



Contact: Allison Kelsey
215 668 8798, akelsey@philaedfund.org

PRESS RELEASE

Wawa Welcome America and PhillyGoes2College “I Am Philadelphia” Contest Opens
Teens Can Share Their Vision for Themselves and the City Through Visual and Performing Arts
(Philadelphia, February 15, 2022) – PhillyGoes2College and the Wawa Welcome America Festival team up again to highlight and celebrate the aspirations of our city’s young residents in the “I Am Philadelphia” Contest. Philly high school students can submit photos or videos of original visual art and musical and spoken word performances for the chance to win exclusive prizes, including performance/display opportunities at this summer’s Wawa Welcome America Festival (June 19 through July 4).

Philadelphia’s people define our city, and the creativity of our young people can provide inspiration for us all. PhillyGoes2College helps them realize their dreams of becoming college graduates, and, through the “I Am Philadelphia” Contest, asks them to share their motivation for being college-bound. What will they bring to a college campus that only they can offer? And how will they use their education to make Philadelphia’s future brighter?

Submissions will be judged by an expert panel of industry professionals that includes Chill Moody, hip hop artist, Philadelphia Music Ambassador, and Founder of nicethingsMUSIC; Benjamin Thomas, award winning music engineer and producer, founder of After5 Studios; former Philadelphia Poet Laureate Trapeta Mayson; Quentin Williams, Founder and Executive Director of DragonTree Media and We the People Stage; Conrad Brenner, Founder of StreetsDept; and Mural Arts’ Executive Director Jane Golden.

Visit PhillyGoes2College.org/festival for contest tips and entry information. The deadline is Friday, April 15, 2022. The Wawa Welcome America Festival will be held from June 19 to July 4, 2022.

PhillyGoes2College.org, powered by the Philadelphia Education Fund, is your source for information on planning, applying, and paying for college. From our calendar of local college admissions events, directory of Philadelphia-area college access opportunities, and comprehensive scholarship bank, PG2C is here to help you make your mark. Follow [Philly2College](#) (Twitter), [Facebook](#), and [@PhillyGoes2College](#) (Instagram).

The Philadelphia Education Fund creates equitable access to opportunities for students by providing resources and expertise that build paths to college and career success. Learn more at www.philaedfund.org.

The Wawa Welcome America Festival Wawa Welcome America is Philadelphia’s premier July 4th festival, the largest July 4th celebration in America, and one of the largest free festivals in the country. Wawa Welcome

America offers residents and visitors alike sixteen days of free, family-friendly programming across the city, with a focus on arts, culture, diversity, education, wellness, history, and performance. Festival attendees can enjoy free concerts, fireworks, complimentary museum access, Wawa Hoagie Day, and more!

In 2021, Wawa Welcome America expanded the festival to include a new slate of programming entitled “Freedom – Liberty,” in commemoration of Juneteenth. The expansion, in partnership with African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP) and VISIT PHILADELPHIA®, has been designed by AAMP to provide education and awareness of Juneteenth, and to explore the historical significance of and thematic ties between these two important U.S. holidays.

Wawa Welcome America is committed to creating platforms to nurture diverse perspectives and raise diverse voices, and to celebrating our nation’s evolving history through the lives, voices, and experiences of all Americans. Visit welcomeamerica.com for more information about this year’s celebration.

#