

MY CITY, MY NEWS



City of
Philadelphia

One Philly, A Connected City.

February 17, 2026



City of Philadelphia Awarded What Works Cities Gold Certification

By the Mayor's Office

We are proud to announce that the City of Philadelphia has achieved Bloomberg Philanthropies What Works Cities Certification for the second year in a row!

The [What Works Cities Certification program](#) assesses city governments across North, Central, and South America for excellence in data-driven decision making. This year, Philadelphia earned a **Gold Certification**—recognizing the City's effective use of data to shape policy, allocate funding, improve services, and engage residents.

This achievement reflects the City of Philadelphia's dedication to consistent improvement and accountability. Following [last year's Silver Certification](#), City officials

analyzed the assessment results for opportunities to strengthen data practices across government and put those improvements into action.

As one of just seven cities to advance from Silver to Gold Certification this year, Philadelphia reinforces its commitment to learning, progress, and effective government in service of its residents.



Projects like the H.O.M.E. Initiative show how Philadelphia uses data to drive real results—streamlining the zoning appeals process and dramatically reducing review timelines as the City works to build, preserve, and restore 30,000 housing units for residents.

[Learn more about the City of Philadelphia's What Works Cities Gold Certification.](#)



This Month We Recognize:

Presidents' Day - February 16, 2026 (City Closed), Black History Month, American Heart Month, National Cancer Prevention Month, and more!

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Contact us with HR questions

hrhelpdesk@phila.gov or 215-686-0880



100 YEARS OF CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation has 31 sites named in honor of African Americans. [Discover more about Parks & Rec sites that celebrate their legacy.](#)

Black History Month 2026

By the **Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

This Black History Month, we invite the City workforce to reflect, learn, and celebrate—not only the history behind us, but the history being made right now.

Black history is living. It lives in the leadership of Mayor Cherelle L. Parker—the 100th mayor, the first woman and an African American to serve as Mayor of Philadelphia—guiding this City at a pivotal moment in its story. It lives in the work happening every day across City government, in the services we deliver, the policies we shape, and the communities we serve.

It also lives in the stories that will be told as our nation approaches its 250th anniversary—stories that will reflect who we chose to include, whose voices we elevated, and how we built together.

Black history is not confined to a month or a moment. It is unfolding in real time through public service, civic leadership, and community care.

You are not only remembering Black history this month. You are living it.

Black History and Black Heritage: Why It Should Be Both

Black history documents the record—events, movements, and milestones that shaped this nation. Black heritage carries what is lived forward: culture, memory, resilience, and care passed from one generation to the next.

It must be both. History without heritage risks becoming distant and academic. Heritage without history risks losing context and truth. Together, they allow us to honor where we have been, understand how we arrived here, and recognize how the past continues to shape opportunity today.

A Message from the **Chief DEI Officer**

The earliest story my mother ever told me about my life begins when I was just six months old. In the wake of the Civil Rights Movement, she and my aunt were driving to Austin, Texas, so she could obtain her nursing license when they were followed and threatened. They were escorted home by the National Guard—my father among them. She would later become the first nurse of African descent in our community.

That story marked, for me, the **genesis of a journey whose revelation is still unfolding.**

Though I am only a few months into this assignment with the City of Philadelphia, the path here has been shaped by a lifetime of public service across many systems— from child welfare to juvenile justice, from energy to aviation, from workforce development to homelessness services. Across each, one lesson remained constant: how institutions are designed and stewarded can either widen opportunity or unintentionally limit it.

That belief sits at the heart of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. ODEI works alongside City departments to examine how policies and practices land in real life, how access is created or constrained, and how trust is built with the communities we serve.

This work unfolds during a complex moment. It calls on us to bring everyone to the table, ensure full participation, and move beyond voice to real agency. It also asks us to be critical lovers of our institutions-- programs and policies we may have designed ourselves —willing to reflect, evolve, and improve in pursuit of better outcomes for all.

In the coming editions, you will have the opportunity to meet the team whose dedication has sustained this work and who continue to build on it every day —pushing to the front.



Donna Jackson Stephans
*Chief Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Officer*

Beyond the Headlines: Understanding DEI

In recent years, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—often referred to as “DEI”—has been widely misinterpreted and, at times, unfairly and intentionally. In reality, DEI as a formal term has existed for a little over a decade. The values behind it, however, are far older.

The work of creating collective unity and fair access to opportunity began after Reconstruction and evolved through the era of Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Movement, periods shaped by trickle-down economics, and more recently through movements such as Black Lives Matter. Each era contributed lessons that inform how this work is understood today.

As laws and policies continue to evolve, our focus remains steady. The values at the heart of this work are enduring: welcoming people who bring different experiences and perspectives to the table (diversity), ensuring individuals and communities have what they need to fully participate and thrive (equity), and fostering environments where people are respected, empowered, and able to belong (inclusion). We demonstrate these values not through debate, but through practice—by how we serve the public, how we make space for others, and how we remain accountable to the communities who place their trust in us.

Those values remain foundational. We will continue to live them out—thoughtfully, lawfully, and intentionally—in everything we do.

2026 in Philadelphia



In 2026, the Philadelphia Historic District Partners will celebrate the nation's 250th with 52 Weeks of Firsts—weekly "Saturday First-ivals" showcasing the innovations, institutions, and traditions that began in Philadelphia and shaped its legacy. You can expect live

performances and family-friendly activities. Each Saturday First-ival takes place from **11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**



First Authentic Chinese Gate Built in America: 1984

Step through the iconic archway that sparked a cultural renaissance. Built in 1984, Philadelphia's Friendship Gate was the first authentic Chinese gate in the U.S., a stunning symbol of international partnership and community pride.

Where: Crane Community Center, 1001 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA



First Public Protest Against Slavery in America: 1688

Long before the Civil War, Philadelphians took a stand. Commemorate the bold 1688 petition by Mennonites and German Quakers, the first recorded public protest against slavery in America, and reflect on a legacy of conscience and courage.

Where: Historic Germantown Mennonite Meetinghouse, 6119 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA

PHAMBASSADORS

The Phambassador program — led by the Philadelphia Visitor Center — is still welcoming new volunteers who want to represent the city during its historic 2026 celebrations. The initiative aims to recruit 5,000–10,000 Philadelphians to help welcome visitors, share local knowledge, and amplify the city's pride during major events like March Madness, the MLB All-Star Game, and the FIFA World Cup. Becoming a Phambassador is simple: sign the pledge, choose your level of involvement, and join a movement of residents committed to showcasing the best of Philadelphia through storytelling, community engagement, and citywide events.



Find out which celebrations, activities, and events you can look forward to this year!

• **For Love to Thrive Black Cultural Heritage Celebration**

February 21, 2026 @ 12 p.m.

Set during the year of the Nation's 250th anniversary, Friends of the Tanner House and the Free Library of Philadelphia present a free-to-the-public, four-hour cultural heritage resource fair in Parkway Central Library's Skyline Room celebrating African-American heritage sites and initiatives throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. **OPEN TO ALL!** This event is supported by 250PA. Registration is suggested but not required.

• **Philadelphia Flower Show 2026**

February 28 - March 8, 2026

A staple in Philadelphia since 1829, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) Philadelphia Flower Show is the oldest and largest indoor horticultural event in the U.S. The 2026 theme — **Rooted: Origins of American Gardening** — takes flower enthusiasts on a journey through the cultural inspirations of American gardening.



The Free Library of Philadelphia is partnering with the Museum of the American Revolution to bring free children's programming to Whitman Library.

• **Spies of the Revolution at Whitman Library**

February 18, 2026 @ 4 p.m.

Step into the shadowy world of Revolutionary spies in this free workshop presented by the Museum of the American Revolution! We'll crack codes, solve puzzles, and reveal secret messages as we explore the hidden heroes who risked everything as double agents. This program is great for children ages 8-12 and their families.

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Reset Your OnePhilly Password

Are you struggling to log in to your **OnePhilly** account? Make sure that you have tried these methods before contacting OnePhilly HelpDesk.

Visit the OnePhilly Password Reset Clinic

Did you know that OnePhilly is hosting clinics where you can get in-person help resetting your password and logging in to your OnePhilly account?

[View the OnePhilly Password Reset Clinic schedule!](#)

Contact your Departmental HR Manager

Your HR Manager can help you reset your password if it has been over 90 days since you last logged in to OnePhilly.

[View the list of HR Leadership By Department](#) to find your HR Manager's contact information.



Additional Resource:

- **[OnePhilly Quick Reference Guide - Change Your Password](#)**

Step-by-step guide on how to reset your OnePhilly password even if you do not remember your current password.

OnePhilly Help Desk

✉ OnePhillyHelp@phila.gov ☎ (215) 988-8038



PHILLY READING COACHES CELEBRATES FAMILIES AND VOLUNTEERS

This month, [Philly Reading Coaches](#) (PRC) is focusing on gratitude and kindness, extending a big thank you to the families and volunteers who make this program possible!

The deadline to sign up to volunteer as a Philly Reading Coach for SY 2025-2026 is **February 28**. Complete the [Interest Form](#) to start the process of signing up as a Philly Reading Coach Volunteer.

To learn more about PRC's February happenings, check out our February newsletter.

[PRC February Newsletter](#)



SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR PHILADELPHIA VOICES SURVEY

Is there a survey question your department wants to ask a representative sample of City residents? Submissions are now open for Philadelphia Voices. This initiative develops surveys to help departments get statistically significant input to inform planning and decision making.

[View the Philadelphia Voices FAQ](#) to learn more about how your department can obtain input from Philadelphians on timely, actionable questions.

Complete the Philadelphia Voices Department Inquiry Form to submit a survey question.

[Philadelphia Voices Inquiry Form](#)

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Department of Public Property

Tenant Feedback: Building Maintenance & Custodial Services

Your feedback helps us ensure high-quality services in your workplace. Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your experience - we expect this survey to take less than 5 minutes. Your responses will remain confidential and will be used to help improve building operations and tenant satisfaction.

TRIPLEX TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY

The Department of Public Property is looking for feedback on custodial and building maintenance services in the Triplex Buildings, including:

- Municipal Services Building
- One Parkway Building
- City Hall
- Criminal Justice Center

Your feedback helps us ensure high-quality services in your workplace. We expect this survey to take less than five minutes. Your responses will remain confidential and will be used to help improve building operations and tenant satisfaction.

[Triplex Tenant Satisfaction Survey](#)



KULTURECITY SENSORY INCLUSION TRAINING INFO SESSIONS

The Office for People with Disabilities (OPD) is hosting two virtual info sessions on **February 18** and **February 25** to help departments prepare for this year's KultureCity Sensory Inclusion Training, sponsored by the Eagles Autism Foundation. The training opens to all City employees on March 2 and is required to maintain Philadelphia's status as the nation's first Certified Sensory Inclusive City!

Department leaders and managers are encouraged to attend the session to learn how to engage staff, promote participation, and support our goal of reaching 50% workforce completion. Sensory inclusion helps ensure City services and public spaces are welcoming and accessible to residents of all abilities.

[Read about KultureCity Training](#)



SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS: DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED FELLOWSHIP

Share with your networks: The Delaware River Watershed Fellowship is a 12-week position (June 1-August 21) at Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. This opportunity is best suited for **young adults aged 18-24**. Main responsibilities include leading environment education and summer camp programs, assisting in planning program activities for families, and engaging varied audiences in outreach events.

Applicants must email their letter of interest to stacey.heffernan@phila.gov by **March 30, 2026**. Read the Delaware River Watershed Fellowship at Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center job description to learn more!

[Fellowship Job Description](#)



SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS: SCHUYLKILL ACTS & IMPACTS PROGRAM

Share with your networks: Schuylkill Acts & Impacts is a 6-day watershed expedition offered to a team of **high school students** from 5 counties (Schuylkill, Berks, Montgomery, Chester, Philadelphia) in the Schuylkill River Watershed.

Students will explore land-use impacts on water quality in the watershed, conduct hands-on testing, and meet environmental professionals, while camping, kayaking, and more! This program is offered at no cost to participants.

Applicant must fill out and submit the **Schuylkill Acts & Impacts Application** by **4 p.m.** on **March 20, 2026**.

[View the Schuylkill Acts & Impacts flyer.](#)

[Schuylkill Acts & Impacts Application](#)

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Making It Happen: Upcoming Events!

Digitize Your Archives

Free Library of Philadelphia
February 17, 2026 | 5 p.m.
Joseph E. Coleman Northwest Regional Library, 68 W Cheltenham Ave

Bring your treasured photographs and documents to open hours for digital-scanning services. Learn best (and good enough) practices for sharing and preserving your family and personal archives. [Register for Digitize Your Archives](#) or just drop in! This is a Hyperlocal Heritage program and will meet Tuesdays from 5 - 6:30 p.m. [View Digitize Your Archives](#) on the Free Library calendar.

Career Vision Board

Free Library of Philadelphia
February 18, 2026 | 4:30 p.m.
Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine St

Get crafty and reflect on your career goals at the Business Resource and Innovation Center (BRIC) at Parkway Central Library! Taking the time to reflect and envision your career path can help clarify your personal goals. Use your finished vision board as a source of inspiration and encouragement. The BRIC will provide all necessary materials, including magazines, scissors, glue, and paper, but feel free to bring your own supplies if you wish. [View Career Vision Board](#) on the Free Library calendar.

Civic Engagement Academy Learning Series - Building Coalitions

Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
February 18, 2026 | 6 p.m.
Virtual - Zoom

The Civic Engagement Academy (CEA) is a free training program that provides community members with the tools to create lasting positive change. The trainings encourage local problem-solving and prepare residents to become community leaders, organizers, and activists. In this training, you will learn how to engage the right people and resources around a shared goal. [Register for Building Coalitions](#), and [view the upcoming CEA Learning Series Training Flyer](#).

Zine-Making Workshop

Free Library of Philadelphia
February 21, 2026 | 2 p.m.
Joseph E. Coleman Northwest Regional Library, 68 W Cheltenham Ave

Learn to make a zine that tells your story your way. Photographer Andrew Piccone will walk you through this cool process that incorporates paper-folding, drawing, writing, and mixed-media collage in an afternoon of artmaking for all ages. Materials will be provided and feel free to bring your own photos. This is a Hyperlocal Heritage program. Lead support is provided by the William Penn Foundation. Additional support provided by Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial. [View Zine-Making Workshop](#) on the Free Library calendar.

Coffee & Conversations: An Open Mic Spoken Word Night

Free Library of Philadelphia
February 24, 2026 | 4:30 p.m.
Walnut Street West Library, 201 S 40th St

Join us for Coffee & Conversations, a monthly open mic and spoken word gathering where poetry, storytelling, and community come together. Each month we explore a new theme, inviting you to listen, reflect, and share words that inspire connection and creativity. The evening features dynamic performances from talented poets, followed by an open mic where community voices shine. Whether you're a seasoned performer or stepping to the mic for the first time, this is a welcoming space to celebrate the power of words. Free coffee and refreshments provided. To [register for Coffee & Conversations](#), click **Check Availability**, and choose the date you would like to attend. [View Coffee & Conversations](#) on the Free Library Calendar

Ignite Your Insight: Digital Wellness Webinar

DBHIDS
February 25, 2026 | 12 p.m.
Virtual - Teams

Join the DBHIDS Education and Training Unit for a webinar focused on digital wellness, part of the "Ignite Your Insight" series. This session will explore our relationship with social media and technology, and how digital habits can impact mental health, focus, and overall well-being. Participants will gain practical insights and reflection tools to help navigate digital spaces more intentionally both at work and in daily life while sparking meaningful conversation and self-awareness. [Register for Ignite Your Insight: Digital Wellness Webinar](#).

Let's Talk About Stress

Silver Collaborative
February 26, 2026 | 12 p.m.
Virtual

The Silver Collaborative invites you to a virtual meeting called "Let's Talk About Stress!" We will discuss the impacts of stress on the mind and the body! We will also talk about healthy ways to deal with stress! Email Tracy.Jones@phila.gov if you would like to receive the virtual meeting link or would like to learn more.

Black History Month at the Free Library

Free Library of Philadelphia
February 2 - 28, 2026 | Various Times
Various Library Locations

This Black History Month, the Free Library of Philadelphia celebrates Black History as a living and evolving story—no library card needed. The list of Black History Month programs includes hands-on activities, author talks, music and dance, food, genealogy, and so much more. [View Black History Month Events](#) on the Free Library calendar.

Public (FREE) Ice Skating Hours

Parks and Recreation
Various Dates | Various Times
Various Locations

Grab your skates! It's time to carve out some cool fun. Admission for **public skating is FREE** during set hours at all five of Parks & Rec's ice rinks. You are encouraged to bring your own skates. You can also rent ice skates for \$3 to \$5 (price varies by rink). Staff sanitize rental skates after each use. [Find out where and when you can skate for free in Philadelphia!](#)

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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.*

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

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.