

★ MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ★

# Enduring Promise

---

## of the American Revolution

WHAT'S INSIDE

*Banners of Liberty:  
An Exhibition of Original  
Revolutionary War Flags*

*How the Museum  
Prepared for 2026*

*In Memoriam*

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

2024 - 2025



MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

We hold these truths to be self-evident, That all men are created equal; that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE July 4, 1776

JOHN M. THOMPSON, JR. LEGISLATION CENTER

DECLARATION'S JOURNEY

DECLARATION'S JOURNEY

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Historical interpreters and Museum visitors gather on the plaza during Revolutionary Philadelphia: 1775 weekend.



## This is Our Moment

The 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation — America’s Semiquincentennial — has arrived. Just a few blocks away from our Museum, down Chestnut Street at Independence Hall, the Declaration of Independence was debated, edited, and adopted in July 1776. Its words announced the birth of these United States and our commitment to recognizing “certain unalienable rights,” including “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

That document and those words ignited America’s ongoing experiment in liberty, equality, and self-government. The Declaration’s subsequent journey — inspiring the expansion of rights and freedom in more than 100 nations across the world — is also ongoing, and is being celebrated through our current special exhibition that is a cornerstone of Philadelphia’s cultural offerings in this exciting anniversary year.

This is our moment, and the Museum was able to meet it due to the generous support of our Members, donors, and partners. As you’ll read in the pages that follow, the Museum began preparing for 2026 almost as soon as we opened our doors in 2017. Arriving at this milestone demanded countless hours, extraordinary dedication, and strong collaboration and teamwork from everyone involved. It also took staff, visitors, and supporters like you who believe in the power of the Museum’s mission — who recognize that connecting with and learning from the past is essential to building a brighter future — and for that, we are truly grateful.

There is no better place to assess, contemplate, and apply the ideals of our founding and their modern relevance than here at the Museum of the American Revolution, and there is no better time to do so than now. We look forward to celebrating with you this year.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris W. Offit".

Morris W. Offit,  
Chairman of the Board



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott".

Dr. R. Scott Stephenson,  
President and CEO

---



Light Horse of the City of Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Associates Flag

*“This museum is a national treasure, every visit reveals new and amazing insights.”*

– Ken T. on Facebook

## Connect With Us

### Subscribe

Stay up to date on the latest news and events at the Museum by subscribing to our email newsletter at [AmRevMuseum.org/subscribe](https://AmRevMuseum.org/subscribe).

### Follow

Find us on social media for up-to-the-minute updates and stories. Tag us using [@AmRevMuseum](https://twitter.com/AmRevMuseum) and [#HowRevolutionary](https://twitter.com/HowRevolutionary).

### Explore

Check out our website to plan your visit and explore our digital resources at [AmRevMuseum.org](https://AmRevMuseum.org).





**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.



## Contents

---

- 4 *Banners of Liberty:  
An Exhibition of Original  
Revolutionary War Flags*
- 12 *Now on View:  
The Declaration's Journey*
- 14 *Looking Ahead:  
Made by Philadelphia  
and Loyalists*
- 16 *How the Museum  
Prepared for 2026*
- 28 *Education at the Forefront*
- 37 *Programs and Events to  
Inspire and Unite Us*
- 43 *Maximizing Awareness Within  
the Digital Landscape*
- 46 *Growing and Showcasing Our  
Esteemed Collection*
- 52 *Strong Roots for a  
Revolutionary Future*
- 54 *Thank You to Our Supporters*
- 66 *Board of Directors*
- 67 *In Memoriam*




Read the full  
magazine  
online.

### ON THE COVER

Margaret Skic interacts with Keith Minsinger, Collections Manager and Registrar for the Museum, at Revolutionary Philadelphia: 1775 weekend.

---



# Banners of Liberty:

## An Exhibition of Original Revolutionary War Flags

In June of 1775, just a few months after the first shots of the Revolutionary War were exchanged at the Battles of Lexington and Concord, a Philadelphia newspaper reported how colonists from all walks of life were coming together to join or otherwise support the cause of the united American colonies, soon to be called the United States of America. They unfurled “banners of liberty,” or flags of various designs, to represent themselves and their unity as they marched off to war.



The soldiers who joined the Continental Army or served in the militia were as different as the hundreds of flags that were made and came to represent

their units. The distinctive colors and decorations of the flags, many of which bore depictions and mottos exemplifying shared motivations and political ideology, carried signals through the smoke on battlefields from South Carolina to New England.

Collecting and honoring these surviving symbols of sacrifice, the Museum of the American Revolution kicked off its celebration of America’s Semiquincentennial with a special exhibition, *Banners of Liberty: An Exhibition of Original Revolutionary War Flags*. The exhibition brought together 17 original flags from the Revolutionary era of the roughly 30 known to still survive today, making it the largest



gathering of such flags since the close of the eight-year conflict in 1783. Opening on the 250th anniversary of the “shot heard round the world” at the battles which ignited the Revolutionary War, *Banners of Liberty* served more than 33,000 visitors during its brief run from April 19 through Aug. 10, 2025 in the 5,000-square-foot Patriots Gallery exhibition space.

Flags on loan to the exhibition traveled to Philadelphia from across the tri-state region and as far away as New England and the Midwest. Several of these flags were made in Philadelphia — the capital of the American Revolution — and the exhibition marked their first return to the city since the war.

These banners played key roles on the battlefield and the parade ground as tools of motivation and identification for the American militias and the Continental Army. Many featured



designs in their canton (upper corner) as well as symbols, a motto, or a unit designation at the center. Revolutionary Americans employed stars, stripes, and other symbols to represent the unity of the 13 states. Mottos in Latin or English referenced their justification and determination to fight to create an

independent nation. Early in the war, before the Declaration of Independence, some American flags included the British union (a combination of crosses representing England and Scotland) to express that they remained loyal to King George III even as they fought to secure their traditional English liberties.

*“This number of Revolutionary flags has not been seen in one place since the end of the war in 1783.”*

— WHY



Curated by the Museum's in-house Collections and Exhibitions team, highlights of *Banners of Liberty* included:



**The Commander in Chief's Standard** (above) is a silk flag that was used by General George Washington to mark his headquarters and his presence on the battlefield, according to stories passed down through the Washington family. Collection of the Museum of the American Revolution. Conserved with funds provided by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard.

following the adoption of the Declaration of Independence to represent the new United States of America. On loan from the Museum of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.

**The 2nd Spartan Regiment of Militia Flag** (below), a rare surviving artifact from the war in the South and the most recently discovered Revolutionary-era flag, represents a unit that reflected the diverse society of the South Carolina backcountry. On display courtesy of the Friends of the Spartanburg County (S.C.) Library, Inc.

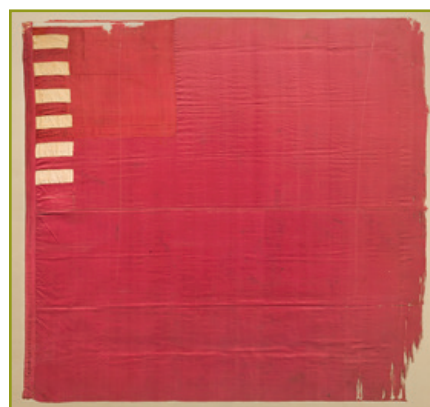


**Two 2nd New Hampshire Regiment flags** (above), which were purchased by the regiment in 1777 with funds from the New Hampshire Committee of Safety, are iconic flags from the war. Each flag has a British union stitched in its canton. On loan from the New Hampshire Historical Society, Gift of Edward Tuck. Conserved with support from the Artist Preservation Group and the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire.



**The Light Horse of the City of Philadelphia Flag** (above) was carried by a unit of distinguished members of a Philadelphia society that formed in 1774 and is today one of the oldest active military organizations in the nation, now known as the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry. Originally designed with the British union in its upper corner, the flag was repainted with 13 stripes

**The Massachusetts Militia Flag** (below), often referred to as the "Forster Flag" due to its provenance to the Forster family of Massachusetts, was likely used by a company of soldiers from Manchester, Massachusetts. On loan from Brian and Barbara Hendelson.



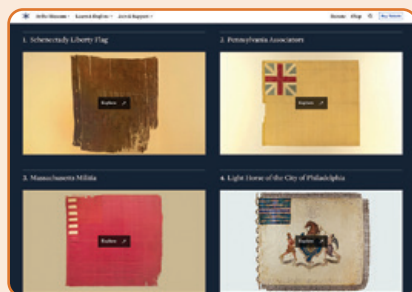
As part of its commitment to preserve these rare and fragile artifacts, the Museum contributed to the conservation and new framing of six of the displayed flags with the help of generous donors and led by textile conservator Virginia Whelan.

Additional elements of the exhibition included an audio tour and themed programs and events. Family-friendly activities included a printed scavenger hunt for younger visitors, as well as hands-on activities and crafts, pop-up talks, and a discovery cart with replica objects related to the exhibition.



### ONLINE EXHIBIT

Timed with the in-person exhibition opening, the Museum launched the *Banners of Liberty* online exhibit featuring the exhibition text and detailed photographs of each flag on display.



### A BANNER CELEBRATION

More than 140 Revolution Society and George Washington Council members, exhibition sponsors, corporate partners, and special guests joined us for the *Banners of Liberty* VIP opening gala on April 17 leading up to the public opening. The exhibition's debut was marked with a reception, remarks, and early access to the gallery.



### OPENING TO THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

The Museum hosted a well-attended public opening event on April 19, which coincided with the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord that ignited the Revolutionary War. The celebration on our plaza included performances from the Central York Middle School Colonial Fife and Drum Corps, a presentation of colors, and remarks by Museum President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, Philadelphia City Councilmember Mark Squilla, and Mitch Kay of American Heritage Credit Union, a presenting sponsor of the exhibition. Additional festivities included cooking demonstrations and complimentary cake for guests to celebrate the Museum's eighth anniversary.

## CITY COUNCIL HEARING

On April 14, the Museum hosted a Philadelphia City Council Hearing on 2026 preparedness in Liberty Hall and an accompanying press conference in our Patriots Gallery to feature *Banners of Liberty* before it opened to the public. All five Philadelphia sports mascots attended the event as well as city officials and Historic District and local tourism partners. The press conference and hearing were covered by many local and regional media outlets, including 6ABC, CBS3, NBC10, KYW-AM, WHYY, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.



## BEHIND THE BANNERS CONTENT SERIES

As part of the digital promotion for *Banners of Liberty*, in addition to behind-the-scenes video content for paid advertising, the Museum created three website features with adjoining interview videos about various flags in the exhibition. These included two flags that were made in Philadelphia, two flags that embody some of the earliest-known examples of stars and stripes, and three flags that were captured by the British as trophies of war.



[View the series online here.](#)

## C-SPAN LIVE REMOTE BROADCAST

On July 4, C-SPAN conducted an hour-long remote live broadcast in the Museum's Patriots Gallery, featuring President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson and the *Banners of Liberty* special exhibition. Senior Manager of Gallery Interpretation Tyler Putman was also featured throughout the broadcast in a pre-taped segment highlighting different stops in Old City on the Museum's Revolutionary Philadelphia walking tour. The broadcast, as well as the over 50 subsequent reruns of its content, had a total estimated reach of 300,000.



## *Banners of Liberty* BY THE NUMBERS



**33,062**  
visitors

More than 33,000 people visited *Banners of Liberty* in person.

**17** flags

The 17 flags featured in the exhibition were gathered together for the first time since the Revolutionary era.

**1** Number of times the Commander in Chief's Standard has been on display at the Museum of the American Revolution prior to *Banners of Liberty*.



*“A great exhibit! Very rare flags with a story to tell as you walk the room.”*

– @fondofcomics on Instagram

**650+**  
catalogs



Over 650 exhibition catalogs have been sold, reflecting strong visitor engagement and interest.

**10,000+** Over 10,000 views of the *Banners of Liberty* online exhibit have been made from nearly 4,000 active users.

**6** flags  
Six flags were conserved or reframed through donor support for this exhibition, preserving them for future generations.

**370,000+**  
views

*Banners of Liberty* video content was viewed more than 370,000 times.

*“It was incredible to see all of those original flags  
in one place like that. It was most definitely  
a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see that quantity.”*

– Visitor Kenneth G.



# Banners of Liberty Special Events and Programs

---

Highlights of our programming inspired by *Banners of Liberty* included:



## **AmRev Presents: World Affairs Council Global Quizzo on Revolutions**

The Museum teamed up with the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia on May 30 for their popular 21-and-over Global Quizzo series presented with special exhibit access to *Banners of Liberty*. With themed trivia rounds hosted by Museum and World Affairs Council experts, guests were invited to test their knowledge of flags, geography, history, pop culture, declarations, and revolutions around the world.

## **Collections Society Benefactor Event: VIP Private Collections Tour & Lecture at Maryland Center for History and Culture**

Collections Society members were invited to meet Museum staff and experts at The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) on May 8 in Baltimore, Maryland, for a private, behind-the-scenes tour of Revolutionary collections and textiles, hosted by MCHC Vice President of Collections and Chief Curator Catherine Arthur.

## **Collecting the American Flag with Jeff R. Bridgman**

Revolution Society and George Washington Council members joined Museum President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson on Feb. 18 for a conversation with historic flag expert Jeff R. Bridgman, followed by a reception and special viewing of a Revolutionary War regimental banner.

## **Exclusive Member Events**

In the lead-up to the exhibition opening, Museum Members were offered a virtual sneak peek of the exhibition from Associate Curator James Taub on Jan. 30. Taub presented an online discussion and Q&A to illustrate research for the exhibition, highlighting the conservation work and stories behind the flags. Members were also invited to an exclusive preview day on April 18 where they enjoyed refreshments in a special Member lounge, as well as exclusive access to the exhibition before it opened to the public. Lastly, before the closing of *Banners of Liberty*, the Museum offered a Member Morning hosted by a Museum educator, which included a brief talk about the True Colours Project, an effort to recreate maritime flags from the Revolutionary War, as well as exclusive special exhibition access.



## **Exhibit Sponsors**

*Banners of Liberty* was presented by *American Heritage Credit Union* and *Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company*.

*Additional support was provided by Pritzker Military Foundation, Artist Preservation Group, Dick and Sally Brickman, Nancy and Morris W. Offit, Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard, Rosalind and Mark Shenkman, and Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire, as well as Jeff R. Bridgman Antiques, Inc., Connelly Foundation, Dean F. Failey Grant from Decorative Arts Trust, Brian and Barbara Hendelson, Jacqueline Mars, Society of the Cincinnati in Pennsylvania, and Daniel H. Wheeler and Amy A. Fox.*

# The DECLARATION'S JOURNEY

Special Exhibition OCTOBER 18, 2025 - JANUARY 3, 2027

To mark the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, the Museum opened a major special exhibition exploring the history and global impact of the Declaration of Independence from 1776 to today. *The Declaration's Journey*, presented by Griffin Catalyst, gathers together for the first time some of the most important and rare documents, works of art, and artifacts from around the world that

reflect the complex 250-year history and legacy of the Declaration of Independence.

*The Declaration's Journey* is accompanied by robust public programming for a wide range of audiences, free online educational resources for teachers and students, and a series produced in partnership with *WHYY*, Philadelphia's *PBS* affiliate, to extend the exhibition's national reach and impact.

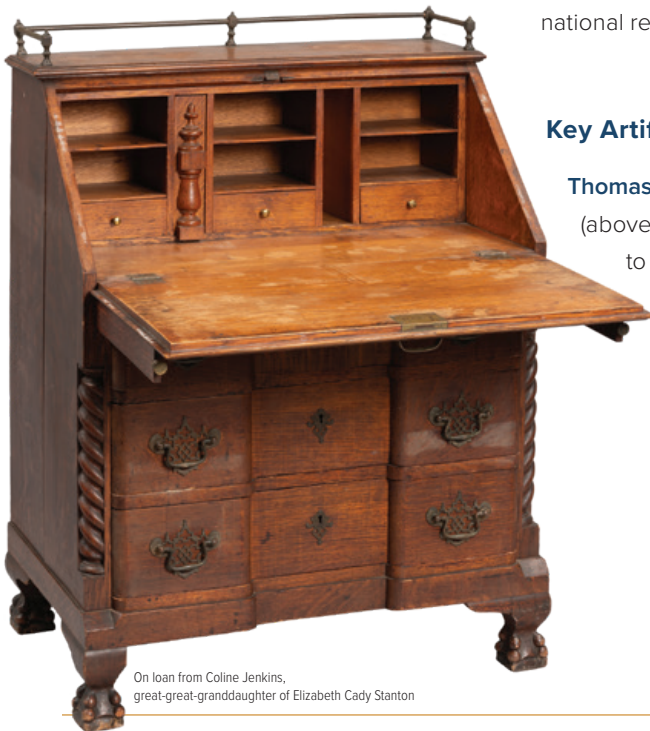
## Key Artifacts on Display:

**Thomas Jefferson's Windsor chair**, (above right) which he is believed to have used while in Philadelphia working on the draft of the Declaration of Independence, is on display courtesy of the American Philosophical Society alongside the **steel prison bench Martin Luther King Jr. sat on** in April 1963 while drafting his famous "Letter

from a Birmingham Jail," on loan from the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

**A spinning wheel presented by Mahatma Gandhi** during India's independence movement, on loan from Ila Jasani Good.

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton's desk** (left), likely used during the writing process for *History of Woman Suffrage* and on loan from Stanton's great-great-granddaughter Coline Jenkins.



On loan from Coline Jenkins, great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton



*The Declaration's Journey* is presented by Griffin Catalyst, with major support provided by Philip Syng Reese and Family & The Society of the Lees of Virginia, the City of Philadelphia, and the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

Additional funding was received from the Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial, David and Kim Adler, National Endowment for the Humanities, PA The Great American Getaway, Connolly Foundation, Nancy and Morris W. Offit, Richard C. von Hess Foundation, Comcast NBCUniversal, and Bank of America.

*The Declaration's Journey* was also made possible by Vicki and Chris Le Vine, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, 1830 Family Foundation, George Ahern, Dick and Sally Brickman, The Davenport Family Foundation, Charles and Valerie Diker, Daniel DiLella and Monica Duvall DiLella, George C. & Esther Ann McFarland Foundation, Momentum Telecom, Lanny and Ann Patten, Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company, Rosalind and Mark Shenkman, the Gordon and Llura Gund 1993 Foundation, Cynthia L. Johnson, John and Ellen Jumper, and Margot Perot.

In-kind support was provided by the Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Virtual Curation Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University, and the Family of Irvin and Anita Schorsch.

**Military clothing** (right) worn by Mexican Revolutionaries Vicente Guerrero, José María Morelos y Pavón, and Mariano Matamoros y Guridi, as well as a military drum, on loan from the Museo Nacional de Historia in Mexico.

**A traveling trunk** owned by pathbreaking Korean immigrant Philip Jaisohn, who fought for Korean independence from Japan. The trunk is on loan from the Jaisohn Memorial House in Media, Pennsylvania.

**A copy of the Treaty of Watertown**, which was signed by ten Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqiyik (also called Maliseet) tribal representatives and became the first international treaty to refer to the independent United States, on loan from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University.

**A stone fragment** (right) from the General Post Office where Patrick Pearse read out the Proclamation

of the Irish Republic on April 24, 1916, inciting the Easter Rising, on loan from the National Museum of Ireland.

A scrapbook of newspaper clippings and notes **created by Abraham Lincoln** in preparation for his debates with Stephen A. Douglas in 1858, which includes handwritten brackets around a passage from the Declaration of Independence, on loan from the Library of Congress.

**A flag signed by artist Gilbert Baker**, which is an example of his initial design of the rainbow flag that has become a symbol of gay pride, on loan from Mark Segal. It is displayed alongside a piece of the ceiling from the Stonewall Inn, on loan from the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center.

See page 16 for a behind-the-scenes look on how we brought this ambitious exhibition to life.

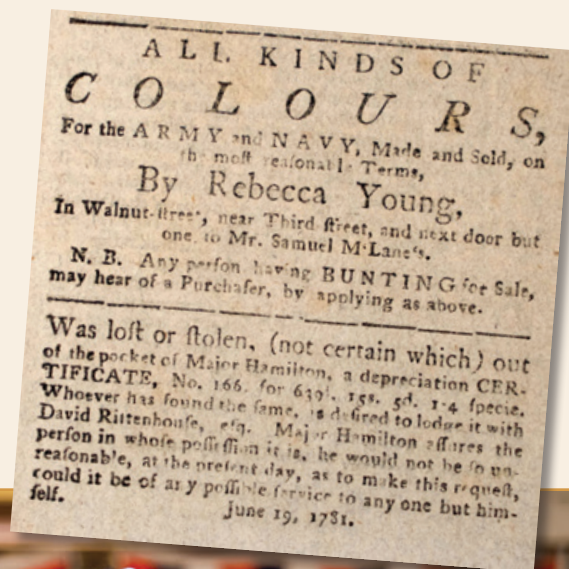


## Made by Philadelphia: Supplying the Revolution

APRIL 10 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2027

In the spring and summer of 2027, the Museum of the American Revolution will celebrate its 10th anniversary, as well as the ongoing 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, with a special exhibition that explores how people of the Philadelphia region supported and supplied the fight for independence through trades, craft, and industry. The Revolutionary War was hard-fought by soldiers on the battlefield, but they were armed through the labor of gunsmiths, outfitted by the hands of tailors and shoemakers, fueled by the sustenance of farmers, and healed by the expertise of surgeons. The ideology of the cause was disseminated through typeset laid by printers and made visible by the symbols stitched by flagmakers. Throughout the war, people used their crafts and trades as evidence of unity and resistance. *Made by Philadelphia* will present the contributions of Revolutionary Philadelphians who were integral to securing American victory with their skilled hands and minds.

The exhibition will bring craftsmanship to life by featuring an immersive, real-time creation of Washington's headquarters tent. Presented in a recreated workshop, guests will witness and interact with costumed interpreters as they construct an additional reproduction of the Museum's most treasured object.



# Loyalists: Americans Against the Revolution

NOVEMBER 6, 2027 - SEPTEMBER 4, 2028

Not all Americans wanted the Revolution. Beginning in the fall of 2027, the Museum will present a major exhibition exploring the lives of those who remained loyal to Britain. It will be the first large-scale, United States-based exhibition in nearly 50 years dedicated to Loyalist stories — white, Black, and Native American — and to show how the Revolution was not only a struggle for independence but also a civil war that fractured families and communities.



Metropolitan Museum of Art

From enslaved people who sought freedom through the British Army, to Native nations struggling to preserve sovereignty, to families forced to leave their homes and rebuild new lives in Canada, visitors to the exhibition will encounter the varied motivations of Loyalists. Loyalists saw independence as reckless and dangerous,

and many believed the British Empire provided greater stability and liberty than any new American experiment could promise. Others, particularly enslaved people and Native nations, saw allegiance to Britain as a more pragmatic path to freedom or sovereignty.

Through artifacts, works of art, documents, maps, and immersive storytelling, the exhibition will uncover the diversity of Revolutionary-era experiences and challenge the traditional narrative of “liberty versus tyranny.” It will illustrate how both Revolutionaries and Loyalists claimed to champion liberty — offering guests a more nuanced and empathetic view of the era.

At its core, the exhibition explores enduring human dilemmas: the struggle to decide what to stand for, the challenge of preserving families and communities when loyalties divide, and the reality of neighbors finding themselves on opposite sides of a conflict. These were lived realities of the Revolutionary War, and they remain relevant today.

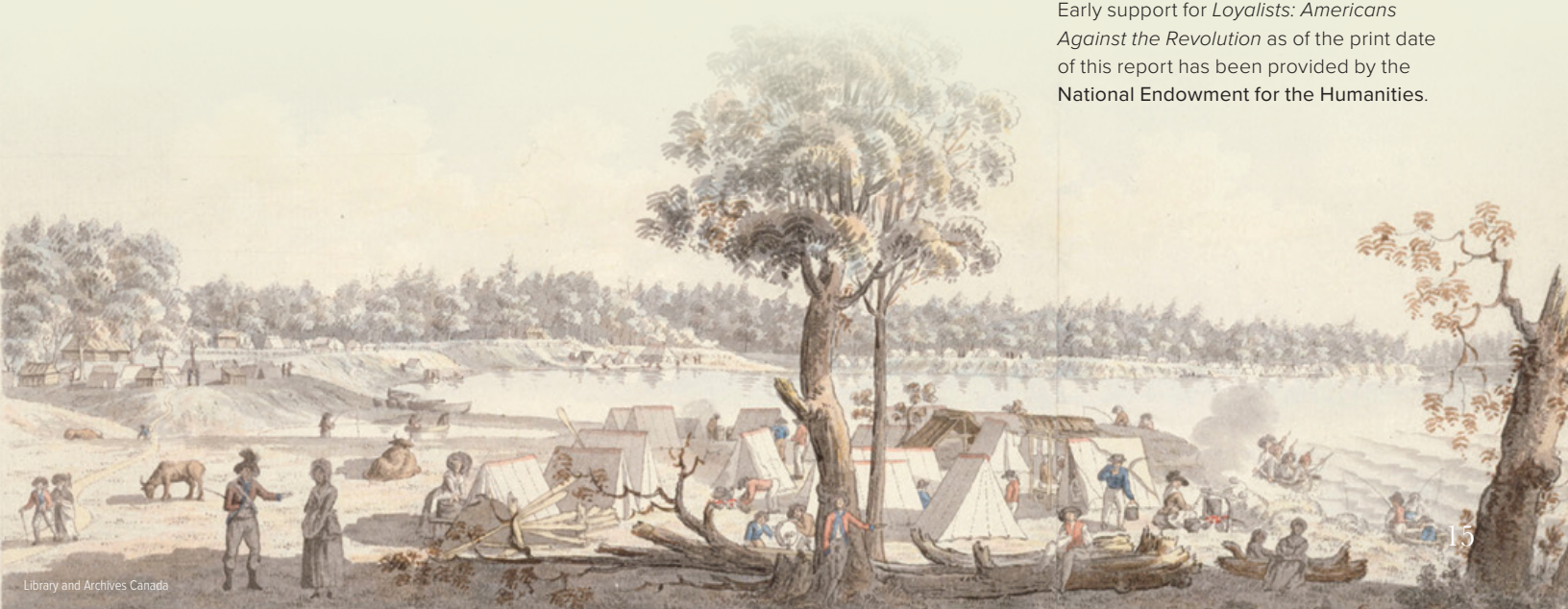


Museum of the American Revolution

*Loyalists* builds directly on the Museum’s mission to uncover and share a more complete, multifaceted story of America’s founding. Opening following *The Declaration’s Journey*, it will serve as a compelling complement — reminding visitors that the Revolution was never a story of unanimous agreement, but one of dissent, division, and debate.

Under the curatorial leadership of Matthew Skic, Director of Collections and Exhibitions, and guidance from Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Alan Taylor and a distinguished scholarly advisory committee, the Museum will bring together the latest scholarship, new research, and extraordinary artifacts from collections in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Visitors will leave with a deeper appreciation for the Revolution’s complexity and the ways its legacies continue to shape life today.

Early support for *Loyalists: Americans Against the Revolution* as of the print date of this report has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities.





# HOW THE MUSEUM PREPARED *for* 2026

**A** preeminent special exhibition. The most robust slate of programming mounted so far in our history. Building updates that greatly enhance the visitor experience. Partnership opportunities that broaden the Museum's reach locally, nationally, and internationally. And we're just getting started.

The Museum of the American Revolution began preparing for this moment — that is, the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation, or the Semiquincentennial — shortly after we opened. And now, it's here. The Museum entered into 2026 well-prepared and well-positioned to welcome and engage more visitors, deepen the impact of our onsite and digital storytelling, and further our educational mission at a time when many Americans will spend time celebrating and reflecting on the Revolutionary era.

Find out more about the Museum's efforts as we pull back the curtain and share how we brought several facets of this exciting year to fruition.



## Starting *The Declaration's Journey*

What goes into securing more than 100 loaned artifacts from 50 private and institutional lenders across the world? What goes into planning, designing, and mounting a 5,000-square-foot Museum exhibition using every object case, every wall, every minute, and every spare hand you have available? Just ask the team behind the Museum's current special exhibition, *The Declaration's Journey*, presented by Griffin Catalyst. Whether from the full-time staff, the guest curatorial team, or external consultants, the answer is years of preparation, extremely hard work, many emails, a lot of perseverance, and a bit of luck.

Opened on Oct. 18, 2025, and on view

through Jan. 3, 2027, *The Declaration's Journey* showcases how the words of the Declaration have inspired hundreds of political revolutions and civil rights movements, making it one of the most influential documents in modern history.

Nearly six years of work by a team of guest curators, made up of Dr. Philip C. Mead, the Museum's former Chief Historian and Curator, Dr. Emily Sneff, and Dr. Amy Noel Ellison, guided the project. Museum Director of Collections and Exhibitions Matthew Skic, who served as Project Director, led the team that im-

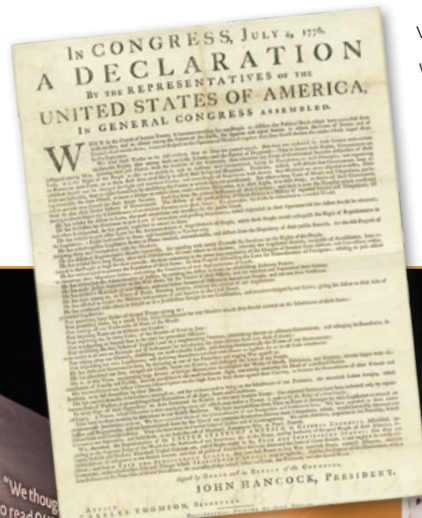
plemented the curators' vision. The exhibition was designed by Roger Westerman Design LLC and all graphic

design was completed by the Museum's Art Director Rebecca Boone Phipps. A new five-minute film was created for the installation by long-time collaborators Donna Lawrence Productions.

The exhibition's expansiveness, as well as its international focus, has proven it to be the Museum's most ambitious undertaking so far in our history.

"Such a complex exhibition requires creative thinking," Skic said. "We faced challenges about the flow of the story, how to keep visitors engaged, and how to convey the drama of different rights and independence movements."

After being named Director of Collections and Exhibitions, Skic and his team, alongside the guest curatorial



The National Archives of the United Kingdom



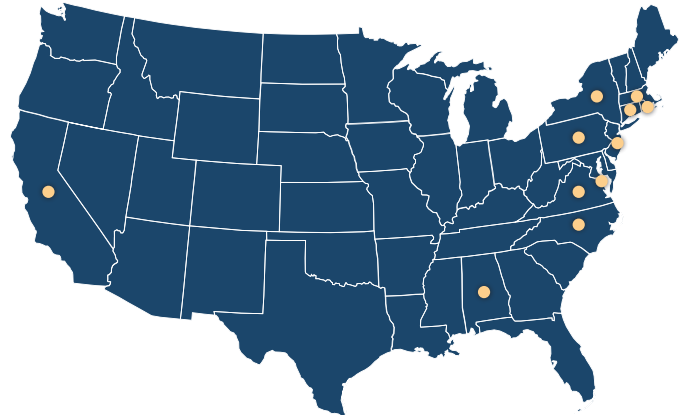
**LOANS CAME FROM:**



**6 countries**  
 Chile      Ireland      UK  
 France      Mexico      USA

**11 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.**

- |               |                |                  |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Alabama       | New Jersey     | Rhode Island     |
| California    | New York       | Virginia         |
| Connecticut   | North Carolina | Washington, D.C. |
| Massachusetts | Pennsylvania   |                  |



team and other consultants, set out to chase down and solidify outstanding loan prospects, create final concepts, scripts, and designs for the exhibition, and, finally, make it all a reality. Lenders ranged from national libraries of other countries to small, local institutions, but each and every loan became important to showcasing the Declaration’s journey.

“The exhibition tells the story of the Declaration of Independence through the stories of people across the globe over the past 250 years,” Skic said. “The artifacts, documents, and works of art on display are tangible connections to those stories, evidence of the Declaration’s impact.”

Installation for the exhibition and the transformation of the Museum’s Patriots Gallery began in late August following the closing of *Banners of Liberty*. At that time, loans were also still being finalized, including the watershed international artifact that traveled the longest distance to be a part of *The Declaration’s Journey*: the printing press used to launch Chile’s first newspaper and, in turn, its

independence movement from Spain, on loan from Biblioteca Nacional de Chile (National Library of Chile). The exhibition team was also taking steps never-before-seen in previous special exhibitions, like building the Declaration Theater to house a dynamic video presentation, or welcoming an unprecedented number of couriers from other institutions to oversee the arrival, and sometimes installation, of loaned objects.

“I am so proud of the Collections and Exhibitions team for the pride they took in their work and their commitment to detail,” Skic said. “The result is an inspiring and nationally significant contribution to the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.”

Hugely beneficial to complicated installations like this, the Museum has the ability to handle most of its mount-making in house through the expertise of Exhibition Specialist and Preparator Xander Karkruff, as well as a contract fabricator hired to help her with *The Declaration’s Journey*. Karkruff created

dozens of mounts and managed important behind-the-scenes work like installing temporary walls, fitting cases, and even helping with object transport.

Though the work continues throughout the Semiquincentennial with educator training, object rotations, programmatic tie-ins, and many, many turns of fragile pages to negate longterm light exposure, the Museum — through this dedicated Collections and Exhibitions team — has truly given Americans something to celebrate and remember for 2026.

“*The Declaration’s Journey* will be remembered for years to come,” Skic said. “It reflects the work of many hands, and it is the product of the latest thinking in exhibition design and historical scholarship.”

*Special thanks to the exhibition’s scholarly advisory committee. Their valuable insights guided this project: Danielle S. Allen, David R. Armitage, Linda Colley, Spencer Crew, Julia Gaffield, Eliga Gould, and Jane Kamensky.*

## INSIDE THE INSTALLS

Which objects from *The Declaration's Journey* are the most memorable for the Collections and Exhibitions team? Here are some of the details that will make you look twice at these loaned artifacts on your next visit to the Museum:

### “A Declaration of Liberty by the Representatives of the Slave Population of the United States of America”

**From the exhibition:** Abolitionist John Brown prepared this declaration on behalf of the enslaved population of the United States. Brown's son Owen wrote it on sheets of paper that were glued to a long piece of cloth and rolled around a wooden rod, like a scroll. John Brown used the structure and language of the Declaration of Independence to describe the horrors of slavery and argue for the rights of enslaved people.

**From the team on installation:** “The scroll is definitely my favorite object in the exhibition. When paper is rolled up for a really long time, it wants to hold the shape that it's in. I felt like trying to flatten it wasn't a good idea because that would put stress on the creases in the paper. So, I tried to keep it at as much of a natural curve as it wanted to be in. I drew a plan for the mount and then took a sheet of acrylic, heated it up, and bent it into the shape. But it's tricky because it solidifies really quickly if you don't have consistent heat applied to it. ... I was kind of learning how to do that as I went.”

- Xander Karkruff, Exhibition Specialist and Preparator

### French Cannon from Haiti

**From the exhibition:** This French-made bronze cannon likely saw action during the Haitian Revolution. Used to defend a portion of the northeast coast of the French colony of Saint-Domingue (present-day Haiti), the cannon was originally engraved with the French royal coat of arms. That symbol, however, is now mostly illegible. Haitian revolutionaries probably chipped away the French symbol around the time of Haiti's independence.

**From the team on installation:** “I traveled to Fort Ticonderoga for the pickup. I watched how that went with our couriers, Atelier Fine Art Services, so that I could advise on how our staff would get the cannon off the truck and how we would get it into the gallery and get it onto the mount. ... It takes four fully grown people to push it on wheels.”

- Xander Karkruff, Exhibition Specialist and Preparator



### Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Desk

**From the exhibition:** Elizabeth Cady Stanton used this desk in her house in Tenafly, New Jersey, where she lived from 1868 to 1887, and later in her New York City apartment. Stanton was a leader of the women's rights movement alongside Susan B. Anthony, who frequently visited Stanton in Tenafly. Stanton may have used this desk to write correspondence for the National Woman Suffrage Association and to work on the three-volume *History of Woman Suffrage* with Anthony and fellow suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage.

**From the team on installation:** “We had to design a special case for it. We needed something we could slide the desk into. It's not like anything we've used before at the Museum.”

- Keith Minsinger, Collections Manager and Registrar



*“...an inspiring and nationally significant contribution to the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.”*

— Matthew Skic



*The Declaration's Journey* **BY THE NUMBERS**

**500+** More than 500 people were involved in behind-the-scenes work for the exhibition.

**114** The total number of mounts made for the exhibition, with 84 mounts made in-house.

**37** The total number of cases used in the exhibition.

**12** The total number of couriers welcomed to the Museum.

**5,079 miles** Furthest distance traveled by an object was the printing press from Santiago, Chile, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**101** The total number of temporary walls used in the exhibition.

**1,500 pounds** Heaviest object incorporated into the exhibition is the cannon from Fort Ticonderoga (left).

**113** The total number of pages in the exhibition catalog.



## Building a Better Experience

As an anchor institution ready to welcome the influx of visitors to Philadelphia in 2026, the Museum of the American Revolution prepared by investing in enhancements to our already highly engaging visitor experience.

The largest endeavor was the relocation of Revolution Place, the Museum's hands-on family discovery center, from the building's lower level to the first floor in early 2025. Revolution Place brings to life the Museum's lively, diverse Old City neighborhood during the 1700s and invites visitors — especially families with children ages 5-12 — to learn through hands-on exploration. The relocation enhanced and expanded the Museum's offerings to families, and promoted more opportunities for object-focused discovery, intergenerational learning,

and the building of historical empathy among visitors.

To facilitate its relocation, the Museum reduced the square footage of its gift shop from 3,000 square feet to 1,590 square feet. Revolution Place then moved into the vacated 1,300 square foot space on the first floor.

Additional first-floor enhancements included a new digital video wall added to the Museum's Lenfest Myer Theater, which serves as an introductory space and plays an orientation film for guests. The video wall brings 4K resolution enhancements to the space and also increases the Museum's ability to present immersive live performances and host live programs with more flexibility. The Museum added speakers to its Rotunda and Court area, allowing



the ability for background music to be played during Museum hours and for events. Lastly, the Museum added a standalone bathroom to its Café to enhance its offerings as an event and rental space.

*“Revolution Place is a good way for kids to connect with the American Revolution and understand it, [plus] get a little more hands on with history.”*

– Visitor Laura M. of Virginia



## Partnerships Proving Our Value

The Museum sought partnership opportunities to maximize visibility and impact in 2026, both for our special exhibition and for the Museum at large.

### PRODUCT

The Museum partnered with Burpee, a seed company founded in Philadelphia in 1876, on a commemorative seed collection themed around the Declaration of Independence's 250-year milestone. The Declaration Bouquet Collection of five new flowers, each dedicated to an American ideal, features red, white, and blue blooms like "Liberty" cosmos, "Happiness" morning glory, "Independence" gaillardia, "Freedom" verbena, and "Star-Spangled" marigold.



Scan here to purchase.



### MEDIA

The Museum partnered with WHYY, Philadelphia's PBS affiliate, to extend the national reach and impact of *The Declaration's Journey*. A 10-part video series traces the story of the exhibition and explores how the words of our founding document inspired revolutions, challenged injustice, and continue to shape our shared pursuit of equality. The series began airing digitally on Oct. 29, 2025.



Scan here to watch.

The Museum supported the airing of "The American Revolution" on PBS in November 2025 as an official regional sponsor of the series. The Museum also partnered with PBS Learning Media for a March 25, 2026 virtual event exploring *The Declaration's Journey* virtual tour to enhance teacher knowledge, skills, and dynamic pedagogical approaches to the American Revolution as well as inspire excitement and intent to use the Museum's related classroom resources.





AMERICAN REVOLUTI

## HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Museum took part in, and serves as the fiduciary for, The Revolutionary City Collaborative, which is a multi-institution partnership between the Museum and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania (including the Kislak Center for Special Collections and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies), and the American Philosophical Society. In July, the collaborative announced an initial project, The Revolutionary City: A Portal to the Nation's Founding, a digital initiative designed to deepen Americans' understanding of the nation's founding and its enduring legacy, while fostering civil dialogue.



Scan to  
explore  
the portal.

This year, the Museum participated in many events alongside partner institutions in the Historic District, most notably the Red, White, & Blue To-Do, a celebration in its second year, on July 2 featuring festooned decor, concerts, games, extended visitation hours, restaurant specials, and much more. Third Street outside of the Museum served as the site for the Wawa All-American Block Party during the 2025 event.

## CIVIC

The Museum is grateful for the immense interest and generosity of many exhibition sponsors for *The Declaration's Journey*. This includes a significant \$250,000 gift from the City of Philadelphia. "The City of Philadelphia is thrilled to support cultural partners, including the Museum of the American Revolution, who will help make various celebrations across Philadelphia in 2026 successful and exciting for city residents and visitors alike," said Philadelphia City Councilmember Isaiah Thomas in an August 2025 press release for the exhibition.

The Museum partnered with Mount Vernon on a joint, on-site teacher professional development session held March 14, 2026. The Museum also served on the Host Planning Committee and hosted an auxiliary session for the Civic Learning Week National Forum, which took place in Philadelphia March 9-10, 2026.

*"The City of Philadelphia is thrilled to support cultural partners, including the Museum of the American Revolution, who will help make various celebrations across Philadelphia in 2026 successful and exciting for city residents and visitors alike."*

– Isaiah Thomas, Philadelphia City Councilmember



## Programs Emphasizing the Moment

### NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

In early 2026, the Museum launched its new National Leadership Council, a platform for deeply committed partners to play an active role in shaping how the American Revolution is preserved, studied, and shared. Council members' support enables the growth of the Museum's collection, advances research and scholarship, expands educational access, and helps deliver programs that connect diverse audiences to the Revolution's enduring legacy. Members are welcomed into a national community of peers and civic leaders and invited to participate in regional gatherings across the country as well as an annual convening that brings together scholars and historians for a dialogue on topics related to the American Revolution.

The Museum also enhanced Leadership Giving offerings at all levels, expanding opportunities for participation in select National Leadership Council programs and providing a more tailored Museum experience supported by dedicated staff.

To strengthen partnerships with the business community, the Museum introduced a new \$2,500 corporate membership level, providing a more accessible entry point for companies to engage with the Museum. Across all corporate membership tiers, benefits were enhanced to provide elevated experiences like private tours, curatorial presentations at corporate headquarters, executive-level membership benefits, and invitations to select programs and events.



Scan to learn more.



### 2025-2026 READ THE REVOLUTION SPEAKER SERIES

The Museum announced a robust slate of events for its 2025-2026 Read the Revolution Speaker Series, which has brought notable authors and historians to the Museum for lively, facilitated discussions of their work since its opening in 2017. In celebration of the Semiquincentennial, the lineup features some of the most noteworthy contemporary historians and authors of Revolutionary-era scholarship, as well as those whose work highlights and enhances the 250-year legacy of the Declaration of Independence in line with the Museum's special exhibition, *The Declaration's Journey*.



Scan for more details.

### REVOLUTIONARY PHILADELPHIA

Formerly Occupied Philadelphia, the Museum reimaged and rebranded its annual fall living history event starting in 2025. The Revolutionary Philadelphia series provides new people to meet, situations to encounter, and aspects of the American Revolution to explore through the 250th anniversary year of the nation and beyond, portraying the lives of people during corresponding years of the Revolutionary War and showcasing their changes and choices over time.



*“An absolutely outstanding museum  
that brings the Revolutionary War to life  
in a way textbooks never could.”*

– Visitor Korra D.



---

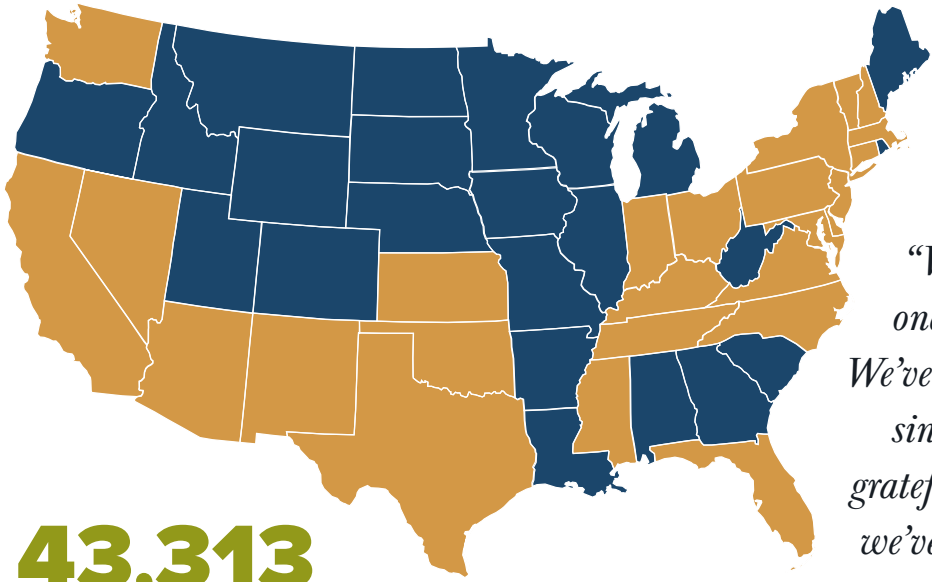
EDUCATION  
*at the Forefront*

The Museum’s vision is to ensure that the promise of the American Revolution endures, and what better way to bring that to fruition than to engage students and teachers from across the nation in our galleries and online, year in and year out. This year, we offered unforgettable in-person experiences as well as robust virtual offerings for educators and learners of all ages in classrooms or in their homes.

This year, we welcomed 43,313 students and chaperones to the Museum from 670 schools across 26 states, as well as France, Poland, and Norway. We also served 1,993 students and teachers from 28 different schools in 15 states and

Australia through our live, interactive online programs. And 11,876 students from 155 schools visited the Museum or participated in virtual online learning opportunities through scholarship support, thanks to The Bergman Foundation, Lisa and Arthur Berkowitz,

Chubb, Connelly Foundation, Fulton Bank, The Haverford Trust Company, KPK Development Co., Jon and Meredith Stevens, Truist Bank, Tompkins Financial Corporation, State Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland, Universal Health Services, and Wawa.



**43,313**

students and chaperones from

**26** states plus international schools from France, Norway, and Poland

*“Visiting your museum is always one of our favorite class trips. We’ve been honored to go every year since you opened and are especially grateful for the scholarship opportunities we’ve received the past few years.”*

– Teacher Nate S.



## DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES

**45,287**  
views

Finding Freedom — the Museum’s most popular online interactive that visitors can also explore in our galleries — gained 45,287 total views this year, an 18.5% increase from last year. In that time, the Museum added the ability for the interactive to be explored through audio, featuring talented voice actors from Virginia, to make it more accessible for a wide range of audiences.

*“Our students were really engaged and amazed by the virtual trip...”*

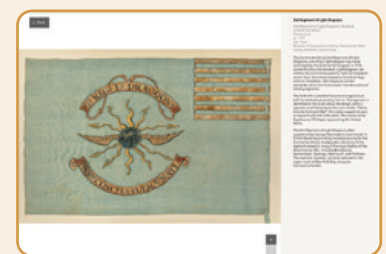
– Teacher Latisha D. on the Thinking Like a Historian virtual program

## Teacher Professional Development

This year, we led eight online teacher professional development workshops for more than 100 educators from 23 states and 61 ZIP codes. This included teachers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Our K-12 education team also brought our workshops to the School District of Philadelphia, the National Council for History Education, American Battlefield Trust, and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.

The team presented six sessions at Mount Vernon’s summer George Washington Teacher Institutes, reaching approximately 150 educators. They also presented and/or tabled at five state social studies conferences, reaching hundreds of teachers, and at the National Council for the Social Studies, reaching 700 teachers.

We thank PwC Charitable Foundation for their support of our teacher resources and professional development workshops.



**3,000+**  
users in five months

The *Banners of Liberty* online exhibit, launched in April 2025 alongside the special exhibition in the Museum, had 9,181 views from 3,209 users in just the five months it was live before the end of the fiscal year.

## Ongoing Educational Programs

### LIVING HISTORY YOUTH SUMMER INSTITUTE FEATURES ITS LARGEST CLASS

Ten students spent their summer interpreting the lives of the diverse people of the Revolutionary era during the Museum's Living History Youth Summer Institute. The six-week intensive course immerses high school and college students in costumed interpretation of enslaved and free people of African ancestry while exploring museum careers. The Summer Institute, which was in its fourth year this past fiscal year, featured its largest class yet with 10 high school and college-aged students — eight of whom were from the Philadelphia area.

Launched in 2022, the Summer Institute aims to cultivate and support a more diverse community of people engaged in the museum field. It is part of the Museum's African American Interpretive Program, sponsored by Comcast NBCUniversal and launched in 2021 to significantly expand the Museum's capacity to develop and deliver programs that explore the lives, experiences, and impact of Revolutionary-era people of African descent.

The students engaged with some of the Museum's most popular programs and offerings, including special exhibition *Banners of Liberty: An Exhibition of Original Revolutionary War Flags*, the Black Voices of the Revolution gallery



highlights tour, and the Museum's Meet the Revolution costumed living history series. They explored topics like historical empathy, service through interpretation, professional development, and wellness through workshops facilitated by Museum staff and guest speakers. The program also included weekly offsite trips to locations including the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, New Jersey; the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum in Skillman, New Jersey; and the Betsy Ross House, Mother Bethel AME Church and Richard Allen Museum, and Historic Germantown in Philadelphia.

The Summer Institute culminated with a free, open-to-the-public capstone experience in which students dressed "in kit" and set up the Museum's replica of George Washington's sleeping and office tent, interpreting alongside Museum staff what life was like for Washington and the soldiers, camp followers, and free and enslaved people who traveled with him on campaign. This year's event took place in West Philadelphia's Clark Park.

Additional support for the Living History Youth Summer Institute was provided by Lawrence and Elyse Benenson and Carolyn Horn Seidle.



*“I feel drawn to being an interpreter.  
It’s great that we hear stories  
we didn’t learn about in school.”*

– High School Participant  
Kaya Dollery via the  
*Philadelphia Sunday Sun*



## REVOLUTION AT THE LIBRARY

The Museum's Revolution at the Library program returned for its fourth year this past summer, engaging elementary-aged kids and their families across the region in the dynamic, diverse stories of the American Revolution. In addition to its continued partnership with the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Camden County Library System, the Museum embraced a new partnership with the Burlington County Library System to expand this year's program to 17 library branches across the region.

Focusing on themes like Life at Sea, Under the Museum, Thinking Like a Historian, and Spies of the Revolution, Museum educators brought dynamic stories of the Revolution to life for young library patrons, incorporating handling objects, replica documents, and puzzles and challenges into each session. In addition to in-library programming, the Museum offered regional field trips from libraries to the Museum; participants and their families received free transportation and admission to continue their

learning. Libraries also received copies of the History Explorers Gazette, which uncovers the history of the Revolutionary era all over the Philadelphia and Camden areas.

This year, 149 students had their curiosity sparked and their families encouraged to learn and develop skills together.

We are grateful to the **Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation** for their support of this program.

## THE FIRST OVAL OFFICE PROJECT

This year, the Museum's Education staff took our First Oval Office Project to: Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland for the 200th anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's 1824-1825 farewell tour of America; Valley Forge National Historical Park's annual March-In; Haddonfield Middle School in New Jersey; Mount Vernon's annual Revolutionary War Weekend; our first Scouts of America (formerly Boy Scouts) Pilgrimage with the Cradle of Liberty Council at Fort Washington State Park; the U.S. Military Academy's (West Point) July 4th Independence Day Celebration, Dey Mansion in Wayne, New Jersey; and U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center's Army Expo 2025 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

We are grateful to **Philip Syng Reese, David Bruce Smith, and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation** for their support of the program this year.





## Everyday Access and Impact

The Museum is committed to making our immersive galleries, rich online content, and powerful, diverse presentation of America's founding story accessible to as many people as possible. Through ongoing initiatives like our free citizenship

classes and our Certified Autism Center (CAC) designation, as well as adding new offerings each and every year, the Museum showcases this commitment every day.

### NEW HISTORY EXPLORERS AUDIO TOUR LAUNCHED

Created with youth ages 7-12 specifically in mind, the History Explorers Audio Tour, launched in 2025, utilizes storytelling and sound effects to help young people more deeply engage with the stories of the diverse people and complex events of the Revolutionary era — captivating their imagination and making learning a memorable adventure.

The History Explorers Audio Tour uses educational best practices, sensory directives, and first-person interpretation of historical figures like King George III, Phillis Wheatley, and even a Liberty Tree, to guide listeners from 1763 and Colonial America through to today. Engaging



young people and families more deeply in the Museum experience impacts the Museum's mission to ensure that the promise of the American Revolution endures.

The audio tour joined an existing, exciting slate of resources and activities available for young people at the Museum, including costumed living history, hands-on learning opportunities, scavenger hunts and family guides, and arts-and-crafts activities.

### RENEWED AS A CERTIFIED AUTISM CENTER

This year, the Museum renewed its Certified Autism Center (CAC) designation, granted by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES). The credential requires IBCCES training and certification of at least 80% of public-facing staff in autism and sensory differences. The recertification demonstrates the Museum's commitment to providing a supportive environment to all guests, including those with autism and other sensory disorders. This accomplishment and many of our other accessibility initiatives is funded through a generous grant from the Gordon and Llura Gund 1993 Foundation.



### 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.

*“My son has autism and struggles with lights and sounds especially. We truly loved your sensory guide ...”*

– Anonymous Visitor

### SUPPORTING CITIZENSHIP

This year, the Museum ran two free Citizenship Initiative virtual courses, which support the growing local and national immigrant population in pursuing American citizenship by preparing them for the United States Naturalization Test. We engaged with students from a variety of countries, including Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Egypt,

El Salvador, Georgia, Hong Kong, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, and Ukraine. The program is funded by William and Valerie Schwartz.

Additionally, dozens of new American citizens from across the globe were naturalized at two ceremonies hosted by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Museum’s Liberty Hall in January and April 2025.



## Providing Access BY THE NUMBERS

**1,606**  
people

visited the Museum free-of-charge using ArtReach ACCESS admission and the Museum’s PECO Family Membership program.

**5,416** visited using library memberships from their local libraries.  
people

**799** 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.  
people

**72** people

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

**1,278** visited using the Blue Star Families program, which offers free admission to military families throughout the summer.  
people

**104** people

visited the Museum this past September through Campus Philly CollegeFest, which offers free museum admission to Philadelphia college students.

## MEET THE REVOLUTION

Throughout the year, the Museum welcomed costumed historical interpreters through our Meet the Revolution series to allow guests to explore the voices, viewpoints, and experiences of diverse people of the Revolutionary era. Hands-on demonstrations, storytelling, and conversations are made available on various weekends to deepen their experience and understanding through meaningful interpretation.

Featured guests included the Ladies Association of Revolutionary America, Leslie Bramlett, Daniel Sieh, Joel Anderson, Kirsten Hammerstrom, Bryan Kennedy, and Emma Cross. Jordan and Kehala Smith joined us under the Native American Interpretive Program, and the African American Interpretive Program was represented by Naomi Glaser and Sky Simeron, the latter a two-time alumna of our Living History Youth Summer Institute.

Meet the Revolution is supported by the Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation.



## THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

Throughout the year, the Museum presented first-person theatrical performances for guests — expanding on the stories of, and building empathy for, the fascinating people and perspectives from the Revolution. This included performances of “Meet Elizabeth Freeman,” which explores the experiences of the Massachusetts woman who successfully sued for her

freedom from enslavement using the language of the state’s new constitution, and helped to set a precedent for the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts. Another performance, “Meet Joseph Plumb Martin,” tells the story of one of the thousands of teenaged soldiers in General George Washington’s army as he considers what’s next at the end of his Revolutionary War service.





Museum Board Member Ray Halbritter, SOAR Award recipient Wes Studi, and Museum President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson.

---

# Programs and Events *to* INSPIRE *and* UNITE Us



Every day at the Museum provides something for visitors to engage with and to remember. But throughout the year, the Museum also illuminates the past for a variety of audiences through captivating living history events, unique after-hours programs, thought-provoking lectures, and more. This year, our programs and events solidified and expanded the Museum’s important role in exploring the ongoing relevance of the American Revolution.

---

## Awards and Celebrations

### HONORING THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

On June 12, 2025, the Museum proudly presented the Lenfest Spirit of the American Revolution Award to **Wes Studi**, internationally acclaimed actor, producer, and musician, whose groundbreaking portrayals of Native American characters have reshaped Hollywood and inspired generations. Studi’s remarkable career — spanning from “Dances with Wolves” and “The Last of the Mohicans” to “Avatar” — has elevated Indigenous stories and perspectives, leaving an enduring impact on film and culture.

The evening’s program featured a special musical performance by **Sky Lakota-Lynch**, Broadway actor and star of the Tony Award-winning musical “The Outsiders,” accompanied by **Greg Kenna**. **CDR John B. Herrington, USN (Ret.)** — an aviator, aquanaut, and the first enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe to fly in space — offered remarks reflecting on courage, exploration, and the enduring pursuit of knowledge. **Dr. R. Scott Stephenson**, President and CEO, led an engaging onstage conversation with Studi prior to presenting the award.

Held in the Museum’s Liberty Hall, the sold-out gala gathered more than 130 guests, including members of the Revolution



Society, George Washington Council, Board of Directors, and the broader Museum community. The event was chaired by Board Member **Ray Halbritter**, Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Turning Stone Enterprises CEO, and co-chaired by **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, **Marguerite Lenfest**, **Brook Lenfest**, **Chase Lenfest**, and **Diane Lenfest Myer**.



## Lectures and Discussions

---

### READ THE REVOLUTION SPEAKER SERIES

Dr. Lindsay M. Chervinsky, Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, joined the Museum with a lecture and discussion on presidential history inspired by her latest book, *Making the Presidency: John Adams and the Precedents That Forged the Republic*.

In *Making the Presidency*, Chervinsky recounts the historical circumstances surrounding the 1796 presidential election, when Americans elected George Washington's two-term vice president, John Adams, but were unsure if the presidency could even succeed without Washington's leadership. Chervinsky revisited Adams's life and legacy as the president who established the democratic value of the peaceful transfer of power and ensured the survival of the American republic.

Author and historian **Dr. Michael D. Hattem** provided a lecture and discussion inspired by his latest

book, *The Memory of '76: The Revolution in American History*. Drawing on his surprising history of how Americans have fought over the meaning and legacy of the American Revolution for nearly 250 years, Hattem discussed the Revolution's unique role in American politics and culture as a national "origin myth." This event was sponsored by **The Haverford Trust Company**.

As the concluding lecture in the 2024-2025 Read the Revolution Speaker Series, Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Rick Atkinson** joined the Museum for a hybrid lecture and discussion inspired by his latest book, *The Fate of the Day: The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780*. This is the second volume in the Revolution Trilogy, narrating a dramatic tale that continues *The British Are Coming*, a No. 1 *New York Times* Bestseller. Atkinson traces battles fought at Brandywine in 1777 to Charleston in 1780, presenting viewpoints from an exhausted Continental Army to a determined King George III

and offering new perspective on an American commitment to the struggle for freedom and demands of democracy. This event was sponsored by **The Haverford Trust Company**.

### DENNIS FARM FORUM

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 a candid conversation on race, history, community, and education during the eighth Lonaé A. Moore Forum on Racial Understanding during Black History Month. This year's theme was "The Declaration of Independence and Equality" and featured **Jeffrey Rosen**, then-President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, and **Martha S. Jones**, a cultural-legal historian and the Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor at The Johns Hopkins University. The Museum's Director of Education and Community Engagement **Adrienne G. Whaley** served as the conversation's moderator.

# GEORGE WASHINGTON *Council*

On Dec. 5, 2024, George Washington Council members joined President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson for the sixth annual George Washington Council Dinner, an extraordinary evening exploring the intersecting lives and legacies of George Washington, Phillis Wheatley, William Lee, and Frederick Douglass. Directed by Tony Award-winning producer and playwright Paul Oakley Stovall and featuring performances and remarks by author and Douglass family descendant Kenneth B. Morris, Jr., Nicole Morris, and Lee Thomas Cortopassi, the program took place in the Alan B. Miller Theater. Following the performance, members gathered for a special dinner in the Oneida Indian Nation Atrium.

The George Washington Council represents the Museum's most significant source of contributed operating support. With more than 100 members, this committed community makes annual gifts of \$5,000 or more, providing resources that sustain core programs, strengthen daily operations, and help spark new initiatives. Named for the General whose dedication and resolve continues to guide our work, the Council brings together philanthropic partners who share a commitment to preserving and interpreting the American Revolution.

The George Washington Council remains a vital source of philanthropic support as the Museum charts its course for the years ahead.



*George Washington Council Dinner guests Sheila Barker and Fred Hagen.*



*Paul Oakley Stovall with Nicole Morris.*



## General Programs



### AMREV PRESENTS: TRASH TALK ARCHAEOLOGY NIGHT

Inspired by the Philly trash reclaimed as treasures during the archaeological dig on its build site in 2014, the Museum presented an after-hours event on March 28, 2025 with special exhibit access, a featured talk, and activities recreating the illegal tavern that once operated on the Museum's street corner.

An exclusive talk by Matt Dunphy and Melissa Dunphy, citizen archaeologists and hosts of "The Boghouse" podcast, with Museum President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, introduced guests to the world-class ceramics discovered during their home renovation project in Philadelphia's Northern Liberties neighborhood, steps away from the city's once-bustling colonial waterfront on the Delaware River. With research connections to the Museum's own archaeological trash, the Dunphys' private collection revealed a global underground network of Revolutionaries, and local talents in sculpting with clay, who may have also frequented the Humphreys' tavern in 1776. Guests were also invited to tour the second-floor curated display of the Museum's archaeological collection in *Trash Tells the Truth: Archaeology at the Museum*.

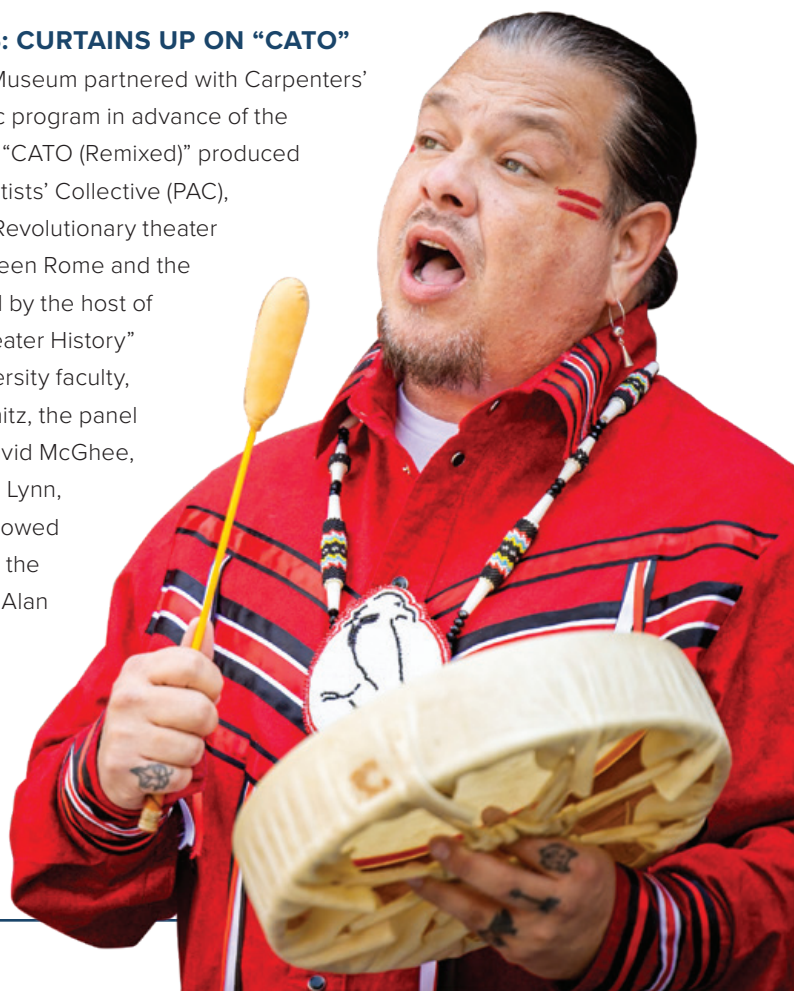
### INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WEEKEND

Visitors explored Native American history and culture during our annual Indigenous Peoples Weekend in October. This included three days of storytelling and participatory performance from the Delaware Tribe of Indians, tabling from Jordan and Kehala Greene Smith of the Mohawk and Tuscarora Nations, and vending from beadwork artist Mary Homer of the Oneida Nation.

Comcast NBCUniversal is the sponsor of the Museum's Native American Interpretive Program.

### AMREV PRESENTS: CURTAINS UP ON "CATO"

On April 9, 2025, the Museum partnered with Carpenters' Hall to present a public program in advance of the May 2025 premiere of "CATO (Remixed)" produced by The Philadelphia Artists' Collective (PAC), for a conversation on Revolutionary theater and connections between Rome and the Revolution. Moderated by the host of the "Adventures in Theater History" podcast, Temple University faculty, and author Peter Schmitz, the panel included Dr. Shawn David McGhee, Dr. Chelsea Phillips, Eli Lynn, and Chaz T. Martin, followed by a Q&A session with the onsite audience in the Alan B. Miller Washington's War Tent Theater at the Museum of the American Revolution.





### OCCUPIED PHILADELPHIA

The Museum's signature fall living history event, Occupied Philadelphia, took place over Veterans Day weekend this fiscal year. Dozens of costumed interpreters helped immerse over 1,000 guests in a recreation of the British occupation of Philadelphia. Walking tours, spy challenges, street theater vignettes, and more encouraged guests of all ages and backgrounds to ask questions and explore. Highlights included the bustling market on the Museum's Plaza, a British military encampment behind Carpenters' Hall, and the return of alumni of the Living History Youth Summer Institute as costumed participants in the event. We are grateful to **American Heritage Credit Union** for their annual sponsorship of this event.

### MAKERS OF REVOLUTIONARY PHILADELPHIA LIVING HISTORY DAY

Over a dozen historical tradespeople joined visitors at the Museum on May 17, 2025, to demonstrate 18th-century skills and trades such as shoemaking, breadmaking, corn husk doll making, and more. Once again this year, young and young-at-heart visitors received a History Explorers passport to gather themed stamps from each maker and could show their filled passport to receive a special gift.



### PRIDE MONTH PROGRAMMING

This past June for Pride Month, The Museum of the American Revolution featured a new outdoor walking tour, as well as a special artifact display and in-gallery programming. We launched a 60-minute walking tour in our Old City Philadelphia neighborhood exploring the revolutionary story of the self-proclaimed Public Universal Friend, a nonbinary leader of a new religion in the 1770s.

In the Museum's second-floor Oneida Indian Nation Atrium and Core Exhibition, special object displays also called attention to Baron von Steuben and Deborah Sampson. A highlight of the display was Philadelphia artist John Y. Wind's sculpture of von Steuben, which explores issues of masculinity, heroism, diversity, and the very notion of commemoration through a 21st century lens.

## PATH OF LIBERTY: THAT WHICH UNITES US

The Museum partnered with the Soloviev Foundation and Donna Lawrence Productions this past summer to create the film “Out of Many...” as part of the introduction

to the *Path of Liberty: That Which Unites Us* installation in New York City.

Spanning over six acres on Manhattan’s East Side from 38th to 41st Street on

First Avenue and designed by multi-specialty creative studio C&G Partners, *Path of Liberty: That Which Unites Us* offered an immersive journey through 250 years of American history, highlighting the nation’s progress, challenges, and triumphs.

The outdoor experience was created by filmmaker, director, and producer Daniella Vale through 41 large-scale screens that feature breathtaking photographs and compelling audio interviews of individuals from various racial, ethnic, social, and professional backgrounds whose personal testimonies represent a rich cross-section of American life.



## Engaging Audiences **BY THE NUMBERS**

**150%**  
increase

We welcomed 27,500 visitors to our family-friendly discovery center, Revolution Place, this year for storytelling, living history performances, and craft activities. This is a 150% increase in visitation from last year, largely due to the relocation of the center to the Museum’s first floor.

**#6** The Museum is listed #6 among museums in Philadelphia on TripAdvisor.com and #2 among the 35 history museums in the city.

*“Best museum in Philly hands down. Incredible experience for all ages.”*  
– Visitor Lee P.

**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.



---

# MAXIMIZING AWARENESS

## *Within the Digital Landscape*



**F**rom launching an interactive feature that unfolds little-known details of the experiences of the Continental Army, to ensuring an optimized, engaging visitor experience across our digital channels, we continue to enhance potential visitation and deepen the Museum’s digital storytelling with our online efforts. This allows the Museum’s compelling content and unique mission to resonate outside of our walls and reach across the globe.

### PROOF OF SERVICE

This year, after months of research and technical work, the Museum launched an online interactive feature highlighting the Samuel Gerock collection, which was generously donated to the Museum by his descendants in 2023. “Proof of Service” allows users to explore these rare wartime papers, which serve as a window into the politics of the Continental Army in its early days as it grew into a professional fighting force. Users can read transcriptions, access hi-res, annotated photography, and learn more about Gerock’s service in 1776 and 1777, as well as his post-war life.

Born in Pennsylvania, but living in Maryland in 1776, Gerock received a lieutenant’s commission in the German Regiment.

In the fall of 1776, Gerock marched north to join his regiment and the rest of General George Washington’s struggling army following a series of defeats in New York. Gerock took part in the Second Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Princeton in early January 1777, two victories that helped the American Revolution survive its darkest hour.

In 1818, then an elderly veteran, Gerock applied for financial assistance from the federal government in recognition of his Revolutionary War service. He brought with him wartime papers that he held on to for decades, kept in the folds of a wallet made from a drumhead played by one of his comrades.



His papers also provide valuable information about little-known battles that took place in New Jersey in 1777 as part of a “Forage War” between the British and the Revolutionaries — information now available to anyone through the interactive.



Scan here to  
explore the  
interactive.

## MAJOR AWARDS THIS YEAR

#5 in USA TODAY's poll of the 10 Best History Museums in the country



Gold-level Philadelphia Inquirer 2025 Philly Favorites Award for Best Attraction



Gold-level Philadelphia Inquirer 2025 Philly Favorites Award for Best Place to Take Visitors



Silver-level Philadelphia Inquirer 2025 Philly Favorites Award for Best Museum



The Philadelphia Business Journal recognized Director of Collections and Exhibitions Matthew Skic for its 2025 40 Under 40 Award



## RENEWED FOCUS ON VIDEO

In February 2025, the Museum's Marketing team welcomed a new videographer, Christine Walden. Christine brought with her a wealth of knowledge about video production and editing, having worked for several years in public television.

Christine's work has helped broaden the reach and impact of the Museum's owned and paid media channels, most notably YouTube, as well as allowed for new installments of lauded video series such as the Pension Project. The Museum produced 20 YouTube videos



this year that have been viewed nearly 800,000 times. Christine's videos have also been utilized for paid social media and out-of-home advertising.



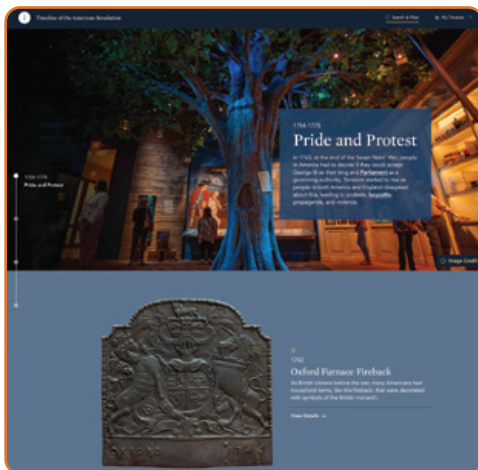
Explore our YouTube channel.

## OPTIMIZING WITH ALGOLIA

The Museum implemented a more robust internal website search solution called Algolia in January 2025. Algolia uses its algorithm to understand user intent and to improve the user experience by better serving relevant content in the search bar. Since launch, Algolia has generated over 2 million search requests on the Museum's website.



## Digital Initiatives BY THE NUMBERS



**2,632,776** pageviews

This year, 1,110,887 users visited our website, AmRevMuseum.org, to plan their visit and explore our educational resources, totaling 2,632,776 pageviews.

**22,676** users

Our Multimedia Timeline of the American Revolution has had 135,228 pageviews from 22,676 unique users this year.

**717,324** pageviews

Our 360-degree, immersive Virtual Museum Tour has had 717,324 pageviews from 57,005 users this year, accounting for 27% of total website traffic.



## Top Instagram post

The British were back for Occupied Philadelphia 2024. We put a musical spin on promotion of the event by pairing Redcoats and British references with classic albums. The post had nearly 2,000 engagements, including comments and shares.

## Top Facebook post

We used the copy of Joseph Plumb Martin's memoir in the Museum's collection to mark the date Martin died and share more about his service in the Revolutionary War. This post received nearly 60,000 impressions and 5,500 engagements, including 121 comments and almost 250 shares.

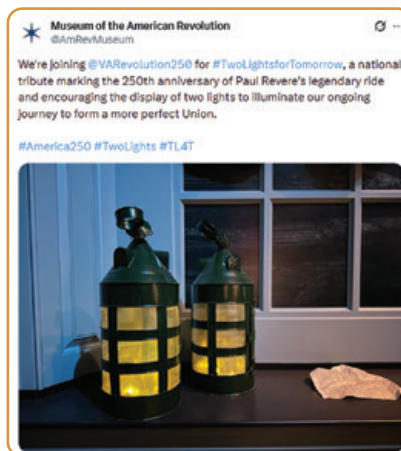


## Top Instagram Reel

We also use our social channels to shout out neighbors and partners, like the newly opened Revolutionary-era tavern, A Man Full of Trouble, located just blocks away from the Museum. We put together a Reel showing Museum staffers in kit visiting the tavern and highlighting its offerings and museum space, which had 18,000 views and nearly 2,000 engagements.

## Top YouTube video (paid)

Our *Banners of Liberty Behind-the-Scenes* video posted in advance of, and to drum up excitement for, the exhibition opening garnered the most YouTube views of any video this year. It received 313,925 views supported by advertising budget, and over 3,000 hours of watch time.



## Top X post

The Museum participates in online initiatives with partners and other stakeholders, such as the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission, which organized a national tribute marking the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's legendary ride and the start of America's journey toward independence by inviting other cultural institutions to post a picture of two lanterns. Our post participating in the initiative had 11,500 impressions and more than 1,000 engagements.

# 138,480 followers

Our dynamic social media presence continues to grow by the day with nearly 140,000 followers across social platforms. This year, our social posts made 17,584,077 impressions and received 242,051 engagements.

The Museum uses its social media channels to provide educational information and entertainment to our highly engaged audience, as well as bring our expansive collection and unique interpretation to life outside of our galleries. In addition to promoting Museum events and news, social media also allows the Museum to contribute to relevant cultural conversations and events.

# Growing and Showcasing our ESTEEMED COLLECTION



From the thousands of artifacts uncovered through the archaeological dig on the Museum's build site over a decade ago, to the dozens more objects, documents, and works of art routinely acquired thanks to the generosity of supporters and donors like you, the Museum's collection is growing all the time. And we love to show it off. Learn more about what was added to our collection this year, and how we rotated objects or installed special displays to give visitors reasons to return to the Museum again and again.

## Objects on View

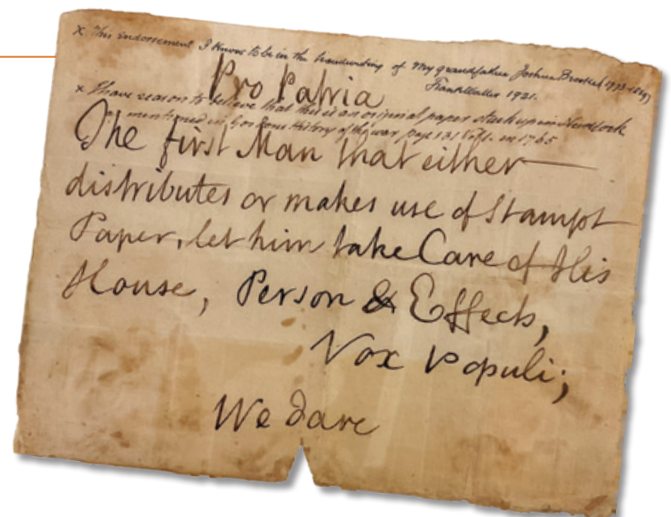
### MEMORIAL DAY DISPLAY

Created in the aftermath of the American Civil War (1861-1865), Memorial Day has come to stand as a day of remembrance for America's fallen soldiers in all of its wars. The Museum takes the opportunity annually to remember Revolutionary War soldiers' sacrifices through special installations and programming. This year, the Museum displayed the sword of George Wilson, a Continental Army officer who died during his military service; a certificate of service for Sam Hallows, a Continental soldier who died at an army hospital in 1778; and a receipt of provisions for the family of Jonas Sunsamon, an American Indian soldier of the Nipmuc people who died in service of the United States.

### "WE DARE"

From late May to November 2025, a rare note related to the Stamp Act was on view in the Museum's core galleries alongside more objects bearing political slogans from the protests of the 1760s and early 1770s. The note was on loan courtesy of Kenneth C. Griffin.

In October 1765, this note and dozens more like it were posted around New York City in protest of the Stamp Act. The author of this small paper openly threatened those who complied with the tax. They signed it with the Latin phrase "Vox Populi" — which translates



to "voice of the people" — and boldly concluded with the words "We dare." Likely penned by a member of the Sons of Liberty, this note is an early act of open defiance against the British Crown.

## ONE FAMILY'S TRASH IS NOW MUSEUM TREASURE

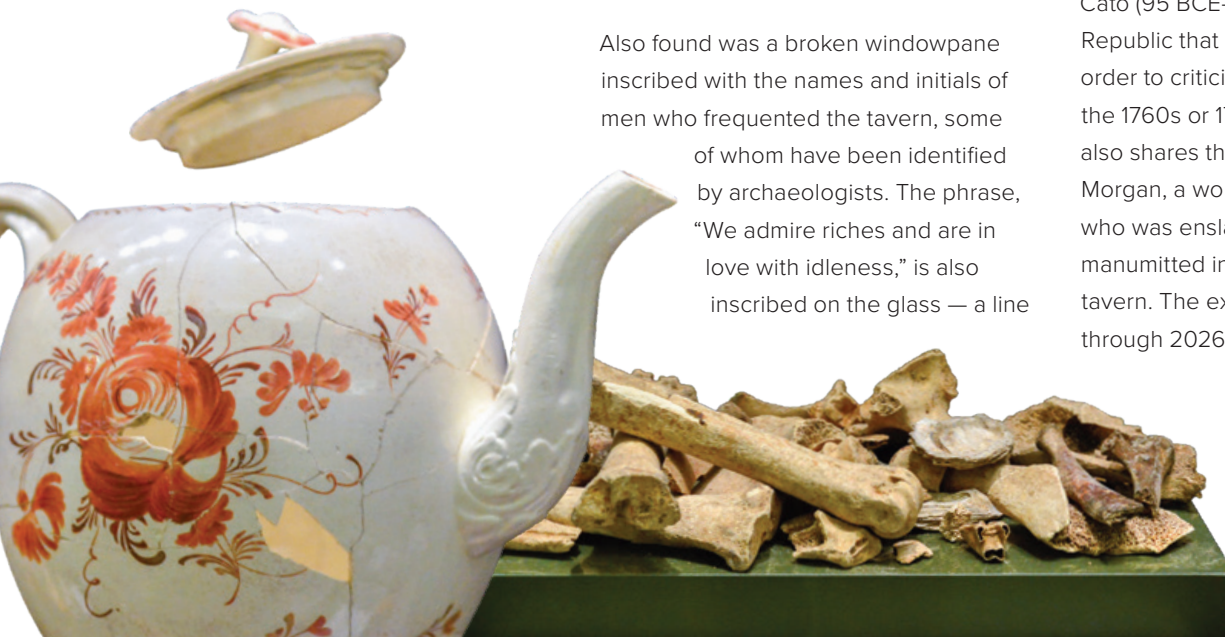
*Trash Tells the Truth: Archaeology at the Museum* features a selection of the thousands of artifacts uncovered at the dig site of the Museum in 2014 — specifically, within the privy of an 18th-century unlicensed tavern run by Quakers Benjamin and Mary Humphreys.

These items are now the precious artifacts that provide a glimpse into the social dynamics and political choices of the Humphreys family and the employees and patrons of their tavern. Nearly 375 ceramic vessels were found in the privy, including one punchbowl that was revealed through analysis to be the earliest known example of American-made hard-paste porcelain.

Also found was a broken windowpane inscribed with the names and initials of men who frequented the tavern, some of whom have been identified by archaeologists. The phrase, “We admire riches and are in love with idleness,” is also inscribed on the glass — a line



based on a speech by Marcus Porcius Cato (95 BCE-46 BCE) of the Roman Republic that may have been chosen in order to criticize British tyranny during the 1760s or 1770s. *Trash Tells the Truth* also shares the story of Quansheba Morgan, a woman of African descent who was enslaved by the Humphreys, manumitted in 1776, and worked in the tavern. The exhibit will remain on display through 2026.



### Digging Deep

In 2014, three years before opening, the Museum of the American Revolution conducted one of the largest archaeological digs in Philadelphia's history. The dig at the site of the future museum uncovered thousands of artifacts that illuminate the stories of this neighborhood's past residents.

Archaeologists labeled one section of the excavation, the site of a privy (outhouse), as "Feature 16." The volume of artifacts found in that privy prompted an investigation of archival records by the archaeologists. Their research revealed that the privy was connected to an unlicensed, illegal tavern run by Quakers Benjamin and Mary Humphreys. The Humphreys family lives at the site beginning in the summer of 1776 and employed a formerly enslaved woman of African descent named Quansheba Morgan, whom Benjamin Humphreys used earlier that year.

The Humphreys privy was more than just a toilet; with no modern trash service in the city, the family and their patrons often used the privy as a receptacle for household waste and broken ceramics, glassware, and other discarded items. The artifacts found in "Feature 16," provide a glimpse into the social dynamics and political choices of the Humphreys family and the employees and patrons of their tavern.

The artifacts displayed here all came from the Humphreys privy. Once considered trash, they reveal the truth about life in a revolutionary city.



### Benjamin and Mary Humphreys Quaker Tavern Keepers

Free to the archaeological site, little was known about Benjamin and Mary Humphreys. The artifacts found during the excavation, particularly a large amount of drinking vessels typically associated with unlicensed taverns, provided further research into their story.

The Humphreys family purchased a house from demolished on a plot on the future site of the Museum in July 1776, just a couple days after the final public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Benjamin was employed as a coffee, a maker of brown and other types of bread. Within several days, the Humphreys and Mary opened their home as a tavern, a gathering place for locals and travelers that served alcoholic beverages and food. Tavern keeping was a direct contradiction to the Quakers' religious convictions, which opposed consumption of alcohol in excess and any behavior Benjamin and Mary, however, considered their tavern "legally without a required government license."

Mary's involvement in the tavern led to her arrest in 1782. Although she was found "guilty of keeping a disorderly house," it is unclear if Mary and Benjamin were both keeping a tavern. She and Benjamin remained at their home for the rest of their lives. Benjamin died in 1794, and Mary died in 1802 at the age of 92.



### Quansheba Morgan A Formerly Enslaved Woman

Benjamin and Mary Humphreys were part of a growing number of Quakers in Philadelphia who began to manumit freed the enslaved people they owned due in part to a rising anti-slavery movement. In May 1776, Benjamin Humphreys, in front of his fellow Quakers at a meeting, declared his decision to manumit Quansheba Morgan, the enslaved woman of African descent Humphreys owned.

Quansheba played an important role in the Humphreys household and business. After giving her freedom from Benjamin Humphreys, Quansheba remained with the family and assisted Mary in the tavern. Serving food and drinks, and cleaning up after guests, Quansheba was busy tending with throwing broken tavern wares and food scraps into the privy. Prior to his death in 1794, Benjamin wrote in his will that Quansheba should "continue and supported out of my Estate during her life."



# Newly Acquired Objects

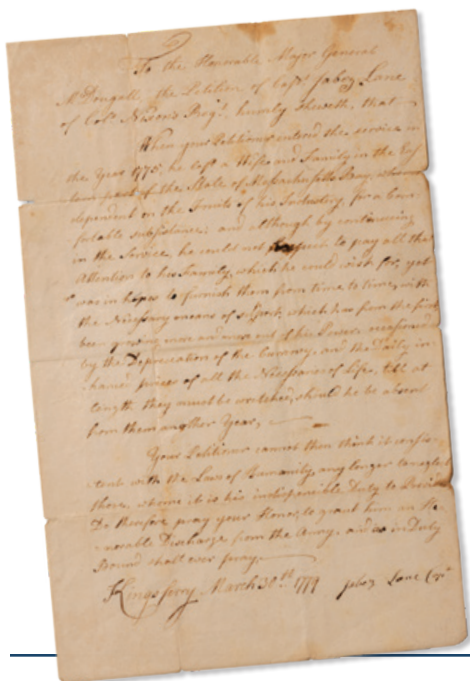
## DONATIONS

### Manuscript Memoir of William Hunter

William Hunter was the son of a British Army soldier and grew up as a camp follower alongside his father during the American Revolutionary War. He later wrote this memoir about his experiences after settling in the new United States. The manuscript copy of the memoir was donated by Rita McWilliams in honor of Louise Jameson McWilliams and Louise Jameson Highby.

### Letter Written by Captain Jabez Lane to Major General Alexander McDougall, March 30, 1779 (below)

This newly acquired letter written by Captain Lane of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment requested an honorable discharge from the Continental Army so Lane could return to his family and home after years of faithful military service. The letter was donated with pride by Lauren Ivy (Lane) Muise and George Henry Lane III, fourth great-grandchildren; Christine (Muise) Alsaraby, Stephanie (Muise) Herbert and Daniel, fifth great-grandchildren; as well as Adam and Noah Alsaraby and all future sixth great-grandchildren of Captain Jabez Lane.



### “Vue de Philadelphie” Print (above)

This imagined view of the Philadelphia harbor was produced by German engravers Franz Xavier Habermann and Balthasar Friedrich Leizelt in 1778. Bearing more similarities to a European port city than a North American waterfront, Habermann and Leizelt may have had little access to depictions of American landscapes and instead drew inspiration from their own surroundings. Known as a *vue de optique*, or “perspective view,” this type of print became three-dimensional when viewed in an optical device called a zograscope. Popular in Europe, these prints provided visual entertainment through dynamic sight lines and colorful scenery. This print is a gift of Richard H. Brown.

### Anspach-Bayreuth Sword (above)

This sword bears the coat of arms of Margrave (or Prince) Christian Friedrich Karl Alexander of Anspach-Bayreuth. Soldiers from the principality began arriving in America in 1777 and took part in campaigns around New York, Philadelphia, Rhode Island, and Virginia. This sword is a gift of Don Trolani.

*“Stunning collection that is interesting and vibrant. Diverse displays and short films walk you through the American Revolution with countless intriguing stories, scenes, and artifacts.”*

– User nowpacking on TripAdvisor



**Pair of Silver Salt Cellars made by Edmund Milne** (above)

Philadelphia silversmith Edmund Milne produced this pair of ornate silver salt cellars in the mid-1760s. In addition to his own work with precious metals, Milne retailed imported British silver and jewelry until he signed Philadelphia's non-importation agreement in October 1765. With this agreement, Milne aligned himself with much of Philadelphia's artisan community to boycott the sale of British goods. They are a gift to the Museum from Roy J. Zuckerberg and Tara Kelleher.

**Silver Pannikin made by John Leacock** (below)

Philadelphia silversmith John Leacock made this pannikin, also known as a warming pan. Despite the risk to his own business, Leacock joined other artisans in October 1765 to sign a non-importation agreement in protest of the Stamp Act. The pact put economic pressure on Great Britain by refusing to sell British goods in Philadelphia. Leacock played an active role in a local Sons of Liberty group and wrote anti-British satirical plays under the alias "Dick Rifle." The pannikin is a gift of Roy J. Zuckerberg and Tara Kelleher.



# Collections Society

Collections Society members make annual gifts of \$500 or more to support the continued growth of the Museum's renowned collection through acquisition of objects,

art, manuscripts, and printed works representing the full breadth of the Revolutionary era. In appreciation of their commitment, Members are invited to exclusive programs with Museum curators and subject-matter experts. This year, the Collections Society played a pivotal role in enabling several key acquisitions that strengthen and enrich the Museum's holdings.



Gamal Amer and Terri Ventresca  
 Jeanne Asplundh  
 Sue and Eric Baelen  
 Eric Blair-Joannou  
 Kevin and Kristine Boettcher  
 Charles R. Brader  
 Kerry L. Bryan  
 James F. Cawley  
 J. Thomas Chirurg  
 Richard and Victoria Cuneo  
 Maude de Schauensee  
 Matthew Dodds  
 Chuck Downs  
 Eileen and Beverly M. Dubose III

Peggy Duckett and George Drach  
 Collin and Ashley Gleason  
 Linda J. Harris  
 Brian and Barbara Hendelson  
 Hannah Henderson  
 Mark S. and Rachel Herr  
 Harry E. and Louise L. Hill  
 Peter Barton Hutt  
 Roger W. Jacobs  
 Philip S. and Ellen S. Johnson  
 John and Ellen Jumper  
 Robert E. Keith  
 Daniel Kinnamon  
 Kenneth and Catharine Klaus

Michael J. Konowal  
 Marion Lane  
 Anthony Linder and Jessica Sullivan  
 Paul and Mary Lockhart  
 Crawford and Jenice Long  
 Jeff MacDonald  
 John R. Mastrocola  
 Stephen and Robin McBrearty  
 John Francis McFassel  
 David and Dottie Mink  
 Tara and Daniel Mowery  
 Jane and Rick Nowak  
 Philip Syng Reese  
 David Reinhardt

Cornelia C. Schmidt  
 Peggy and Jeff Shaver  
 Ellen Simon  
 George and Esther Skic  
 Danielle and Jason Smereczynski  
 Martha McGeary Snider  
 William and Stephanie Stabert  
 R. Scott and Donna J. Stephenson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thompson III  
 Timothy and Hope Ulrich  
 Glenn F. Williams  
 David and Velva Zarley  
 Jim and Debbie Zug

## PURCHASES ACQUIRED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE COLLECTIONS SOCIETY

### Portrait of a Waldeck Officer

This portrait (below) shows an unidentified officer from the principality of Waldeck. Friedrich Karl August, Prince of Waldeck, raised one regiment to serve in North America alongside the British Army. This newly raised unit, called the 3rd Regiment, fought in New York before being sent to the Gulf Coast of North America. There, many of the soldiers died of disease, while others were killed or captured fighting Spanish troops in what is today Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The portrait is now on view in the Museum's core galleries.



### Sketches of the Life and Character of the Rev. Lemuel Haynes

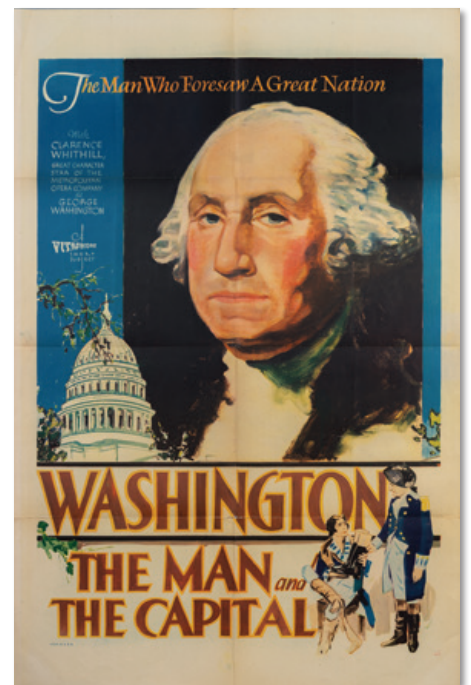
This telling of Lemuel Haynes's life story describes him as "a patriot of the revolution" who fought for equal rights from an early age. In 1776, he quoted from the Declaration of Independence on the title page of his anti-slavery essay, "Liberty Further Extended," which historians consider the earliest known abolitionist response to the Declaration. A soldier, minister, and abolitionist, Lemuel Haynes argued that slavery was hypocritical, immoral, and illegal.

### Washington: The Man and the Capital Poster

In February 1932, the bicentennial of George Washington's birth was celebrated on silver screens across America with the film *Washington: The Man and the Capital*. The movie's dynamic poster uses the piercing stare of Gilbert Stuart's portrait of Washington to attract potential theatregoers to the Vitaphone short, which touched upon key moments of the general's life. Written by Burnet Hershey, the 18-minute film starred opera singer Clarence Whitehill as George Washington.

### Wilkes and Liberty Teapot

This teapot celebrates John Wilkes, a British journalist and politician who was a vocal critic of the King and supporter of American rights. Americans adopted slogans and symbols related to Wilkes on a variety of goods, including this teapot decorated with his name, "Liberty," and "45." The "45" was a reference to the 45th edition of *The North Briton*. In it, Wilkes made what some considered a "seditious and libel[ous]" attack on King George III's 1763 speech at the opening of Parliament.



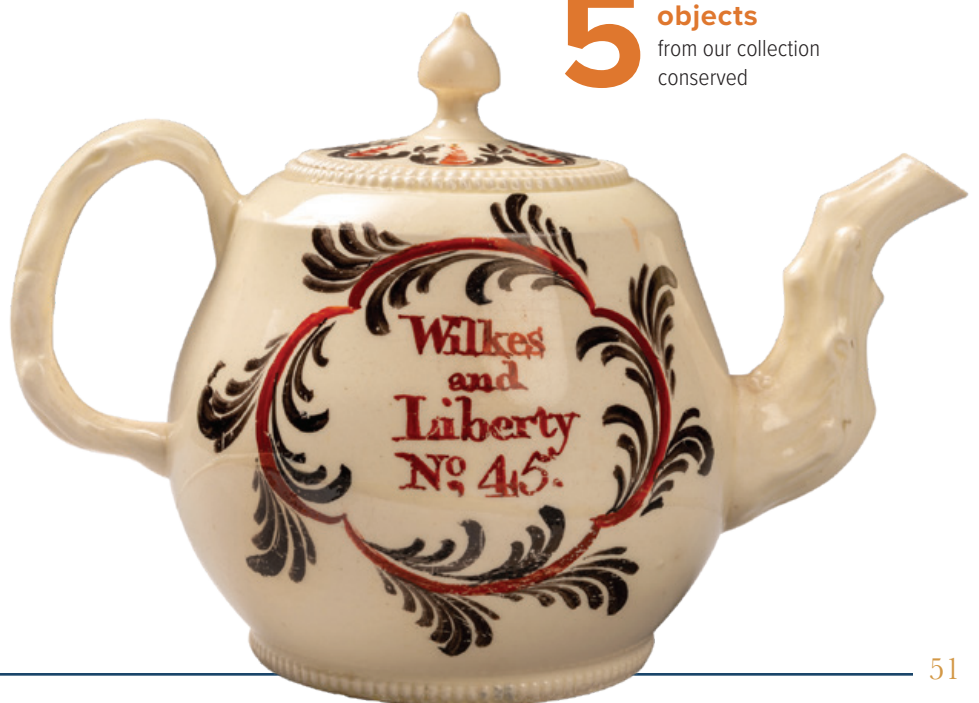
## Our Collection

### BY THE NUMBERS

**30** new objects  
acquired through donation

**10** new objects  
acquired through purchase

**5** objects  
from our collection conserved





# Strong Roots *for a Revolutionary Future*

**W**e are grateful for the steadfast dedication of our supporters — across all 50 states and around the world — who ensure the Museum’s ongoing vitality.

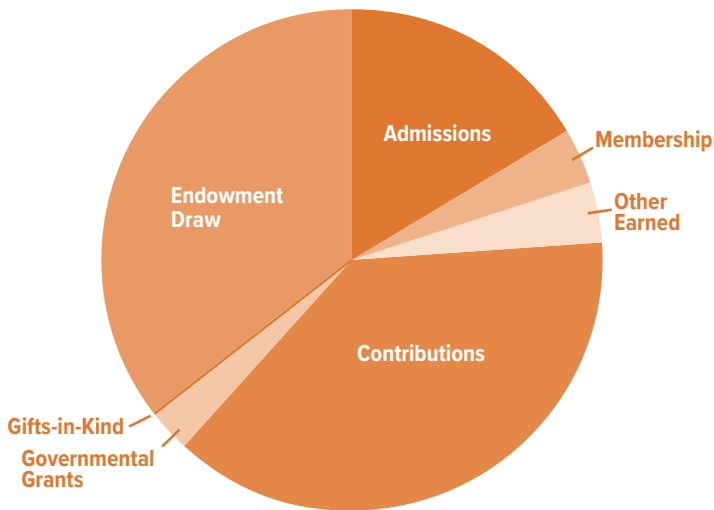
In the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2025, the Museum continued to build on a solid financial foundation, made possible by the generosity of our donors, Members, and friends. Attendance reached 176,786 visitors — the highest since 2019 — with especially robust summer visitation driving the increase.

Investments from the Museum community bolstered key initiatives, including educational programming, *Banners of Liberty: An Exhibition of Original Revolutionary War Flags*, and our newest special exhibition, *The Declaration’s Journey*, presented by Griffin Catalyst.

Our endowment remains healthy and growing, valued at \$106.4 million — an increase of more than \$6 million since last year’s report. Endowment assets generate a reliable source of long-term funding, enabling the Museum to plan responsibly for the future while safeguarding its mission, ensuring continuity of operations, stewarding the collection, and investing in future programs.

With this momentum and the enduring commitment of those who advance our mission, the Museum enters the year ahead poised to commemorate America’s 250th anniversary and to conclude its first decade with strength and promise for the future.





**\$16,028,386**

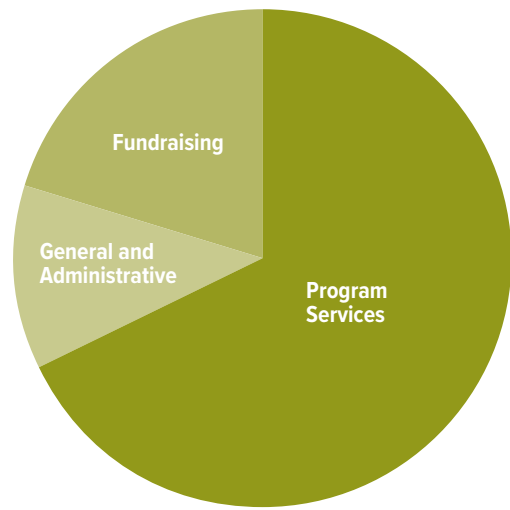
**OPERATING REVENUE**

The largest source of revenue this year was contributions and governmental grants totaling \$6,410,338. Museum admissions and membership represent \$2,668,541 and \$585,767, respectively. Operations were also supported by appropriations from our Board-designated and donor-restricted endowments, totaling \$5,738,687. The major sources of other earned revenue include facility rentals, Café, and the Museum Shop at \$617,543.

**\$106,357,783**

**ENDOWMENT**

We started the fiscal year with \$99,891,939 in endowment funds. As a result of an investment return that exceeded our annual draw from operations and additional contributions into the endowment, the fund grew by \$6,465,844 during the fiscal year, ending September 30, 2025.



**\$12,899,206**

**OPERATING EXPENSE**

Program services including education activities, curatorial affairs, public programming, exhibition development, collection care, and facility maintenance comprised the largest percentage of our operating expenses at 68%. The Museum continues to be disciplined in our spending to achieve a balanced budget.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**Assets**

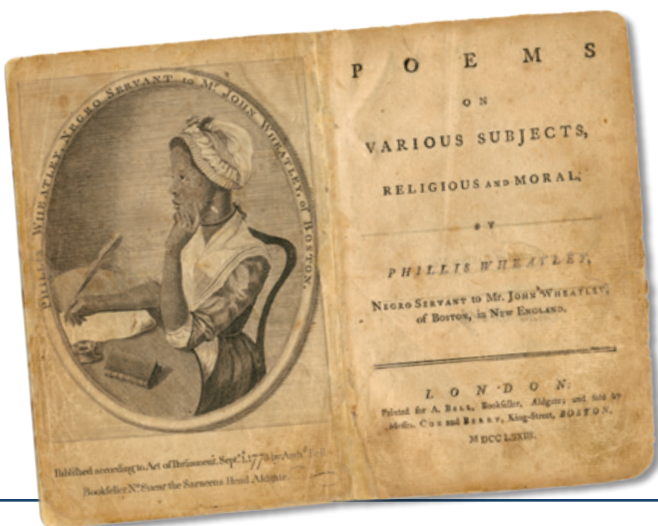
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,563,167
Investments	106,357,783
Pledges Receivable	958,764
Fixed Assets	62,077,743
Other	2,352,842
	<b>\$175,310,299</b>

**Liabilities**

**\$2,047,634**

**Net Assets**

Without Donor Restrictions	\$165,820,323
With Donor Restrictions	7,442,342
	<b>\$173,262,665</b>



---

# THANK YOU

## to Our Supporters

We are pleased to recognize the individuals and institutions whose contributions supported the Museum’s operations during fiscal year 2025, from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. Their generosity made possible the programs, exhibitions, and initiatives highlighted throughout this report.

### \$100,000 AND ABOVE

---

John Aglialoro and Joan Carter  
Bank of America  
Dick and Sally Brickman  
Comcast NBCUniversal  
Connelly Foundation  
City of Philadelphia  
James and Jean Crystal

The Gordon and Llura Gund 1993 Foundation  
Kenneth C. Griffin and Griffin Catalyst  
National Archives  
Nancy and Morris W. Offit  
The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage  
Philip Syng Reese

### \$50,000 TO \$99,999

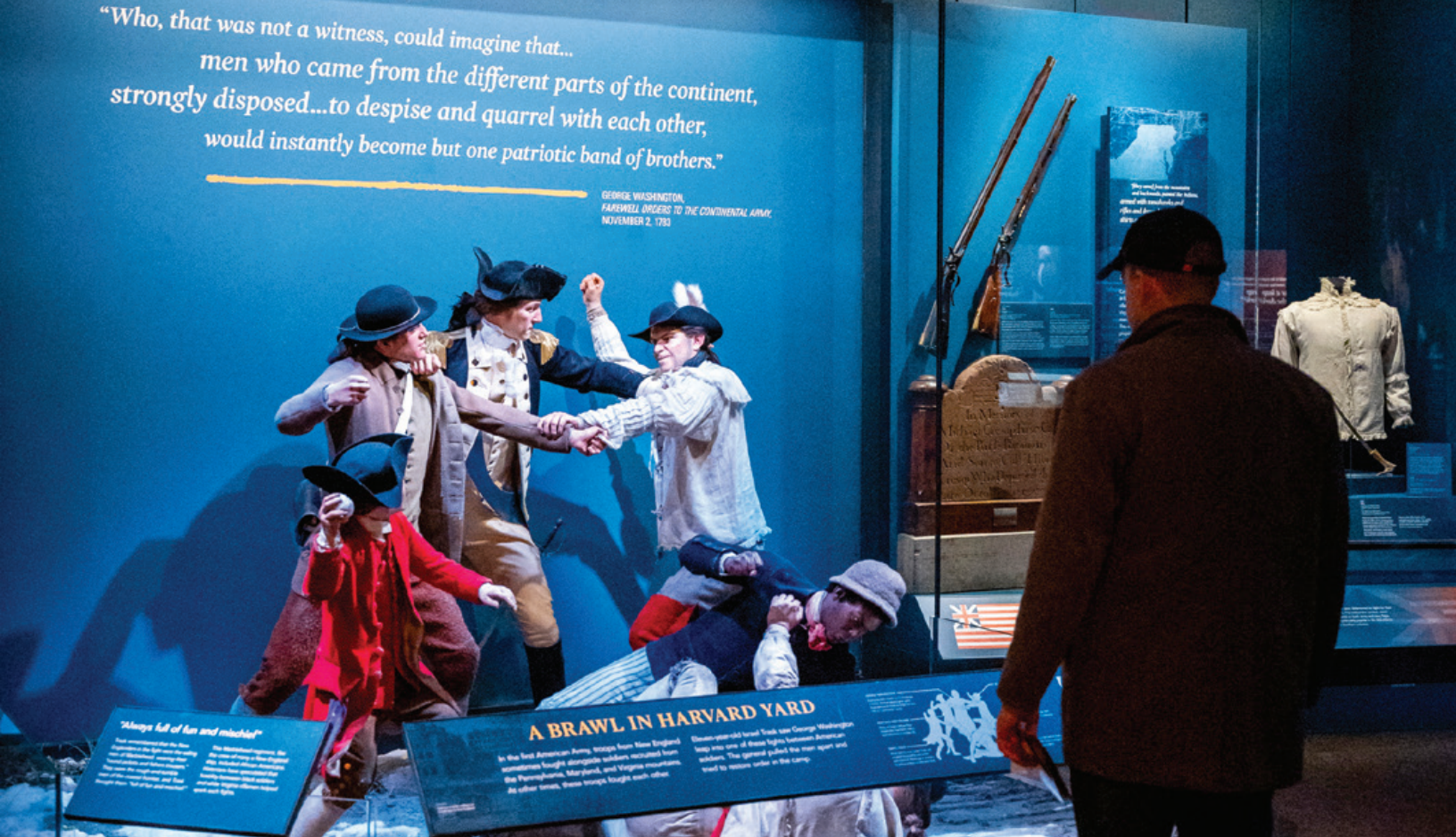
---

American Heritage Federal Credit Union  
Brightside Foundation, Inc.  
John A. Catsimatidis, Jr.  
Daniel DiLella and Monica Duvall DiLella  
DM DiLella Family Foundation  
Foundation for Individual Liberty  
Jon and Debby Hirtle  
National Endowment for the Humanities

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual  
Insurance Company  
Richard C. von Hess Foundation  
The Sarena Snider Foundation  
Rosalind and Mark Shenkman  
Martha McGeary Snider  
Sarena Snider  
Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)

† deceased

*All gifts made after September 30, 2025 will be reflected in the next annual report.*



## Donor Spotlight

### CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Through its sponsorship of *The Declaration's Journey*, the City of Philadelphia has helped ensure that the Museum's work remains accessible to communities across the city. The funding was made possible with strong support from At-Large Councilmember Isaiah Thomas — a reflection of the City's ongoing commitment to cultural institutions that serve residents, students, and visitors alike.

Speaking on behalf of the City, 2026 Director Michael Newmuis called the Museum of the American Revolution an "incredible treasure," noting its ability to "amplify the critical and complex stories that remind us of the principles and people who helped form this nation." For him, the Museum's role in the lead-up to 2026 is clear: it offers a space where people can connect with history in ways that are both challenging and inspiring.

Newmuis says he often reflects on a line shared by the late Museum champion and Chairman Emeritus H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest — "Liberty is not liberty, it's a responsibility." He sees the Museum as a place where that responsibility comes into focus through interpretation, reflection, and public engagement. It's a place where visitors can grapple with the past and consider the



At-Large Councilmember Isaiah Thomas



2026 Director Michael Newmuis

duties they carry forward. "We each have a role to play," he said, adding, "Philadelphia is the greatest place to be on the nation's 250th birthday."

The Museum is grateful for the City's support — and for the partnership of elected leaders like Councilmember Thomas, and the Historic District's Councilmember Mark Squilla — whose advocacy strengthens the cultural landscape of Philadelphia and expands access to the stories that shape our understanding of the American Revolution and its ongoing legacy.

## \$25,000 TO \$49,999

Anonymous	Landenberger Family Foundation	Pritzker Military Foundation
The 1830 Family Foundation	The Lindy Snider Foundation	PwC Foundation
David and Kim Adler	The McLean Contributionship	Rhubarb Hospitality Collection
George Ahern	Alan B. and Jill Miller	Lindy Snider
Lisa and Arthur Berkowitz	Momentum Telecom	Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire
Julian and Lois Brodsky	Oneida Indian Nation	Universal Health Services
The Davenport Family Foundation	Zachary and Amy Pack	Richard and Laura Vague
Charles and Valerie Diker	Lanny and Ann Patten	Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, National Park Service
Eileen and Beverly M. Dubose III	PECO	Daniel H. Wheeler and Amy A. Fox
The Frances and Beverly M. DuBose Foundation	Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution & Color Guard	
George C. and Esther Ann McFarland Foundation		
Ray and Renee Halbritter		
Julian A. and Lois G. Brodsky Foundation		
John and Ellen Jumper		



## BENEFACTORS

We extend our deepest thanks to the following supporters whose cumulative giving totals \$1 million or more, in acknowledgment of their exceptional generosity and enduring commitment to the Museum.

Anonymous (2)	Richard Gilder <sup>†</sup> and Lois Chiles	Nancy and Morris W. Offit
John Agliatoro and Joan Carter	David Haas	Oneida Indian Nation
Calypso Bamford <sup>†</sup>	Janet and John Otto Haas	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
Bank of America	Dorrance Hill Hamilton <sup>†</sup>	Margot and Ross <sup>†</sup> Perot
Dick and Sally Brickman	Rupert Johnson	Arthur L. Powell <sup>†</sup>
William <sup>†</sup> and Laura <sup>†</sup> Buck	Marjorie <sup>†</sup> and Lewis <sup>†</sup> Katz	Psalm 103 Foundation
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	H.F. (Gerry) <sup>†</sup> and Marguerite Lenfest	Philip Syng and Daphne Craven <sup>†</sup> Reese
Comcast NBCUniversal	Maguire Foundation	Aileen K. and Brian L. Roberts
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	A. Bruce <sup>†</sup> and Margaret Mainwaring	William A. Slaughter
Eileen and Beverly M. Dubose III	Jacqueline Mars	John M. <sup>†</sup> and Pina <sup>†</sup> Templeton
Exelon Foundation	McCausland Foundation	U.S. Small Business Administration
Joseph and Marie Field	Alan B. and Jill Miller	Richard and Laura Vague
Denise Foderaro and Frank Quattrone	Joseph E. Neubauer and Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer	Wyncote Foundation

### GEORGE AHERN



Growing up and living in the Philadelphia region, George Ahern has spent his life surrounded by the places where the nation's founding unfolded. That proximity, and a strong sense of civic pride, would eventually lead him to become one of the Museum of the American Revolution's earliest and most steadfast supporters.

After graduating from Widener University, George worked at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia before building a 33-year career at PECO. The oldest of four children, he comes from a family shaped by service and sacrifice: his father served in the U.S. Army during World War II and earned a Purple Heart, and his mother emigrated from County Donegal, Ireland — giving George dual citizenship and strong ties to his heritage.

For more than a decade, George also volunteered as a park ranger at Independence National Historical Park, engaging visitors in conversation about the nation's founding. Today, George lives in Broomall, Pennsylvania and is enjoying retirement, spending time traveling, and visiting his favorite museums throughout the city.

George first became interested in the Museum of the American Revolution long before the building existed — when it was still just an idea taking shape. As momentum grew around

the project, he became increasingly confident that the vision would become a reality. The moment he realized the Museum truly “was going to happen” was also the moment he knew he wanted to support it.

As one of the Museum's earliest donors, George watched it grow from concept to construction to opening. Over time, he has expanded his participation as he experienced firsthand the Museum's continued evolution and impact.

“I don't think there's any other place in the United States dedicated to the Revolution, and there's certainly no other museum that does what this one does,” he says. “Being two blocks from Independence Hall makes it even more impressive.”

What keeps him connected, he says, is the Museum's commitment to telling a more inclusive history of the American Revolution. “So many people think the Revolution was a straightforward story — Lexington and Concord, then they came to Philadelphia and declared independence. But there's so much more,” he explained. “This Museum tells the broader story. It includes the experiences of Indigenous nations, African Americans, immigrants, Loyalists, and everyday people. It wasn't just George Washington and soldiers with muskets who decided to make a new nation. The stories of everyone involved need to be told, and the Museum tells them very well.”

George has found particular inspiration in General George Washington's War Tent and the Museum's special exhibitions. The current special exhibition, *The Declaration's Journey*, he says, “blew him away” with its scope and quality. The Museum's outdoor walking tours, too, have given him a renewed appreciation for Old City and Philadelphia's revolutionary landscape.

Looking ahead, George hopes that visitors walk away from the Museum with a clearer understanding of how many people, perspectives, and sacrifices shaped the Revolution. “It wasn't just the great names in the history books,” he said. “It involved common people, everyday people. Everyone played a part.”

*“So many people think the Revolution was a straightforward story...  
This Museum tells the broader story.  
It includes the experiences of Indigenous nations, African Americans,  
immigrants, Loyalists, and everyday people.”*

## PHILADELPHIA FUNDER COLLABORATIVE FOR THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

The Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial unites seven charitable organizations with a shared goal: to help the Philadelphia region commemorate 2026 with depth, inclusivity, and civic pride. As a sponsor of *The Declaration's Journey*, the Collaborative champions programs that explore the nation's founding ideals while welcoming a new generation of visitors to the birthplace of American democracy.

Chris Levenick, Program Director, Civic Renewal at the Connelly Foundation, spoke with us on behalf of the Collaborative about its vision, its partnership with the Museum, and what inspired its support for this landmark exhibition.

### How would you describe the Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial and its vision for 2026?

The Funder Collaborative is a joint effort by seven local philanthropic organizations to support regional programs celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Philadelphia is the birthplace of American democracy, and for that reason it has long enjoyed pride of place for the celebration of our major national milestones. And we wanted to help make sure that Philadelphia looked its best when the eyes of the world turn to it on July 4, 2026.

### What about the Museum's mission or approach to history resonates most strongly with the Collaborative's grantmaking priorities?

The Funder Collaborative adopted a position of “reflective patriotism” to inform our grantmaking. That posture seeks to better understand and celebrate the nation's founding ideals; to acknowledge the times the nation has failed to uphold those ideals; and to recognize the many individuals who have helped move the nation toward the realization of its founding ideals. This perspective is brilliantly reflected in the mission of the Museum of the American Revolution. The Museum is committed to exploring the high-minded principles that inspired the American Revolution — as well as the harsh realities that contradicted those principles.

### Has the Museum influenced the way you think about the American Revolution or the nation's founding ideals?

Adrienne G. Whaley, the Museum's Director of Education and Community Engagement, once made a casual remark that struck me like a lightning bolt. She pointed out that the name of the museum is not “Museum of the Revolutionary War,” but rather the “Museum of the American Revolution.” It isn't simply interested in the events that transpired in the 13 British North American colonies between 1775 and 1783. Rather, the Museum

exists to explore the broad philosophical, cultural, religious, and demographic forces that brought the American Revolution into being — and the ongoing, epochal, and global effects of the American Revolution to this day.

### What inspired the Collaborative to sponsor *The Declaration's Journey*? What about this project felt especially aligned with your goals for the 2026 commemorations?

It was an easy call. This year, Philadelphia will host a surge of visitors unlike anything seen in decades. Hundreds of thousands of tourists will descend upon the city for the FIFA World Cup, the All-Star Baseball Game, and the Semiquincentennial festivities. *The Declaration's Journey* seems perfectly calibrated for this generational opportunity. The exhibition is crafted to appeal to American and international visitors alike, demonstrating the ongoing relevance — indeed, the critical importance — of the Declaration, both in the United States and across the globe.



The Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial comprises several philanthropic leaders including:

- Connelly Foundation
- William Penn Foundation
- The Pew Charitable Trusts
- The Neubauer Family Foundation
- Comcast Corporation
- The Hamilton Family Charitable Trust
- Knight Foundation

## \$10,000 TO \$24,999

Anonymous	Kiplinger Family Foundation
Tim and Pam Alles	Knight and Ann Kiplinger
Archie W. and Grace Berry Foundation	Brook J. Lenfest
Artist Preservation Group	Mr. and Mrs. D. Christopher Le Vine
Jim and Janet Averill	The Le Vine Foundation
Sue and Eric Baelen	Paul and Mary Lockhart
Ballard Spahr, LLP	Dean Malissa
Lawrence and Elyse Benenson	Jacqueline Mars
The Bergman Foundation	Tom and Linda McCarthy
Bonnie Brier and Bruce A. Rosenfield	Margot and Joseph McGinley
Richard Brown and Mary Jo Otsea	Meyer Capital Group
Chubb Group of Insurance Companies	Morgan Lewis
Classic Coin Company	Netcarrier
Mark and Iris Coblitz	The Neubauer Family Foundation
Sarah Miller Coulson	Joseph E. Neubauer and Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer
The Crown Family	NJM Insurance Group
Crown Family Philanthropies	Margot Perot
Dean F. Failey Grant from the Decorative Arts Trust	Charles F. Preusse II
Peggy Duckett and George Drach	Edward G. Rendell
Brad du Pont	Ridgeway Partners
The Frank L. and Sarah Miller Coulson Foundation	Ed and Cyma Satell
Vernon L. and Sandy Frykholm	Satell Family Foundation
Fulton Bank	Satell Institute
Thomas B. Hagen	Valerie and William Schwartz
Conrad M. Hall	Carolyn Horn Seidle
Linda J. Harris	Peggy and Jeff Shaver
The Haverford Trust Company	David Bruce Smith
Pierre and Martina du Pont Hayward	Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland
Brian and Barbara Hendelson	William and Stephanie Stabert
David M. Humphrey and Gayla J. McCluskey	Jon and Meredith Stevens
Independence Blue Cross	Cynthia B. Sweeney
Cynthia L. Johnson	TD Bank
Katherine and George <sup>†</sup> Jones III	Anne Drackett Thomas
Justi Group, Inc.	William H. White
Lisa D. Kabnick and John H. McFadden	William and Valerie Schwartz Family Foundation
Virginia Kamsky	W.P. Carey Foundation
Caroline and Adrian R. King, Jr.	Zausmer Foundation



## LIBERTY SOCIETY

The Liberty Society recognizes those who have included the Museum in their estate plans and, through their example, inspire others to consider this impactful form of support. Their planned giving commitments create a lasting legacy that helps ensure the Museum can continue to share the stories and ideals of the American Revolution with generations to come.

Anonymous
Jay Adams
John Agliandolo and Joan Carter
Joseph Amodeo
Thomas <sup>†</sup> and Calypso <sup>†</sup> Bamford
Kurt Berbaum
Laura Thomas Buck <sup>†</sup>
John H. Burkhalter
Chuck Downs
Margaret P. Duckett
Wayne Dunham
P.F.N. Fanning <sup>†</sup>
Virginia Furlan <sup>†</sup>
Thomas Hand
Robert Hansen
Kevin Heim and Nicholas Walls
June Jump <sup>†</sup>
John P. Jumper
Howard and Lauren Kaplan
Joseph Klingman and Robert Keating
H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest <sup>†</sup>
Joanne Letwinch <sup>†</sup>
LTC (Ret.) Aaron B. Lilley
David J. Mason
Herbert C. Miller, Jr.
Nancy and Morris W. Offit
Blake B. Petersen
Philip Syng Reese
William M. Reilly <sup>†</sup>
Edward G. Rendell
Martha McGeary Snider
Claudia Stowers

## GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

In September 2025, Dr. R. Scott Stephenson participated in the U.S. Speaker Program through the U.S. Embassy in Suriname, marking the nation's 50th anniversary of independence. His presentation explored the foundations of American democracy and the enduring legacy of the Revolution, fostering dialogue on shared democratic values as part of ongoing America 250 initiatives.



## A VISIT FROM CAPITOL HILL

U.S. Senator David McCormick visited the Museum in July 2025 for a tour of *Banners of Liberty*, where he viewed the rare assemblage of Revolutionary War flags that formed the exhibition. The visit was a welcome opportunity to share these rare artifacts with Senator McCormick, an Army veteran with a longstanding interest in historic flags. He and his team also visited the Museum's signature presentation of General George Washington's Tent.

Now serving his first term representing Pennsylvania, Senator McCormick's visit coincided with ongoing efforts to highlight Philadelphia and the Commonwealth's central role in the American Revolution ahead of the 2026 commemoration.



## \$5,000 TO \$9,999

Airtech International

Amy Beren Bressman &  
Robert I. Bressman Foundation

Jeanne Asplundh

Terry Beaty

David Bernstein

Amy and Robert Bressman

James M. and Elinor Buck

Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback  
Foundation

CLJ Living Trust

Suzanne and Norman Cohn

Timothy R. Collins

Michael Conway

Crawford Family Foundation

Gordon Crawford

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey L. Dahlgren

DLA Piper LLP

Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation

Deborah J. and Gary W. Dorshimer

Chuck Downs

David and Dianne Elderkin

Holly and Orlando Esposito

Penny Fox†

Alfred Hagen

Don Henley

Renee and David Henry

Dan Hibma

Priscilla B. Hoag

Hyster-Yale Materials Handling, Inc.

Jeff R. Bridgman Antiques, Inc.

Michele Juliana

KPK Development Co, LP, Ken Koretsky

Jacqueline and Eric Kraeutler

Elisa and Howard H. Lewis, Jr.

Peter L. and Isabel Malkin

John R. Mastrocola

David and Dottie Mink

Pamela J. and James D. Penny

Robert & Cynthia Johnson Family  
Foundation

Elihu Rose

Paul D. Ross

Harriet and Eric Rothfeld

RSM US LLP

Brad Saft and Allison Podell-Saft

Stephen Schwab

S. Christopher Scott and  
Dalila Wilson-Scott

Theodore Sedgwick

Shearwater Foundation, Inc

Danielle and Jason Smereczynski

Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania

R. Scott and Donna J. Stephenson

Stern Family Philanthropic Foundation

James and Jane Stern

Tompkins Financial Corporation

Truist

Timothy and Hope Ulrich

Vault Communications

Elizabeth Wahlquist

Wawa

West Pharmaceutical Services

COLS. Dale and Cynthia Woodling

Jim and Debbie Zug





## \$2,500 TO \$4,999

Jim and Mara Berndt  
 Kevin and Kristine Boettcher  
 Allegra Burnette  
 Fred and Mary Claghorn  
 John and Nancy Fischer  
 Timothy and Susan Gillespie  
 Rachel Grace  
 Vincent and Donna Hartnett  
 Mark S. and Rachel Herr  
 Roger W. Jacobs  
 Philip S. and Ellen S. Johnson  
 Julia Wepfer Family Trust  
 Robert E. Keith  
 Holly M. Kinyon  
 Kenneth and Catharine Klaus  
 Philip Laskaway  
 Norman and Lucinda Long  
 Thomas F. and Ellen Mann  
 Cynthia Mirsky  
 Lathrop B. and Erica Nelson

Jane and Rick Nowak  
 Patrick and Marie O'Connor  
 Patrick J. O'Connor Family Foundation  
 David Reinhardt  
 The Rosenbaum Family Foundation  
 Robert Rosenbaum  
 Gerald and Susan Savitsky

Bonnie and Tom Strauss  
 Karla and Thane Trotman  
 Jaye Vacca  
 Rick and Cate Waddell  
 Andrew and Deborah Webster  
 Virginia Whelan  
 David and Velva Zarley

## DONOR TRAVEL

In September 2025, the Museum hosted a special donor travel experience in Charlottesville, Virginia, for Revolution Society Fellows and George Washington Council Members. Led by Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, President and CEO, participants explored Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and his vision for the University of Virginia through private tours and exclusive conversations with historians and curators. Highlights included access to rare manuscripts and special collections at UVA, a Jeffersonian

dinner overlooking Monticello, and behind-the-scenes perspectives on preservation, archaeology, and planning for the Semiquincentennial.



# ★ Revolution SOCIETY ★

Established in 2015, the Revolution Society ensures a strong foundation of sustaining annual support for our mission through gifts between \$1,000 and \$4,999. This year, nearly 170 Revolution Society Members enabled the Museum to care for our world-class collection and to offer educational programs that engage every generation. In appreciation, we invite them to enjoy curated experiences with Museum experts, leading authors, and historians.

## The Revolution Society Committee

The Revolution Society is supported by a dedicated committee that plays an essential role in representing, stewarding, and expanding our community of philanthropic leaders who champion the Museum's mission. Through their collaboration, advocacy, and personal investment, Committee Members help sustain core programs, strengthen long-term stability, and advance new initiatives central to the Museum's work. We are grateful to the following Revolution Society Committee Members who served during this fiscal year:

Martha McGeary Snider, Chair

Eric Kraeutler, Vice Chair

Kenneth Klaus, Programming Co-chair

Margot McGinley, Programming Co-chair

Peggy Shaver, Engagement Chair

Chuck Downs

Dean Malissa

Peggy Duckett

Erica Nelson

Susan Gillespie

Lathrop B. Nelson III

Timothy Gillespie

Michael Okenquist

Michele Juliana



Revolution Society Committee members Peggy Shaver and Lathrop Nelson.

## \$1,000 TO \$2,499

Anonymous (3)

Howard A. Aaronson

William H. Abrams

Neysa Adams

The Alan & Jill Miller Foundation

Carol P. Appel

George and Phyllis Asch

B&T Industries LLC

Corinne L. Baldassano

Thomas E. Beach

Dan Bigelow and Suzanne Cole

Eric Blair-Joannou

Alvin<sup>†</sup> and Judith R. Block

Roberts and Allison Brokaw

Charles R. Brader

Kerry L. Bryan

Harry F. Byrd, III

Joseph M. Cahill, LLC

Kurt and Michaela Carlson

J. A. Carlton

James F. Cawley

Christopher B. Chandor

George Clarke

Donald L. Clement, Jr.

Kent Clow

Michael J. Coogan

Douglas Darling

Paul Decker

Eric and Danae Delman

Gary and Dawna DeLong

Henry and Kathleen DePippo

Maude de Schauensee

Dr. and Mrs. John G. Devlin

Mark and Tobey Dichter

Matthew Dodds

Norman E. "Ned" Donoghue and Margaret M. O'Donnell

Betsy and Kevin Donohoe

Patricia Dowden

Mrs. Ford B. Draper, Jr.

James P. and Barbara J. Dunigan

Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. duPont, IV

Howard Eisen and Judith Wolf

Mark Evans

Mary Ford

Bruce K. and Melissa Foulke

Judith Francis

Dennis Franklin and Jennie Cooper-Franklin

Ashley and Steven Ganz

Elizabeth H. Gemmill

John H. Gibson and Colleen A. Hanlon

Collin and Ashley Gleason

Robert A. Gleason, Jr.

Joseph A. and Jane Goldblum

James F. and Carolyn M. Graff

Carole Haas Gravagno

Jeffrey A. Green

Jacqueline and Matthew Grissinger

Peter D. Guerrant

Joseph Halpern

Jeffrey C. Hardwick

Anne Hayden and Ivan Burns

Mary and Dennis Helf

Hannah L. Henderson

The Herzog Family

Austin and Hannah Hepburn

Harry E. and Louise L. Hill

Ruth A. Hodges and

John R. LeClaire

John B. Hoffman

Peter Barton Hutt

James L. Isaacs and

Page Mailliard

John Mayer

Col. and Mrs. Fred Johnston

Jane Kamensky and

Dennis J. Scannell, Jr.

Douglas E. Kehl

Tim and Cynthia King

Ian and Yvette Kinsale

Stephen L. and Mary Kurtz

Marion Lane

Julia Leisenring

## REVOLUTION SOCIETY AND GEORGE WASHINGTON COUNCIL NEW MEMBER WELCOME

On June 18, 2025, the Museum’s Revolution Society Committee hosted a special evening to welcome new leadership giving members of the Revolution Society and George Washington Council. The program began with a private after-hours gallery tour led by Dr. Tyler Putman, Senior Manager of Gallery Interpretation, and Meg Bowersox, Manager of Gallery Interpretation, highlighting recent acquisitions and artifacts in the core exhibits. Following the tour, Members gathered in Liberty Hall and on the Bank of America Terrace for a reception overlooking Old City. With 56 participants in attendance, the event celebrated the generosity of new and longstanding supporters while fostering connections within the Museum’s donor community.



Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Foundation  
 Fran and Leon L. Levy Crawford and Jenice Long  
 Louis Nayovitz Foundation  
 Zachary and Catherine Lountzis  
 Jeff MacDonald  
 Tod and Sally MacKenzie  
 Diane and Bill Marimow  
 Gay and Mary Mayer  
 John Anton Mayer  
 Stephen and Robin McBrearty  
 John Francis McFassel  
 Robert and Roberta McLaughlin  
 Susan and Frank Mechura  
 Rachel C. Mentink-Ferraro  
 Tara and Daniel Mowery  
 Lourene and James E. Nevels  
 Julia Newman  
 The Nor’ Easter Foundation  
 Meredith and Michael Okenquist  
 Bill Osman and John Wind  
 Zoë S. Pappas  
 Richard and Jude Parke  
 Patriotic Order Sons of America  
 Robert S. Perkin  
 Ross G. Perry

Eve and Leo Pierce  
 Krista and Richard Pinola  
 Robert and Gene† Pratter  
 Eugene Procknow  
 Robert Prosser and Daria Rovinski  
 Albert Pylinski and Frank Ferrante  
 Devin Rainone  
 Judy and Don Ricketts  
 Jay and Gretchen Riley  
 Rittenhouse Foundation  
 Rorer Foundation  
 Gerald B. and Elizabeth Rorer  
 Rory and David Jones Family Fund  
 Suzanne and Keith Ross  
 Katherine Sachs  
 Mara and Steve Saltzman  
 Katie and Tony Schaeffer  
 Michael Schaftel  
 Cornelia C. Schmidt  
 Brian T. Schreiber  
 George Schweitzer and Kate Kelly  
 David and Eloise Scott  
 Peter H. Sharp  
 Shenkman Capital

Jean Sherrill  
 Howard G.† and Marcia Sholl  
 Debbie and Jeff Shupp  
 Kristian and Matthew Smith  
 Scott A. and Cathryn F. Snedecor  
 Howard Sedran and Martha Levine  
 Averel Snyder  
 Stewart and Sidney Spahr  
 Kathleen Vick and Stephen Stack  
 Joan† and Philip N. Steel, Jr.  
 Neal and Nancy Stephenson  
 Betsy Stern

Joan Stern  
 Stoll & Wolfe  
 Claudia and Jim Stowers  
 David A. and Peggy Tanner  
 John Taylor and Paige Harrison  
 Thomas A. and Denise Tormey  
 Don Troiani  
 Walter P. Stern & Elizabeth Stern Foundation Inc.  
 Lee Ann Wentzel  
 Carol Westfall  
 John and Marian Weston  
 William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan  
 Lisa Witomski and James Scott



# Museum Members

Member contributions remain vital to the Museum's mission to expand public engagement, to steward our world-class collection, and to offer high-quality educational initiatives. This year, more than 4,000 Members across the country participated in exclusive opportunities including exhibition previews, behind-the-scenes programs, and a wide array of Member events.



Member Christine Hagedorn with Adrienne G. Whaley, Director of Education and Community Engagement at the Museum.

*“Membership makes me feel part of a community that appreciates history and thoughtful dialogue. The Museum always delivers experiences that are both engaging and rewarding.”*

– Museum Member Mary Jayne P.



Members David and Toni Dozack with the Special Programs Producer at the Museum, Hannah Boettcher.

## \$500 TO \$999

Jay Adams  
 Terry Adamson  
 Susan and Vijay Aggarwal  
 Virginia Smith Alexander  
 LTC Rodney Allen, MD  
 American Battlefield Trust  
 Gamal Amer and Terri Ventresca  
 Theodore Andrews and Elizabeth Ewing  
 Robert Anzidei  
 Linnea M. Bass  
 John Benson  
 Richard A. and Amelia Bernstein  
 Christine Campbell  
 Paul Cappellano  
 Ann B. Catts and Wade P. Catts  
 Robert and Kathleen Chernoff  
 J. Thomas Chirurg  
 Cliveden of the National Trust  
 Kortney Cruz  
 Richard and Victoria Cuneo  
 Christopher D'Angelo  
 Dora DeGeorge  
 Donald F. Depascal  
 Jan A. DeWitt  
 Michael Dotsey and Pauline Martin  
 Carol Susan Eicher  
 Michelle Eisenberg  
 Carole and Richard A. Eisner  
 Ranz Esbenshade  
 Tony Fetters  
 Glenn Foster  
 Christopher J. Fried  
 William and Patricia Green  
 Suzanne Hahn  
 William E. and Nancy Hall  
 Robert Harman  
 Jon M. and Cynthia Harris  
 Nancy Harris  
 Stephen Harris  
 Barbara K. Hay  
 Winifred S. and Robert E. Hayes  
 Kathy Hendricks  
 Deborah and Robert Hirth  
 Hirth Family Foundation  
 Ruth Holt  
 Ann Marie and Terry Horner  
 Feather Houstoun  
 Eric and Lenora Hume  
 Wayne Huss  
 Hans and Trish Jackson  
 Sheila V. Jamison-Schwartz  
 Joseph W. & Faith K. Tiberio Charitable Foundation  
 Jennifer Joyce  
 Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR  
 Rosamond Kay  
 Thomas Kirch  
 Helga Procht Knox  
 Michael J. Konowal  
 Michael F. Ksycki  
 Mike LaCroix  
 Judith Lalonde and Peter Bodine  
 Thomas Lawler  
 Maxine de S. Lewis  
 Anthony Linder and Jessica Sullivan  
 John Loftus  
 Amy Long  
 John Lopez and Kelly Grattan  
 Jed and Blythe J. Lyons  
 Edward Mafoud  
 Julie and Nick Maravich  
 Bernard A. and Jane R. Mason  
 Bobby and Sally McGowan  
 James and Meg McLane  
 Catherine Michalenciz  
 Microsoft  
 Arthur and Kathleen Miller  
 Louis Minella  
 David Moorhead

Sandra M. Novotni	George and Esther Skic
Dennis P. O'Neill	James A. Smailes and Susan Gehring
Mark O'Rourke and Tim Holmes	Joe Spivey
John Otte	Margaret Satell Stay and Doug Stay
Ned and Rachel Owen	J. Howard Stecker
John F. Podliska	Francis R. <sup>†</sup> and Mary Jo Strawbridge
James R. Polski	Frank Terpolilli
David Price	Lott Thomas
Barbara Risius	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thompson III
Dora Rogers	William Trimble
George and Karen Rosskam	Scott Tulley
Melanie Roth	Elizabeth and Tony Vale
Karl Rove	Laurie Wagman
Russell and Frieda DeYong Foundation	Michael Warner
Marion C. and Gil M. Samson	Karen Weiss
Frederick and Mary C. Savage	John Wellemeyer
David Saylor	Anna Whitesell
Lynne Schmoyer	William Penn Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Shannon Family Giving Trust	Glenn F. Williams
Rick Shetrom	Kristen Wrona
J. Thomas and Janice Showler	Charles Zeigler
Steven C. Shriver	Robert Zimet
Rebecca Sitarchuk	

## MEMBER MORNINGS

Held on the first Sunday of each month, Member Mornings give Members early and exclusive access to the Museum's exhibitions and programs.

Highlights this year included guided tours of *Witness to Revolution: The Unlikely Travels of Washington's Tent* and *Banners of Liberty: An Exhibition of Original Revolutionary War Flags*, along with gallery talks connected to our True Colours project. Other experiences ranged from walking tours of Revolutionary Philadelphia to special exhibition previews to gallery spotlights on Black voices, women of the Revolution, and winter scenes of the war.



## CORPORATE PARTNERS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

We greatly appreciate our corporate partners whose investment enhances the Museum's programs, events, and exhibitions and extends their impact throughout the region.

American Heritage Credit Union	PECO
Ballard Spahr LLP	Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company
Bank of America	PwC
Chubb Group of Insurance Co	Rhubarb Hospitality Collection (RHC)
Comcast NBCUniversal	RSM US LLP
DLA Piper LLP	TD Bank
Fulton Bank	Tompkins Financial Corporation
The Haverford Trust Company	Truist
Independence Blue Cross	Universal Health Services
Justi Group, Inc.	Vault Communications
KPK Development Co, LP	Wawa
Momentum Telecom	West Pharmaceutical Services
Morgan Lewis	
NJM Insurance Group	

Our Corporate Advisory Council partners with the Museum on its mission while advancing their own philanthropic and community engagement goals. The Museum is grateful to the following individuals who served on the Museum's 2025 Corporate Advisory Council:

Jim Dever, Chair Bank of America	Regina Black Lennox Satell Institute
Lakshman Amaranayaka American Airlines	Kristen H. Maynes PwC
Dave Benson RSM US, LLP	Jenna Millman Ballard Spahr, LLP
Geoff Brandon TD Bank	Morris Offit, MoAR Board of Directors Chair Offit Capital
Guy Brudahl Momentum Telecom	Julia Reusch Comcast NBCUniversal
Kortney Cruz Independence Blue Cross	Ben Rubin MACRO, a Savills Company
Bruce Foulke American Heritage Credit Union	Kate Shields Vault Communications
Dan P. Geraghty The Haverford Trust Company	John K. Smith Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company
Maurice Goodman Consultant	Karla Trotman Electro Soft, Inc.
Tim King John Hancock Investments	



# Board of Directors

The Museum is guided by a committed and engaged Board of Directors whose leadership and expertise strengthen every facet of our work. We are thankful for the time, insight, and support they contribute throughout the year. The following list reflects all Board Members who served between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025.

## OFFICERS

Chair, Morris W. Offit,  
New York, NY  
Vice Chair, Martha McGeary Snider,  
Philadelphia, PA  
Vice Chair and Treasurer,  
Bennett P. Lomax, Philadelphia, PA  
Secretary, Adrian R. King, Jr.,  
Philadelphia, PA  
President and CEO,  
R. Scott Stephenson, Philadelphia, PA

## CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

H. F. (Gerry) Lenfest,† Philadelphia, PA  
General John P. Jumper,  
Fredericksburg, VA

## VICE CHAIR EMERITUS

Beverly (Bo) DuBose III, Atlanta, GA

## DIRECTORS

John Aglioloro, Philadelphia, PA  
John A. Catsimatidis, Jr., New York, NY  
John Copeland, Palm Beach, FL  
James W. Crystal, New York, NY  
Daniel DiLella, Philadelphia, PA  
Margaret (Peggy) Pace Duckett,  
Philadelphia, PA  
Alan H. Fleischmann, Washington, D.C.  
Ray Halbritter, Verona, NY  
Jonathan J. Hirtle, Saint Davids, PA  
Marion T. Lane, Philadelphia, PA  
Paul Lockhart, Fairfax Station, VA  
Alan B. Miller, King of Prussia, PA  
Ashton Newhall, Manalapan, FL  
Zachary J. Pack, New York, NY  
Charles Preusse, New York, NY  
Edward G. Rendell, Philadelphia, PA  
Stephen W. Schwab, Chicago, IL  
Mark Shenkman, Greenwich, CT  
Karla Trotman, Philadelphia, PA  
Daniel H. Wheeler, Philadelphia, PA

## EMERITUS

David Acton,† Philadelphia, PA  
John B. Adams, Jr., The Plains, VA  
Harold Burson,† New York, NY  
Stephen H. Case, Bethesda, MD  
H. Richard Dietrich III, Chevy Chase, MD  
Gordon S. Wood, Providence, RI

## Welcome to Our New Board Members



John Copeland,  
Palm Beach, FL  
*Managing Partner,  
Wealth Partners  
Capital Group*



Jonathan J. Hirtle,  
Saint Davids, PA  
*Founder and  
Executive Chairman,  
Hirtle & Co.*



## IN MEMORIAM



The Museum mourns the loss of several supporters and friends this year. Their memories live on through our work carried out each and every day, and their spirits remain in our hearts now as they will for years to come. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families, friends, and colleagues.

### JAY HOWLETT

*Master Leather Breeches Maker,  
Colonial Williamsburg*



We, along with many in the history community, mourn the loss of Jay Howlett, an eminent craftsman and living history interpreter. Howlett was an inspiration and mentor for numerous people in the professional living history communities over several decades, and his leadership and intellectual generosity influenced a generation of public history professionals. Howlett passed away on Aug. 15, 2025 following a brave battle with lung cancer.

More than a decade ago, Howlett played a key role on the team that developed the groundbreaking interdisciplinary undertaking to recreate and interpret George Washington’s headquarters tent, the First Oval Office Project.

### PAUL DECCIO

*Lead Engineer*



Deccio joined the Museum’s staff in October 2017 and, at the time of his passing in March 2025, he remained an integral part of our team. His loss is felt deeply by us all.

“Paul was a rare find for the museum — one of those individuals you knew you needed to hire the moment the interview ended,” said Steve Walsh, Director of Operations for the Museum. “He was among the last of the truly old-school boiler mechanics, bringing with him a depth of knowledge that was both impressive and invaluable.”

Inside the Museum, Deccio kept systems running safely and efficiently; outside of work, he was an avid fisherman and, above all else, a devoted grandfather to his granddaughter, Delaney, who meant everything to him.

### ROBERT A.M. STERN

*Founder and Senior Partner of  
Robert A.M. Stern Architects*



A renowned architect, educator, and author, Robert A.M. Stern designed the Museum, which was awarded LEED Gold in recognition of its commitment to energy conservation and environmental awareness in 2018. He also designed the Comcast Center, among many other prominent buildings across the city and country, and served as the Dean of Yale’s School of Architecture from 1998-2016. Stern passed away on Nov. 27, 2025 after a brief illness.

“At last, the long-cherished dream of very many — a fixed place to celebrate and interpret the American Revolution — will be realized on a terrific site a stone’s throw from Independence Hall,” said Stern in 2011 when it was announced his firm was chosen to design the Museum.

### AARON GOLDBLATT

*Partner Emeritus,  
Metcalf Architecture & Design*



Exhibit designer and sculptor Goldblatt worked on the Museum’s family discovery center, Revolution Place, along with environments for the Philadelphia Zoo, the Independence Seaport Museum, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, the National Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem, Pa., and the Whiting Forest at Dow Gardens in Michigan. Goldblatt also served as Vice President for Exhibits at the Please Touch Museum from 1990-2002. He passed away on Dec. 7, 2025.



\* \* \* MUSEUM OF THE  
\* \* \* AMERICAN  
\* \* \* REVOLUTION

101 South Third Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

[AmRevMuseum.org](http://AmRevMuseum.org)



Printed on  
recycled paper