

In light of COVID-19, the 2020 Wawa Welcome America Festival has been reimagined to a completely virtual festival. All events can be experienced at welcomeamerica.com.
For the festival brochure, [click here](#).



MEDIA ALERT

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

WAWA WELCOME AMERICA FREE FESTIVAL EVENTS:

**Independence Blue Cross #mindPHL Wellness Corner • Museums of the Day •
PECO Go 4th & Learn • Making Shakers with Music Play Patrol •
Girls Like nicethings**

- WHAT:** **Independence Blue Cross #mindPHL Wellness Corner: Nutrition**
This July 4th, be #mindPHL with us. Enjoy programming to help you relax, connect, and boost your mental health. Let the chefs from Vetri Community Partnership show you how you can prepare a fun and easy meal that feeds both body and mind.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, June 30, 8:30 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)
- WHERE:** <https://welcomeamerica.com/events/>
**programming will become available each day of the series*
- MEDIA CONTACT:** Grant Gegwich, Director of Public Relations, Independence Blue Cross,
Grant.Gegwich@ibx.com
-

- WHAT:** **Museums of the Day: Association of Public Art**
Celebrate this 4th of July by exploring Philly's outdoor sculpture online through the Association for Public Art's self-guided tours, interactive map, free audio program, kids' activity pages, and more.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 9:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/association-for-public-art/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Caitlin Martin, Media & Communications Manager, Association of Public Art, cmartin@associationforpublicart.org

WHAT: **Museums of the Day: Eastern State Penitentiary**

Virtual programming includes coloring pages inspired by historic photographs, virtual tours of the penitentiary led by Eastern State guides, and conversations with national experts about how COVID-19 is affecting the American criminal justice system. In celebration of Wawa Welcome America, Eastern State Penitentiary is offering a free 30-minute virtual tour, led by one of their expert guides. Get a glimpse of the abandoned cellblocks, including highlights like Al Capone's Cell and Death Row, and learn about the history of the world's first penitentiary. This tour will be available on Eastern State Penitentiary's [Facebook](#).

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 9:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/eastern-state-penitentiary/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Nicole Frankhouser, Director of Marketing and Communications, Eastern State Penitentiary, nf@easternstate.org

WHAT: **Museums of the Day: Fireman's Hall Museum**

Fireman's Hall Museum will feature firefighters reading children's stories focused on the history of firefighting or fire prevention and sharing short clips from their fire safety program.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 9:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/firemans-hall-museum/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Carol Smith, Secretary, Philadelphia Fire Department Historical Corporation, carol.smith@firemanshallmuseum.org

WHAT: **Museums of the Day: The Rosenbach**

Tucked among the elegant 19th-century townhomes near Rittenhouse Square, The Rosenbach houses one of the world's great collections of literature, manuscripts, and rare books. Viewers can experience the exhibit, *Out of Many, One: Diversity and the American Experiment*. In addition, viewers can participate in one of the following programs:

10:00-11:00 am- Letters from a Young America, A Program for Families

In this interactive program for all ages, learn what George Washington was like as a teenager, find out more about John Adams's kids and discover the story of Phillis Wheatley, the first African-American author to be published in this country. Families will get the chance to get up close and personal with letters and books related to these famous folks and do some fun, hands-on activities. This program is appropriate for kids aged 5 to 12 and their caregivers. **Registration is required at welcomeamerica.com.**

7:00-8:00 pm - Founding Fathers and Revolutionary Women

Take an intimate look at George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson's handwritten letters and get to know our nation's first political icons as the complex, real people they were. But not all history was made by men! We'll also delve into the lives and works of Anne Bradstreet and Phillis Wheatley, the first American women to publish, and consider their ideas about liberty, women's place in society and enslavement.

Registration is required at welcomeamerica.com.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 9:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/the-rosenbach/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Emilie Parker, Director of Education, Eparker@rosenbach.org
Rosa Doherty, Manager of Communications, rdoherty@rosenbach.org

WHAT: **PECO GO 4TH & Learn: Fitness & Fun in partnership Penn Athletics and Penn Sports Medicine**

Time to get active! In partnership with Penn Athletics and Penn Sports Medicine, coaches and staff from Penn Athletics are ready to get you moving with fun interactive fitness and sports activities for both kids and adults to enjoy!

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 10:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/peco-go-4th-learn-fitness-fun-in-partnership-with-penn-athletics-and-penn-sports-medicine/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Mike Mahoney, Director of Athletic Communications, Penn Athletics, mahoneyw@upenn.edu

WHAT: **Making Shakers with Music Play Patrol**

Experience interactive, educational, musical fun using items from around the home. Rock out to the sounds of pots and pans, buckets, drinking straws, and more. Today, you can shake your sillies out with us and learn how to make an egg shaker maraca.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 11:00 a.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/music-play-patrol-diy-shakers/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Frank Coates, Founder & CEO, Music Play Patrol
frank@musicolaypatrol.com

WHAT: **Museums of the Day: Free Library of Philadelphia Rare Book Department**

The Rare Book Department offers free access to historically important books, art, and objects ranging in date from 3000 BCE to the present. Among its many collections are illuminated medieval manuscripts, first editions, notable collections of writers including Charles Dickens and Edgar Allan Poe, early American children's books, original artwork by Beatrix Potter, Robert Lawson, and other illustrators, manuscripts from the Muslim world, cuneiform tablets, and Pennsylvania German manuscripts and printed books.

Viewers will be able to explore the Rare Book Department and experience a Q&A live at 2 p.m. Viewers can also explore their digital collections, including Revolutionary War engravings and images of centennial, sesquicentennial, and bicentennial celebrations.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 2:00 p.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/free-library-of-philadelphia-rare-book-department/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Kaitlyn Foti, Public Relations Manager, Free Library of Philadelphia, fotik@freelibrary.org

WHAT: **A Philadelphia Freedom Celebration**

Starring Billie Jean King, Members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Philadelphia Freedoms

The Philadelphia Freedoms of World TeamTennis invite you to virtually attend "A Philadelphia Freedom Celebration!" Join this special event starring sports icon and social pioneer, Billie Jean King, as she takes you behind-the-scenes of the classic hit, "Philadelphia Freedom" which was written for her by good friend, Sir Elton John. Plus, there will be a special, never-before-seen performance of this song by members of The Philadelphia Orchestra led by Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Special guests also include Freedoms' Head Coach Craig Kardon and ATP Doubles star Fabrice Martin. Pre-registration required at welcomeamerica.com.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/a-philadelphia-freedom-celebration/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Ike Richman, Ike Richman Communications, ike@richmancommunications.com

WHAT: **Girls Like nicethings**

A women-centered music and art event showcasing the talent of women and women-identifying creators in Philadelphia, this event will include a multi-genre lineup of hip-hop, R&B, and soul performances alongside interviews with visual artists discussing their creative process and social impact. Featuring art from Linda Fernandez, Nile Livingston and Lovesick Art Gallery, plus performances by Noel Scales, Queen Jo, Suzann Christine, DJ Tati Mia, Lauriana Mae and Jahwula.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 7:00 p.m. (programming available through July 7, 2020)

WHERE: <https://welcomeamerica.com/event/girls-like-nicethings/>

MEDIA

CONTACT: Jason Berger, nicethingsMUSIC, nicethingsMUSIC@gmail.com

About Welcome America, Inc.

Welcome America, Inc. is a 501c3, non-profit organization engaged in a public-private partnership with the City of Philadelphia. Welcome America, Inc.'s goal is to promote American history, education, and the City of Philadelphia as a global tourist destination. Each year, Welcome America, Inc. produces Wawa Welcome America, a multi-day festival featuring art, culture, community engagement and entertainment - it is the nation's premier Independence Day celebration! Welcome America was founded in 1993, and celebrates its 28th festival in 2020. Visit www.welcomeamerica.com to learn more, and join the conversation at:

- Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica>
- Instagram – <http://www.instagram.com/July4thPhilly>
- Twitter – www.twitter.com/July4thPhilly