

MY CITY, MY NEWS



City of
Philadelphia

One Philly, A Connected City.

October 20, 2025



City of Philadelphia

October 20–December 12, 2025
Giving Gratephilly together!

The City's Combined Campaign is Back!

By the **Office of Human Resources**

We're excited to announce that the City's 2025 Combined Campaign is officially here! Starting today, you have the opportunity to support the charities that are making a difference in our communities!

What is the Combined Campaign?

The Combined Campaign is the City of Philadelphia's annual workforce charity drive. Since 1983, Philadelphia employees and retirees have raised more than \$38 million to support impactful nonprofits serving our neighborhoods and communities. Each donation—no matter the size—helps strengthen our city and the lives of the people who call it home.

How do you donate?

Giving is simple and flexible! You can either:

- Make a one-time donation to the charity(ies) of your choice **or**
- Elect to give a set amount of each 2026 paycheck to the charity(ies) of your choice (minimum \$2 per charity)

➔ **Make your donation online through the giving portal!**

Combined Campaign Resources

- **2025 Contributor's Guide**
View the list of participating charities and physical pledge/donation forms.
 - **Step-by-Step Donation Guide**
View the instructions for donating online.
- ➔ Visit **www.phila.gov/combinedcampaign** to learn more!

Prizes for donors!

This year, donors will be eligible to win a variety of prizes that will be announced throughout the Combined Campaign. To be entered into the prize drawings, you must make a one-time donation of **at least \$130** or pledge **at least \$5 per 2026 paycheck** to your chosen charity(ies).

If you make a qualifying donation **by October 31**, you'll be entered to win a **signed Jalen Hurts jersey!**



*Stay tuned for future prize announcements!

RAFFLE

This Month We Recognize:

Indigenous Peoples' Day, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and more!

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hrhelpdesk@phila.gov **or** 215-686-0880



Enter the City Employee Art Contest and Exhibition!

By **Creative Philadelphia**



Creative Philadelphia's Art In City Hall program, in partnership with the National Arts Program Foundation, presents the 22nd Annual Philadelphia, PA Art Exhibit. This special exhibition for City of Philadelphia employees and family members is also an art contest where participants are judged in five different classifications: Professional, Intermediate, Amateur, Teens (13-19), and Youth (12 and Under).

The National Arts Program Foundation sponsors exhibitions in over 30 states each year, supporting creativity in the workforce to help build community and connections through the arts.

If you would like to participate in the Employee Art Contest and Exhibition...

- **Submit this registration form** no later than **Friday, November 21, 2025.**
- **Deliver entries** to City Hall Room 116 on Thursday, November 20 or Friday, November 21 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- A **reception and presentation of awards** will be held in the Mayor's Reception Room 202 located on the 2nd Floor of City Hall on Friday, December 12, 2025 from 5 - 7 p.m. The event is open to all participants, including children.



The art exhibit is free and will be open to the public from December 12, 2025 - January 30, 2026 in City Hall. Please note the building is closed on weekends and holidays.

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40 Years With The City!

We would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to **Valerie D. Hayes** on her retirement after 40 years with the City!

Valerie, who most recently served as Deputy Finance Director for Payroll, has had an extraordinary career in public service. She began her journey with the City as a Payroll Supervisor in the Philadelphia Fire Department and transitioned to Central Payroll after 15 years. Throughout her career, Valerie's expertise, leadership, and steadfast commitment to accuracy and service have left a lasting impact on the City's payroll operations and every department she has supported.

Please join us in thanking Valerie for her 40 years of outstanding service and in wishing her all the best as she embarks on this exciting next chapter. Congratulations, Valerie!



FOCUS ON LITHIUM ION BATTERIES FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2025

October 5-11 was Fire Prevention Week. This year's focus was "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-ion Batteries in Your Home."

Do you know how many lithium-ion batteries you use each day? From our smartphones, tablets, and wearable tech like watches or fitness trackers to children's toys, laptops and e-bikes—the list goes on and on. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has released guidance on how to use, charge, and dispose of these batteries safely.

[Read about Lithium Ion Battery Safety](#)



SIGN UP TO BE A PHILLY READING COACH

Love working with kids? Love books? Philly Reading Coaches needs YOU! Volunteer just one hour a week to spark a lifelong love of reading in K-3 students after school. Join us for one of our upcoming orientation sessions to learn more.

Upcoming Orientation Dates:

- Oct 20 @ 4 p.m.
- Nov 5 @ 11 a.m.
- Nov 13 @ 3:30 p.m.

Sign up today and make a difference!

[Philly Reading Coach Orientation](#)

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TUESDAY NIGHTS LIVE AT PARTICIPATING HOTELS IN PHILADELPHIA

Join us for Tuesday Nights Live **every Tuesday** night from **6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** starting September 30, 2025 until January 20, 2026.

Tuesday Nights Live activates participating hotels by offering Philadelphians and visitors alike with a welcoming space to enjoy **live performances**, build meaningful connections, and experience the vibrancy of our city's nightlife.

Performances and activations take place in the lobby of participating hotels. Check the weekly schedule on each hotel's event webpage for weekly performance updates or cancellations. View the list of participating hotels.

[Learn more about Tuesday Nights Live](#)



WOMEN OF COLOR RESOURCE FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

On Friday September 5, 2025, the Networking Committee of the Women of Color City Resource Group held a resource fair in the Innovation Lab of MSB.

Participants included the Free Library of Philadelphia, Mayor's Offices of Faith Based Initiatives & Interfaith Affairs, Department of Commerce, Office of Economic Opportunity, Mayor's Business Action Team, Citizens Planning Institute, Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, Community Behavioral Health, Office of Human Resources, and Philly Stat 360.

Over 100 attendees received educational materials and cool SWAG items! Email CRG@phila.gov to join or get involved.

[WOC Resource Fair Event Highlights](#)



TAKE THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA INTERNET SURVEY 2025

The City of Philadelphia is planning for the future of internet access across our neighborhoods and we need your input!

In partnership with the Office of Innovation and Technology (OIT) and Entrust Solutions Group, the City is conducting a Broadband Planning and Infrastructure Study to evaluate current connectivity and develop a roadmap for the next 30–50 years.

Your voice matters. By completing the City of Philadelphia Internet Survey 2025, you'll help us identify where connections are strong, where improvements are needed, and how we can make high-speed internet accessible for everyone.

[Take the 2025 Internet Survey](#)



REGISTER FOR AN M365 SKILL BUILDER SERIES CLASS TODAY!

If you are looking to POWER your OUTLOOK to EXCEL with your TEAMS, SHARE the WORD because M365 classes are in session, now through mid-December!

The Office of Innovation and Technology is helping you improve your skills in M365 programs and boost your daily productivity.

[Check out the M365 flyer from OIT!!](#)

[Register for an M365 Course in LMS](#)

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Making It Happen: Upcoming Events!

Learn Lifesaving CPR Skills in Just One Hour with the Mobile CPR Project

Free Library of Philadelphia

October 21, 2025 | 3 p.m.

Parkway Central Library, rm 108

Join the Mobile CPR Project, a Penn Medicine community initiative, for a free, hands-on session where you'll learn how to recognize and respond to cardiac arrest, perform effective hands-only CPR (no mouth-to-mouth required), and use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). You'll get the chance to practice CPR on a mannequin and try out an AED yourself—no experience needed! The session lasts about an hour and includes time for questions throughout. Space is limited—**registration** is encouraged but not required! **[View this free CPR event](#)** on the Free Library calendar.

Tuesday Night Yoga

Free Library of Philadelphia

October 21, 2025 | 6 p.m.

Whitman Library, 200 Snyder Ave

Join us for a free weekly yoga class taught by Anne-Marie Mulgrew. All levels welcome! Bring your own mat or use one of ours. Cleaning wipes for mats are also available. No need to register, just show up! **[View Tuesday Night Yoga](#)** on the Free Library calendar.

Let's Talk About Breast Cancer: A Panel Discussion with Leading Discussions and Advocates

Free Library of Philadelphia

October 21, 2025 | 6 p.m.

Parkway Central Library, Skyline Room, 4th fl

Join us for an inspiring evening of learning and connection. Hear from leading medical experts and a patient advocate as they share the latest breakthroughs in breast cancer prevention, treatment, and research. Explore important topics like risk factors, clinical trials, and personal stories in a welcoming, interactive panel discussion. All are welcome — bring your questions, leave empowered. **[View Let's Talk About Breast Cancer](#)** on the Free Library Calendar.

In Memory, In Action: A Vigil and Dialogue on Mental Health & Policing

Citizens Police Oversight Commission

October 23, 2025 | 6 p.m.

October 24, 2025 | 2 p.m.

Various Locations

CPOC invites you to join us for two important events honoring the life of Walter Wallace Jr. and engaging our community in dialogue on mental health response and policing in Philadelphia. The first is the **Walter Wallace Jr. Community Vigil** held at Cobbs Creek Park from **6 - 7:30 p.m. on October 23**. The second event is called **Crisis, Care, and Cops: Mental Health Crisis Response in Philadelphia** and will be held at Temple Law School (1719 N Broad St) from **2 - 5 p.m. on October 24**. You must **[register](#)** for the Temple event. **[View the In Memory, In Action flyer!](#)**

Transformative Financial Habits: Small Steps to Big Progress

Women of Color CRG

October 24, 2025 | 1 p.m.

Virtual

Join Women of Color City Resource Group-Special Initiatives Committee on Friday, October 24, 2025, from 1 – 2 p.m. Featuring Guest Speaker Rachael Hanible as she presents “Transformative Financial Habits: Small Steps to Big Progress.” Presentation topics will include: setting measurable goals, deploying incremental gains, building an emergency fund, power of consistency and automation habits. Rachael Hanible is the Founder of Missing Peace Financial Group. She is a Certified Financial Education Instructor® and was recently awarded the National Financial Education Instructor of the Year (FEIY) Award. For a link to the meeting, email **Brenna.Schmidt@phila.gov**. **[View the Transformative Financial Habits event flyer!](#)**

Open Mic Night

Free Library of Philadelphia

October 31, 2025 | 5:30 p.m.

Nicetown-Tioga Library, 3720 N Broad St

We are bringing back open mic nights! Join us for an evening of music, poetry, spoken word, and more at our Nicetown Café. Program runs from 5:30 - 8 p.m. and is for ages 21 and older. Upcoming date: **October 31**. Click **[here](#)** to learn more about open mic nights! **[Check out the Open Mic Night flyer](#)**

Join the YERG Bookclub

Young Employee Resource Group

November 11, 2025 | 3:30 p.m.

MSB, Innovation Lab

Join the Young Employee Resource Group Book Club this fall! We're introducing a new “Read, Watch, Listen” format—explore book excerpts, podcasts, videos, and articles around each month's theme at your own pace. In November, we'll dive into themes from *Tinicum & Eastwick* by Will Caverly. Meetings are held the **second Tuesday** of each month at **3:30 PM** in the MSB Innovation Lab. Our next meeting will be held on **November 11!** All materials will be provided. Questions or want to join? Email **theresa.gassert@phila.gov** or **lesslin.dias@phila.gov**. Please feel empowered to invite fellow young City employees who might enjoy the discussion!

Navigating Grief

DBHIDS

November 12, 2025 | 12 p.m.

Virtual

What do you do when you've experienced a loss and aren't quite sure how to navigate it? DBHIDS welcomes all City employees to attend this session where some basics of grief, loss and suggestions to help cope will be discussed. This virtual session will be facilitated by Brienne Jennings, who is a Certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist for the Grief Recovery Institute. **[Register for Navigating Grief.](#)**

2025 Park Friends Movie Nights

Parks and Recreation

Various Dates and Times

Various Locations

More than 30 Philly parks are hosting free movie nights this summer and fall—featuring hits like *Moana 2*, *Wicked*, *A Minecraft Movie*, and more! Grab a blanket, bring snacks, and enjoy a movie under the stars. This free programming runs through October—click **[here](#)** to see what's playing near you and when!

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Work ResourcePhilly

YOUR CITY. YOUR MISSION. YOUR FUTURE.

STAY CONNECTED. STAY INFORMED.

Whether you're in the office or out in the field, the City of Philadelphia Employee Website is your one-stop destination for the latest news, tools, and updates that matter to YOU including:

- ✓ Benefits & Open Enrollment Info
- ✓ Training Opportunities
- ✓ Resources to Help You Thrive
- ✓ Payroll Access
- ✓ Employee News
- ✓ Share Your Story

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW CITY EMPLOYEES.

From Water to Parks & Rec, from Licenses & Inspections to Health — we're all on the same team. The Employee Website helps build a stronger, more connected City workforce by sharing stories, spotlighting departments, and celebrating our collective impact.



 City of Philadelphia | *One Philly, for all.*

Visit **EMPLOYEE.PHILA.GOV**
Anytime. Anywhere. On any device.

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Employee Resources

[Employee.phila.gov](https://employee.phila.gov)

Employee.phila.gov is a new online resource designed to support City employees. This hub brings together essential information in one easy-to-access location! Need details on benefits, workplace policies, or well-being programs? The hub site has you covered with clear, up-to-date information. The site also provides tools to help you share career opportunities with friends, family, and community members who may be interested in joining the City workforce. [Explore the page!](#)

CITY RESOURCE GROUP MEETINGS

City Resource Groups (CRGs) create employee-led spaces to support diverse communities and allies, helping make the City a more inclusive workplace. CRGs offer networking, leadership opportunities, and skill-building through professional development. Members also collaborate with the Office of DEI to support departmental diversity goals. [Learn more about CRGs](#) or email Brenna.Schmidt@phila.gov to join or get involved.

CITYWIDE IT TRAINING

The Office of Innovation & Technology contracts with several vendors to provide information technology training. This is available on site, hands-on, and interactively to all City Departments. The Order Form and the Course Catalog are posted on the Office of Innovation and Technology Intranet, see Forms and Document Page. Please note that all training requires the approval of both the department's authorized personnel and fiscal agent. [VIEW AVAILABLE COURSES](#)

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

NEW self-care and mental health resources for employees coping with the impact of COVID-19 are now available on the LMS, in addition to a variety of training and career development resources. Simply visit the Knowledge Base on the LMS for more information on COVID-19 Employee Self-Care. [ACCESS THE LMS](#)

LANGUAGE ACCESS PHILLY

All City departments must have a Language Access Plan (LAP) to ensure residents with non-English language preference (NELP) can access services for free.

Language Access Philly connects departments with interpretation and translation services to support multilingual communities. Need help? Contact your Language Access Coordinator or [visit the Language Access Philly resource page.](#)

DISABILITY ACCESS RESOURCES

The City of Philadelphia is committed to making City services accessible to all residents, including people with disabilities. Through policies, programs, and resources, the Office for People with Disabilities works to support inclusion and access. Explore accessible spaces, disability data, systems navigation videos, and key policies. Learn more on [the website](#) and contact the Office for support.

CITY INTRANET

Receive updates and access City resources like central duplication, an updated org chart, and updates on employee benefits and programs! All announcements listed here are also posted to the City's Intranet. Please note, you must be connected to either City Wi-Fi, LAN, or through approved VPN to access. [CHECK IT OUT](#)

SEPTA KEY ADVANTAGE

There's still time to get on board with **SEPTA Key Advantage**. Whether you're already enrolled or thinking about signing up, keep riding with ease. Log in to app.jawntpass.com to register your KeyCard today.

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT FUND

Resident Engagement Fund: City departments seeking funding to pay residents during community engagement activities can apply through the Resident Engagement Fund, administered by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. [LINK HERE](#) or email ResidentComp@phila.gov

READYPHILADELPHIA

Stay connected to the weather forecast and important information from the City, directly to your phone! The city's emergency notification system is now available in 11 languages including American Sign Language. Text READYPHILA to 888777 to receive alerts to your device or sign up with your preferred language by visiting our ReadyPhiladelphia [webpage](#) for phone and text alerts. [SIGN UP FOR ALERTS](#)

CITY COLLEGE FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT

Have you seen the new homepage for the City College for Municipal Employment? [Check it out on phila.gov](#) and explore some of the options and details!

DISCLAIMER

This is a citywide newsletter, distributed to all employees with a phila.gov email address. Attendance at events during work hours must be approved by your supervisor. Occasionally, some information you receive may be applicable only to a certain group of employees, like exempts. We will clearly label such information, but if you have questions, please contact your HR administrator. Any special citywide discounts have been approved in advance by the Chief Integrity Officer and are available to all City employees who are interested.

Reference in this newsletter to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of City employees, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the City of Philadelphia.