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**HISTORIC GERMANTOWN UNVEILS SERIES OF ACTIVATIONS, EXHIBITS, AND TOURS
CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH**

From hands-on experiences to neighborhood-wide celebrations, Germantown prepares to welcome visitors for a landmark year of history, culture, and storytelling

Photos live [HERE](#).

PHILADELPHIA, PA | December 15, 2025 – As Philadelphia prepares to take center stage for America's Semiquincentennial in 2026, [Historic Germantown](#) is proud to unveil a robust slate of [programs](#), tours, and community events designed to welcome visitors from across the country to one of the city's most historic neighborhoods. Historic Germantown, a collective of 20 historic sites, houses, museums, and cultural institutions, serves as a cultural cornerstone of Northwest Philadelphia. Its members include the [Aces Veterans Museum](#), [Allens Lane Art Center](#), [Awbury Arboretum](#), [Black Writers Museum](#), [Cliveden](#), [The Colored Girls Museum](#), [Concord School House](#), [Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion](#), [Germantown Historical Society](#), [Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust](#), [Germantown White House](#), [Grumblethorpe](#), [Historic Fair Hill](#), [Historic RittenhouseTown](#), [Hood Cemetery](#), [Johnson House](#), [La Salle University Art Museum](#), [Lest We Forget Slavery Museum](#), [Stenton](#), and [Wyck Historic House and Garden](#).

Founded in 1683 by German-speaking settlers, Germantown quickly became a center for intellectual exchange, craft, abolitionist organizing, and early American innovation. The neighborhood is home to the site of the first formal appeal against slavery in the Americas, pivotal Revolutionary War history, and generations of diverse communities who helped shape the nation.

Kicking off the initiatives in February 2026 is Historic Germantown's [26 Weeks of Walking Tours](#), a new guided series developed in partnership through the Historic Germantown 20-member consortium, the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, and other community partners. The program invites visitors to explore iconic sites across Germantown, gaining a deeper understanding of the historical forces that have shaped each location. Through the tours, guests can experience the rich stories, movements, and moments that define the neighborhood's enduring legacy.

In early spring, the nonprofit launches its Green Space Programs, an initiative dedicated to highlighting the neighborhood's distinctive natural beauty and inviting visitors to explore its lush greenery, outdoor spaces, and environmental charm. Starting in April and continuing throughout the year, Historic Germantown will debut [Firefly Hours](#), where, for the first time, 17 member sites are extending their hours from 5 to 7 p.m. on a rotating basis. Guests can explore the neighborhood's gardens and green spaces for free while enjoying a variety of family-friendly activities, including nature crafts for children, lawn games, garden tours, farm club sessions, and talks with naturalists.

April also marks the return of Historic Germantown's [Green Space Stamp Rally \(Stamp Rally\)](#). The theme for the popular program is "Trees of Germantown." The free program allows participants to pick up a passport book and collect stamps at various sites, providing residents and visitors with a fun, interactive way to explore Germantown. Participants have the opportunity to discover the neighborhood through an entertaining scavenger hunt, with prizes awarded to those who complete the challenge. Additionally, a **fall Stamp Rally** is scheduled for September. Each participating site highlights a notable individual connected to its history, giving visitors the chance to learn about both fascinating historic figures and contemporary personalities who are shaping the neighborhood's future.

"As we approach America's 250th anniversary, we're honored to shine a light on the extraordinary history, culture, and community that define Germantown," said Tuomi Forrest, Executive Director of Historic Germantown. "This milestone gives us a rare opportunity to reflect on the neighborhood's profound contributions to our nation's story while inviting visitors to experience the people and places that continue to make this area so vibrant today. Our hope is that 2026 inspires a deeper connection to Germantown's past and a renewed appreciation for its future."

Historic Germantown is also launching a [Season of Festivals](#), featuring a variety of free events from April through October. Each festival highlights a unique aspect of 2026, celebrating the Semiquincentennial and the neighborhood's historic significance. Featured activations include the Festival of the Roses in May, hosted by Wyck, Johnson House's Juneteenth Festival, the Revolutionary Germantown Festival hosted by Cliveden, and the People's Poetry and Jazz Festival in August, hosted by the Black Writers Museum. Also running from April through October is Historic Germantown's [Second Saturdays](#). Every second Saturday of the month, all participating historic and cultural sites offer free admission, providing visitors with the opportunity to explore a wide range of exhibits, events, and lectures.

Following the success of its inaugural program, Historic Germantown brings back its popular **One Pass** initiative. Designed to encourage tourism and showcase the neighborhood's rich history, architecture, and green spaces that make Historic Germantown a truly unique destination. The One Pass offers visitors a 60% discount on guided tours at multiple cultural and historic sites, with the flexibility to plan their visits over a two-week period.

In addition to the year-long activations, Historic Germantown member sites are presenting a rich lineup of [exhibits, events, and lectures](#) created specifically for the 2026 Semiquincentennial celebration. Visitors are invited to engage with history, explore themes of freedom and justice, savor spirited tastes of independence, and experience Historic Germantown through the vibrant lens of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Supported by significant grants from the Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial and the William Penn Foundation, Historic Germantown's 2026 programming amplifies themes of history, nature, community, and discovery, ensuring visitors have countless ways to engage with the neighborhood throughout the year. For more details and to stay up-to-date on the latest programs coming to Historic Germantown in 2026, click [HERE](#).

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About Historic Germantown:

Historic Germantown is a partnership of 20 extraordinary historic houses, destinations, and museums in Northwest Philadelphia

that have joined together to protect, preserve, and share some of Philadelphia's prized historical assets. As a collective, we work for and with our neighbors to build pride of place, community wellness, and positive economic growth from Fairhill to Chestnut Hill.`