

* MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION *

Enduring Promise

of the American Revolution



ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021

WHAT'S INSIDE

Becoming American

*New Stories,
New Storytellers*

Meet the Chairman



JOHN M. TEMPLETON, JR.
* EDUCATION CENTER *

That to secure...
rights, governments are
instituted among men,
deriving their just powers
from the consent
of the governed...

DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE
July 4, 1776



“Truly eye-opening.” “So much I never knew.” “Not the stuff I learned in fifth-grade history class.”

The responses we hear from visitors, students, educators, and online learners are often the same: the Museum of the American Revolution is changing the way people connect with our shared past. The stories we uncover and share allow visitors to encounter the transformative power of history and discover that the Revolution is still relevant in their lives today.

This year, we marked a major milestone as we welcomed our millionth visitor to explore this clear-eyed yet uplifting telling of the Revolutionary story. After a year of closures, we were overwhelmed by visitors’ joy and gratitude as they experienced the Museum anew – interacting with our knowledgeable staff, standing in the presence of authentic artifacts, and exploring our award-winning, immersive galleries.

In this report, you’ll read about the many ways we expanded the breadth and depth of our impact. We opened ambitious special exhibitions that spoke to the challenges and issues of our time, shined a light on lesser-known stories through our new African American Interpretive Program, prepared students and teachers to have difficult conversations with empathy and respect, and empowered new citizens through our Citizenship Initiative.

As the effects of the pandemic continued to reverberate, we harnessed the power of digital storytelling to meet the moment. Through new online resources, virtual conversations, and hybrid programs, we continued to reach audiences where they are and deliver our mission across all available channels. And, although the pandemic has made it challenging for school groups to return to our building, we served more than 18,400 students from 24 states through our virtual field trip program. We invite you to read about these accomplishments and others on the pages that follow.

We look ahead with optimism. We hope you will join us for our “Revolutionary Summer” as we explore what the promises of liberty and equality mean for all people. And you won’t want to miss our groundbreaking exhibition on free Black Philadelphian James Forten and his remarkable family, opening in February 2023. These initiatives build our momentum as we work toward our nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026 and beyond.

What a privilege it has been to work with our dedicated Board of Directors and this exceptional staff. Their energy and commitment in the face of extraordinary challenges is truly inspiring.

Without your support, none of this would be possible. Thank you for your commitment to our mission and all you have enabled us to accomplish. Together, we can ensure that the promise of the American Revolution endures!



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

Morris W. Offit,
Chairman of the Board



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

Dr. R. Scott Stephenson,
President and CEO



“Terrific reminders of the precious fruits of the still-unfolding American experiment... and of the prices paid by so many to make it a reality.”

– Visitor Joseph C.

Connect With Us

Subscribe

Stay up to date on the latest news and events from the Museum. Subscribe to our email newsletter at AmRevMuseum.org/subscribe.

Follow

Find us on social media for up-to-the-minute updates and stories. Tag us using @AmRevMuseum and #HowRevolutionary.

Explore

Check out our website to plan your visit and continue exploring at 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.



Courtesy of Jeff Bridgman

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Read the full magazine online.

ON THE COVER

Siblings Sariun, Penelope, and Jesse Williams explore the special exhibition *Flags and Founding Documents, 1776-Today*.

Uncovering *and* Sharing Compelling Stories



We continue to distinguish ourselves as a leader in the museum field, delivering exhibitions and programs that reflect rich new scholarship and a wide range of perspectives, while contributing meaningfully to conversation about the American Revolution and its ongoing impact.



WHEN WOMEN LOST THE VOTE: A REVOLUTIONARY STORY, 1776-1807

Called “a remarkable story” (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*) and “cheekily-titled” (*The New York Times*), *When Women Lost the Vote: A Revolutionary Story, 1776-1807* is a prime example of our story-driven approach to fulfilling our mission. The special exhibition, on view from October 2020 through April 2021, pioneered a new approach to exhibits for the institution.

Planned to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment that granted millions of American women the right to vote, the groundbreaking exhibition explored the little-known stories of the generation of women and people of color who legally voted in New Jersey during the Revolutionary era and inspired later generations of suffragists.

The exhibition served as an important reminder that protecting our rights and freedoms and those of others requires constant vigilance.

We used our pandemic-related closure to reimagine the exhibition, which was originally planned for our special exhibition gallery, weaving the story throughout the Museum’s core galleries and connecting it with a compelling audio tour. In this way, this exceptional story enriched our core narrative, delving even deeper into the complexities of our nation’s founding and the Revolutionary promise of 1776. We also used our closure to make the exhibition globally accessible to virtual visitors through a robust, free online experience.

While researching for the exhibition, members of our curatorial team (below) discovered nine New Jersey poll lists from four different archives, dated between 1800 and 1807, which included 163 women and four African American voters. Prior to this, little proof of women or people of color actually voting during this period was known to exist.





When Women Lost the Vote

Before 1807, women voted in New Jersey. The 1776 New Jersey State Constitution referred to voters as "they." Statutes of 1790 and 1797 explicitly included women by describing voters as "he or she."

New Jersey voters had to be free and own property. That excluded all enslaved people and most married women. However, there was no racial requirement for voting.

Charges spread through the press that the state's inclusive vote law encouraged election fraud. In 1807, the state law took the vote away from "persons of color" and immigrants, expanding the vote to include all male taxpayers.

Generations since have fought to restore those lost voting rights.

A highlight of the exhibition, a new historical tableau scene features women at the polls in Montgomery Township, Somerset, New Jersey in 1801, based on the Museum's original research. The scene includes lifelike figures of two white women and one woman of color, encouraging visitors to consider the complexity of laws that allowed propertied women, both of European and African descent, to vote, but also defined enslaved women as property. The tableau remains on permanent display in the Museum's core galleries.

"This exhibit is a strong reminder not to take today's liberties for granted."
 – Visitor Matt D.

In the lead-up to the exhibition, the Museum's curatorial team visited gravesites and historical landmarks related to women and people of color who voted in Revolutionary-era New Jersey, laying "I Voted" wreaths alongside these resting places. Videos of the visits are featured in the online exhibition. Pictured here is the gravestone of Rebecca Venable, who voted in 1807. It is in the cemetery behind Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown, N.J., next to that of her daughter Miriam.



"I am thrilled about this exhibit — what an important set of finds! I've used it several times in class already and my students were absolutely blown away."

– Northwestern University History Professor Dr. Caitlin Fitz

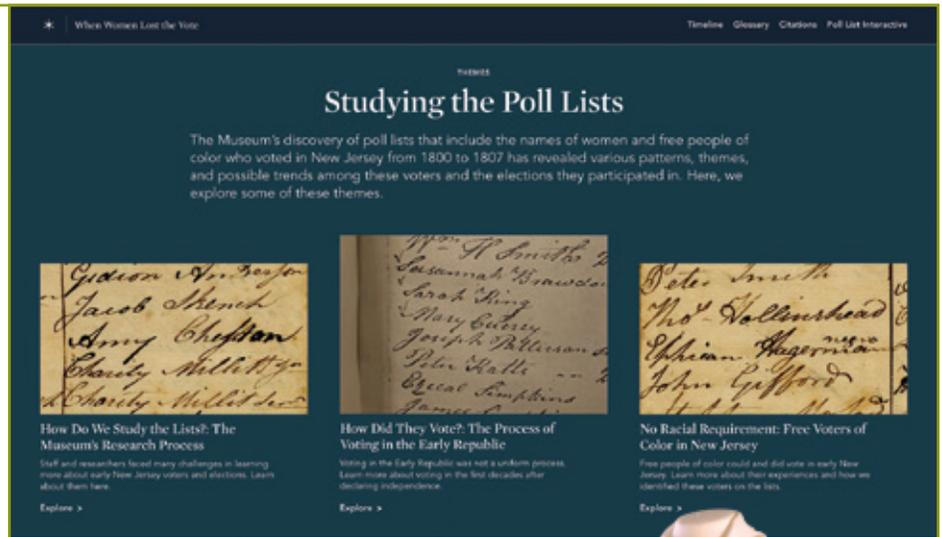


In conjunction with the exhibition, we developed two new 25-minute first-person theatrical performances that dramatize the experiences of Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman, an enslaved woman who sued for her freedom and won, and Rebecca VanDike, whose name appears on a New Jersey poll list from 1801. Filmed versions of the performances are available on our website. We also offer live virtual performances for schools and other groups followed by a discussion session. We are grateful to David R. and Kim Adler and Dick and Sally Brickman for their support of our living history programs.



The newly discovered poll lists were featured in the exhibit alongside more than 65 original objects including textiles, manuscripts, and works of art. Artifacts included Abigail Adams's "Remember the Ladies" letter; the short gown of free Black woman Elizabeth "Betty" Dorn; the wedding gown of Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man to fight in the Continental Army; a ballot box (1811) from Deptford Township; and the original manuscript of the first voter law passed by an American state that specifically included women, New Jersey's 1790 election statute; among many others.

The online experience features explorations of the newly discovered poll lists and other primary source documents; a look at history-making discoveries and how historians do their work; and provocative questions, exercises, and prompts for discussion. It also includes interviews with the exhibition's curators, eminent historians, and other special guests. An introductory film features commentary from our Board Member and professor at Harvard University Dr. Jane Kamensky, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Dr. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, and Dr. Rosemarie Zagari, author of the groundbreaking book *Revolutionary Backlash*, among others.



When Women Lost the Vote was co-curated by our Chief Historian Dr. Philip C. Mead and Curatorial Fellow in Women's History Dr. Marcela Micucci.

Bank of America and Comcast NBCUniversal were the presenting sponsors of When Women Lost the Vote. Other support was provided by The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The exhibition also was made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy Demands Wisdom. Additional support was provided by The Landenberger Family Foundation, Elizabeth Wahlquist, Carole Haas Gravagno, John and Ellen Jumper, Victoria M. LeVine, Margot Perot, and Kate Shields. Living history interpretation was supported by David R. and Kim Adler.



Courtesy of Historic New England

When Women Lost the Vote BY THE NUMBERS



20,000
visitors

Although the Museum was only open for a limited time during the run of *When Women Lost the Vote* due to the pandemic, nearly 20,000 visitors experienced the exhibit in person.

The virtual exhibit has had 65,345 page views since it launched in January 2021.

65,345
page views

1,527
students

To date, 1,527 students have participated in the live virtual Elizabeth Freeman performances, of which 936 were covered by scholarships.



50 objects

We borrowed 50 objects from 24 lenders for *When Women Lost the Vote*. More than 65 total artifacts, textiles, and works of art were on display.



Terra Foundation for American Art, David J. Terra Art Acquisition Endowment Fund, 2000.6

8 states

More than 2,335 students and 115 teachers across eight states and 915 adults participated in virtual programs related to the exhibit.

When Women Lost the Vote was enhanced by a wide range of special events and programs, including:

Discovering Black Voters in Early New Jersey, a virtual panel discussion exploring the stories of Black voters with Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum founders **Elaine Buck** and **Beverly Mills**, co-authors of *If These Stones Could Talk: African American Presence in the Hopewell Valley, Sourland Mountain, and Surrounding Regions of New Jersey*.



Remember the Ladies: The World Premiere of a New Choral Work, a virtual event with composer **Dr. Melissa Dunphy**, who premiered her new work “Remember the Ladies,” which set



excerpts from Abigail Adams’s famous letter to music performed by the 40-voice community choir PhilHarmonia.

Deborah Sampson Unveiled: A Virtual Conversation, a virtual event exploring the story of Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man to fight during the Revolutionary War, in a discussion co-presented with American Repertory Theater, featuring **1776** costume designer **Emilio Sosa** (below, left) and author and Sampson descendant **Alex Myers** (below, right).



An Artisan Workshop Stitch-in: Make Elizabeth Dorn’s Gown, a four-week workshop during which participants learned to make a “short gown” based on one that belonged to free Black woman Elizabeth Dorn.

DELVING DEEPER WITH BANK OF AMERICA AND COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL

As the presenting sponsors of *When Women Lost the Vote*, **Bank of America** and **Comcast NBCUniversal** helped bring this surprising story to more than 100,000 in-person and virtual visitors. When the events of 2020 inspired corporate leaders to champion, more than ever, diversity, equity, and inclusion, these two dedicated Museum partners creatively harnessed these stories to engage employees in provocative questions about gender, race, and rights.

In September 2020, 400 Comcast NBCUniversal employees from across the United States enjoyed a live, virtual *When Women Lost the Vote* presentation featuring the Museum’s **Adrienne Whaley** and **Marcela Micucci**. Moderated by **NBC10** reporter **Aunyea Lachelle**, this interactive event was organized by Comcast NBCUniversal’s Impact and Inclusion team and their Black Employees Network, VetNet, and Women’s Network.

Bank of America followed in December, with Whaley and Micucci joining the

company’s “Courageous Conversation” series. Nearly 500 regional employees tuned in online for the program, which was hosted by market presidents **Jim Dever** and **Chip Rossi** and featured presentations from the bank’s employee resources groups for Black and women professionals and military employees.

Bank of America and Comcast NBCUniversal are just two of the many corporate partners who have benefitted from engaging their employees and clients with the Museum’s educational and thought-provoking programs.

“Marcela and Adrienne were outstanding. At this time, we need people to think differently and be open minded in order to help address the economic and social inequalities that have existed for too long. The team’s message to our employees was on point and encouraged all to embrace open dialogue.”

— Jim Dever, President,
Bank of America Greater Philadelphia





*“Flags reflect the tension between dreams and realities...
which the museum’s exhibition makes manifest.”*

– The Philadelphia Inquirer

A REVOLUTIONARY SUMMER

Our Revolutionary Summer of special exhibits, events, and activities spanned Memorial Day, Flag Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, and Labor Day, and explored the question: what does freedom mean to you?

More than 40 rare American flags reflected a growing and changing American nation in our special exhibition *Flags and Founding Documents, 1776-Today*, which was on view from June 12 – September 6, 2021. The flags — many of which had never been exhibited before — traced the evolution of the Stars and Stripes through the addition

and subtraction of stars as new states joined the Union and the nation battled through the Civil War. Most of the flags were on loan from Jeff R. Bridgman, a leading dealer in antique American flags and political textiles.

The flags were showcased alongside founding documents from the collection of the Dorothy Tapper Goldman Foundation to shed light on the triumphs and tensions that the United States faced as it expanded and worked toward creating a “more perfect Union.” The documents were previously displayed at the New-York Historical Society

in *Colonists, Citizens, Constitutions: Creating the American Republic*, curated by Dr. James F. Hrdlicka.

“It is my deepest wish that this exhibition will inspire all of us to have an impact on our future by participating in the governance of the United States. This is how we became a nation, and this is how we will keep our republic strong.”

– Dorothy Tapper Goldman, collector and philanthropist



A noteworthy inclusion in *Flags and Founding Documents* was a 1781 compilation of state constitutions, on loan from **The Rosenbach, Philadelphia**, with annotations from 1783 about whether Jewish people were legally eligible to hold elected offices in their respective states. The document shines a light on the story of Jewish American Revolutionaries. Conservation of this item was funded by **American Express**.

On Flag Day weekend, we explored the American Revolution's global connections with the debut of 15 large,

handmade flags replicating those that were flown by Revolutionary-era privateers and navy ships at sea. Nine women makers created the flags as part of the Museum's **True Colours Flag Project**, sponsored by **The Color Guard of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution**. The flags were displayed in the Museum's rotunda throughout the summer and will remain permanently available on the Museum's in-gallery privateer ship, where they are used as storytelling tools to bring history to life for visitors of all ages.

We were pleased that **America250** officially recognized *Flags and Founding Documents, 1776- Today* and the True

Colours Flag Project as expressions of the America250 vision to inspire the American spirit.

Flags and Founding Documents, 1776-Today was presented by **American Heritage Credit Union**. The exhibition was made possible by a grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy Demands Wisdom**. Additional sponsorship was provided by **The Color Guard of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution, Morris W. Offit, Mark R. Shenkman, and the family of Irvin and Anita Schorsch**.



COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

To mark Juneteenth, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States, our African American Interpretive Fellow **Michael Idriss** took viewers on a virtual tour of **Mother Bethel AME Church** and the **Richard Allen Museum** in historic Philadelphia, including a look at original furniture, ballot boxes, muskets, and documents. It is available to view on our website.



ART & AMERICA

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, we teamed up with the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**, one of the oldest, most iconic museums in Philadelphia, to offer a convenient joint ticket that provided access to both world-class institutions for a discounted price. The PMA recently completed their new Early American Art galleries, featuring paintings, sculpture, ceramics, furniture, glass, silver, and more from the early 1600s until 1850.



Philadelphia Museum of Art





Informational text panel on the wall to the right of the painting.



LIBERTY: DON TROIANI'S PAINTINGS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

This year, our team also was hard at work planning our current special exhibition, *Liberty: Don Troiani's Paintings of the Revolutionary War*, which is on view at the Museum now through September 5, 2022. The exhibition brings together — for the first time in public — nearly 50 original paintings by nationally renowned historical artist Don Troiani, alongside nearly 40 historic artifacts. Based on painstaking research, Troiani's paintings capture the drama and reality of life on the march, in camp, and in battle to answer the question: what did the Revolutionary War truly look like?

A hardcover catalog of the exhibit, authored by Curator of Exhibitions **Matthew Skic** in collaboration with Troiani, is available from the Museum's shop and other booksellers. A 360-degree virtual tour of *Liberty* is now available on our website, thanks to support from **The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard**.

The exhibition features one of Troiani's newest works, "Brave Men as Ever Fought." The painting was commissioned by the Museum and funded by the

National Park Service's Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. The painting depicts a pivotal moment in the life of young African American sailor James Forten. We unveiled the painting at **The African American Museum in Philadelphia**, where it was displayed prior to *Liberty*.



Liberty is presented by Bank of America. Comcast NBCUniversal is the exhibition's education sponsor. Additional support is provided by Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Lanny and Ann Patten, NJM Insurance Group, State Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania, Cynthia Sweeney, and Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail of the National Park Service. In-kind support provided by Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired.

THE MARCH TO 2026 AND BEYOND

As we look ahead to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, key special exhibits will build on the Museum's signature storytelling approach of putting our Revolutionary past in conversation with the present, setting the stage for meaningful dialogue in 2026.

2023

Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia

Exploring the life and family of James Forten, a free Black Philadelphian who served as a privateer and later became a leading businessperson, philanthropist, and abolitionist.

2024

Washington's War Tent

Based on the Museum's award-winning display of Washington's mobile headquarters during the Revolutionary War.

2025

Philadelphia: A Revolutionary City

Collaborative exhibit bringing together Revolutionary-era treasures from a consortium of Philadelphia's oldest and most distinguished archives, libraries, and museums.

2026

The Declaration's Journey, 1776 – Today

To be mounted in 2025-26 within the Museum as the centerpiece of its 250th commemoration, with potential for a nationally traveling panel show.

2027

The Museum's 10th Anniversary

A celebratory year marking a decade since the Museum's grand opening.



☆☆☆

Harnessing the POWER *of* DIGITAL to Deliver Our Mission

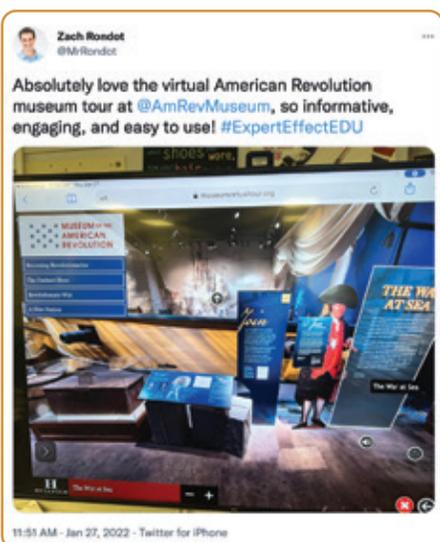
From launching new digital resources to hosting virtual discussions with leading historians and authors, we explored bold new ways to enrich and energize a broad range of online audiences, extending our reach beyond what we could have imagined. This year, we were pleased to partner on these efforts with a number of neighborhood sites, community organizations, and cultural institutions to educate, engage, and inspire a growing number of people.



“I love the museum — you have managed to capture the Revolution in all its glorious contradictions and splendor.”

— Visitor Kevin T.

We have expanded and enhanced our digital programming and capabilities this year. Our Virtual Museum Tour, AmRev360 web series, and Virtual Field Trips are connecting students and history lovers of all ages from around the world to our telling of the Revolutionary story. To continue this important work, we have created the Lenfest Digital Initiative, inspired by John McFadden and Martha McGeary Snider, and thanks to their gifts and additional support from Eisner Amper, The Crown Family, Beverly (Bo) Dubose, The McLean Contributionship, and Morris W. Offit.



VIRTUAL TOURS

Our enhanced Virtual Museum Tour allows people from across the globe to experience the Museum’s award-winning, immersive galleries through 360-degree images. The tour features a video introduction by Oscar-winning actor and producer Michael Douglas. The Virtual Museum Tour was made possible by the inspired foresight and generous support of George S. Blumenthal, as well as The Crown Family, Morris W. Offit, and Martha McGeary Snider. This year, the Virtual Museum Tour received more than 1,369,565 page views.

We also launched a 360-degree tour of Washington’s Field Headquarters (above) that allows digital explorers to experience a recreation of Washington’s wartime mobile command center and learn about life on campaign during the Revolutionary War. Through 360-degree panoramic images, viewers get a behind-the-scenes look at the recreated encampment. The Virtual Tour was made possible by a generous grant from the State Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania. Additional thanks to Richard and Terry Corkran for their in-kind support.

“I encourage everyone to visit the Museum of the American Revolution in person. Until then, a virtual tour experience will deeply enhance your knowledge of the creation of the United States of America — a story that is both necessary and relevant to the world today.”

– Michael Douglas



Visit the
Virtual Museum



Visit the 360-degree tour of
Washington’s Field Headquarters

WE SHALL: A LYRICAL MLK CELEBRATION



During Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, we partnered with vocalists and musicians from the Philadelphia Jazz Project to offer a free virtual concert, “We Shall: A Lyrical MLK Celebration,” in collaboration with PhillyCAM. The performance featured highlights from PJP’s previous performances at the Museum and interviews with special guests. It intermingled spoken word, gospel, jazz, and blues, inspired by excerpts from King’s speeches and sermons.

IT BEGINS WITH EACH OF US



During Black History Month, we co-hosted the virtual forum “It Begins with Each of Us: Fostering Racial Understanding” with the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust (DFCLT). The forum featured guest experts Alexandria Harris, Esq. and Dr. Charles A. Gallagher, moderated by Reverend Marshall P. H. Mitchell, Senior Pastor for Salem Baptist Church of Abington. The event marked the fourth annual Lonaé A. Moore Memorial Forum.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Our Finding Freedom online interactive engaged students, teachers, and digital explorers, receiving more than 691,670 page views since launching. The interactive feature explores the lives of five people of African descent during the Revolutionary War through powerful watercolor illustrations by Wood Ronsaville Harlan, Inc. and dramatized first-person narratives. Finding Freedom was awarded a prestigious Bronze-Level MUSE Award from American Alliance of Museums (AAM) this year.

“@AmRevMuseum has built some of the most beautiful & challenging online history resources I’ve ever seen! Hard to pick just one but the “Finding Freedom” interactive is so beautiful. Can’t wait to share with learners!”

— @emily_veno via Twitter

Season of Independence, an online interactive that traces the spread of the independence movement from January to July 1776, received 94,390 page views since it launched. Finding Freedom and Season of Independence were made possible with generous support from The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation and Ira D. and Diana Riklis.

ONLINE PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

We continued our web series AmRev360, which features Dr. R. Scott Stephenson in lively conversation with



a wide range of guests. This year, he was joined by Denise Dennis, President & CEO of the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust; filmmaker Donna Lawrence; author and historian Marla Miller; Ivan Schwartz, founder and director of Brooklyn-based sculptural studio StudioEIS; chef and TV personality Walter Staib; Martha Meehan-Cohen, Director of Advancement for the Supreme Court Historical Society; and David Bruce Smith, founder of the Grateful American Foundation; among others.



We partnered with the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia for a virtual panel discussion titled “World Affairs and the Enduring American Revolution: Women’s Rights,” moderated by Errin Haines (above with Dr. Scott Stephenson), editor-at-large for *The 19th**, a new nonprofit newsroom reporting on gender, politics, and policy.

“The Museum of the American Revolution... is perhaps one of my favorite sites in the entire city and, I believe, one of the most honest places in America about who we truly are as a nation.”

— Errin Haines in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*



We launched an animated, online version of the nonfiction children's book *Abigail & John*, written by David Bruce Smith and illustrated by artist Clarice Smith. The book explores the partnership between John Adams and Abigail Smith Adams, brought to life by colorful, original illustrations. The digitized version of the book, complete with a glossary of terms that invites young readers to dig deeper, is now available on our website.



Just in time for the start of Hispanic Heritage Month in September, we launched a Spanish-language audio tour of our award-winning, immersive core galleries. The tour is permanently available — free of charge — for Museum visitors onsite and online. Accompanying printed Spanish-language transcripts are available. The tour was translated and narrated in partnership with *AL DÍA News Media*.

Our popular Read the Revolution Speaker Series, sponsored by The Haverford Trust Company, continued virtually with historians and authors Dr. Linda Colley, Dr. Cassandra A. Good,

Dr. Jessica Millward, and Lieutenant Colonel Seanegan P. Sculley, and onsite with Dr. Holly Mayer (below, left).

We hosted our first live, virtual interactive seminar course, *The American Revolution 101: A Historical Seminar*, which examined the four core questions at the heart of the Museum, and explored the origins, events, and people of the American Revolution. The four-week course, taught by our Senior Manager of Gallery Interpretation Dr. Tyler Putman, was sold out.



Looking ahead

As we continue to expand our virtual offerings, three major projects are slated to launch later this year.

MULTIMEDIA TIMELINE

An interactive online timeline that gives students an up-close, detailed look at rare objects and artifacts that can be used as an enrichment tool for further exploration and classroom discussion. We are grateful to the Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and The Achelis and Bodman Foundation for their support.

COST OF REVOLUTION ONLINE EXHIBIT

A virtual version of the acclaimed 2019 special exhibition *Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier*, which brought together nearly 100 artifacts to explore the little-known

story of an Anglo-Irish artist and officer in the British Army.

We are grateful to the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme for their support of this project.

AMONG HIS TROOPS ONLINE EXHIBIT

A virtual version of the successful 2018 *Among His Troops* special exhibition, which explores a newly discovered watercolor of Washington's encampment at Verplanck's Point in 1782, painted by Pierre L'Enfant, which we acquired in 2017 thanks to support from the Landenberger Family Foundation. We are grateful for support from the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail of the National Park Service.

Engaging Audiences **BY THE NUMBERS**

1,000,000 visitors

We welcomed our millionth visitor since our grand opening in 2017. All visitors received a "Thanks a Million!" button in celebration.



2.5 million page views

This year, more than 493,000 people visited our website to plan their visit, explore our educational resources, and more, totaling more than 2,568,600 page views.



1.3 million page views

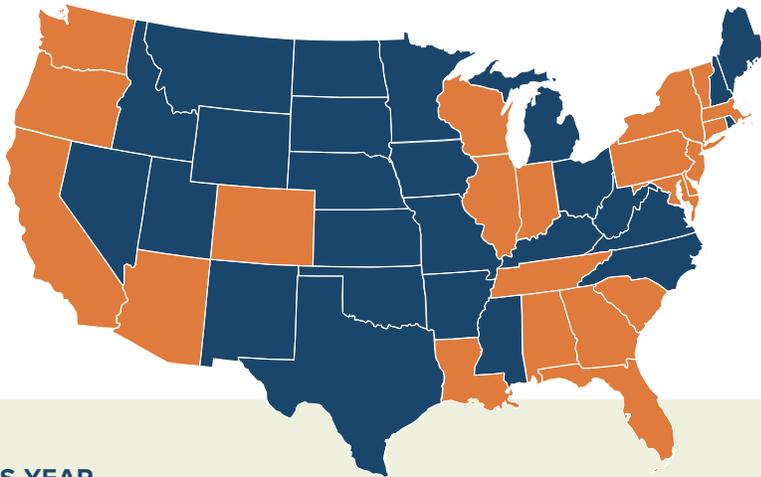
Our Virtual Museum Tour received more than 1,369,565 page views this year.

47,835 page views

Our Virtual Field Trip, created with *Scholastic* and hosted by young adult author Lauren Tarshis, received more than 47,835 page views.

24 states

More than 18,405 students participated in our virtual programs this year across 24 states. More than 13,260 of those students participated on scholarships.



200th issue

This year, we marked the 200th issue of our Read the Revolution bi-weekly e-newsletter, which features excerpts from thought-provoking books about the American Revolution.

MAJOR AWARDS THIS YEAR

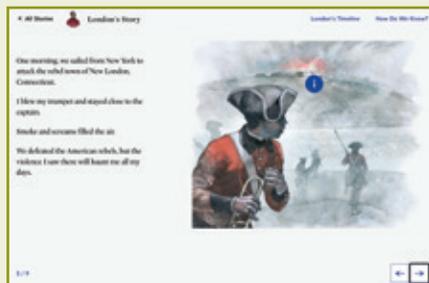
American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Bronze-Level MUSE Award for Finding Freedom



American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Award for the 2019 special exhibition *Cost of Revolution*



Philadelphia Business Journal's Faces of Philanthropy Award for our Citizenship Initiative in partnership with UGI Corporation, Will and Valerie Schwartz, and John and Patricia Walsh



PA Museums 2021 Institutional Award of Merit for *Cost of Revolution*



Webby Award Honoree for our redesigned website



Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies Program of Excellence Award

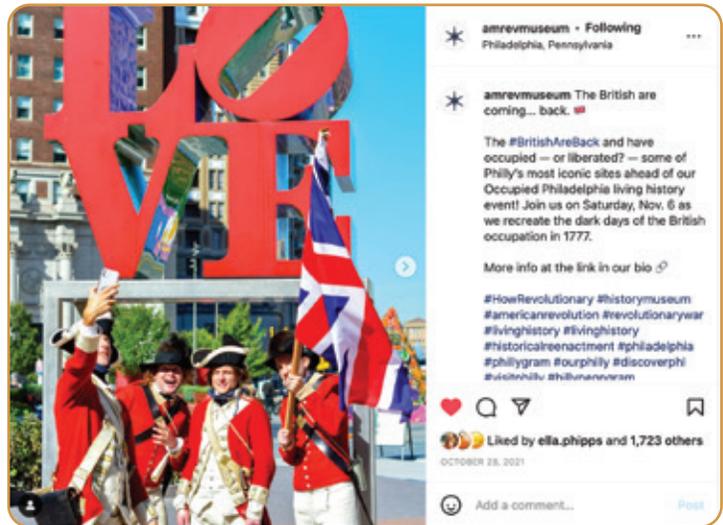
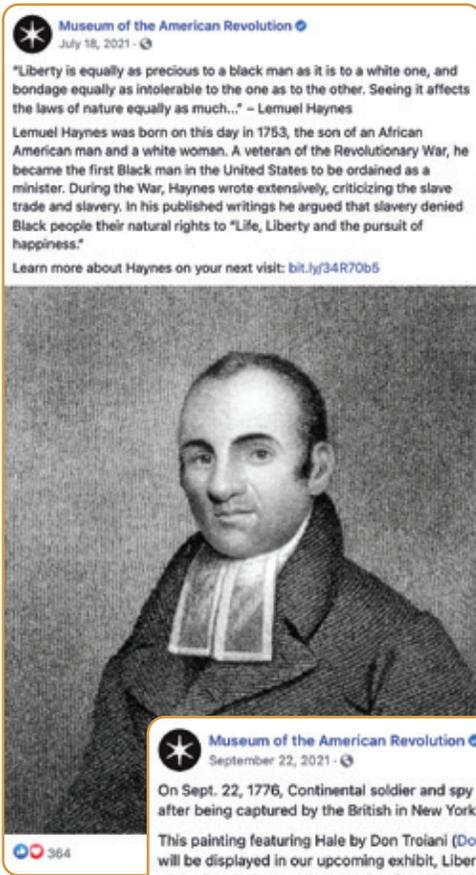


PRSA Philadelphia Pepperpot Award for 2019-20 Annual Report



98,000 followers

Our dynamic social media presence continues to grow by the day with more than 98,000 highly engaged fans and followers across our social platforms. This year, our social posts made 14,493,040 impressions and received 631,785 engagements.



“The @AmRevMuseum truly is my favorite museum. The curators are amazing & have taken every opportunity to include all of American history & all of our nation’s contributors & cultures. They go the extra mile. It’s so worth numerous visits. I learn something every time I go.”

– Sharyn Flanagan via Twitter



“Thank you for all the work you do to make history fun and to make it come alive to so many visitors!”

– Eileen Schnabel via Twitter



BECOMING AMERICAN



Our Citizenship Initiative prepares aspiring citizens to take up the promise of the American Revolution.



Juri, an artist from South Korea, wants to vote in the next election.

Tatianna from Uzbekistan is interested in practicing the English language.

Juan, a native of Venezuela, dreams of one day running for office.

Though their reasons for enrolling in the Museum's Citizenship Initiative are different, the participants all have one thing in common: they want to be American.

The Citizenship Initiative, which launched in 2019 thanks to the support of **Will and Valerie Schwartz, UGI Corporation**, and **John and Patricia Walsh**, aims to help legal permanent residents, also known as green card holders, prepare for the history and civics portion of the naturalization exam.

The test, administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as part of the naturalization process, is rigorous. Just one in three American citizens would be able to pass it, according to a 2018 survey by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

“The founders did not create a nation that was defined by membership in a particular racial or ethnic group or religious belief or even language,” said Museum President and CEO **Dr. R. Scott Stephenson**. “America is an idea — an American is something you can become, which is truly unique in this world. We wondered, what could we do as an institution that could help strengthen that?”

Over the course of eight sessions — offered free of charge — participants prepare for the test using the Museum’s rich collection of Revolutionary artifacts, immersive exhibits, and nuanced stories.

“If there’s one thing that I hope we can do for the nation in this time of such great division, it is to ground people in what we share as Americans.”

– Dr. R. Scott Stephenson



They learn about the Declaration of Independence while looking at an original printing of the document, for example. Or discuss the reasons American colonists opposed the British while standing under the branches of a recreated Liberty Tree, where colonists gathered to plan their resistance.

Along the way, they build a stronger understanding of American history and government and the significance of the American Revolution in the world today. It is the first time a program like this has been offered at a Philadelphia museum.

Dana Devon, a longtime educational producer of regional and national civic programming, manages the program and teaches the class with assistance from Museum educators.

“The Museum’s galleries are rich with objects, stories, and immersive environments and provide an ideal classroom to learn about American history and the framing of a republican government,” said Devon. “The setting is a powerful teaching tool and contextualizes what can often feel to immigrants as an overwhelming amount of material to master for the citizenship test. Students will tell us that learning with objects and stories helps the content stick in a more sustaining way.”

“Students will tell us that learning with objects and stories helps the content stick in a more sustaining way.”

The course began as an onsite program, combining classroom-based learning with explorations of the galleries. When the pandemic struck, the course went virtual, utilizing the Museum’s 360-degree virtual tour of its galleries. The silver lining? It is no longer limited to the Philadelphia area — people from across the nation now have access to this unique learning opportunity. Online attendees have hailed from Delaware, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

To date, Devon has run seven sessions of the course — three onsite and four online — with 90 total attendees representing 23 countries, including Brazil, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Russia, Syria, and Ukraine, among others. Of those, 15 students have reported back that they are now naturalized citizens, with many others well on their way.



Juan Giarrizzo (left), who was born in Caracas, Venezuela, graduated from the Museum’s first citizenship class in 2019 and has since become a naturalized American citizen.

“My journey as a citizen starts with the concept of ‘citizen’ as a person that is willing to participate in driving change in the country they live in,” said Giarrizzo. “When we look at the history of America as a concept, as an idea, we can see how many people have fought to have a place at the table. I was very excited to become a citizen to be able to participate in the changes and processes of the United States.”

As a new citizen, Giarrizzo is already working to effect change. He has created Gente de Venezuela, a Philadelphia-based group that seeks to empower the immigrant community through professional development, advocacy, and culture.

This type of engagement is exactly what the course aims to encourage. It aligns with the Museum’s vision of the American Revolution as an ongoing experiment that was set in motion in the 18th century but continues today.

“In his famous 1858 ‘Electric Cord’ speech, President Abraham Lincoln said that immigrants who believe in their hearts the words that ‘all men are created equal’ become ‘blood of the blood and flesh of the flesh of the men who wrote that Declaration,’” said Stephenson. “We are all inheritors of the American Revolution and are charged with carrying forward its promises.”

During the final class of the course, a panel of experts including immigration attorneys, representatives from USCIS, and other partners offer advice about next steps toward applying for citizenship. Upon completion, participants receive a Museum Membership to return to the Museum with their families.

“I am so proud that our institution holds this so close to our hearts as the core of what we’re about,” said Stephenson. “If there’s one thing that I hope we can do for the nation in this time of such great division, it is to ground people in what we share as Americans.”



*“America is an idea —
an American is something you can become,
which is truly unique in this world.”*

— Dr. R. Scott Stephenson



Engaging STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, & FAMILIES



As we look forward to the return of schools and other groups who have been deterred by the pandemic, we are proud of the ways that we have been able to reach and serve these audiences — as well as students across the country — through our virtual field trips and other distance learning programs. This school year, we served more than **18,400 students and youth** across **24 states** through our live, interactive virtual offerings.



This year, more than **13,400 students** visited the Museum or participated in our virtual programs with scholarship support, thanks to **The Bergman Foundation, Lisa and Arthur Berkowitz, Chubb, Fulton Bank, David Bruce Smith, Truist, and Wawa.**

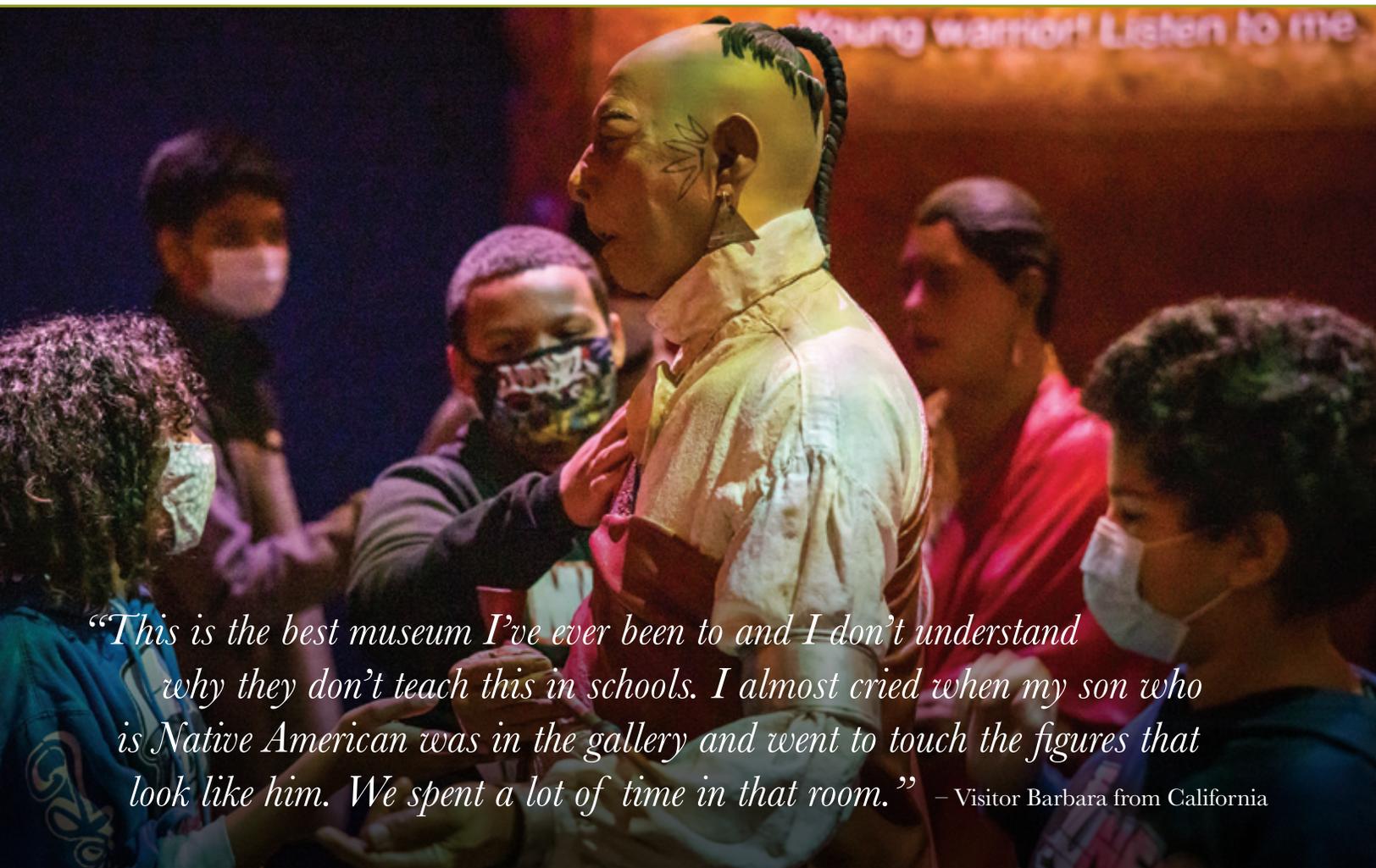
We launched two new virtual workshops including “Whose Liberty? African Americans in the American Revolution,” which explores the challenges, opportunities, and decision-making of people of African descent during the tumult of the Revolution, and “When Women Lost the

Vote,” which examines women and free people of African descent voting in New Jersey during the Revolutionary era, in conjunction with our special exhibition.

“We thoroughly enjoyed the [When Women Lost the Vote] presentation and Linda did an outstanding job. We were amazed to hear about these incredible ladies who are rarely mentioned in history.”

— Barbara, virtual event participant

Our **Finding Freedom** online interactive follows the stories of five people of African descent in 1781 Virginia. This resource, which includes curricular materials, is a popular offering for students and educators, with more than **691,670 page views** since launching. It is invaluable for exploring lesser-known stories and equipping teachers to have difficult but enriching conversations about slavery and freedom in the Revolutionary era. Our **Season of Independence** online interactive, which explores the spread of support for independence, and its curricular



“This is the best museum I’ve ever been to and I don’t understand why they don’t teach this in schools. I almost cried when my son who is Native American was in the gallery and went to touch the figures that look like him. We spent a lot of time in that room.” – Visitor Barbara from California

BY THE NUMBERS



660 people

took part in our first-ever virtual educator open house and virtual teacher professional development workshops, including those in partnership with American Battlefield Trust and Mount Vernon.

100 participants

took part in a special series of teacher professional development programs offered in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia.

10,000 educators

receive our newly launched educator newsletter each month.



Several members of the Museum team traveled to Newport, Rhode Island, to erect and interpret our replica of George Washington’s Headquarters Tent as part of the Newport Historical Society’s “The French in 1780 Newport” living history event. Visitors met costumed historical interpreters and explored handmade replicas of the sleeping and baggage tents that were part of Washington’s mobile headquarters. We are grateful to the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail of the National Park Service for their support.

materials have received more than 94,390 page views since launching. These resources were developed thanks to the support of The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation and Ira D. and Diana Riklis.

Interest in diverse stories was evident in our new virtual program featuring live, first-person performances of the “Meet Elizabeth Freeman” theatrical piece created in conjunction with our *When Women Lost the Vote* special exhibition. The program, which features a 25-minute performance followed by a question-and-answer session with a Museum educator, repeatedly sold out

the 500 available spots. A total of 1,527 students participated in the program this year. More than 935 participants were covered by scholarships.

To engage kids and families, we launched a series of monthly virtual playdates for kids called **History Explorers**. With topics ranging from “Spies of the Revolution” to “Life at Sea,” kids ages 7–11 explored unexpected stories through replica objects, demonstrations, activities, and more. We were pleased to have 112 participants from 14 states. We are grateful to the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation** for its support of our family programs.

“We had actually never heard of the Museum but it’s now on our list to visit.”

– Betsey, parent of a Satell program participant from West Virginia

We were pleased to work with the **Satell Institute** to pilot two new Museum programs for children ages 7–11 as part of their Youth Enrichment Series. The programs, “Junior Historians” and “Soldiers, Sailors, Spies,” were presented alongside offerings from other cultural institutions across the city to provide young people with engaging virtual learning opportunities over the summer months. Kids from six states participated in the programs.

“These programs offer my son the kind of deeper dive and greater participation he is lacking in his school experience right now. I can’t tell you how much we, as a family, appreciate it.” – Kristen, parent of a History Explorers participant



“My students enjoyed the performance and had many impressive comments about what they learned about Elizabeth Freeman’s life lesson for all people in any time. Thank you for your thoughtful approach to teaching history to our students!” – Educator Theresa G.



Our Director of Education and Community Engagement, **Adrienne Whaley** (above right with **Dr. Marisa J. Fuentes**), has been working closely with **Balliol College at Oxford University** on a four-part virtual teacher institute for the 2021-22 school year with the potential for more substantive in-person learning in subsequent years. The focus of the partnership is “Slavery in the Age of Revolution,” in support of Balliol’s exhibit of the same name. Whaley and **Dr. R. Scott Stephenson** traveled to Oxford for the opening of the exhibit. We are grateful to **American Airlines**, the **Queen’s Jubilee Education Fund** and the **Jubilee International Education Trust of the Philadelphia Foundation**, and **Elizabeth A. and Michael Vogelmann** for their support of this program.

This year, we launched a new program that provides a free, year-long, Family-level Membership to anyone with a Pennsylvania ACCESS Card, which are given by the state to Pennsylvania residents who monitor their government-issued cash, food, or medical benefits with an EBT card. The program is made possible by support from **PECO**. The PECO Family Membership program already has nearly **200 Member families**.

The Museum is excited to be entering into a year-long relationship with the **Pennsylvania State Society of the Children of the American Revolution**, as our organization has been selected as the beneficiary of their President’s annual fundraising drive. Funds will allow us to develop a first-person performance interpreting the story of **Deborah**, who is featured in our **Finding Freedom** interactive, with additional funds going toward school scholarships.

We are grateful to those who supported our education programs: **1830 Family Foundation**, **Arcadia Foundation**, **Connelly Foundation**, **Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation**, **The McLean Contributionship**, **Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation**, **Maguire Foundation**, **Psalm 103 Foundation**, and the **Snider Foundation**.



510 people visited the Museum using Art-Reach’s ACCESS Philly Program, which allows individuals with a PA ACCESS card to attend cultural institutions for just \$2, and the Philly STAMP pass program, which offers free admission to Philadelphia teens.

362 people 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.

1,272 people visited using library memberships from their local libraries.

716 people utilized our free admission for veterans during Veterans Day Weekend, thanks to Comcast NBCUniversal, and the Blue Star Families program, which offers free admission to military families throughout the summer.

As part of our Meet the Revolution series, we were excited to welcome **Daniel Sieh** for a virtual discussion about people of Asian descent in the Revolutionary War, accompanied by a supporting blog post, during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May.



New Stories, New Storytellers



Approximately 2.5 million people lived in British North America on the eve of the American Revolution. Among those, nearly half a million were of African descent — both enslaved and free.

“If we are telling a story of the American Revolution that is not inclusive of all people, we are doing poor history,” said **Adrienne Whaley**, the Museum’s Director of Education and Community Engagement. “These stories help visitors empathize with people of the past and imagine how they themselves might have dealt with the challenges of this chaotic, hopeful, beautiful, difficult time.”

This year, the Museum launched the African American Interpretive Program (AAIP), funded by a grant from Comcast NBCUniversal, to significantly expand its capacity to explore the lives, experiences, and impact of Revolutionary-era people of African descent.

“We are committed to helping to elevate forgotten voices, including people of African descent who fought to win our nation’s independence, and the African American Interpretive Program does just that,” said Brig. Gen. (Ret.) **Carol Eggert**, Senior Vice President of Military and Veteran Affairs at Comcast NBCUniversal. “We’re thrilled to see that this program is inspiring others and making our communities stronger through learning and understanding.”

The program evolved from the Museum’s Diversify Living History Initiative, which launched in 2018 to cultivate and support a more diverse community of people engaged in the



“Noah, your passion was the highlight of our school’s visit to the Museum! What a wonderful experience to hear about your role in the Revolution! You are extraordinary! Thank you!”

— Educator Liz S.

storytelling, and conversation in the Museum’s galleries and on the outdoor plaza.

These encounters brought visitors face-to-face with free and enslaved people of African descent, including Revolutionary War veteran Edward “Ned” Hector, schoolteacher Helena Harris, and Quansheba, a formerly enslaved woman who lived on the block where the Museum now stands.

“We have a very narrow idea of where Black folks played a role in the history of the United States,” Williams told PBS NewsHour in a story about the program. “I want people to come away with the understanding that Black history is U.S. history. Indigenous history is U.S. history, is world history, is all of our history. Everyone’s history is part of who we collectively are.”

work of costumed living history and museum education.

The new program is led by African American Interpretive Fellow **Michael Idriss**.

Under Idriss’s guidance, the Museum welcomed four Black living history interpreters for short-term residencies this past summer.

Costumed living history interpreters **Noah Lewis** (above), **Cheyney McKnight**, **Brenda Parker**, and **Kalela Williams** (left) interacted with Museum guests through hands-on demonstrations,

Quickly becoming one of the Museum's signature storytelling techniques, first-person theatrical performances are another way that the Museum engages visitors and school groups with the often unfamiliar stories of people of the era.

The latest, "Meet James Forten," explores Forten's life as a free Black Philadelphian, Revolutionary War privateer, and later, successful businessman and abolitionist. Written by local playwright **Marissa Kennedy** and directed by **Seth Riechgott**, it is performed on weekends at the Museum by actor **Nathan Alford-Tate** and through virtual programs for students and adults.

"As a native Philadelphian, this is a lifelong dream for me," said Idriss, who oversees the program. "James Forten's story is so compelling and the connections and threads that run through it are so powerful. What I'd like to do is bend history back so that people are able to understand the importance of all the people of African descent within it, not just James, but all the other 'James Fortens' whose stories have not been heard."

To further its efforts, this summer, the Museum will offer its inaugural living history institute for young people who are interested in interpreting the lives of people of African ancestry in the Revolutionary era. The five-week intensive course will introduce teens and young adults to professional museum work, historical research and writing, and costumed living history interpretation.

"Lifting up untold stories goes much further than simply telling those stories," said Idriss. "It is about empowering audiences to see themselves in the history of the nation's founding and inspiring them to participate in the interpretation of those complex events of the era, as we strive today to present a more inclusive, and thus, a more accurate history."

As NewsHour's Judy Woodruff put it, "a history we all need to learn."



Watch the
PBS NewsHour
story here!





MEET

★ MICHAEL IDRISSE ★



An educator and storyteller with a passion for history and for his hometown of Philadelphia, Michael Idriss serves as the Museum’s African American Interpretive Fellow, managing all aspects of the new African American Interpretive Program, funded by Comcast NBCUniversal. Idriss previously worked as a Philadelphia tour guide, leading historical experiences centered around stories of the African Diaspora. He holds a bachelor’s degree in history and African American studies from Temple University.

What attracted you to this position?

I’ve always loved history, but I haven’t always heard stories of people who look like me. I want to elevate the voices of people of African descent — both free and enslaved — at bedrock, at conception, when the nation as we know it was being formed. My hope is to help people understand that Black Americans are centered there as well. There is a great deal of power in that. The joy of working here is that I can help ensure that people are learning this sometimes-challenging history with empathy and intentionality.

Why is costumed interpretation important?

Costumed interpretation is transformational. It takes down the walls of today and transports you to the past, allowing you to connect with history in a really tangible way. From the kit (or costume) interpreters wear to the words that they say to the objects that they handle, costumed interpreters breathe life into the stories of real individuals so visitors can experience how they looked, how they felt.

When I think about the older generation of historical interpreters, I wonder, who is going to carry on this work? I am humbled to be able to introduce rising generations to the world of costumed interpretation and continue that important work.

What kinds of reactions do costumed interpreters at the Museum get?

Most of the reactions we get are ones of surprise and interest. People ask, why haven’t we learned this before? Occasionally there are encounters where visitors make comments that can be hurtful. But that is exactly why we do the work we do: to make connections with people from different backgrounds, to explore the complexities of the American story, and to address the challenges that we all can work through together.

Looking ahead, what are you most excited about?

I am really excited about our living history institute for teens, which will be held at the Museum this summer. Our hope is that this program will help introduce an even broader range of people to this time period and to the range of possibilities of working in the museum field. As we move toward 2026, it is critical that the stories we tell *and* the people telling them are more reflective of all the people who contributed to creating this nation.

Stewarding & Growing OUR COLLECTION

Our rich collection of Revolutionary-era objects, manuscripts, textiles, and works of art lies at the heart of all we do. We continue to add significant items to our collection through object donations and dedicated funding from donors to enhance the Museum's multifaceted storytelling. By rotating objects on display from our collection and those that are generously loaned to us, we give visitors reasons to return again and again.

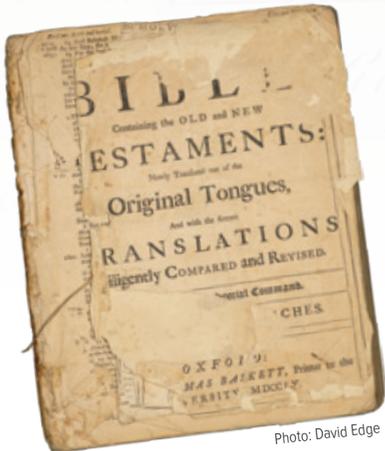


Photo: David Edge

The long-lost Revolutionary War diary (facing page) of John Claypoole, the third husband of famous flagmaker Betsy Ross, was discovered in a shoebox in a Northern California garage and donated to the Museum by descendants

of Claypoole and Ross. The story was covered by news outlets nationwide, including *CBS News*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.



The handwritten diary, which includes letters and songs Claypoole transcribed, was written during the years 1781 and 1782 and later published in the late 1800s. The location of the original diary was unknown to scholars for nearly a century. Aileen Edge and her husband David Edge (right) found it last year as they cleaned out the garage of Aileen's late mother, Claire Canby Keleher, a

descendant of Ross and Claypoole. The Edge family also donated a Claypoole family Bible (left) to the Museum, as well as related family documents.

"Discovering the diary was like something out of a movie. I felt like the world stood still as I realized what I was holding in my

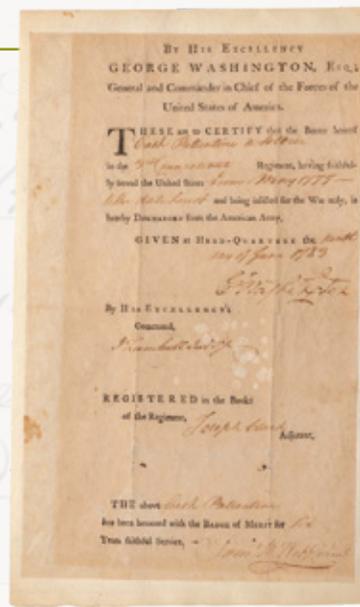


The Collections Society was established in 2019 to enhance the Museum's distinguished collection of objects, works of art, manuscripts, and printed works that span the scope of the Revolutionary era. Collections Society members make annual gifts of \$500 or more to support the care, maintenance, and expansion of our holdings. In recognition of their annual gifts, Collections Society members receive invitations to exclusive events with Museum curators and experts in the field. The Society was instrumental in funding a number of acquisitions this year.

- David and Kim Adler
- Jeanne Asplundh
- Kevin and Kristine Boettcher
- Richard Brown and Mary Jo Otsea
- Rhonda and David Cohen
- Tim and Emily Collins
- Thomas Cooney
- Elizabeth T. Daly
- Ernest C. Downs
- Eileen and Beverly M. Dubose III
- Timothy and Susan Gillespie
- Dorothy Tapper Goldman
- Irish Georgian Society
- Landenberger Family Foundation
- Ken and Catharine Klaus
- Marguerite Lenfest
- Paul S. and Mary G. Lockhart
- Michael S. LoPresti
- Dean Malissa
- Barry Maxfield
- John Francis McFassel
- Tara Mowery
- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
- Pamela J. and James D. Penny
- Philip Syng Reese
- James H. Scott
- Sarena Snider
- Martha McGeary Snider
- The Snider Foundation
- Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge
- St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia
- Dalila Wilson-Scott

hands — something that was connected to the beginning of our country. It's a miracle that it survived," said Aileen Edge. "We donated the diary to the Museum because we wanted it to be appreciated and enjoyed rather than hidden away for decades more. I also wanted to pay tribute to my mother and uncle for keeping this family history alive."

The diary (below) went on display just in time for the Fourth of July, alongside John Claypoole's wooden sea chest, which was gifted to the Museum in 2019 by the Balderston family, another branch of the Ross and Claypoole family. The Bible and diary will be conserved in the year ahead and returned for display, thanks to generous funding from the Patriotic Order Sons of America.



We were delighted to acquire the Continental Army discharge of an African American soldier, Cash Pallentine, signed by General George Washington (above). Pallentine was from Lebanon, Connecticut, and enlisted in 1777. He served through many of the significant events of the Revolutionary War, including at Valley Forge and the Battle of Monmouth. Funds to purchase the discharge were donated by David and Kim Adler, Tim Collins, Timothy and Susan Gillespie, Dorothy Tapper Goldman, Paul Lockhart, Michael LoPresti, and Philip Syng Reese.



Photo: David Edge



We were pleased to bring an assemblage of English ceramics into our collection, including a Delftware plate (left), a creamware teapot (pictured on page 32) and tea canister, a creamware mug, and a set of six enamel plaques, thanks to The Landenberger Family Foundation, Richard Brown and Mary Jo Otsea, and James D. and Pamela

J. Penny. The items demonstrate how consumer goods were used to communicate political viewpoints before and during the Revolutionary War and increase our ability to tell stories about the political history and viewpoints that led to the Revolution.

Thanks to the Museum's **Committee of Revolutionary Women**, we acquired a miniature portrait of Mary Mcllvane Bloomfield (1752-1818) attributed to Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827), circa 1778 (right). Bloomfield was featured in our *When Women Lost the Vote* exhibition as a woman who may have voted in New Jersey in the late 1700s. She was married to Joseph Bloomfield (1753-1823), Governor of New Jersey. The acquisition of this tiny but mighty piece adds to our growing collection of items related to the stories of women during the Revolutionary era and allows us to further explore Bloomfield's story in future exhibits. The **New Jersey Major Joseph Bloomfield Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR)** also supported the acquisition.

A new case in our second-floor atrium, funded by the **Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard**, allows us to feature fresh and timely exhibits of objects from our own collection or on loan from others. One display, titled "A True Warrior and a Brave Man": Revolutionary General Anthony Wayne," featured two of Wayne's swords, his telescope, his gold



Stony Point medal, and the medal's letter of transmittal signed by President George Washington, as well as objects from the Museum's collection, including our recently acquired campaign chest, thanks to the **Rocky Hill Collection**.

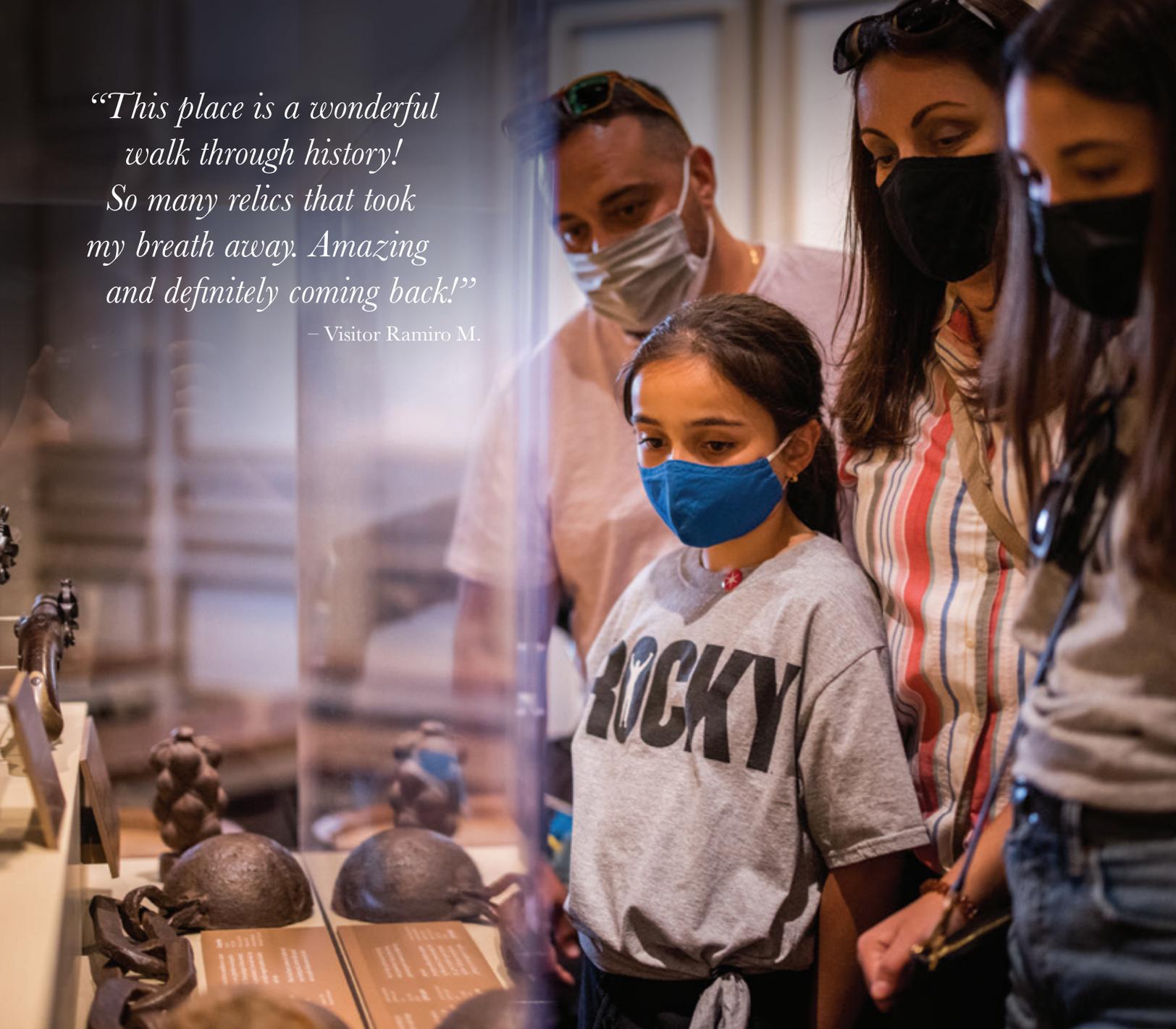
STAFF SPOTLIGHT

In April, we welcomed Dr. Aimee E. Newell as Director of Collections and Exhibitions. Newell brings to the Museum more than 20 years of curatorial, exhibition, and collections management experience in positions at the Nantucket Historical Association, Old Sturbridge Village, and the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library in Lexington, Massachusetts. Most recently, she served as Executive Director at the Luzerne County Historical Society in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and the Stonington Historical Society in Stonington, Connecticut. Newell received her doctorate in history from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and has an MBA from Suffolk University in Boston, with a concentration in nonprofit management.



“This place is a wonderful walk through history! So many relics that took my breath away. Amazing and definitely coming back!”

– Visitor Ramiro M.



11 new loaned objects installed in the core exhibition

Tradition says this fragment of a carved British coat of arms, ca. 1750-1775, hung in Christ Church in Philadelphia and was broken during the Revolutionary War. For many Anglicans, their faith and their patriotism were focused on the King, who led the church and the empire. On loan from Christ Church, Philadelphia.



38 new objects acquired through donation or purchase



Many New England men who joined the Continental Army wore their civilian clothing at the beginning of their military service. This coat, made of red woolen broadcloth and lined with linen, is typical of the plain clothing worn by most farmers and artisans in the region. On loan from Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

9 objects from our collection on view for the first time



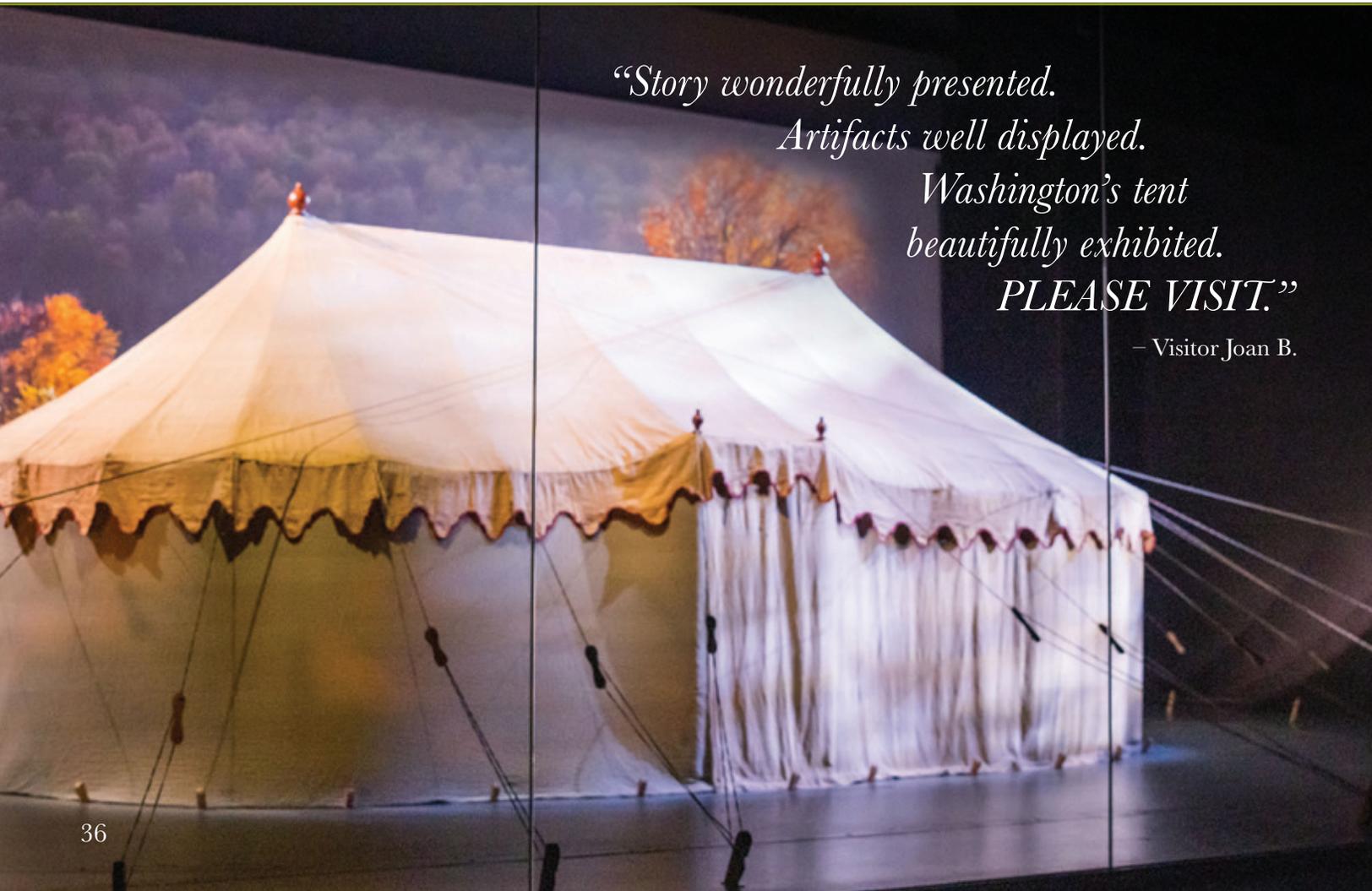
Thanks to a grant from American Express, we were able to conserve the five cannons on the Museum's outdoor plaza as well as a number of other collection items and four paintings, including "Washington Praying at Valley Forge" (left) by an unknown artist and "General Washington in Prayer at Valley Forge" by Lambert Sachs.

We added a 1776 British officer's commission, signed by King George III, to our collection. This commission promoted Richard St. George, the subject of our 2019 *Cost*



of Revolution exhibition, to serve as an ensign in the 4th, or "King's Own," Regiment of Foot. The commission (above) was acquired thanks to Thomas Cooney, Chuck Downs, Peter Mark, and the Irish Georgian Society.

The Landenberger Family Foundation donated the funds to purchase three 18th-century powder horns. The horns include the 1767 horn of Captain Yelverton Peyton, which depicts Havana, Cuba; a 1767 horn belonging to British



*"Story wonderfully presented.
Artifacts well displayed.
Washington's tent
beautifully exhibited.
PLEASE VISIT."*

– Visitor Joan B.



Army Captain Gordon Forbes that celebrates his service in the Mississippi Valley in the 1760s; and a 1765 horn depicting Fort William Augustus, Canada (pictured on page 32).

The St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia generously kicked off a fundraising campaign to acquire a collection of manuscripts, weapons, and personal items (right) from Lieutenant James Grant, a Highland Scottish officer who settled in America after the French and Indian War. Grant raised a family north of New York City during the Revolutionary War. The papers and weapons are now reunited with Grant's campaign chest, which is in the Museum's collection.

Just in time for the 245th anniversary of the "shot heard 'round the world" that ignited the Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775, we borrowed three items from the

Acton Memorial Library in Acton, Massachusetts, for display in our Lexington and Concord Gallery, including a 1775 silk hatband owned and worn by Continental soldier Abner Hosmer; the powder horn of Private James Hayward; and a small sword owned by Isaac Davis, captain of the Acton minutemen, who was killed during the battle.



We have made great progress toward improving our collection storage area, thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) Museums for America program.

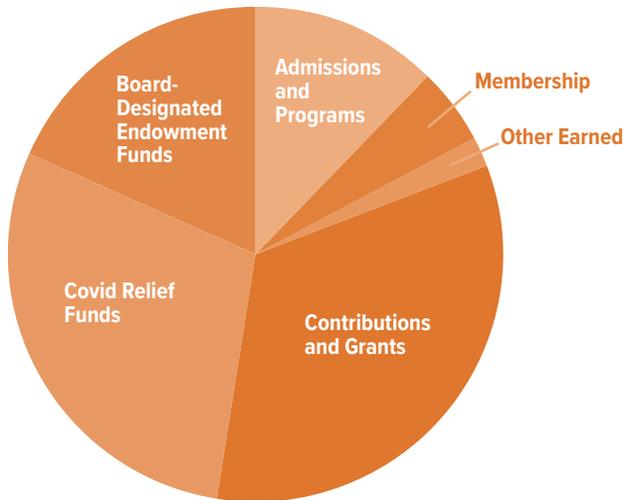


Our Strong Financial Foundation

Thanks to our supporters' unwavering commitment to our mission, the Museum remains in a strong financial position. Thank you!

In November and December 2020, a city mandate forced us to close due to the pandemic. With audiences returning in the summer, we were pleased to return to a seven-day operating schedule. In light of the many challenges facing schools, field trips for student groups have not fully resumed, resulting in reduced earned revenue. However, due to the strength of our endowment, COVID-19 relief grants, and the continued support of our Members and donors, we were able to end the year with an operating surplus, which positioned us well for the coming year.

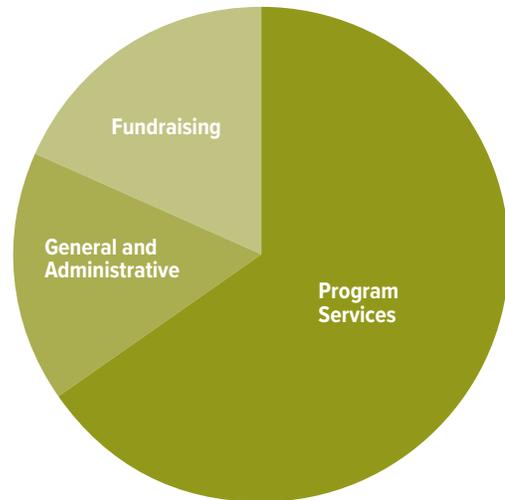




\$10,578,786

OPERATING REVENUE

Museum admissions of \$1,313,920, contributions and grants of \$3,502,426, and COVID relief funds of \$3,098,776 were the largest sources of revenue. Operations were supported by Board-approved appropriations from our Board-designated and donor-restricted endowments, totaling \$1,986,850.



\$8,788,940

OPERATING EXPENSE

To achieve a balanced budget, we were disciplined in our spending. Most of our expenditures were used for educational and public programming, exhibition development, curatorial research and collection care, facility maintenance, marketing, and other administrative costs.

\$50,741,827

ENDOWMENT

We started this fiscal year with \$41,345,914 in our endowment funds. As a result of strong market performance and additional contributions into the endowment funds, the accounts totaled \$50,741,827 as of September 30, 2021.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,489,786
Investments	51,759,456
Pledges Receivable	3,544,687
Fixed Assets	76,335,326
Other	976,973

\$136,106,228

Liabilities

\$2,688,692

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	\$126,546,769
With Donor Restrictions	6,870,767

\$133,417,536



THANK YOU to Our Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge gifts from the following generous individuals and foundations in support of our operations during the 2021 fiscal year, October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. These committed donors provided essential funding for the Museum's accomplishments outlined in this year's annual report. Thank you!

\$1 MILLION AND UP

Alan B. and Jill Miller
Anonymous

U.S. Small Business Administration

\$100,000 TO \$999,999

David and Kim Adler

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Donor spotlight

ERIC AND SUE BAELEN



Eric and Sue Baelen have lived in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, for over 45 years, often bringing their children into Philadelphia to explore historical sites on the weekends. They initially purchased a Membership to the Museum as a Hanukkah gift for their son and daughter-in-law but then decided they wanted to become

Members as well. They have been supporters ever since, attending nearly every public and donor program the Museum offers.

“We have such a good time! Every time I go, I learn something,” said Eric. Their favorite program is the Museum’s Read the Revolution Speaker Series — so much so that Sue chose to celebrate her birthday in September by attending one of the lectures and a special author reception offered to Revolution Society and George Washington Council Members.

“The staff makes us feel good. They remember that Eric and I are involved with music programs and establishing a library/media/community center in Accompong, Jamaica. They ask us about those things. I don’t know many other museums where I’ve had that relationship with the staff,” said Sue, who, along with her husband, is now a George Washington Council Member.

Although they loved the special exhibits of historic flags during the summers of 2019 and 2021, the Museum’s January 2018 special exhibition *Among His Troops: Washington’s War Tent in a Newly Discovered Watercolor* left the biggest impression. “That exhibit was part detective story about how they were able to acquire the Pierre L’Enfant watercolor of Washington’s encampment,” said Eric. “The excitement from the curators was palpable. They were so thrilled to have it, and I was thrilled for them and the Museum.”

They can’t wait to see what the Museum does next. “Having the Museum in the location it is in puts it right in the middle of history,” said Eric. “It is a unique location for a unique museum.”

JAMES D. AND PAMELA J. PENNY

A shared love of history brought Jim and Pam Penny together — their first date took place at Colonial Williamsburg — and continues to engage and excite them. “We’re huge fans of the 18th century and early America,” said Jim. “We really enjoy visiting places with historical exhibits, particularly anywhere that has ceramics on display.”

They remember well their first visit to the Museum of the American Revolution — it was Jim’s birthday, Dec. 6, 2018, and they were with their close friends and Museum supporters, Iris and Mark Coblitz. “We took a marvelous tour of the Museum with Scott Stephenson, and we’ve been hooked ever since,” said Jim.

Their favorite exhibit? Washington’s War Tent. “That exhibit is extraordinarily well done,” said Pam. “Watching the presentation unfold on stage is incredible.”

During their first visit, master ceramicist Michelle Erickson was at the Museum for a demonstration and discussion on reproducing a Bonnin and Morris pickle stand. The event was sponsored in part by the Alumni Association of William & Mary, where both Jim and Pam earned degrees and are still

deeply involved. Erickson’s completed reproduction pickle stand was later acquired by the Museum, thanks to the Pennys’ generous support. It is now on view in the Museum’s Revolution Place discovery center.

As Members of the Museum’s Collection Society, the Pennys, who now reside in Williamsburg, Virginia, also supported the Museum’s recent acquisition of an assemblage of English ceramics. They look forward to seeing these on display during their next visit and encourage others to visit as well.

“The American Revolution is the most important event in our nation’s history,” said Jim. “In order to better understand where we came from and how we came together as a country, everyone should visit the Museum.”



Photo courtesy of William & Mary



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The George Washington Council provides the Museum's most significant contributed source of operating support. These philanthropic leaders make annual gifts of \$5,000+ that sustain our programs and launch new initiatives that are core to our mission. Named for the General whose dedication, perseverance, and steadfastness continues to inspire us, this group enables our most ambitious work. In recognition for their support, George Washington Council members are invited to intimate dinners, exclusive programs, and once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunities.



George Washington Council Members Peggy Duckett and George Drach



George Washington Council Members Jordana Cooperberg, a Museum Board Member, Ben Cooperberg, and their children.

\$5,000 TO \$9,999

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Donor spotlight

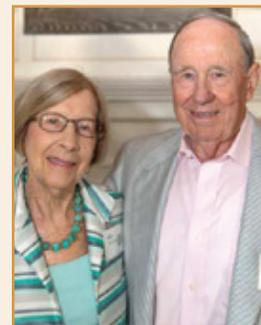
DICK AND SALLY BRICKMAN

A family history of service and patriotism runs deep for both Dick and Sally Brickman. For Sally Brickman, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a total of 11 of her ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War. Theodore “Dick” Brickman Jr., chairman emeritus of The Brickman Group and a veteran of the Korean War, also has a lineage of service.

Their love of history and this country inspired them to get involved with the Museum of the American Revolution “before the ground was even broken,” as Sally puts it. They were invited to a fundraising dinner in 2016 where they met Gerry Lenfest, the Museum’s late Founding Chairman. “We were so taken with his energy and vision,” said Dick. “It was infectious. He brought so many forces together.”

Now George Washington Council Members, the Brickmans generously support the Museum’s living history programs, which include everything from the Meet the Revolution series

of costumed historical interpretation to first-person theatrical performances. “We love history, but we feel that history is being lost today, especially for younger generations.” said Sally. “Living history brings history to life in a way that is so appealing to young people and kids.”



With 16 grandchildren of their own, they know a thing or two about reaching young people. Almost all of them have been to the Museum. “They love it,” said Sally. “It’s very hands-on. And everyone loves George Washington’s tent!”

Dick and Sally encourage everyone to visit the Museum. “It emotionally and forcefully portrays the creation of the United States of America,” said Dick. “You can’t get that anywhere else.”

Member spotlight

KATHERINE OVERTON



While growing up, Katherine Overton heard her mother talk about their family history, but like most kids, she didn’t pay much attention. “I knew that we had an ancestor who served in the Revolutionary War, but I didn’t even know his name,” Overton said. “It wasn’t until my mother passed away that I delved into our history.”

In 2011, Overton made a trip to the Connecticut State Archives to research her ancestors. She remembers the archivist handing her a card that said: “Timothy Cesar, A Negro.” “I’ll never forget it,” said Overton. “For a man who fought in the Revolutionary War and lived into his 80s, all it said was that he died in 1822 in New Haven and was ‘a negro’? I thought, this is a travesty of historic erasure.”

Overton spent the following years filling in the details of Cesar’s life, eventually petitioning the Department of Veterans Affairs for a gravestone to be placed on his unmarked grave. She even received a Presidential Memorial Certificate recognizing Cesar’s “devoted and selfless service,” signed by President Barack Obama.

“I thought, if I don’t tell his story, who will?” said Overton. “Look what I would have missed, look what my grandchildren would have missed.”

The experience turned her into a self-proclaimed “T-shirt-wearing, proud descendent.” She has since become a member of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and an honorary member of a reenactor group that portrays the 6th Connecticut Regiment, Cesar’s regiment.

“I consider myself a ‘griot,’ which is African for storyteller,” said Overton. “I’m on a mission to open up this historical record and let people know that all of us participated in creating this nation.”

Overton’s newfound interest in the Revolutionary era inspired her to visit the Museum on a bus tour organized by a DAR chapter in Maryland, where she now lives. “I was like a kid in a candy shop,” she said. In 2021, she became a Member.

“I am the number one cheerleader for the Museum,” Overton said. “Most of all, I love the fact that the Museum is doing outreach to educate people, especially children and young people, about the African American and Native American presence in the war.”



“Meaningful.” “Poetic.” “Powerful.” Voters who lined up before dawn at the Museum — a polling location for the 2020 presidential election — told us how it felt to vote here, just two blocks from where both the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were debated and signed. National news outlets including CNN and MSNBC broadcast live from the Museum throughout the day.

“I can’t think of a cooler place to cast a ballot than that museum.”

— MSNBC’s Craig Melvin

\$2,500 TO \$4,999

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★ Revolution SOCIETY ★

The Revolution Society was established in 2015, years before the Museum opened, to ensure a strong foundation of sustaining annual support for our cause. Since

then, a dynamic community of donors and friends have joined our pursuit of ambitious goals. Making gifts of \$1,000 - \$4,999 each year, these dedicated members enable the Museum to care for our world-class collection and offer educational programs to engage every generation. In appreciation for their generous investment, we invite them to enjoy curated experiences with Museum experts, leading authors, and historians.



Revolution Society Members Melissa and Bruce Foulke with Michael Idriss (left), the Museum’s African American Interpretive Fellow.



Revolution Society Members Dennis Franklin and Jennie Cooper-Franklin

“We had the most wonderful time at the [Flags and Founding Documents] exhibition preview last night. A beautiful event for an extraordinarily important exhibit.”

— Revolution Society Member Richard Parke

\$1,000 TO \$2,499

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We are grateful to the **5,020 Member households** nationwide who continued their support of our mission this year. We kicked off a year of onsite, virtual, and hybrid programming with signature series like our Read the Revolution Speaker Series, AmRev Presents, and special Member exclusives throughout the year. We thank all our Members for their participation in our Museum community.

We see the impact of Membership support in everything we do — it is essential to the Museum's efforts to expand our audience, continue to preserve, interpret, and display our world-class collections, and to produce engaging educational programs.

*“So much to see and do.
We bought a yearly membership
because we just couldn't see it
all in one visit. So glad we did.
We enjoy the special events,
speakers, and exhibits. I highly
recommend this museum!”*

— Maryann S., Museum Member



\$500 TO \$999

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We are grateful to our corporate partners for their support of Museum programs, events, and exhibits. Their investment expands the reach of the Museum's commitment to provide community programming and educational initiatives that inspire rising generations through compelling stories about the diverse people and complex events of the American Revolution.

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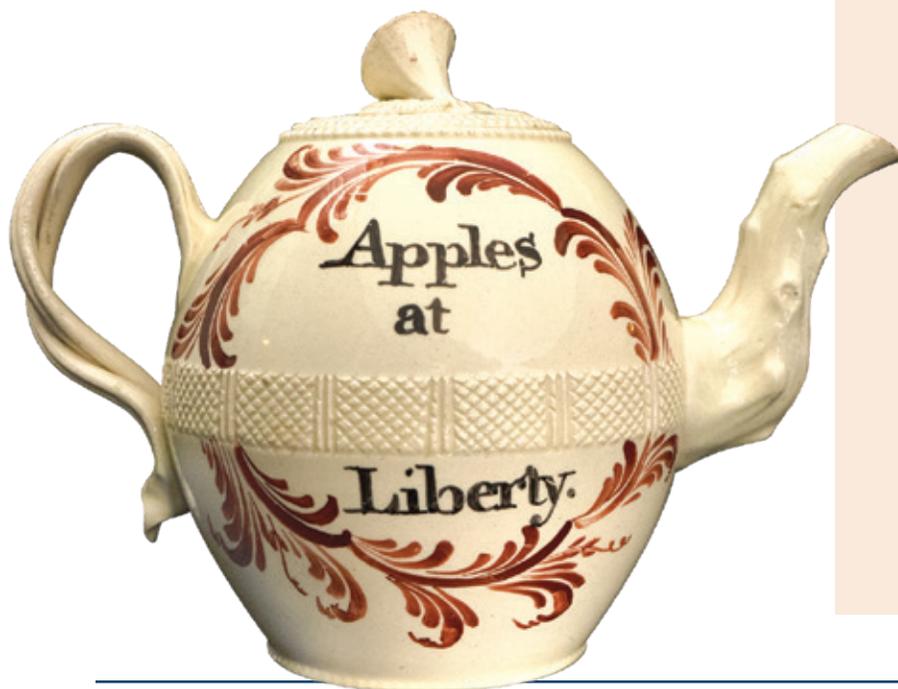
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IN MEMORIAM

We celebrate the lives of Herman Benninghoff, Linda Eaton, and Gary Nash, who were early and passionate supporters of the Museum. Linda Eaton (left), an expert and leader in the field of interdisciplinary textile scholarship, played a key role on the team that worked on the groundbreaking project to conserve, study, and interpret George Washington's headquarters tent for display. Herman Benninghoff served as one of the Museum's founding Board Members. Many objects from his personal collection are on display in the Museum.

Dr. Gary Nash was a founding member of the Museum's

Board of Scholars during our early planning phase. His lifelong devotion to telling a more inclusive and diverse story of our nation shaped the Museum's core exhibition profoundly. We are grateful to each of them for their leadership, generosity, and dedication.

[†] deceased



MEET THE CHAIRMAN

MORRIS W. OFFIT



A father, grandfather, antique American flag collector, and noted businessman, Morris W. Offit has a genuine passion for preserving our nation's past while looking ahead to its future and the role we all play in the ongoing American experiment. He joined the Museum's Board of Directors in April 2016 and has deftly guided the Museum forward as chairman since January 2020. He also serves as chairman of Offit Capital, a wealth management advisory firm headquartered in New York.

What role has history played in your life?

I have always been interested in knowing how things happen and understanding their evolution. Although I never planned to pursue a career in history, I majored in American history at Johns Hopkins University. The American Revolution has always been of particular interest to me. I think we're finding out that we know very little about the Revolutionary War and the Revolutionary era. That's why the Museum is so important and what initially attracted me to it. These valiant men and women — the Revolutionaries — jeopardized their personal safety and finances to create a new form of government. What could be more inspirational?

What is your favorite artifact or exhibit at the Museum?

For me, the most impactful part of the Museum is the Oneida Indian Nation gallery, which explores why the Oneida people decided to side with the Revolutionaries — it is certainly not a story that I learned in school. Textbooks haven't done justice to the full story of the Revolution, so very few of us have a solid understanding of the diverse range of people who were involved. The Museum explores these topics with so much depth and nuance. Another real treat is interacting with the Museum's staff. They are all incredibly knowledgeable and engaging.

What role should the Museum play in 2026, the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding?

That's easy: we're the content providers. All Americans need a better and fuller understanding of who we are as a nation and as a people. No one else tells a richer, more complex, or more inspiring story of our nation's beginnings in a more engaging way than the Museum. And we have the teaching tools to deliver that story to students, educators, and families across the country. We need to get people involved, aroused, and enlightened about the meaning of the Declaration of Independence and its ongoing legacy. I know that we as a board and staff are focused on that goal.

Why should others get involved?

I carry the banner as a cheerleader for the Museum. I tell everyone that if they have any interest in their nativity and want to find out more about the origins of this country, the Museum is the perfect place to explore and have those conversations. Understanding our democracy is more important than ever, and the Museum gives a depth of knowledge and insight that you can't get anywhere else. And it is for the entire family, from the grandparents down to the grandchildren. No one is too old to learn.



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