazette, in mid-July 1776. Although Fowle printed these broadsides, he was a Loyalist and did not support independence. The Declaration was on loan from Brian and Barbara Hendelson.

Our Collection BY THE NUMBERS

13 objects from our collection on view for the first time

27 new loan objects in the core galleries

59 new objects acquired through donation or purchase

13 from our collection on view for the first time

27 new loan objects in the core galleries

59 new objects acquired through donation or purchase
Several decades ago, the Museum acquired a collection of nearly 200 rare documents bearing the names of the Black and Native American soldiers who served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The collection was assembled from auctions, rare manuscript dealers, and other collectors over the past two decades.

We are grateful to the following donors for their support of the archive: Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III in memory of Daniel W. Offit, Denise Foderaro and Frank Quattro, Bank of America, Philip Syng Reese, Ed Satell and the Satell Family Foundation, with additional support from Timothy R. Collins and the Museum’s Collections Society. We appreciate the State Society of Cincinnati of Pennsylvania, Dr. Scholl Foundation, and Achelis & Bodman Foundation for their support of ongoing research into the archive, conservation, and digital development to bring these stories to life.

This year, we were able to significantly improve our collections management and storage thanks to a grant from the Museums for America grant program administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. More than 1,000 items were inventoried in addition to the nearly 3,000 archaeological items that were catalogued. This enabled us to further our goal of better preserving and organizing our collection, creating room to grow the collection, and updating our collections documentation to make it even more useful for staff and outside researchers.

Center in Pittsburgh, along with three items associated with James Grant from our collection. This version of the exhibit opened to the public on July 1, 2023, and runs through August 2024.
Collections Society members make annual gifts of $500 or more to support the care, maintenance, and expansion of our distinguished collection of objects, art, manuscripts, and printed works that span the scope of the Revolutionary era. In recognition, they receive invitations to exclusive events with Museum curators and experts. The Collections Society was instrumental in funding a number of acquisitions this year.

“People told us to come here and we are so glad we did. This is now our favorite museum!”
– Museum Visitor

George Ahern
Gamal Amer and Terri Ventresca
Jeanne Asplundh
Sue and Eric Baelen
Eric Blair-Joannou
Kevin and Kristine Boettcher
Kerry L. Bryan
Andrew H. Card, Jr.
J. Thomas Chirurg
Andres Coello
James and Jean Crystal
Gary and Dawna DeLong
Maude de Schauensee
Deborah J. and Gary Dorshimer
Chuck Downs
Eileen and Beverly M. DuBose III
Peggy Duckett and George Drach
Timothy and Susan Gillespie
Brian and Barbara Hendelson
Hannah L. Henderson
Brent Herspiegel
Peter Barton Hutt
Roger W. Jacobs
Daniel Kinnamon
Paul and Mary Lockhart
Stephen and Robin McBrearty
John Francis McFassel
Margot and Joseph McGinley
David and Dottie Mink
Amy Parenti
Colleen and Robert Rademaker
Philip Syng Reese
Judy and Don Ricketts
Theodore Robb
Eric and Sue Robbins
T. Christopher and Mary K. Roth
Ed and Cyma Satell
Walter and Cornelia Schmidt
Peggy and Jeff Shaver
Stewart and Sidney Spahr
William and Stephanie Stabert
Thomas A. Tormey
Katherine and Frank Woolard
David and Velva Zarley
Building on Our Strong Financial Foundation

We are grateful to the many supporters from around the world whose generosity sustains our work. Thank you!

In 2022-2023, our visitation increased, particularly with school groups. Contributed revenue remained strong, with many gifts supporting our special exhibition, *Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia.*

Our endowment funds also grew this past fiscal year. In calendar year 2023 (December 31), we received the anticipated second deposit of $16.9 million from the estate of our Founding Chairman, Gerry Lenfest. Since our fiscal year closes on September 30, that gift is not reflected in this report. As of this writing, our endowment is nearly $84 million.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Lenfest family and of our members, donors, and supporters, we are well positioned to take full advantage of the opportunities that the 250th anniversary in 2026 will offer and to be in a position of strength as we begin our second decade in 2027.
Our operating revenue was drawn from three primary sources: admissions and membership, $2,426,253 and $587,842 respectively; contributions, $3,862,537; and Board-approved appropriations from our Board-designated and donor-restricted endowments, $4,728,988. The major sources of other earned revenue were our café, facility rentals, and gift shop ($675,365). We also received a final payment for Employment Retention Credit tied to COVID relief ($318,498).

We started this fiscal year with $65,184,165 and had a balance of $67,694,008 at the end of this fiscal year. As anticipated, a second deposit from the estate of Gerry Lenfest ($16.9M) was received in 2023 (December) and will be reflected in our FY24 annual report.

Program services, including education, curatorial, public programming, exhibition development, collection care, and facility maintenance, comprised the largest percentage (69%) of our operating expenses. As always, we are disciplined in our spending to achieve a balanced budget.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

<table>
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<th>Assets</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Pledges Receivable</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>68,488,178</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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**Liabilities**

$1,472,603

**Net Assets**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>$135,530,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>With Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>5,169,776</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$140,700,452</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We gratefully acknowledge gifts from the following generous individuals and foundations in support of our operations during the 2023 fiscal year, from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. These committed donors provided essential funding for the Museum’s accomplishments outlined in this annual report. Thank you!

$100,000 TO $999,999

John Aglialoro and Joan Carter
Comcast NBCUniversal
Institute of Museum and Library Services
James and Fran† Maguire
Maguire Foundation

$50,000 TO $99,999

The Achelis & Bodman Foundation
Bank of America
Dick and Sally Brickman
John A. Catsimatidis, Jr.
Daniel DiLella and Monica Duvall DiLella
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Eileen and Beverly M. DuBose III
Foundation for Individual Liberty
The Frances and Beverly M. DuBose Foundation
George and Esther Ann McFarland Foundation
Ray and Renee Halbritter

Alan B. and Jill Miller
Nancy and Morris W. Offit
PECO
Philip Syng Reese

Joanne Letwinch†
A. Bruce† and Margaret Mainwaring
Momentum Telecom
Oneida Indian Nation
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Pritzker Military Foundation on behalf of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library
Mark R. and Rosalind Shenkman
The Snider Foundation
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, National Park Service

† deceased

All gifts made after September 30, 2023 will be reflected in the next annual report.
The George Washington Council provides the Museum’s most significant source of contributed operating support. These philanthropic leaders make annual gifts of $5,000-plus that sustain our programs and launch new initiatives that are core to our mission. Named for the General whose dedication, perseverance, and steadfastness continue to inspire us, this group enables our most ambitious work. In recognition for their support, George Washington Council members are invited to intimate dinners, exclusive programs, and once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunities.

In December 2022, we held the fourth annual George Washington Council Dinner, a celebration of this most dedicated group of annual members. Guests enjoyed a special concert in the Alan B. Miller Theater to experience George Washington’s life in music, from a Haudenosaunee war song to military marches and popular tunes performed on harpsichord, fife, and drum. With artistic direction from John Burkhalter, Museum President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson hosted musical guest performances set to the scenic backdrop of Washington’s tent. Following the program, George Washington Council Members convened for a special dinner in the Oneida Indian Nation Atrium.

We look forward to the George Washington Council Dinner each year as an opportunity to say thank you to these members whose philanthropy empowers our team and enables our highest achievements.
We are grateful for the extraordinary generosity of the following supporters, who have made cumulative gifts of $1 million and above, and for their unparalleled commitment to the Museum.

Anonymous
John Aglialoro and Joan Carter
Calypso Bamford
Bank of America
Dick and Sally Brickman
William and Laura Buck
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Comcast NBCUniversal
Eileen and Beverly M. DuBose III
Joseph and Marie Field
Richard Gilder and Lois Chiles
David Haas
Janet and John Otto Haas
Dorrance Hill Hamilton
Rupert Johnson
Marjorie and Lewis Katz
Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest
Maguire Foundation
Bruce and Margaret Mainwaring
Jacqueline B. Mars
McCausland Foundation
Alan B. Miller and Jill Miller
Joseph E. Neubauer and Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer
Nancy and Morris W. Offit
Oneida Indian Nation
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Margot and Ross Perot
Arthur L. Powell
Denise Foderaro and Frank Quattrone
Philip Syng and Daphne Craven Reese
Aileen K. and Brian L. Roberts
William A. Slaughter
John M. Templeton and Pina Templeton
U.S. Small Business Administration
Richard and Laura Vague
Wyncote Foundation

$25,000 TO $49,999
Leonard and Madlyn Abramson
The Abramson Family Foundation
David and Kim Adler
American Heritage Federal Credit Union
Lisa and Arthur Berkowitz
Julian and Lois Brodsky
Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
David and Kim Darnell
The Davenport Family Foundation
Henry B. duPont
Bruce K. Foulke
Carole Haas Gravagno
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Brian and Barbara Hendelson
Independence Blue Cross
John and Ellen Jumper
Landenberger Family Foundation
The Nor’Easter Foundation
Zachary and Amy Pack
Lanny and Ann Patten
Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company
Margot Perot
Martha McGearry Snider

RINGING THE OPENING BELL

On July 3, the Museum rang the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange to kick off the Independence Day holiday. Dr. R. Scott Stephenson rang the bell alongside Board Chair Morris W. Offit, Board Member Zachary J. Pack, and several costumed Museum staff. It aired live on CNBC, NewsNation, and Cheddar Business.
$10,000 TO $24,999

Robb Aley Allan
Americana Corner
Jim and Janet Averill
Sue and Eric Baelen
Ballard Spahr, LLP
BDT Capital Partners
Lawrence Benenson
The Bergman Foundation
David Bernstein
Frances and Benjamin Benenson Foundation
Jean-Pierre and Elizabeth Bouvel
Richard Brown and Mary Jo Otsea
Karen Dougherty Buchholz
The CHG Charitable Trust
Mark and Iris Coblitz
John W. Copeland and Gianna F. Biondi
The Crown Family
James and Jean Crystal
Brad du Pont
Peggy Duckett and George Drach
Electro Soft, Inc.
Alan and Dafna Fleischmann
Freemasons, Northern Masonic District Scottish Rite
Fulton Bank
Michael Glatt and Joann Galluccio
Linda J. Harris
The Haverford Trust Company
David M. Humphrey and Gayla J. McCluskey
Katherine and George Jones III
Joseph E. Neubauer and Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer
Lisa D. Kabnick and John H. McFadden
Knight and Ann Kiplinger
Lauer Philanthropic Foundation
The Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust
Paul and Mary Lockhart
Dean Malissa
Jacqueline Mars
Tom and Linda McCarthy
The McLean Contributionship
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
The Neubauer Family Foundation
NJM Insurance Group
Pamela J. and James D. Penny
Edward G. Rendell
Richard C. von Hess Foundation
Savills
Valerie and William Schwartz
S. Christopher Scott and Dalila Wilson-Scott
Peggy and Jeff Shaver
The Society of the Lees of Virginia
Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland
Cynthia B. Sweeney
Karla and Thane Trotman
Universal Health Services
Anne and Michael Vogelmann
WSFS Bank

The Liberty Society recognizes those who have included the Museum in their estate plans, and, through their example, encourage others to do the same. Liberty Society members create a lasting legacy through planned giving commitments that allow us to inspire and engage rising generations through the promise of the American Revolution.
“Whatever time and effort that was expended to make the Museum a reality was well worth it. We will return to explore the Museum again and again. Thank you!”

– Visitors Andy and Gina Thomson
Donor spotlight

THOMAS HAND OF AMERICANA CORNER

“In my opinion, Americans should never lose sight of the extraordinary efforts of our founding generation and the debt of gratitude we owe them,” said Liberty Society member Tom Hand. “The high-quality exhibits at the Museum help remind visitors of just that, and an investment in the Museum is an investment in preserving our nation’s past.”

Tom is the founder of Americana Corner, a website dedicated to remembering America’s founding and the first century of expansion through informative stories of the remarkable events, founding documents, and motivating leaders who helped build our country. As the founder, Tom creates online content to include in weekly stories and videos as well as an annual book. Additionally, he funds and operates the Preserving America Grant program, which issues grants to organizations that focus on early American history.

“I have been interested in American history since my mom bought me a pictorial book on the Civil War when I was in grade school,” Tom continued. “My childhood heroes were the great generals of the war.”

“The Museum’s presentation of this iconic artifact is sublime and yet surprisingly engaging for a static display,” Tom said. “The observer can sense Washington’s presence and, with a vivid imagination, be transported back in time.”

Tom remains passionate about supporting the Museum because of the mission, saying, “I find it does a great job presenting the great American story to the general public.”

DALILA WILSON-SCOTT OF COMCAST CORPORATION

“I’ve always been a naturally curious person and a strong believer in the power of stories,” said Dalila Wilson-Scott, Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for Comcast Corporation, when describing the role history has played in her life. “Learning from the past can help us better understand each other, dream bigger, and even connect more meaningfully to our purpose.”

That belief underlies not only Dalila’s support as a member of the Museum’s George Washington Council, but also Comcast’s leadership as one of the Museum’s most engaged corporate partners. Comcast’s investments have totaled more than $2.6 million, helping to underwrite Museum construction, annual operations, programs for African American and Native American historical interpretation, and several special exhibitions.

In 2023, Dalila served as a co-chair of the committee supporting Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia, which she cites as one of her favorite Museum exhibits. “I saw it several times, and each time I left the Museum newly inspired,” Dalila explained. “The Forten family story is a brilliant example of how to be the change you want to see. Its rich history is also relatively unknown, so I am grateful to the Museum for curating and sharing such a powerful story.”

After moving to Philadelphia in 2016, Dalila uncovered her own surprising connection to our nation’s complex history.

“I discovered my house was a stop on the Underground Railroad, which serves as a reminder of our past and the importance of imagining more and working together to create a better future. Whether we’re students, educators, business leaders or community members — having that informed foundation is an important part of how we move forward.”
$5,000 TO $9,999

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT: DAVID REINHARDT, CPA

This year, we announced the hiring of David Reinhardt as Chief Financial Officer. Reinhardt is an accomplished finance and accounting professional with experience in risk management and auditing. He previously served as Controller for the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Senior Director of Finance and Administration at the Curtis Institute of Music. Reinhardt also serves as a director on the boards of the Philadelphia chapter of the Federation of Neighborhood Centers, and the Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial.

PAWN STARS VISITS THE MUSEUM

The Museum was featured on an episode of Pawn Stars Do America, a new Pawn Stars traveling show on The History Channel. Former Curator of Collections Mark Turdo was interviewed along with lender Brian Hendelson. The episode has re-aired several times. Pawn Stars host Rick Harrison says, “This is literally nerd heaven. I love this.”

Pawn Stars host Rick Harrison and Brian Hendelson interview Mark Turdo and lender Brian Hendelson.
Donor spotlight

PEGGY & JEFF SHAVER

The Museum had Peggy and Jeff Shaver’s support well before it opened its doors in 2017. The couple moved to Philadelphia in the 1990s, and Peggy, a U.S. History major, was thrilled to find herself in “history heaven.” Jeff didn’t initially share his wife’s love of history but eventually found her enthusiasm for the subject contagious. By the time plans for an American Revolution museum in their own backyard began to manifest, both Shavers were on board.

“My wife and I both felt this kind of museum, with its singular focus on the American Revolution, was needed, and that it would be a spectacular addition to the historical fabric of the Philadelphia area,” said Jeff.

“The very idea that there was not one repository for Revolutionary-era art and artifacts, and now there is one, resonates with me,” said Peggy. “This repository for truth is essential.”

Peggy believes that history is not boring if it’s presented in an “un-boring” way — and says that the Museum does “un-boring” right. Her favorite offerings include the Oneida Nation Theater and Occupied Philadelphia weekend, and she also enjoys attending the Museum’s array of guest lectures and presentations.

Jeff is passionate about the Museum because it provides an accurate historical record while effectively conveying the intense grit and courage required of those involved, something that Jeff, a retired United States Air Force colonel, strongly relates to. He lists Washington’s War Tent as a Museum favorite, but also enjoys exploring lesser-known stories, like those found in the Museum’s past Black Founders special exhibit.

“People should visit and support this museum because it helps us understand how the sacrifices made during the American Revolution set in motion this nation’s establishment,” said Jeff.

Can’t visit in person? Peggy suggests another way to support the Museum: “Everyone should empty their attics and old trunks and send their treasures on to us!”

$2,500 TO $4,999

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THANK YOU

A special thanks to Momentum Telecom, the Oneida Indian Nation, Patriotic Order Sons of America, and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for supporting the critical infrastructure that keeps the Museum running.
The Revolution Society was established in 2015, years before the Museum opened, to ensure a strong foundation of sustaining annual support for our cause. Since then, a dynamic community of donors and friends have joined our pursuit of ambitious goals. Making gifts of $1,000 - $4,999 each year, these Revolution Society members enable the Museum to care for our world-class collection and offer educational programs to engage every generation. In appreciation for their generous investment, we invite them to enjoy curated experiences with Museum experts, leading authors, and historians.

**Revolution Society**

**$1,000 TO $2,499**

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Austin and Hannah Hepburn  
The Herzog Family

The Museum was used as a backdrop for a new show, *King of Collectibles: The Goldin Touch*, about collector Ken Goldin’s auction house, which specializes in rare collectibles. Museum President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson appears in the episode. One of the guests says, “You did a good job with this place... it’s awesome.”
Members of our Collections Society traveled to Historic Trappe, Pa., to tour the Muhlenberg family house museums and the exhibition galleries at the Center for Pennsylvania German Studies, followed by a reception and private collection visit at the home of Executive Director Lisa Minardi. Minardi discussed the restoration of the 1757 Daniel Hiester House and her collection of Pennsylvania German furniture, metalwork, and more.
Museum Members

We are grateful to the over 5,000 Member households nationwide who continued their support of our mission this year. Members witnessed their impact first-hand this year through programs like the Read the Revolution Speaker Series, AmRev Presents events, and special Member exclusives like our fifth annual State of the Museum Address with Dr. R. Scott Stephenson and the Members-only opening for our Black Founders special exhibition. Member support is essential to the Museum’s efforts to expand our audience, continue to preserve, interpret, and display our world-class collections, and to produce engaging educational programs. We see the impact of membership support in everything we do!

“Black Founders is worthy of praise on many levels. THIS is why I became a founding Member.”  
– Museum Member Raymond H.

$500 TO $999

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Nathaniel Philbrick  
James R. Polski  
Colleen and Robert Rademaker
We are grateful to our corporate partners for their support of Museum programs, events, and exhibits. Their investment expands the reach of the Museum’s commitment to provide community programming and educational initiatives that inspire rising generations through compelling stories about the diverse people and complex events of the American Revolution.

Our Corporate Advisory Council partners with the Museum on its mission while advancing their respective organizations’ philanthropic and community engagement goals.

The Museum is deeply grateful to the following individuals who served on the Museum’s 2023 Corporate Advisory Council:

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Karla Trotman  
President and CEO, Electro Soft, Inc.

Bruce Foulke  
President and CEO, American Heritage Credit Union

**RECREATING WASHINGTON’S STANDARD**

This year, we embarked on a project to recreate General George Washington’s headquarters flag, which is part of the Museum’s collection and is said to have marked his presence during the Revolutionary War. The headquarters flag, sometimes called the Commander in Chief’s Standard, is so fragile that we cannot regularly display it in our galleries. To better understand the flag, how it was made, and what it might have looked like when it was new, we worked with textile conservator Virginia Whelan, indigo dyer Rowland Ricketts, and weaver Bettie Silver-Schack to reproduce it, thanks to support from an anonymous donor. The completed replica flag will be used as a teaching tool at the Museum throughout the year and as part of our traveling First Oval Office Project program.

Scan here to watch the video.
We are fortunate to have a dedicated and engaged Board of Directors. We are grateful for the time, energy, and support they continually invest in the Museum. The following list represents all Board Members who served during the period of October 2022 through December 2023.

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H. F. (Gerry) Lenfest,† Philadelphia, PA

† deceased

**IN MEMORIAM:**

**DR. EDITH P. MITCHELL**

We mourn the loss of Dr. Edith Peterson Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCPP who passed away in January, 2024. Dr. Mitchell served as a member of our Board of Directors since 2020. She offered a remarkable breadth of experience and achievement in the fields of healthcare, military service, diversity initiatives, and community outreach. We are grateful for her enthusiastic advocacy for our work. Dr. Mitchell was an award-winning oncologist and researcher at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. In addition to her medical achievements, she was a retired United States Air Force Brigadier General — the first female physician to achieve that rank.
What role has history played in your life?
I have an older cousin with a Ph.D. in African American studies. She led my youth NAACP group and taught us about the amazing historical figures in Black history that we never learned about in school. Her passion instilled in me a great sense of pride and pushed me to look outside of the educational system for more in-depth historical information.

Which of the Museum’s displays, artifacts, programs, or resources have you found to be the most interesting or powerful?
I remember when it was announced that the Museum had obtained the Patriots of Color Archives. I instantly had chills. As a child, I remember trying to do a family tree and could only get so far due to the lack of records of the formerly enslaved. Uncovering these documents and digitizing them for public use creates additional breadcrumbs for numerous Black and Indigenous families looking to place names to branches that are currently nameless.

You served on the Museum’s Black Founders Exhibition Committee. What inspired you to get involved?
I had never heard the phrase “Black Founders” used in conjunction with the founding of this country. I loved how the Museum was speaking of them in such a bold manner.

It was further confirmation that the Museum cares about telling stories of history from which many diverse people have felt excluded. I couldn’t wait to see and experience all that was planned for the exhibition.

Through the exhibit, you found out about your own family’s ties to James Forten. What did that mean to you?
It was a moment of great pride for our entire family. It felt as if the ancestors were speaking to us through my youngest son. Had it not been for his interest in the American Revolution at such a young age, I’m not sure we would have had a long enough runway to have made the familial connection in conjunction with the exhibition. It was his passion that caused me to visit the Museum initially. A chance meeting with some of the amazing management team resulted in me becoming more involved and, ultimately, being asked to co-chair the exhibition. A lot of elements and timing came together magically, and I do not believe it was by accident.

Why should others get involved with the Museum?
Formal education doesn’t always take the time to articulate a well-rounded perspective of the events of history. Great care, time, and attention have been put into creating a unique and thought-provoking learning experience. If you are like me, your involvement might uncover an intimate connection that will surprise you.

Karla Trotman is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Electro Soft, Inc., an electronics manufacturing and engineering firm outside of Philadelphia. She joined the Museum’s Corporate Advisory Council in 2019 and has served on our Board of Directors since 2021.

In 2022, Trotman joined the Museum’s Black Founders Exhibition Committee, our extraordinary volunteer committee, as a Co-Chair who worked tirelessly to generate interest and support for our groundbreaking exhibition Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia. Electro Soft also served as a sponsor of the exhibition. During this time, she discovered her own familial ties to the Forten family.