



Independence National Historical Park
Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site,
Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial,
Gloria Dei (Old Swede's) National Historic Site
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106



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Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2012



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Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, PA

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A Letter from the Superintendent



At Independence National Historical Park, my staff and I share the stewardship of some of the most important symbols of our nation's heritage, including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Congress Hall, the First and Second Banks of the United States, and others. An accredited museum, the park has almost 3 million items in its collection ranging from the best known, such as the Rising Sun Chair (see article on page 20), to lesser known items such as architectural elements from demolished buildings and archeological fragments. We also manage the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial and Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site.

Our responsibility to preserve these irreplaceable resources is second only to our responsibility to our visitors. The park attracted 3.6 million visitors in FY2012, from around the country and around the world. Through our wide variety of visitor services, we encourage our visitors to make their own connections with the story of the founding of our nation and the mission of the National Park Service.

This report includes information on the economic impact of park visitation (see page 10). National parks are economic engines for local economies, and Independence NHP (INDE) is even stronger because of its international significance. A joint Department of the Interior - UNESCO event this year (page 25) highlighted the benefits accrued to Philadelphia through Independence Hall.

Covering over 54 acres in the heart of Philadelphia, Independence NHP helps define the local landscape. Through our work with partners such as the Society Hill Civic Association, Pew Charitable Trusts, Independence Visitor Center, and

the City of Philadelphia, we continue to refresh park components of our city's design with projects in Washington Square (page 17) and Franklin Court (page 6).

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service. The Organic Act of the NPS states "the Service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."



To ensure that all of our National Parks are prepared for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement, the Director of the NPS has put forward

a Call to Action. The vision presented in this plan calls on all NPS employees and partners to commit to actions that advance the Service toward a shared vision for our second century. See www.nps.gov/calltoaction for more information.

I hope that you share my excitement for what we have accomplished and what we have planned to prepare this park for the NPS centennial. The following report captures only highlights of some of these accomplishments. I credit the dedication and hard work of my staff in reaching these achievements, but I also know that none of our achievements would have been possible without the strong partnerships we have formed with organizations around Philadelphia and around the nation, and indeed all of our park visitors and constituents. Thank you for your support of our national parks.

Sincerely,
Cynthia MacLeod



Pictured above and left: construction moves forward, October 2012.

Pictured below: artists rendition of the new exhibit space.

Pictured opposite page: interactive game allows visitors to play the glass armonica.



Benjamin Franklin Museum

Thanks to accomplishments in 2012, the Benjamin Franklin Museum will be opening in 2013 in Franklin Court.

Dedicated to the life, times and legacy of Benjamin Franklin, the revitalized world-class museum facility will feature interactive displays exploring his life as a private citizen and statesman. Artifacts and interactive exhibits are geared toward visitors of all ages, with displays that are educational, challenging and fun. Keep an eye out for “Skuggs,” Ben Franklin’s squirrel friend!

The project team has developed exhibits around the following themes:

ARDENT & DUTIFUL: Engaging portraits of the people in Franklin’s household, a game that allows visitors to play Franklin’s musical invention, the glass armonica, and other exhibits look at Franklin’s family of origin, Franklin’s Philadelphia family, and Franklin’s friends and adopted families abroad.

AMBITIOUS & REBELLIOUS: Artifacts, videos and hands-on interactive exhibits focus on Franklin’s defiance of authority, building

a business, and seeking independence from England.

MOTIVATED TO IMPROVE: Learn about Franklin’s many community improvement inventions and ideas.

CURIIOUS & FULL OF WONDER: Displays and hands-on interactives demonstrate Franklin’s experiments with electricity, maritime observations, and others.

STRATEGIC & PERSUASIVE: Topics in this room include visions of unity, a master diplomat, and Franklin thoughts on race and slavery.

FRANKLIN’S LIBRARY AND LEGACY. Through projected animations, visitors can see for themselves what Franklin had to say about his life and accomplishments.

This project was made possible through a public-private partnership with the Pew Charitable Trusts, Gerry Lenfest, the William Penn Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the City of Philadelphia, and the In-

dependence Visitor Center Corporation. Funds from these sources more than doubled federal funding.

Interactive computer elements, videos and animation were created by Memory Collective (Boston) and Blue Cadet (Philadelphia). Exhibits were fabricated by Maltbie (New Jersey). The construction contract was awarded to the Daniel J. Keating Company (Pennsylvania).

NPS staff worked closely with QuinnEvans (architects) and CassonMann (exhibit designers) along with a wide array of special consultants for HVAC, electrical, IT, security, sound, and lighting design.

Remer and Talbott (guest curators) provided ongoing research for the content of all the exhibits and were closely involved in the development of interactives. We thank them for their contribution of reproduction artifacts, images and ideas from the Ben 300 travelling exhibit.

Artifacts on display in the museum include items on loan from museums around the country as well as items from the collection of Independence National Historical Park.





225th Anniversary of the Constitution

The United States Constitution established a new nation – and changed the face of the world in the 18th century. Independence National Historical Park celebrated the 225th anniversary of the United States Constitution this year, offering a wide array of special programs and activities to visitors.

Throughout the summer, the park posted an online daybook, highlighting the daily discussions at the Constitutional Convention between May 13 and September 17, 1787. Visitors to the park’s website were able to track the day by day concerns of the delegates to the convention.

On Constitution Day, National Park Service Rangers worked in partnership with the National Constitution Center staff to offer a “Live Chat” online, answering visitor questions about the Constitutional Convention and the American Constitution.

Modern technology wasn’t the only kind used to commemorate the anniversary. Park staff used a reproduction of an 18th century printing press to produce a special commemorative print celebrating the 225th anniversary of the Constitution. Park volunteer Mike Santino hand-carved the wooden blocks used to produce the images for this special commemoration.

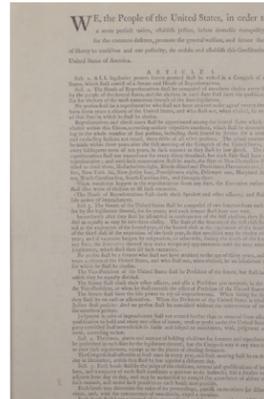


Ranger Bill Caughlin participates in an online chat.

On September 13, the National Constitution Center presented the 2012 Liberty Medal to boxing legend Mohammed Ali. During the Liberty Medal Ceremony, Ali was honored for his courage and conviction in his efforts to secure liberty for people around the world. Ali’s daughter, professional boxer Laila Ali, joined 2012 Olympic gold medalists Claressa Shields and Susan Francina to present the prestigious medal to their fellow Olympic gold medalist. The public ceremony took place at the National Con-

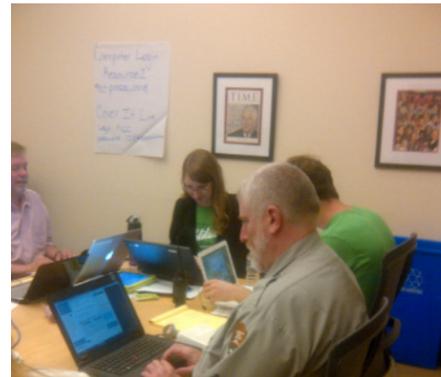
stitution Center in Independence National Historical Park.

Visitors of all ages participated in tours offered throughout the weekend before Constitution Day. Visitors cheered as the Sons of the American Revolution led a stirring parade down Independence Mall from the National Constitution Center to Independence Hall. The park offered an interpretive program on significant contributions by prominent delegates who attended the convention.



Constitution on display by the National Archives

Children ages 8 to 15 were challenged by the “Constitution Scavenger Hunt.” Much like the delegates to the convention who searched for answers to produce a functional framework of government, kids searched for answers throughout the park to learn about events that took place in park buildings. Even grown-up visitors puzzled over the “Constitution Word Search.”



Above and Opposite page, left: Sons of the American Revolution join INDE on the Constitution’s 225th anniversary

Opposite page, center: Ranger Matt Ifill participates in the Constitution Day live chat

Opposite page, right: Superintendent MacLeod (top row far left) joins Doug DeVos (President of Amway Corp and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the NCC Board), Mayor Michael Nutter, Governor Tom Corbett, William Sasso (Chairman Stradley Ronon, Chairman of the NCC Corporate Council Program) and NBA star Dikembe Mutombo at the Liberty Medal



American Slavery: Bringing Wider Perspectives to Museum Interpretation

Over one hundred scholars, students and museum professionals came together on February 25 to learn more about “American Slavery: Bringing Wider Perspectives to Museum Interpretation.”

Sponsored by Independence National Historical Park, the African American Museum in Philadelphia, and the Friends of Independence, the symposium brought together an extraordinary group of talented artists, historians, teachers and managers of historic sites to generate conversation and new ideas about how slavery has been -- and could be -- interpreted at museums.

Dr. Emma Lapsansky, Professor Emerita, Haverford College, launched the first panel into a vigorous discussion about museums and how museum professionals can explore and share new discoveries and new perspectives in history. Panelists were: Mary V. Thompson, Research Historian, Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens; Louise Mirrer, President & CEO, New York Historical Society; and Ivan Henderson, Curator of Education and

Public Programming, the African American Museum in Philadelphia.

In the morning’s second panel, David Young, Executive Director of Cliveden of the National Trust, moderated a compelling discussion about presenting stories and engaging communities. Panelists for this lively debate were Louis Massiah, Executive Director, Scribe Video, Lorene Cary, Author and Founder and Director of Art Sanctuary, Christy Coleman, President, The Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar, and Gay Vietzke, Deputy Regional Director for Park Operations, NE Region, and former Superintendent at Hampton NHS.

After an opportunity for participants to visit the President’s House Site: Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation, Lonnie G. Bunch III, Director of National Museum of African American History and Culture gave the keynote address. Symposium participants provided positive feedback and the organizers are already planning follow-up gatherings.



Top: Lorene Cary, Louis Massiah and David Young.

Middle: Ivan Henderson addresses the audience.

Below left: Ivan Henderson, Helen M. Shannon (AAMP Board), Austin Morris, Jr., Lonnie G. Bunch III, Adrienne Whaley (AAMP), Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod



Independence Hall Tower

In February, 2012, after 18 months of work, INDE unveiled the newly rehabilitated Independence Hall Tower. This project supports the NPS mission of preserving America’s special places.

Recognizing the significance of this achievement, Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach awarded Charlie Tonetti, park architect, the regional Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to cultural resource stewardship in three categories—one for a cultural resource specialist, one for a facility maintenance specialist and one for a park superintendent. Charlie was awarded the “Excellence in Cultural Resource Management Award.”

Charlie’s superior expertise, creative thinking, dedication, and focus led this \$4.4 million American Reinvestment and Recovery Act project to successful completion.

This highly visible project included the repair and replacement of detailed wooden, copper, glass, metal, and masonry architectural elements throughout the tower and all new paint. Project craftsmen regilded the 700 pound weather vane that sits atop the tower.

“Each of the award recipients’ efforts in cultural resources highlights their commitment to professional excellence,” said Reidenbach. “Thanks to their innovative work, the northeast region is at the leading edge of efforts to preserve the nation’s cultural legacy.”





Economic Impact

INDE is driving visitation to – and economic growth for – the entire Greater Philadelphia Region. In February, 2012, the National Park Service (NPS) released a report showing that 3,770,470 visitors in 2010 spent \$147,774,000 in Philadelphia’s communities near the park. The numbers included impact from visitors to the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site and Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, which are managed through INDE. That spending supported 2,155 jobs in the local area.



that local visitor spending added a total of \$31 billion to the national economy and supported more than 258,000 jobs, an increase of \$689 million and 11,500 jobs over 2009.

About the Research

The figures are based on \$12 billion of direct spending by 281 million visitors in 394 national parks and nearby communities and are included in an annual, peer reviewed analysis conducted by Dr. Daniel

Stynes of Michigan State University for the NPS.

Read More

To download the report visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM>. Click on Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation and Payroll, 2010. For more information on how the NPS is working in Pennsylvania, go to <http://www.nps.gov/pennsylvania>.

Spending by Segment

Most of the spending/jobs are related to lodging, food, and beverage service (52 percent) followed by other retail (29 percent), entertainment/amusements (10 percent), gas and local transportation (7 percent) and groceries (2 percent).

National Impact

Across the U.S., national parks are adding value. National data show

Economic Impact of Philadelphia National Park Visitors on Local Economy 2010

Number of visitors (local and non-local)	3,770,007
Total Visitor Spending	\$147,774,000
Impacts of Non-Local Visitor Spending	
Jobs	2,155
Labor Income	\$70,619,000
Value Added	\$116,470,000

*Non-local visitors live outside a roughly 60-mile radius of the park. Jobs include part-time and full-time jobs with seasonal jobs adjusted to an annual basis. Impacts include direct and secondary effects of visitor spending on the local economy. Labor income covers wages and salaries, payroll benefits, and incomes of sole proprietors in the local region. Value added includes labor income, profits and rents, and indirect business taxes.

Payroll Impact of Philadelphia National Parks on Local Economy 2010

Park Payroll	
Salary	\$12,701,000
Benefits	\$3,450,000
Impacts of Park Payroll	
Total Jobs	266
Labor Income	\$19,998,000
Value Added	\$23,027,000

*Economic impacts include NPS payroll and jobs plus the induced effects of NPS employee spending of their wages and salaries in the local region. Jobs are rounded to the nearest job.

Source: Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation and Payroll, 2010. Data includes Independence NHP, Edgar Allan Poe NHS, Thaddeus Kosciuszko NM.



Professional Excellence

New Staff

Independence National Historical Park (INDE) filled 41 staff positions this Fiscal Year (including some new staff hired and some promoted from within).

The Division of Asset Preservation & Maintenance filled 17 full time positions, including painters, gardeners, and maintenance workers. Other key hires include an Inventory Management Specialist and small engine mechanic.

The Division for Resource & Visitor Protection added 11 new employees, including two who graduated from Temple University and completed the ProRanger program (see page 6).

Other positions filled ranged from park interpretive guides to an IT specialist to an Integrated Pest Management Coordinator.

Managing Employee Transitions

The park revamped its new employee orientation program, incorporating one-on-one sessions and explaining some of the miscellaneous benefits available to employ-



ees. A package of materials for new employees is now available that includes information about DOI and NPS human resources information systems and training programs. New staff are also provided information about the park, the Library and Information Services, Employee Assistance Program, and

the NPS Fundamentals program

The INDE Business Office streamlined the employee exit process to ensure accountability and proper checkout of employees leaving the park.

Training

Park staff benefited from a variety of training programs throughout the year, in Philadelphia and around the country. Staff training included such diverse experiences as: NPS Fundamentals, Content Management Systems for Web Designers, Super-

visory Training, Gilder Lehrman seminars, Disaster Prevention, Operational Leadership (see below) and Planning and Response for Museum Collections – just to name a few. The diversity of the training reflects both the breadth and depth of the services offered at the park.

Operational Leadership

NPS Operational Leadership introduces a new tool within our National Park Service Occupational Safety and Health Program – one designed to prevent or mitigate risk associated with human errors when we are faced with threats and hazards. OL is a culture of safety awareness that is taught to all NPS staff, from management and administration to field staff and volunteers. OL is built on the knowledge that the leadership that each of us provides keeps all of us safe and able to fulfill our mission of preserving America’s treasures. The term “operation,” as used in Operational Leadership, refers to every job we do. Whether we are plowing snow at Glacier Bay, building fences at Hawaii Volcanoes, leading walks on the National Mall, making traffic stops on the Blue Ridge Parkway, or mowing grass in Philadelphia, everything we do involves risk.

OL practices help employees identify those risk factors, and provide practical tools for individuals and teams to use in assessing and mitigating risks. The OL program empowers employees to be assertive about their safety and the safety of their team, and encourages them to participate in the decision making and risk management process. To successfully do this, each employee must be able to inspire, influence, and guide. This is the essence of leadership.

Volunteer and Youth Programs



Poe Rangers and ProRangers

In partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site Youth Partnership immersed approximately 50 urban youth from Spring Garden Elementary School in a ten-week program in the spring exploring National Parks.

NPS Mission

Participating youth were educated about the NPS Mission. They learned to embrace the concept of stewardship in national parks and even in their own neighborhoods and community playgrounds. The partnership connected urban youth to the natural and historical treasures in their local community while promoting personal responsibility, creativity and the relevance of National Parks to all people.



Poe Rangers at the Cape May Lighthouse

den also has a high (12.6) percentage of students with special needs, many of whom participate in the program. A number of the students who participated reside not at home, but at a nearby Salvation Army shelter.

A Healthy Step

Bringing these underserved youth into a closer connection with our national parks is a step in a healthy direction. Through this program, these youth have traveled to the National Mall, the NJ Coastal Heritage Trail, Fort McHenry and Hopewell Furnace, among other state and national parks.



Poe Rangers at the Reflecting Pool, Washington, DC

They got the opportunity they otherwise wouldn't have to get outdoors, get walking, climbing and running.

What the Students Say About It

Some quotes from this year's student journals highlight the impact this program had on their connection with nature, national parks and history:

"We climbed the lighthouse and went on the beach. We saw a live baby shark. It had rough skin like sandpaper." (at Cape May, NJ)

"I pretended I was the first female President." (at the National Constitution Center in Independence National Historical Park)

"We visited where the Phillies play and learned about the Hall of Fame and Jackie Robinson." (at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia)

The program also directly supported NPS objectives of resource stewardship, community involvement, education and interpretation, and it dovetailed with the NPS emphasis on connecting urban youth in underserved communities to our national parks. Ultimately, we will benefit from years of young Philadelphians, passionate about the mission, dedicated to preserving our national parks and our nation's history.

Reaching Underserved Youth

Spring Garden is a Title 1 school with over 97% of the students receiving free or reduced price lunch, higher than the city-wide average of 76.1%. Spring Gar-

NPS ProRanger Program

INDE continued its participation in the successful ProRanger program with Temple University. ProRanger Philadelphia is an academic and training program that is cooperatively administered by the NPS and Temple University. The program was established to recruit and train park rangers for the National Park Service. Students accepted into the program start with an internship at a national park. ProRangers spend time with each division at the park, but focus their work in Resource & Visitor Protection, providing assistance with a variety of visitor services and resource protection tasks. This year, two ProRanger graduates were brought on board as full time Law Enforcement Rangers.



ProRangers Melissa Burch and Giancarlo Graziani, Resource & Visitor Protection, engage visitors





Independence Park Institute

Thanks to the support of the Friends of Independence, INDE benefitted from a “Youth Transportation Grant,” which funded 16 free field trips to students of the School District of Philadelphia. Each field trip included bus transportation, the program Daily Life in 18th Century Philadelphia, a tour of Independence Hall and a visit to the Liberty Bell and President’s House Site.

Including the grant-funded trips, the IPI hosted 91 school programs over the course of the year. Students enjoyed all the programs: Daily Life in 18th Century Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin, The Liberty Bell, Archeology: History Found in Pieces, and Quest for Freedom: Slavery and the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia.

“Develop Your ESP”

The 2012 Teacher Institute, co-hosted by Valley Forge NHP and INDE, was designed to support the theme, “Develop Your E.S.P. In History.” In this case “E.S.P.” stood for “economic, social and political connections to history.”

This professional development workshop offered educators of history and language arts presentations by content experts, demonstration lessons, behind the scenes tours of park sites, investi-

gations of museum collections and hands-on experience with a variety of research strategies and classroom techniques that use multiple park resources.

Teachers spent two days at Valley Forge and two days at Independence with classroom sessions and field studies. They learned how to analyze primary source documents and interpret historic paintings. Teachers were able to step back in time and visit with a George Washington re-enactor at the David Potts house at Valley Forge and witness a lively debate between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams re-enactors at the Second Bank portrait gallery at Independence.

Rangers and staff presented workshops including sessions entitled “The Social Fabric of Philadelphia,” “The Complicated Causes of the Revolution,” and “Strategies for Using Primary Sources in the Classroom.” A master teacher leader taught about “Developing Historic Characters through Journaling,” and guest speakers taught about “Economic Pennsylvania” and how to utilize “The Stock Market Game” with today’s students.



Park volunteer works with students in an IPI classroom.



Independence Park Institute



Above: Ranger Stewart Low addresses a class in an IPI classroom.

Left: Trading cards are one of our most popular youth activities.



Junior Rangers

Junior Ranger Day

On April 28, 2012, INDE celebrated Junior Ranger Day as part of our National Park Week activities. Park activities taught children about the National Park Service, history, gardening, and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

Activities included artifacts from the park collection on display by our curatorial team plus a treasure hunt game for children. Law Enforcement Rangers offered finger printing demonstrations. Park gardeners sent participants home with small bags of plant seeds – after safely displaying gardening tools that included heavy equipment and chainsaws. Children got to play with 18th century toys and were enlisted to serve as privates in the Union Army. The Friends of Independence raffled off children’s books while Walt Whitman showed up to describe his experiences during the Civil War and read some of his works. Finally, musicians performed Civil War era music. Events were in observation of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and in recognition of the seeds of the war in the Constitution and the ongoing road to civil rights.

School Outreach

The park’s mission to work with youth includes outreach to local schools. In March, Interpretive Park Ranger Maria Schaller participated in the Annual Women’s Career Day at the General George McCall Elementary School.

Ranger Schaller had the opportunity to speak with four classes, and with each she discussed the students’ career goals. Ranger Schaller shared her experiences working as an Interpretive Park Ranger at INDE and EDAL.

Ranger Rick Starr discusses history with some future Junior Rangers.





Over the past year, INDE welcomed 3.6 million visitors. Park Rangers staffed 17 buildings for visitors. On top of the regular tours provided in park buildings, the park offered over 600 special interpretive tours and programs. The following are only some of the highlights from our visitor services during FY2012.

Civil War Sesquicentennial

September 8th marked the 150th anniversary of Camp Independence. When the first tents sprang up behind Independence Hall on September 8, 1862, the country was in the midst of the Civil War. Federal recruitment numbers were on the decline and Philadelphia officials called on the patriotic spirit of Americans to join the army by establishing a military recruitment center on Independence Square.



INDE commemorated the 150th anniversary of Camp Independence and helped visitors learn more about the Civil War through a wide array of activities. Exhibits included a photographic display about Camp Independence and other civil war related events on Independence Square. Some visitors may have been surprised to see images of President Abraham Lincoln raising the flag over Independence Hall in 1861, one of the stops Lincoln made on his way to his inauguration.

Park staff in period dress and displaying military accoutrements (photo on left) answered questions about the camp and military life. A Civil War Brass Band (the Philadelphia Brigade Band) offered two concerts on Saturday, September 8, attracting both civilians and potential military recruits. A photographic display about Camp Independence and other Civil War related events attracted thousands of visitors. Children who completed the park's "Civil War to Civil Rights" activity book received Junior Ranger badges, Civil War trading cards and other prizes.

Visitation Statistics Independence National Historical Park Fiscal Year 2012

Park Visitors		Permitted Activities	
Total Park Visitors	3,565,989	Total Permits Issued	546
Independence Visitor Center	2,452,503	Commercial Filming/Photography Permits	207
National Constitution Center	715,369	Special Event Permits	153
Special Event Visitors	78,086	Public Assembly Permits	186

Tilden Award

Park Ranger Renee Albertoli received the 2012 National Park Service's Freeman Tilden Award for interpretive excellence. Albertoli was honored for creating the writing enrichment program for high school students entitled "Project Write - Inspire Me!"



The Tilden Award recognizes outstanding contributions in interpretation and visitor services by National Park Service employees. Nominees were judged on creativity, originality, and positive contributions to enhancing the public's understanding of national park resources.

Albertoli collaborated with the Philadelphia Writing Project on this innovative two-week workshop for 20 local students where they learned that issues debated by the Founding Fathers are still relevant today. Questions pondered 225 years ago in early handset printed materials are the same ones discussed today in social media.

As a result of this summer program, INDE is collaborating with the Philadelphia Writing Project and the School District of Philadelphia on a 10th grade language arts curriculum unit.

The award is named for Freeman Tilden, the author of *The National Parks, What They Mean to You and Me* and *Interpreting Our Heritage*. Tilden's writings have had considerable influence on National Park Service interpretation and education programs.



Independence By Day

"The British Occupation of Philadelphia," a one-hour walking tour exploring what it was like when British forces occupied the city in late September for nine months.

"Dr. Franklin's Philadelphia," a walking tour about the many contributions of Benjamin Franklin to his city, his country and the world.

"Poe's Legacy: A Discussion," a lively discussion about Poe and his literary legacy featuring three Poe scholars: Daniel Hoffman, Robert Regan, and Alvin Holm.

"Halloween with Edgar Allan Poe," an illustrated program on the Halloween themes in Poe's literature.

"The Many Faces of George Washington," a special tour of the many portraits of George Washington on display in the Second Bank Portrait Gallery in celebration of Washington's birthday. The tour also featured a portrait of Martha Wash-

ington and the first President's many friends and comrades.

"The Underground Railroad in Philadelphia." During the 18th and 19th centuries, Philadelphia was an important stop on the Underground Railroad. This program explored the people and places connected to this important era in our history.

"The President's House," a slide program about the house that stood at the corner of 6th and Market Streets and the various individuals (both free and enslaved) that lived there.

"Washington Crossing the Delaware," an illustrated program about Washington's daring crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night and the battle of Trenton.

"Storytelling Benches" Throughout the summer season, visitors can enjoy a historic story and learn about the many characters in our nation's history, thanks to a partnership between INDE and Historic Philadelphia, Inc.



In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Dr. Thomas Chávez, one of New Mexico's leading experts on Hispanic culture, braved the cold of the east coast to come to Philadelphia to offer fresh insights about Spain's contribution to American independence. The special presentation by Dr. Chávez was held on October 1 in historic Congress Hall.

Speaking to a crowd that included Spanish embassy staff, consular officials, students and the general public, Dr. Chávez, Director Emeritus of the Palace of the Governors Museum in Santa Fe and the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, detailed the results of his extensive research of many years. His work demonstrates that Spain's financial contribution to the Revolutionary War was even greater than that of France, and that the coordination of Spain's military and monetary resources with French and American forces ensured an American victory at Yorktown and an allied victory over the British by 1783.

Independence By Night

Twilight Tours

Volunteers with the Friends of Independence offer free evening walking tours of the park every summer. Each volunteer brings his or her own flavor to the tour, focusing on topics like banking in early America or the yellow fever epidemic. But every tour always offers a broad overview of the park.

Speaker Series

This was the first year of this fee-based, after-hours program offered from September through April by the Friends of Independence. Meeting in park buildings and neighboring businesses, guest speakers shared their knowledge about 18th Century America. Sold-out programs included topics such as: Wines of the Continental Congress, Cordelia Frances Biddle: Finding Inspiration in the People and Places of Philadelphia, A Cooking Presentation with City Tavern, and, Lynmar Brock, Jr.: Must Thee Fight.

Independence After Hours

From April through October, visitors can enjoy dinner with costumed characters, take a tour of Independence Hall after hours -- and encounter our nation's Founding Fathers as they passionately debate the Declaration of Independence right in the place where they debated in 1776. This fee-based program is available through a partnership between INDE and Historic Philadelphia, Inc.



NPS Green Parks Plan

Park staff planted thirteen new trees in Washington Square, replacing lost trees in this beautiful and historic square.

Tree planting was just one step by Independence National Historical Park to support the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Plant One Million program and participate in the National Park Service's Green Parks Plan.

The Green Parks Plan is the commitment of the National Park Service to the environmentally sustainable management of the facilities and operations of America's 398 national parks.

Staff at INDE are successfully making the park a little greener in a number of ways. For example, park staff have installed flora that embraces the "Xeriscape" concept of using only indigenous plants that require a lower amount of water consumption. Park gardeners also introduced park-wide use of organic mushroom mulch, which will lower the fertilizer requirement of the entire park and retain a greater amount of moisture in the soil profile.

The Green Parks Plan is a comprehensive approach to sustainability that will reduce the National Park Service's carbon footprint through actions taken in every national park, including INDE. The plan addresses issues including energy usage in park buildings, "greening" park vehicles and being "water wise." The complete Green Parks Plan is available online at www.nps.gov/green-parksplan.



Keeping the Park Bright

A bright accomplishment this year was the replacement of fixture glass along with the repair and staining of exterior Franklin sidewalk lamp posts throughout the park. The staff at INDE is responsible for maintaining over 1,000 exterior lights throughout the park. Recent efforts on ensuring all lights are working at peak capacity have added to the safety and attractiveness of INDE's many outdoor walks.



Projects Completed

Other projects completed this year included a number of re-roofing project (on the Locust Street houses and the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial), hazardous tree pruning, improving the slate walkway at Old St. Joseph's Church, and replacing the air handler unit at the New Hall Military Museum.



NPS Founder's Day

Independence National Historical Park was one of nearly 400 National Park Service sites across the country that celebrated the National Park Service's 96th birthday on August 25, 2012. INDE celebrated this "Founders Day" with the dedication of two newly restored guard boxes on Washington Square and with a variety of special programs and activities.

Working with Partners

Restoration of the guard boxes was a joint venture between the National Park Service, the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust and the Society Hill Civic Association, made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Society Hill Civic Association.



Steve Weixler, SHCA President

The Fairmount Park Preservation Trust oversaw the project, focusing on rehabilitation of the tongue and groove woodwork, in addition to door and window rehabilitation.

Preserving the Historic Fabric...

The project met its goal of retain-

ing as much of the original fabric of the guard boxes as possible. New and salvaged materials were used to match the original appearance of the guard boxes.

INDE Deputy Superintendent BJ

Dunn joined Society Hill Civic Association President Steve Weixler in dedicating the rehabilitated guard boxes. Members of the media and the public enjoyed a sneak preview of the completed project on August 23,

2012. The newly restored guard boxes were the highlight of the park's "Founders Day" activities.

... Of a Historic Square

Attendees at the dedication ceremony were treated to a special walking tour of Washington Square. Park Ranger Tom Degnan addressed the history of the square from its establishment by William Penn to present day. Through the years,

Washington Square has served as a potter's field, a Revolutionary War burial ground, pasture, marketplace and burial ground for free and enslaved Africans. Both American and British soldiers are buried on the square. Along the tour route the crowd met an African American Revolutionary War soldier, former Independence NHP ranger Joe Becton.



Park Ranger Tom Degnan

Civil War

On "Founders Day" park visitors also learned a little about the park's 19th century history. Park staff offered special programs and activities this year focusing on the continuing commemora-

tion of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War. National Park Service Ranger Bob Liles could be seen throughout the park actively recruiting young soldiers to join the ranks of the Union Army. Children were encouraged to make their mark on an enlistment form especially prepared for young recruits. Clara Barton (Park Ranger Terry Papavasilis) actively recruited nurses to care for sick and wounded soldiers arriving in camp.

Project Manager Tonia Horton and Deputy Superintendent BJ Dunn with the guardbox.

Joe Becton with National Park Rangers.

Park Rangers Bob Liles (far left) and Terry Papavasilis (far right) with visitors.





Artifact Highlight

The Museum Branch received an e-mail in September 2011 from Candace Buchholz of Frederick, Maryland regarding a wooden walking stick that had originally belonged to her grandfather, Charles H. McCarthy, Sr. Mrs. Buchholz wondered if INDE would be interested in receiving the cane as a gift, because it had been made from wood removed from Independence Hall. Supporting her claim was a letter to her grandfather dated November 13, 1918, from the then curator of Independence Hall, Wilfred Jordan, stating that the walking stick had been made from an “original wooden purlin beam,” used to support the roof. Information in the park’s archives confirmed that work was underway during September and October of 1918 to apply new cedar shakes to the roof of Independence Hall and to restore the roof to its original colonial beauty.



dace’s grandfather, whose initials “CHMcC” appear on the sterling head of the cane, was a good friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and a member of the “Cuff Links Gang.” Franklin D. Roosevelt gave sets of cuff links to a group of friends

who helped him run unsuccessfully for Vice President in 1920. The gift of cuff links to political operatives has since become a sign of being an early insider with a politician.

McCarthy also worked for Roosevelt in the Navy Department, and when Roosevelt was Governor of New York State, the McCarthy family lived for a while in

the Governor’s mansion. Candace’s grandfather also corresponded with Thomas A. Edison regarding sonar for WWI submarines, which Edison thought was a great idea. Mrs. Buchholz donated her grandfather’s memorabilia related to FDR and Edison to the FDR Library at Hyde Park, New York and to the Edison Museum at Menlo Park, New Jersey.

The Museum has several relic wooden walking sticks in its collection, but this is the first walking stick made from wood removed from the roof of Independence Hall during the early 20th-century. Other relic walking sticks in our collection were made earlier during the 19th-century, making this a special addition to our collection.

We are greatly indebted to the McCarthy family and to Mrs. Buchholz for her family’s thoughtfulness and this wonderful gift. For now, the walking stick will be placed in INDE museum storage and will be available to researchers upon request.

Working with our partners

INDE has loaned items from its Stewart Collection that document the early history of the United States Mint to the Mint’s new permanent exhibit, which opened on July 3.

In partnership with the National Constitution Center and the Philadelphia Archaeological Forum, the History Branch staff organized the sixth annual public forum for Pennsylvania Archaeology Month on October 1, 2011. The event “Explore Philadelphia’s Hidden Past” featured a day long lecture series including talks on archaeological projects in Philadelphia and vicinity. Approximately 175 people attended the program. Jed Levin presented a talk on the NCC site archeology project and served as MC for part of the day. The event received positive coverage in the Philadelphia Inquirer and on a local TV news broadcast.



War of 1812



2012 marked the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Often referred to as the “Second War of Independence,” the War of 1812 fostered a strong sense of national pride and inspired patriotism in those, like Betsy Ross, who were members of the revolutionary generation. It also inspired the increasing number of Americans too young to remember the Revolution.

The park offered an exceptional small exhibit about the War of 1812 this summer at the Second Bank of the United States. On display were two pitchers that were excavated three blocks from Independence Hall, where the National Constitution Center now stands. Discarded sometime in the 1830s, the pitchers were found by archeologists in a privy pit (or outhouse) on the lot where Betsy Ross spent her last years.

These pitchers depict two American naval victories from the War of 1812. The top image is the USS United States and HMS Macedonian who fought off the coast of Madeira, Portugal on October 25, 1812. Commanded by Stephen Decatur, the USS United States routed the Macedonian after several hours of heavy fighting. Following its capture, the Macedonian sailed to America where it was commissioned by the American Navy for use in the war.



The bottom image depicts the September 5, 1813 battle of the USS Enterprise and the HMS Boxer near Portland, Maine. This fierce, thirty-minute long battle resulted in the loss of both commanding officers and the capture of the Boxer by the Enterprise. Following capture, the Boxer was stripped and sold at auction.

Park Archeologist Debbie Miller



Park Chief Historian Jed Levin talks to students about the President’s House Site.



Staff from the Division of Cultural Resource Management in the Park Library and Archives.





The Rising Sun Chair

In 1779, Philadelphia furniture maker John Folwell provided the Pennsylvania Assembly with a new chair for the legislature's Speaker.

Today, we call this the "Rising Sun" Chair after Franklin's famous 1787 observation comparing the gilded half sun on the chair's top to our new nation under the Constitution.

The Rising Sun Chair replaced an earlier one presumably destroyed by the British Army when they occupied Philadelphia during the fall of 1777 and the spring of 1778. That earlier chair was the one that John Hancock sat in during the Declaration of Independence's creation in the summer of 1776.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, people frequently confused Hancock's chair with the Rising Sun Chair and assumed that the two were one and the same. It wasn't until furniture scholar William Macpherson Hornor, Jr. published his Blue Book, Philadelphia Furniture in 1935 that Folwell's 1779 creation of the Rising Sun Chair was widely publicized. Even after Hornor's clarification, the name "Hancock's Chair" clung to the Rising Sun Chair.

The Rising Sun Chair remained in the custody of the Pennsylvania State Legislature until 1872 when Frank Etting, the chairman of Philadelphia's Centennial committee, and two former state governors negotiated the chair's return to Independence Hall. Since then, the chair has been a focal point of many exhibits in the Hall's Assembly Room.

Over the years, the Rising Sun Chair

has undergone many changes. For example, in 1838, Philadelphia antiquarian John Fanning Watson saw the chair in Harrisburg and sketched it showing that the chair had casters for feet, rather than the flat caps that we see today. In addition, the chair's wooden frame shows many nail holes (although no traces of the original upholstery material remain) indicating that the chair has been upholstered many times since it was new.

During the National Park Service's early stewardship of the chair, it received new upholstery as part of a larger furniture restoration project.

Recently, the appearance of that modern upholstery was questioned by INDE curators who asked the Friends of Independence to fund a chair study and reupholstery project.

In 2008, the Friends received \$9000 from Tourism Cares, a national philanthropic group. These funds paid for the Rising Sun Chair's reupholstery, a 3-month project completed just in time for this year's July 4th celebration.

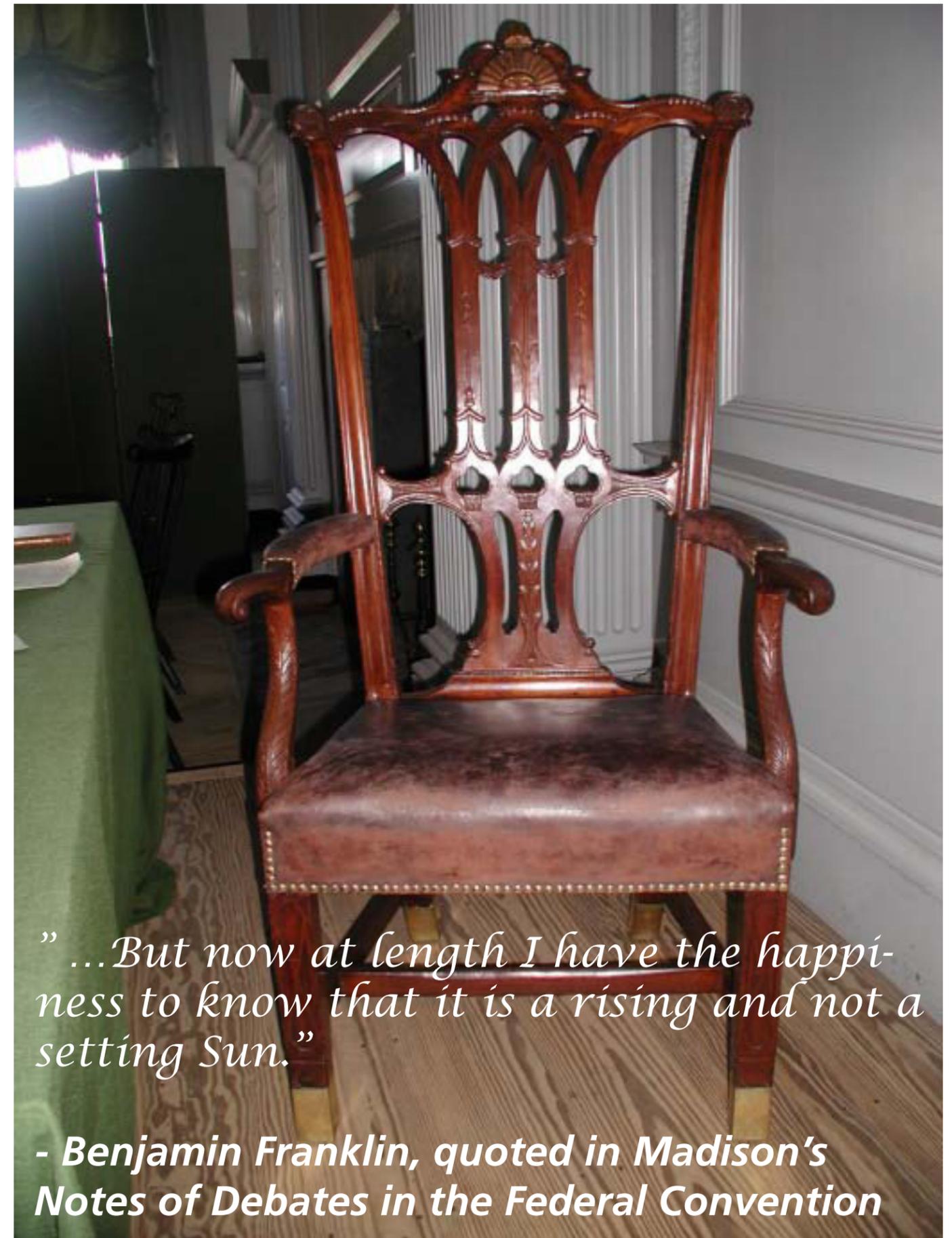
The new upholstery addresses three main questions about the chair's historic appearance: (1) what kind of material would be used on such an important chair that also saw such hard use? (2) how would the chair's upholstery have been ornamented, if at all? and (3) how would 18th-century upholstery methods have made the chair's original cushioning look?

Karie Diethorn and Bob Giannini discussed these questions with

the Philadelphia Museum of Art's lead furniture conservator, David deMuzio, and his associates. The PMA conservation staff is intimately familiar with 18th-century Philadelphia furniture of the highest caliber as their institution contains some of the most important examples of the city's 18th-century cabinetmaker's trade.

The study group concluded that cow hide tanned dark brown would have been considered in 1779 to be both attractive and durable. Ornamental brass tacks, sized to match those on surviving chairs of the same time period, were used to outline the bottom edges of the chair's seat and arms. The tacks were not added to the top edges of the chair's seat because that style of ornamentation wasn't popular in Philadelphia at the time the Rising Sun Chair was made.

One final aspect to the Rising Sun Chair's new upholstery reminds us that this isn't just any chair. All of the recent upholstery work was done with one very important goal in mind-- the preservation of the chair's original, historic wood. To do that, the PMA conservators attached nothing to the chair's frame. Instead, all of the upholstery is built upon a lightweight platform that sits on top of the chair's frame. This platform also provides a base for the upholstery that covers the front of the chair seat edges; the ornamental brass tacks are just heads glued onto the upholstery. This conservation upholstery method means that even George Washington couldn't sit on the Rising Sun Chair today-- the chair seat can no longer support anyone's weight!



"...But now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting Sun."

- Benjamin Franklin, quoted in Madison's Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention



First Amendment

In FY2012, INDE worked with the Northeast Regional Office and other parks in the region to respond to public assembly permit requests from a group connected with Occupy Philadelphia. Starting in November 2011, a small group of demonstrators exercising their First Amendment rights started a public assembly in the area of INDE known as People's Plaza. Though the group had fewer than 25 participants, they were required to obtain a permit because they were using structures. The park approved a permit for the group, allowing them to use a camping tent as a display to symbolize the "Occupy" movement. Camping is not permitted at the park. The group obtained multiple permits and remained in the park on and off through early December, returning again briefly in the spring.

Working with Partners

INDE entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in South Philadelphia. This MOU will allow National Park Service Rangers and Fish and Wildlife Service employees to support each other during special events or during incidents. This will also allow the commissioned officer at the Refuge to use the park's Dispatch services. This partnership will strengthen both our organizations' ability to preserve and protect our natural and cultural resources.

Staying Safe

A new fire suppression system was installed in 325 Walnut Street. The park successfully completed its annual inspection of fire suppression systems in the over 40 park buildings.



As a large urban park, INDE is fortunate to be able to engage in a variety of partnerships with many local businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and community groups. Below are some of the formal partnerships INDE maintains. Many more organizations support the park through informal arrangements and volunteer activities.

Friends of Independence

The Friends of Independence National Historical Park, a 501(c)3 organization, raised funds for and supported park efforts in a number of curatorial projects. The Friends also sponsored special programs held in the park, including a members-only Building of the Year Tour and monthly education programs including author presentations and presentations by park curators.



Independence Visitor Center

HPI

This year, the park signed a Cooperative Agreement with Historic Philadelphia, Inc. (HPI). HPI programs supplement the park's interpretive services, enhancing the visitor experience at the park through interpretation, interactive experiences, and evening programming. The park collaborates with HPI in carrying out these activities and programs.

Independence Visitor Center

Park staff work with the staff of the Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC) on staffing and program management at the visitor center. The park provides

interpretive exhibits within the center, screens orientation and historical films in the theaters, and distributes the free, timed tickets needed to visit Independence Hall.

Following guidelines set in a Operating

Agreement, the park and the IVCC jointly manage the use and operations of the building. Through the Cooperative Agreement, the park contributed \$850,000 to the operations of the visitor center.

National Constitution Center

The successful partnership between the NPS and the National Constitution Center (NCC) continues to support exceptional exhibits and programs at the NCC. For example, on September 13, the NCC presented the 2012 Liberty Medal to boxing legend Mohammed Ali, honored for his courage and conviction in his efforts to secure liberty for people around the world.



National Constitution Center

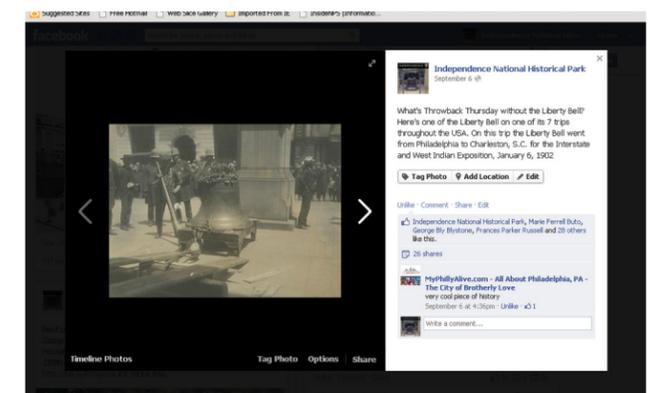
Eastern National

The park worked successfully with Eastern National (EN), the Co-operating Association.

Eastern National has been particularly helpful with the park's Trading Card program, which continues to grow and is one of the most popular programs for children. Eastern National is selling the newest addition to the program, Civil War trading cards.

In FY12, INDE's social media followers grew to 3,189 on Facebook, 1,683 on Twitter and over 9,800 views on YouTube. These followers represent 20 countries and followers who speak 18 different languages. INDE uses social media to engage our online visitors and create a platform for two-way conversation.

Our most successful, reoccurring campaign on both Facebook and Twitter is Throwback Thursdays. Each Thursday, old photos of the park are shared with our followers to give them a better understanding of the area and how the park came to be the way it is today. Check it out: facebook.com/independencenhp.





Partnership Events

Transit of Venus

INDE marked the 2012 Transit of Venus across the sun with an interpretive program on the astrological phenomenon, exploring the history of the event and the early scientific breakthrough it allowed: measuring the distance between the earth and the sun.

This program was one element of a partnership between INDE and the American Philosophical Society (APS). Other elements included lectures, performances and an exhibit including the astronomical transit telescope used by David Rittenhouse in 1769, on loan to APS from INDE.

The Transit of Venus is a rare cosmic occurrence in which the planet Venus orbits directly between the earth and the sun. The most recent transit could be seen from the Philadelphia area on June 5th. The 1769 transit was observed in three locations in the Philadelphia area, one of which was the State House (known as Independence Square today) yard.

The program began with an overview of the occurrence, followed by an illustrated presentation detailing the people and events that shaped the beginnings of astrological research.

After the presentation, participants stepped outside for an activity showcasing the movement of the planets, revealing how time in the solar system can be measured.



Young participants joined Park Ranger Jeff Collins to act out planetary orbits.

Audience members learned about the precautions needed to safely view the Transit, as well as ideal locations from which to witness the event. At the end of the program, each participant received safety glasses for viewing the transit on their own. The next occurrence of the Transit of Venus will be in 2117.

Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R)

INDE partnered with The Washington Rochambeau National Historic Trail and W3R-PA to commemorate the 230th anniversary of the day Lt. Col. Tench Tilghman -- an aide-de-camp to General George Washington -- brought news of the Yorktown victory to President of the Continental Congress Thomas McKean.

A reenactment on Independence Mall marked the arrival of Tilghman in Philadelphia. Tighlman first delivered the news just after midnight to McKean. Later that afternoon, attired in his full uniform and dress sword, Tighlman delivered the news to the Continental Congress.

The event also celebrated the U.S. - French alliance and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. The event was organized by Ursula Reed (a Director of the W3R®-US) and cosponsored by the W3R®-MD and the W3R®-PA.



Above: Ranger Jeffrey Collins helps young visitors understand the movement of the planets.
 Far Left: Ranger Mike Doveton with visitor after Transit of Venus program.
 Left: Ranger Jeffrey Collins with participants.
 Opposite page Left: Irena Bokova, Ken Salazar, Chaka Fattah, and Jon Jarvis at Liberty Bell.
 Opposite page Center: Secretary Salazar addresses the group.
 Opposite page Right: Flag Day Parade starts at the National Constitution Center.



Partnership Events

Flag Day

INDE's Flag Day events marked the birth of the United States Army and the first flying of the flag above Independence Hall. The celebration was organized in partnership with the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia Flag Day Association, U.S. Army, Pennsylvania National Guard, and City of Philadelphia.



Parade ends at Independence Hall

A ceremonial flag raising was followed by a parade down Independence Mall with dignitaries, reenactors, and historical and modern Army units.

Participants included a Medal of Honor recipient, Tuskegee Airmen, and Pearl Harbor Survivors. Guest speakers included Superintendent Macleod, Michael Axelrod from the Philadelphia Flag Day Association, Vince Stango from the National Constitution Center, and Brigadier General (Reserves) Creighton Abrams. Major General Lanza, Chief of U.S. Army Public Affairs, administered the Oath of Allegiance to new Army recruits.

World Heritage

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar visited INDE for a town hall meeting with local tourism and business leaders. The visit coincided with the 40th anniversary of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention, an international treaty that seeks to recognize and protect the world's most significant places, such as Independence Hall.

Joined by UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, National Park Service (NPS) Director Jon Jarvis, U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife & Parks Rachel Jacobson, and Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, Salazar discussed with attendees different avenues for promotion and attracting tourists to the area.

As part of the discussion, a three-minute film was presented by the National Park Service highlight-

ing World Heritage sites in the United States and around the world.

Before the Town Hall meeting, the dignitaries had an opportunity to meet briefly in the West Wing of Independence Hall, then take a tour of the Liberty Bell Center and Independence Hall.



Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar

In 2010, nearly 60 million international visitors pumped more than \$134 billion dollars into the U.S. economy, making tourism America's number one service export.

While many Americans are not aware of World Heritage Sites, people in foreign countries are and often make their travel and vacation plans around visits to them.





The Fourth of July

July 2, 1776, John Adams famously wrote, will be celebrated into the future “with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations.” Since 1776, the symbolic grounds around Independence Hall have witnessed revolutions, rallies and protests, many of which took place on the Fourth of July. From Frederick Douglass in 1844 to Susan B. Anthony in 1876 to the Avenging the Ancestors Coalition, individuals and groups have used the power of this iconic place - and the power of this date - to make their point.

Pops! on Independence

Freedom Week 2012 was a celebration of that tradition. Peter Nero and the Philly Pops rang in the holiday with another spectacular performance in front of Independence Hall on the evening of July 3.

Pomp and Circumstance

July 4 morning, the City of Philadelphia joined INDE in hosting the Celebration of Freedom Ceremony and the Fourth of July parade. Superintendent MacLeod welcomed

the crowd and reminded them of the many pivotal anniversaries this year – the 225th of the Constitution, the 200th of the War of 1812, and the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Special guest, actress Ellen Burstyn, read from the Declaration of Independence.

Let Freedom Ring



Fourth of July parade in front of Independence Hall

The afternoon “Let Freedom Ring” celebration welcomed Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett and Michael Di-Yeso, CEO of the Freedom Foundation, along



Mayor Nutter with new citizen after Bell tapping

with the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the American Revolution and Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. This year, the symbolic tapping of the Liberty Bell included not only the traditional young descendants of the signers of the declaration, but also two new United States citizens, formerly of India.

Celebrating our Freedoms

In the midst of Freedom Week celebrations, the park also managed first amendment activities. Fifteen groups submitted permits for public assemblies within the park, an unusually high number for this period of time. In addition, the park was prepared for an unpermitted gathering, as groups affiliated with “Occupy” had indicated their intention to gather in the park without a permit. Park staff, working closely with the NPS Regional Office, U.S. Park Police, and Philadelphia Police Department, successfully managed the situation without interruption to park programs or events.

Declaring Independence

Freedom Week activities wrapped up on July 8 with the annual reenactment of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Standing behind Independence Hall, Park Ranger Paul Campbell, portraying Colonel John Nixon, roused the growing crowd to cheers (and traditional jeers) with his impassioned reading of the document.



Above: Peter Nero conducts the Philly Pops on July 3, as Thomas Jefferson (portrayed by actor Bill Barker) reads the Declaration of Independence.

Opposite page, left: Mayor Michael Nutter and Governor Tom Corbett join the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence for the annual Let Freedom Ring Bell Tapping Ceremony

Opposite page, center: Celebration of Freedom, Fourth of July at Independence Hall

Opposite page, right: City of Philadelphia Fourth of July Parade passes in front of Independence Hall.



Unveiling Independence Hall Tower

A crowd of park visitors, partners and friends gathered on Independence Mall on February 18 to hear the Centennial Bell that hangs in Independence Hall Tower chime the hour once again. Silenced while Independence Hall Tower was under scaffolding, the bell and clockworks were re-started to celebrate the successful completion of the tower rehabilitation.

Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Congressman Bob Brady and Congressman Chaka Fattah marked the end of the project with a ribbon cutting ceremony. NPS Ranger Mary Town and Ms. Ellie Slomine, a recently naturalized American citizen who serves as the Director of Visitor Services at the Independence Visitor Center, were invited to start the clock mechanism and lights. Thomas Jefferson, portrayed by actor Steven Edenbo (pictured, right), thanked the NPS for its preservation efforts.

“The mission of the National Park Service includes preserving and

protecting our nation’s treasures for this and future generations. The work we have done on Independence Hall Tower is one example of how the National Park Service preserves our nation’s icons,” said Superintendent MacLeod. “Our historical architects, tradesmen, curators and rangers are hard at work year-round preserving and protecting this and other historic structures in the park.”



Mayor Nutter added, “Completion of the Independence Hall Tower rehabilitation is the last step in what has been a decade of improvements in this area, the most historic square mile in America. These improvements will enhance the experience of the millions of visitors who come to Philadelphia to see for themselves where our great nation was born.”

The project gained momentum after an April 2007 investigation revealed

significant deterioration of the exterior wooden siding at the fourth, fifth and sixth levels. Over the years, driving rain had rusted the iron rods securing the wooden cladding which, in turn, damaged the pine boards.



In addition to swapping the corroded iron rods for stainless steel and replacing the weathered wood and a few bricks, workers stripped degraded paint and applied new coatings, refurbished the copper urns and stabilized the large clock faces.

While the glass in the clock faces, which dated to the 1970s, was replaced, the brass hands and numbers were regilded and returned to their home on the four faces of the tower. The weathervane was also regilded.

The success of the project has been recognized by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, which awarded Independence Hall Tower a Grand Jury Award for 2012.

Mayor Nutter, Superintendent MacLeod, Congressman Brady, Congressman Fattah

Young visitors join Mayor Nutter, Congressman Brady, Congressman Fattah and Superintendent MacLeod to cut the ribbon,

Park Ranger Town, Ms. Ellie Slomine, Congressman Brady, Mayor Nutter and Congressman Fattah listen as Superintendent MacLeod addresses the audience.



VIP Visitors

A Royal Visit

Independence Hall has once again welcomed a member of the British Royal Family. Prince Edward (pictured here greeting Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod) visited Philadelphia on April 26, 2012. His visit included a tour of Independence Hall and the Great Essentials Exhibit in the West Wing, where he reviewed the park’s copies of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

Arriving at Independence Hall just as the Hall closed to the public on Thursday, April 26, His Royal Highness greeted visitors who had lined up to see him outside the Hall. He then met with and reviewed the troops of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry. The First City Troop was organized in 1774 in defense of the colonies and is the oldest mounted military unit in continuous service to the Republic.

Prince Edward was welcomed to the park by Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, who then joined him on a tour of Independence Hall and the

West Wing given by Park Ranger Patricia Schaffenburg.

The Earl of Wessex and Viscount Severn, Prince Edward will be given the title Duke of Edinburgh when the present title now held by Prince Philip eventually reverts to the Crown.

As well as duties in support of the Queen, the Earl plays an active role in The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, the program for young people set up by his father in the 1950s. He also works on behalf of a number of charities and organisations, particularly those connected with the arts, sport and young people.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award was the basis for his visit to Philadelphia, as he attended an event with the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award International Association at Girard College.



His Royal Highness Prince Edward with the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry

Superintendent MacLeod escorts Mr. Gary Marshall, His Royal Highness Prince Edward, and Mrs. Marshall.



VIP Visitors

- » The President of Honduras, Lobo Sosa, visited the park in May 2012
- » Secretary of the Cabinet of Israel, Zvi Hauser, along with a team of dignitaries, visited INDE on March 20, 2012, in their efforts to learn about historical conservation and interpretation.
- » March, 2012, the Ambassador of Finland, Ritva Inkeri Koukku-Ronde, took a tour of the park.
- » Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service (pictured with Park Motor Vehicle Operator Tom Abraham), visited Independence NHP on December 16, 2011
- » Also in March, INDE welcomed a delegation from Tunisia, who were interested in learning more about U.S. history as they worked on their own constitution.
- » The park hosted Robert O’Quinn, Staff Director, for a park tour along with staffers from the Senate and House Joint Economic Committee.



Mayor Michael Nutter with Congressman Chaka Fattah

