

WAWA WELCOME AMERICA ANNOUNCES NEW EVENTS, STAR-STUDED TALENT ADDITIONS, AND FESTIVAL UPDATES AHEAD OF PHILADELPHIA'S HISTORIC 250th CELEBRATION

New drone show over Independence Mall joins festival lineup, GRAMMY Award-winning singer, songwriter and actress Mýa will perform with Eve for Black Music Month, plus Juneteenth performers announced, and more across the 16-day citywide celebration

Philadelphia, PA (June 11, 2026) – [Welcome America, Inc.](#) today announced exciting new festival events and headlining performers ahead of the **2026 Wawa Welcome America festival** – Philadelphia's premier 16-day celebration of freedom and independence from Juneteenth through July 4. With more events and headlining talent than ever before, this year's festival is set to be the biggest yet as Philadelphia welcomes visitors and locals alike to commemorate America's 250th anniversary in the place where it all began.

The festival kicks off on Juneteenth at the African American Museum in Philadelphia with a special **Juneteenth Jubilee celebrating 50 years of AAMP**, with new headlining performers just announced including the legendary **DJ Jazzy Jeff, Slick Rick, Doug E. Fresh & Leah Jenea**, with **Patty Jackson & DJ Doc B** keeping the energy high all day long. Plus, enjoy performances from the Marian Anderson Choir, West Powelton Steppers, Leese B, Verse Mega, Amari Rebel & The Movement, Code Grey, Living Arts Dance Team, and more across four dynamic stages! Guests can also enjoy free admission to the African American Museum in Philadelphia on Juneteenth courtesy of Wawa.

Also on Juneteenth, guests are invited to join Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and creator of *The 1619 Project*, **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, for a **powerful Juneteenth Evening Conversation on Independence Mall**. Set against the backdrop of America's most historic landmarks, this thought-provoking program will explore the legacy of freedom, democracy, and the ongoing pursuit of racial justice through reflection, dialogue, and community.

Plus, **GRAMMY Award-winning singer, songwriter and actress Mýa** will join GRAMMY Award-winning rapper, singer and actress, and native Philadelphian **Eve** for the **Celebration of Black Music Month at the Dell Music Center on June 25**.

The **Red, White, & Blue To-Do** celebration on July 2 will take place from early morning into the evening, commemorating a day of "pomp and parade," as declared by John Adams in 1776, encouraging visitors to celebrate independence in the place where it all began. The full schedule of events for the day can be found below, including the just-announced new event for 2026 – the **Independence Illumination Drone Show**, a spectacular 13-minute drone show viewable from Independence Mall, where hundreds of illuminated drones create breathtaking great moments from the country's 250 years with flag-themed imagery and patriotic animations in the night sky.

July Fourth in Philadelphia will once again begin with the **Celebration of Freedom Ceremony** outside of Independence Hall, where GRAMMY Award-winning **Yolanda Adams** will deliver a soul-stirring performance honoring America's 250th anniversary in the very place where it all happened.

FULL 2026 WAWA WELCOME AMERICA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

The Annual Juneteenth Block Party at the African American Museum in Philadelphia – Join us for an unforgettable celebration of freedom and culture in partnership with the African American Museum in Philadelphia, Wawa Welcome America and **VISIT PHILADELPHIA®**. Celebrate 50

years of the African American Museum this year at this Juneteenth Jubilee and enjoy live musical performances – including headlining performances by the legendary **DJ Jazzy Jeff, Slick Rick, Doug E. Fresh & Leah Jenea**, with **Patty Jackson & DJ Doc B** keeping the energy high all day long. Plus enjoy performances from the **Marian Anderson Scholar Artists and Choral Ensemble, West Powelton Steppers, Leese B, Verse Mega, Amari Rebel & The Movement, Code Grey, Living Arts Dance Team**, and more across four dynamic stages!

New this year, stop into the **Jazz Tunnel** featuring live performances from a 15-piece jazz band, a relaxing jazz lounge, food trucks and shaded seating areas. Families can head to the **PECO Kids Zone** packed with inflatable games, a rock wall with euro bungee, a video game truck, outdoor games, and more!

Guests can also snap photos at the Wawa Welcome America branded balloon photo op, discover wellness giveaways, enjoy free water and prizes, and connect with local organizations and community resources throughout the day.

For our guests 21 years of age or older, specialty cocktails and beverages will be available for purchase. On The Rocks ready-to-drink Canned Cocktails will serve as the event's signature canned cocktail, showcasing its Tropical Variety Pack. Featuring bartender-crafted recipes and refreshing tropical flavors, the premium cocktail collection brings a taste of paradise to every celebration.

Don't forget to check out **Wawa's free smoothie giveaway** (while supplies last) and tasty **Herr's** chips. Guests can enjoy sweet treats available for purchase from our official Italian ice partner, **Rita's!** Rest and recharge with Independence Blue Cross at the **IBX Oasis** and enjoy nutritional takeaways in partnership with Sharing Excess. Cool down with a free cooling towel courtesy of **Bank of America** (while supplies last) and immerse yourself in Black History and culture in the **Visit Baltimore** Trailer, featuring photo moments and vinyl albums that are dedicated to the history of Frederick Douglass, The AfroAmerican Ledger, Billie Holiday, and Thurgood Marshall.

Courtesy of **Wawa**, guests will have **free admission** to the museum to explore all that the African American Museum in Philadelphia has to offer!

Friday, June 19, 12:00pm – 5:00pm, African American Museum in Philadelphia, 7th & Arch Street

Juneteenth Evening Conversation with Nikole Hannah-Jones – Join Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and creator of *The 1619 Project*, Nikole Hannah-Jones, for a powerful Juneteenth Evening Conversation on Independence Mall. Set against the backdrop of America's most historic landmarks, this thought-provoking program will explore the legacy of freedom, democracy, and the ongoing pursuit of racial justice through reflection, dialogue, and community. This event is produced in partnership with Philadelphia250.

Friday, June 19, 7:00pm, Independence National Historical Park | 599 Market Street

Movies on the Mall: Harriet – Enjoy a free screening of *Harriet* on Independence Mall in partnership with Independence Visitor Center. Guests are encouraged to bring their own blankets/chairs.

Friday, June 19, 8:30pm, Independence National Historical Park | 599 Market Street,

Philly Fair 250 presented by Independence Blue Cross – New this year! **Philly Fair 250** presented by **Independence Blue Cross** is a three-day, once in a generation celebration activating the Centennial District from Saturday, June 20 through Monday, June 22. This event, produced in partnership with **Philadelphia Parks & Recreation**, will bring history to life through a mix of culture, cuisine, music, a historic fireworks show, and hands-on experiences.

Throughout the weekend, a spectacular **hot air balloon experience** will lift guests above the Centennial District for panoramic views of the Philadelphia skyline, the festival grounds, and the surrounding parkway. There will be a huge Hot Air Balloon in the shape of an American Flag on display in Fairmont Park from 6-8 pm (6/20).

Back on the ground, visitors can swing into adventure on a **trapeze** with expert instructors and embark on a culinary journey with **food trucks representing flavors from the original 13 colonies**. Guests can get their **PHL Passport presented by the Philadelphia Airport** stamped along the way for a chance to win fun prizes.

The weekend will feature performances from world renowned artists alongside Philadelphia's exceptional local talent on the **Pennsylvania Lottery Groove Stage**. **Saturday (6/20)** will showcase performances by **Gerald Veasley's Unscripted Jazz** performance featuring **Gerald Veasley, Carol Riddick and Karen Briggs, Taiko Drummers, Philly Sound Exchange** and workout with trainer **Noel Davis**. **Sunday (6/21)** will be headlined by Philadelphia native **Pink Sweat\$** and will include performances by **KIPP Orchestra, Sing That Jawn** and workout with trainer **Noel Davis**.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Community Stage will have performances from local artists. **Saturday (6/20)** will showcase **Philly Goes to College's I AM PHL contest winners: Corinne Xu, Qixuan Wang, and Charles James; West Powelton Steppers, Sanovia, Joshua Mitchell, Gobbana, and Ronnie Wriggles**. **Sunday (6/21)** will feature **Tone Aro\$, SiSi Dash, Michael Isiah, Danni Peace, and Jesse Renee**. **Monday (6/22)** will be hosted by **Mr. Hollywood DJ** and include performances by **Project Positive, Zay Money and MECE Municipal Choir**.

In honor of the nation's 250th anniversary, interactive exhibits, workshops, and family friendly activities from some of Philadelphia's top cultural institutions invite exploration, celebrating the innovation, artistry, and history that define this community.

- **Please Touch Museum** will open its doors for **FREE** for 2 community days on Saturday 6/20 & Sunday 6/21 from 9 AM – 4:30 PM to give children and their caregivers access to the engaging exhibits and hands-on activities that inspire continued learning through play as school lets out for the summer. Visitors are welcome to explore the exhibits and participate in the Museum's daily programming, which includes story times, STEM activations, art workshops, the Museum's newest exhibit, *Daniel Tiger's Grr-ific Neighborhood*, and more each day. Admission is FREE, but registration is required at PleaseTouchMuseum.org.
- **The Science History Institute** will feature a pop-up museum and a series of interactive games and activities showcasing the history and science behind the sparkling spectacle of fireworks highlighting the Institute's new exhibition, *Flash! Bang! Boom! A History of Fireworks*. Guests can create fireworks-themed arts and crafts or see fireworks artifacts up close, including real inert firework shells, exploded mortars, and historic instruments used in the science of light and color.
- **National Liberty Museum** will present a life-sized replica of the Liberty Bell for visitors to experience up close.

- **Philadelphia Zoo**, America's First Zoo will bring the Zoo to YOU. Learn about wildlife and conservation, including some of the work done right here in Philly.
- Explore how history informs the pursuit of justice today through hands-on activities with **Eastern State Penitentiary**, America's first penitentiary.
- Craft with **Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts**, America's first art school and fine art museum.
- Marvel at a reproduction of a 10-story high, 90ft x 30ft masterpiece, 'CityKids Speak On Liberty' an artwork by Keith Haring and 1,000 young people, originally created to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty in 1986, presented by **Mural Arts Philadelphia and CityKids**.
- **Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University** will take us back more than 250 years with a Dinosaur exhibit, allowing guests to make their own imprint fossil.
- **The Shofuso Cultural Center** offers kids the opportunity to fold origami and make traditional Japanese crafts.
- **Fairmount Park Conservancy** will offer a "We Walk PHL" pop-up stroll through the park, as well as a history walk focused on the Centennial Exhibition.
- **Philadelphia Museum of Art** will recreate replicas of some of Philly's icons for kids and kids at heart to color.
- Celebrating their centennial year, the **American Swedish Historical Museum**, will share their history and feature interactive crafts.
- Join the **Free Library of Philadelphia** for a playful, family-friendly space where stories, creativity, and community come together. Engage your imagination on interactive Story Strolls designed for different age groups, bringing books to life as you move, read, and explore together. Kids, teens, and caregivers can also enjoy hands-on literacy activities and classic lawn games that make learning feel like play. Whether you're taking a break between events or making it your destination, the library's space is a welcoming spot to connect, discover something new, and share a little summer joy. **Read by 4th** Reading Captains, community volunteers, will share resources and information to help families better understand how to support their children's early literacy development.

Families can dive into Kids World, featuring a thrilling mobile **zip-line** and a variety of interactive activities designed just for the younger guests, including a **free book giveaway** courtesy of **Sesame Place**. Guests of all ages can cool off nearby at the historic John B. Kelly Pool, open to the public and featuring an added waterslide for an extra splash of summer fun.

For our guests 21 years of age or older, a beer garden will feature specialty cocktails and beverages for purchase along with samples of **Tullamore Dew**. On The Rocks ready-to-drink Canned Cocktails will serve as the event's signature canned cocktail, showcasing its Tropical Variety Pack. Featuring bartender-crafted recipes and refreshing tropical flavors, the premium cocktail collection brings a taste of paradise to every celebration.

Festivities on Saturday (6/20) and Sunday (6/21) will culminate with **nighttime fireworks presented in partnership** with the **Science History Institute**. Saturday evening will transport audiences back in time with a historically inspired exhibition. As part of its brand-new exhibition, *Flash! Bang! Boom! A History of Fireworks*, the Science History Institute has partnered with Welcome America to light up the night with a rare, historically inspired pyrotechnic display. Temporary architectural set pieces studded with vibrant fireworks will burst and explode with shimmering and dazzling color and performance. The show is a reimagining of a cross-cultural pyrotechnic tradition that delighted crowds for centuries but has since fallen out of practice. Sunday night will trace the evolution of the art form, building from early techniques into the large-scale fireworks displays audiences know today. Be sure to stop by the Science History

Institute's pop-up museum before 6:00 PM for free diffraction glasses so you can view the fireworks show through a colorful new lens (limited supply; first come, first served). The fireworks show will begin at 9:15 PM on Saturday and 9:00 PM on Sunday.

On Monday (6/22), the celebration continues with a **Jefferson Community Day**, inviting families from across the city to enjoy an evening of activities, field games, and more as Philadelphia celebrates 250 years of the United States. Jefferson will offer a wide range of family-friendly, educational, and interactive activities centered on health, wellness, learning, and connection. Offerings will include hands-on health education, blood pressure screenings, a Teddy Bear Clinic to help children feel more comfortable in medical settings, cancer education resources, maternal and child health information (including safe sleep and car seat safety), nutrition education, a therapy dog visit, and giveaways. Attendees can also enjoy creative, student-led experiences such as arts and crafts stations, interactive design activities, and stamp-making. Thomas Jefferson University mascot Phil the Ram will make a special appearance, bringing energy to the event and reflecting Jefferson's commitment to building healthier communities. Free Chicken Tender, Fries and Rita's while supplies last.

Attendees can cool down with free iced teas and lemonades provided by **Wawa** (while supplies last). Guests can also enjoy free tasty treats including **Herr's** chips, **Rita's Italian Ice** samples, and **MadeGood** Granola Bites. **GOLDENBERG'S® PEANUT CHEWS®** is joining the big celebration with a unique, limited time only item you won't want to miss. Stop by their booth to experience a tasty treat and more! Additional giveaways include cooling towels courtesy of **Bank of America**, and summer essentials courtesy of **Jefferson**. Rest and recharge with Independence Blue Cross at the **IBX Oasis** and enjoy nutritional takeaways in partnership with Sharing Excess. **Netflix House Philadelphia** is bringing Philly Fair 250 guests exclusive giveaways, special ticket offers, and access to unforgettable experiences inspired by the Netflix shows and movies you love, making Netflix House Philadelphia your go-to destination for Endless Summer Escapes this summer.

Community partners include Academy of Natural Sciences, America One, American Swedish Historical Museum, Eastern State Penitentiary, Fairmount Park Conservatory, Free Library of Philadelphia, KIPP Orchestra, Kyodaiko, Maternity Care Coalition, National Liberty Museum, Mural Arts Philadelphia, Painted Bride, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia Zoo, Philly Fashion Week, Philly Sound Exchange, Please Touch Museum, Popcorn for The People, Science History Institute, Shofuso House, Sing That Jawn, Swedish American Museum, and more!

Food trucks representing the original thirteen colonies include Farina Pasta Bar (Connecticut), Husky Jawn (Delaware), Chef 2 The Max (Georgia), Grubaholics (Maryland), Chef Kee Boom (Massachusetts), Knappy Knicky Party Rentals (New Hampshire), Eatible Delights Catering (New York), Philly Fry (New Jersey), Kielbasa N More (Virginia), The Greedy Fork (North Carolina), Taste of Philly (Pennsylvania), Humpty Dumplings (Rhode Island), Awa's Halal Kitchen (South Carolina)

**Note: performers, vendors, activations, and giveaways may differ per day and are subject to change*

Saturday, June 20 – Monday June 22, 2-9PM Saturday/Sunday, 2-8PM Monday – Avenue of The Republic & West Memorial Hall Drive

The Five Points Night Market – Experience the energy of the Five Points Night Market, a vibrant celebration bringing food, music, and community pride to Cottman & Rising Sun Avenues. Enjoy delicious eats from **diverse local food trucks**, grab a drink at **Love City Brewing**, and explore **community vendors** and local resources while enjoying live performances featuring **Laura Cheadle + The Girls, Re-Mus, Sterotyans, LeCompt**, and **Mr. Hollywood DJ** will be spinning live and **iHeart Radio's Q102 Host Buster** will be there to keep the vibes high!

Families and guests of all ages can enjoy a **rock-climbing wall, video game truck, face painting, body airbrush art, caricature artists**, and **outdoor games** throughout the evening. The celebration will also feature guest appearances by elected officials, a **Food Truck Royalty Competition** judged by local celebrity judges, a **People's Choice Competition**, where guests get to be the judge, and a fun Food Magazine photo opportunity—all in one lively neighborhood gathering you won't want to miss.

Food vendors will include: **Bacon on a Stick, Brotherly Love Cheese Steaks, Cheesecake Remix, Cousins Maine Lobster, Headbangin BBQ, Humpty's Dumplings, Innovative Catering, John Wright Restaurant, Kielbasa N More, Li Ping Corn, Mama's Smoothies, Mikes BBQ, Moocheeze, Philips Steaks, Rita's Italian Ice, The Greedy Fork**, and more!

Wednesday, June 24, 5:00pm-9:00pm Cottman & Rising Sun Avenue

Celebration of Black Music Month + Fireworks – Celebrate Black Music Month, founded in Philadelphia, during a special evening showcasing powerful performances honoring the excellence of women in Black music. This free event will feature a headlining performance by **GRAMMY Award-winning rapper, singer and actress, and native Philadelphian, Eve** with special guest, **GRAMMY Award-winning singer, songwriter and actress Mya**. The evening will conclude with a dazzling **fireworks** finale at the iconic Dell Music Center.

Guests are encouraged to get tickets in advance at select Wawa Welcome America events, including Juneteenth Jubilee, Philly Fair 250 and Five Points Night Market (while supplies last). Admission and seating will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests will receive a complimentary Wawa hat and flag (while supplies last). This event is produced in partnership with Philadelphia's Parks and Recreation.

Thursday, June 25, 5:30pm - Gates Open, 7:00pm – Concert, The Dell Music Center, 2400 Strawberry Mansion Drive, Philadelphia, PA, 19132

Kidchella Music Festival + Fireworks – Dance, play, create! Kids of all ages can enjoy this free music festival featuring dynamic performances on the **Kidchella Music Stage supported by PECO**, art stations, mouthwatering treats, exciting giveaways, and more! This vibrant celebration will take place on Smith's spacious front lawn, promising a comfortable and scenic experience. It's not just a concert; it's a community celebration. The evening will conclude with a kid-tastic fireworks display!

Performers include **Interminable, Courtnee Owens, Dendê Macêdo, The Bearded Ladies Cabaret**, and **Beyond the Bars**. Community Partners include **Musical Petting Zoo by Keep Music Alive, KiDazzle Literacy, Cosmic Writers, The Clay Studio, CHOP Autism, Yes!... And Collaborative Arts**, and more! Kiddos can also experience the curated Zen Zone, featuring "Little Yoga Squad" and "Radiant Touch Therapy."

Guests can snag some great free treats (while supplies last) including tasty **Herr's popcorn**, samples of **Rita's Italian Ice**, and **MadeGood** Granola Bites, our Snack Break Partner of the day! Our littles can enjoy a free book courtesy of **Sesame Place** and a special appearance by **Patriotic Elmo**. Guests of all ages can rest and recharge with **Independence Blue Cross** at the **IBX Oasis** and enjoy nutritional takeaways in partnership with **Sharing Excess**.

Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse proudly presents Kidchella as part of Wawa Welcome America. Guests are required to pre-register [HERE](#).

Friday, June 26, 4:00pm-9:00pm, Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse, 3500 Reservoir Drive

Concilio's Annual Hispanic Fiesta – Celebrate culture, community, and tradition at **Concilio's Annual Hispanic Fiesta presented by GOYA Foods** at LOVE Park. Kick off the day with the Parade of Flags representing Hispanic Nations. Experience a high-energy festival filled with live music, including a headlining performance by Grammy Award-Winning and Latin Grammy Award-Winning Puerto Rican singer, **Olga Tañón**, along with dynamic dance performances from **Palante**, **Los Pueblitos**, **Aeserco**, and **Ritmos**, top food trucks, local vendors & community resources, giveaways, and family-friendly attractions that showcase the rich diversity and vibrant spirit of Philadelphia's Hispanic community!

Families can head to the **PECO Kids Zone** packed with outdoor lawn games, carnival ride, balloon twister, face painting, caricature art, and more! Guests of all ages can rest and recharge with **Independence Blue Cross** at the **IBX Oasis** and enjoy nutritional takeaways in partnership with **Sharing Excess**.

For our guests 21 years of age or older, specialty cocktails and beverages will be available for purchase. On The Rocks ready-to-drink Canned Cocktails will serve as the event's signature canned cocktail, showcasing its Tropical Variety Pack. Featuring bartender-crafted recipes and refreshing tropical flavors, the premium cocktail collection brings a taste of paradise to every celebration. Enjoy fun freebies including tasty **Herr's** chips and cooling towels courtesy of **Bank of America**. Guests can enjoy sweet treats for purchase from **Rita's Italian Ice!**

Saturday, June 27, 2:00pm - 9:00pm, LOVE Park, 16th Street & JFK Boulevard

Summer Concert & Spectacular Waterfront Fireworks – Celebrate summer with a high-energy concert featuring **Tommy Conwell & The Young Rumlbers**, followed by a thrilling fireworks display over the Delaware River Waterfront. Roller-skating, mini-golf, retro arcade games, and boardwalk bites round out the perfect summer night on the Waterfront for all ages.

Fireworks will begin at approximately 9:30 PM. This event is produced by The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation.

Saturday, June 27, 8:00pm - 10:00pm, Independence Blue Cross RiverRink

Gospel on Independence will return for yet another moving and soul-stirring performance with Independence Hall in the background. This powerful celebration of gospel music will bring together an incredible lineup of local artists, choirs, and musicians for a night of uplifting performances, plus, a headlining performance by 20-time GRAMMY® Award-winning artist, songwriter, producer, and music icon **Kirk Franklin**.

This year's event will be hosted by **Maurette Brown Clark**, and will honor Philadelphia's own **Patty Jackson**, the voice of Philadelphia. Patty has hosted this event for over 5 years, elevating the event and promoting it far and wide. Patty Jackson is an exceptional supporter of Gospel on Independence and deserves to be honored in this pivotal year.

Sunday, June 28, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Independence National Historical Park at 6th & Market Streets on the Independence Concert Series Stage presented by VISIT PHILADELPHIA®

Philadelphia Orchestra Free Pride Concert and Celebration – Now in its fifth year, The Philadelphia Orchestra's free Pride Concert returns! The Orchestra, led by guest conductor **Carolyn Kuan**, performs music by LGBTQ+ composers and allies in a fabulous celebration of unity, empowerment, and the Philadelphia region's LGBTQ+ community.

The concert spotlights **ANNA Crusis Feminist Choir**, the **Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus**, **Philadelphia Voices of Pride**, and the **Transcendent Choir of Philadelphia**, and cast members from the touring production of **The Notebook**, and is hosted by drag performer, New York Times best-selling author, and recording artist **Trixie Mattel**, best known for winning season three of *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars*. **The concert begins at 7 PM.**

Arrive early at 4:30 PM for a Pre-Concert Celebration! There will be entertainment in the Kimmel Center Commonwealth Plaza featuring local Philly LGBTQ+ organizations, giveaways, a drag performance showcase, and a rainbow runway.

Free tickets are required for the Orchestra concert; entry is not guaranteed. The concert is currently sold out. [Sign up to be notified if additional tickets become available.](#)

Tuesday, June 30, Philadelphia Orchestra Pride Concert & Celebration from 4:30 PM - 9:00 PM; Concert at 7:00 PM, Kimmel Center, 300 S Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Wawa Hoagie Day® — Join Wawa for historic Hoagie Day, honoring local heroes, building and serving Wawa Shorti Hoagies, and a performance by Voices of Service. Hoagies will be served FREE at Noon, on Arch Street between 5th & 6th, followed by a free concert from the **U.S. Airforce Heritage of America Band** on Independence Mall at 1:00pm. Guests can also enjoy free admission all day to the National Constitution Center courtesy of Wawa.

Wednesday, July 1, 12:00pm, Arch Street between 5th & 6th Streets at Independence Mall

Red, White, & Blue To-Do – The Philadelphia Historic District 250th Committee presents the third annual Red, White, & Blue To-Do, a vibrant event on Thursday, July 2, 2026, honoring the day the Second Continental Congress voted for independence. The Red, White, & Blue To-Do celebration will take place from early morning throughout the day into the evening on July 2, commemorating a day of "pomp and parade," as declared by John Adams in 1776, encouraging visitors to celebrate independence in the place where it all began. A day-to-night series of events, the Red, White, & Blue To-Do transforms the birthplace of American independence. The festivities bring together museums and historic sites creating an unforgettable, all-ages celebration, giving everyone a chance to participate in this historic year.

Red, White, & Blue To-Do Schedule of Events – Thursday, July 2, 2026

7am: **Living Liberty Bell** — The day begins with the creation of a giant Living Liberty Bell, gathering 250 people to form the shape of the famous bell on Independence Mall adorned in red, white, and blue. Participants include all 53 Miss America 2026 delegates and the current Miss America. *5th & Arch Streets.*

- 9 - 11am: Bells will ring, museums and historic sites open, and the **official flag is raised at the Betsy Ross House** (9 am). The Red, White, & Blue To-Do is the ideal time to visit the dozens of historic and cultural attractions throughout Old City. *For a full list of historic and cultural attractions and their special activities, see below or visit phlvisitorcenter.com/red-white-blue-to-do-philadelphia-pa.*
- 11am: **Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade** kicks off at the National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street, featuring 13 whimsical red wagon floats decked out with Philadelphia icons and patriotic flair. The Parade also features drill teams, cultural dance troupes, and national and international youth performers representing the diversity of the city. Launching from the National Constitution Center, the parade travels past the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, turning right on 3rd Street, and ending at Walnut Street.
- 12pm: Parade arrives at the endpoint on 3rd Street, between Walnut and Chestnut Streets at the All-American Block Party.
- 11 - 2pm: **All-American Block Party**, presented by **Bank of America**, produced in partnership with Wawa Welcome America, on 3rd Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets and onto Dock Street, where visitors can enjoy music, games, family-friendly activities, highlights from Historic District attractions, as well as food trucks and seating.
- 2 - 5pm: **WXPN Welcomes the Red, White, & Blue Music Series** — Twenty-eight Philadelphia groups perform free street musical sets at 11 locations throughout the Historic District. This musical journey invites visitors to stroll from site to site and discover acoustic sounds from around the world woven into one celebratory afternoon. Each stop transforms the birthplace of American independence into an open-air concert hall, where listeners of all ages can find something that speaks directly to them, whether they are casual listeners, culture seekers, or devoted music lovers.
- 5 - 7pm: **Red, White, & Rosé Picnic** on Independence Mall with picnic seating and food trucks along Arch Street, between 5th & 6th Streets. During the picnic, visitors can check out **Float Fest**, viewing the elaborate floats alongside the Mall which will be used in the July 3rd Salute to Independence Semiquincentennial Parade. Floats will be on 5th Street from Chestnut to Race Streets.
- 7pm: The **Wawa Welcome America's Salute to Service** features The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus on Independence Mall with superstar **Queen Latifah**. The rousing performance honors soldiers and veterans, while showcasing the talented musicians and artists in the Army, taking place on Independence Mall next to the Independence Visitor Center at 6th and Market Streets. During the Salute to Service ceremony, The Wawa Foundation Hero Award will be announced and Wawa will recognize USO volunteers and announce a contribution to USO centers across its chain.
- 9pm: **Independence Illumination Drone Show** (JUST ANNOUNCED and NEW FOR 2026!) is a spectacular 13-minute drone show viewable from Independence Mall, where hundreds of illuminated drones create breathtaking great moments from the country's 250 years with flag-themed imagery and patriotic animations in the night sky.

Thursday, July 2, 9:00am - 9:00pm, Historic District, various locations

All-American Block Party presented by Bank of America – As part of **Red, White, and Blue To Do** this block party will include music, food, family-friendly activities and games, plus highlights from Historic District attractions. The Block Party will also include special performances by **Banda de Guayanilla, Romford Drum & Trumpet Corps, Project Positive** and **DJ!**

Guests can enjoy fun freebies including tasty **Herr's** chips, samples of **Rita's Italian Ice** while **supplies last** and cooling towels courtesy of **Bank of America**.

Thursday, July 2, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, 3rd Street between Chestnut & Walnut Streets

Float Fest – Float Fest invites guests to an exclusive sneak peek of the spectacular floats before they roll through the streets in **The Salute to Independence Semiquincentennial Parade** on July 3. This immersive pre-parade experience gives attendees the opportunity to get up close to the artistry and creativity behind the celebration, snap photos, and experience the excitement before parade day begins.

Thursday, July 2, 5:00-9:00 PM, 5th Street between Race & Chestnut Streets

Salute to Service: The United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus presented by American Airlines with Headliner Queen Latifah – The U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus returns on the Independence Concert Series Stage presented by VISIT PHILADELPHIA® to Independence Mall with a rousing performance honoring our Soldiers and Veterans, while showcasing the talented musicians and artists in the Army. The concert will include the world premiere of *Evident Truths*, a newly commissioned work by acclaimed composer Nkeiru Okoye in celebration of America's 250th birthday. Featuring a headlining performance by Grammy, Emmy, Golden Globe, NAACP, SAG and Critic's Choice award-winning and Oscar-nominated musician, actress, producer, label president, author, and entrepreneur **Queen Latifah**. The concert will also feature a special performance by **Miss America 2026 Cassie Donegan**.

The evening will begin with a special award ceremony at 6:00 PM honoring the nation's 250th anniversary. The Wawa Foundation will present [The Wawa Foundation Hero Award](#), recognizing a non-profit organization committed to serving Philadelphia by providing services that build stronger communities through preserving independence, protecting safety, and mentoring and inspiring youth. The Wawa Foundation will also present **The Wawa Foundation Salute to Service Award** to a USO Center and USO volunteers who support active-duty service members and their families. Over \$100,000 in USO program donations will be announced and the Salute to Service medal will be awarded to volunteers.

The concert will begin at 7:00 PM. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Limited seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests are invited to bring chairs and/or blankets to enjoy the concert from the lawn.

Guests can enjoy a pre-concert block party beginning at 5:00 PM featuring food trucks and giveaways, including free ice teas and lemonades courtesy of **Wawa** and **Sparkling Ice** beverages.

This event is presented by **American Airlines**, the official airline of the Wawa Welcome America Festival.

Thursday, July 2, 5:00pm - 9:00pm, Independence National Historical Park at 6th & Market Streets on the Independence Concert Series Stage presented by VISIT PHILADELPHIA®

JULY 3 IN PHILADELPHIA

The National Constitution Center's 38th Annual Liberty Medal Ceremony –

On July 3, 2026, from 11 a.m. to noon, the 38th annual Liberty Medal ceremony will take place outside the National Constitution Center, steps from Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were signed. As the nation marks its 250th anniversary, the ceremony will bring together civic and faith leaders, as well as visitors from Philadelphia, across the nation, and around the world, to reflect on how the promise that individuals may worship freely, speak openly, and live according to their own convictions has strengthened civic life in the United States and inspired movements for human dignity and freedom around the globe. Pope Leo XIV intends to deliver live acceptance remarks virtually from the Vatican, which will be livestreamed to those gathered on Independence Mall and to audiences worldwide.

This special Liberty Medal ceremony, held in celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary and semiquincentennial, is presented in partnership with the City of Philadelphia and Wawa Welcome America as part of the city's Independence Week events celebrating the semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Villanova University, Comcast NBCUniversal, and Interfaith Philadelphia also played a critical role in shaping this year's Liberty Medal program.

Friday, July 3, 11:00am, National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street

The Salute to Independence Semiquincentennial Parade – Wawa Welcome America's Salute to Independence Semiquincentennial Parade is a favorite tradition of the festival every year and is returning in 2026 bigger and more historic than ever on a new date, **July 3rd at noon**. The four hour parade will take center stage as the largest professionally produced Semiquincentennial (250th) celebration parade in the nation, featuring 250 vibrant elements representing all 50 states and U.S. territories, including all 52 Miss America state and territory titleholders, each showcasing their home state or territory through themed performances and visuals.

The parade will debut an expanded route this year, beginning at 5th and Chestnut Streets and passing Independence Hall before continuing down Market Street, circling City Hall, traveling along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and around Logan Circle, and returning toward Market Street City Hall before concluding at Broad and Chestnut Streets.

Attendees can expect an unforgettable lineup of marching bands, floats, military and special units, historic and cultural showcases, and more.

- 40+ marching bands, including several who appeared in the Tournament of Roses Parade
 - World Champion Reading Buccaneers Drum and Bugle Corps (PA), Arcadia High School Marching Band and Color Guard (CA), Prattville High School Marching Band (AL), Pulaski High School Marketing Band (WI), World Famous Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill Team (IN), Union High School Marching Band (OK), Foothill High School Falcon Marching Band (NV), Greater St. Petersburg Area Awesome Original Second Time Arounders Marching Band (FL), and Triuggio Marching Band (Italy)
- 19 elaborate floats, including:
 - First People Float, Toasting America Float - presented by Wawa, We Are The World Float - presented by American Airlines, One Philly - A United City Float -

presented by East Market, Agricultural Float - presented by Reading Terminal Market, African American Heritage Float, Pride Float, Liberty Tree and Flag Float, Education Float, Fiesta Float, Declaration of Independence Float, Liberty Bell Float, Women's Right to Vote Float, American Eagle Float, Birthday Cake Float, Tibetan Association Float, Filipino Association Float, Falun Dafa Float, Korean American Association Float, Council of Indian Organizations Float, Chinese Benevolent Association Float

Parade Watch Zones

Guests can marvel at the parade throughout the entire route or celebrate at one of our official **Cheer Zones**:

- **Wawa Cheer Zone (6th and Market Streets)** - Cool down at the Wawa Cheer Zone with free iced teas and lemonades provided by **Wawa** (while supplies last). Guests can also enjoy complimentary **Sparkling Ice** beverages, **Herr's** chips, and free Krimpets courtesy of **Tastykake**, our Snack Break Partner of the day. **JD Sports** will bring its Heritage Bus experience to fans on the ground with immersive programming rooted in sport, music, and culture. Featuring appearances from creator and cultural voice Tunji Taylor, the activation reflects JD's commitment to showing up where the next generation connects — blending global sport energy with local community moments through curated product, storytelling, and live experiences. As a leading destination for sport fashion and sneaker culture, JD continues to create experiences that move with the culture and bring fans closer to the moments that matter most.
- **East Market Cheer Zone (Between 11th and 12th Streets on Market Street)** - Come by East Market's Cheer Zone with entertainment by DeeJay Jonathan, giveaways, and specials from East Market eateries!
- **City Hall Cheer Zone (Northeast side of City Hall)** - Make sure to stop by the City Hall Cheer Zone for giveaways starting at noon.
 - For our guests 21 years of age or older, specialty cocktails and beverages will be available for purchase from Noon to 3pm. On The Rocks ready-to-drink Canned Cocktails will serve as the event's signature canned cocktail, showcasing its Tropical Variety Pack. Featuring bartender-crafted recipes and refreshing tropical flavors, the premium cocktail collection brings a taste of paradise to every celebration.

PARADE BROADCAST & STREAMING

Watch every moment of the Wawa Welcome America Salute to Independence 250TH Parade exclusively on NBC10, Friday, July 3rd at 12pm ET, or stream it across all your favorite platforms including Roku, Peacock, Samsung TV Plus, NBC10.com and the NBC10 Philadelphia YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@NBC10Philadelphia>. NBC10's live coverage is hosted by Bill Henley and Erin Coleman, with Sheila Watko reporting live from the parade route, bringing you front-row access to this historic 250TH celebration from the birthplace of America.

Friday, July 3, 12:00pm, Independence Hall (Beginning at 5th and Chestnut Street) to Benjamin Franklin Parkway, ends at Broad & Chestnut Streets

Pops on Independence presented by Bank of America with Headliner Idina Menzel – Celebrate the 250th anniversary of America with the **Philly Pops** on the Independence Concert Series Stage presented by VISIT PHILADELPHIA® at Independence Mall featuring a headlining performance by multi-platinum-selling singer/songwriter and Tony Award-winning performer **Idina**

Menzel. Enjoy a patriotic evening of live orchestral music, favorite tunes, and festive cheer in the heart of Philadelphia's historic district.

The concert will begin at 7:00 PM. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Limited seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests are invited to bring chairs and/or blankets to enjoy the concert from the lawn.

Guests can enjoy a pre-concert block party beginning at 5:00 PM featuring food trucks and giveaways, including free krimpets courtesy of **Tastykake**, our Snack Break Partner of the Day and free **Sparkling Ice** beverages. Cool down with free iced teas and lemonades provided by Wawa (while supplies last).

Friday, July 3, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Independence National Historic Park at 6th & Market Streets on the Independence Concert Series Stage presented by VISIT PHILADELPHIA®

JULY 4TH IN PHILADELPHIA

July Fourth in Philadelphia will once again begin with the **Celebration of Freedom Ceremony** outside of Independence Hall at 10:00am, honoring America's 250th anniversary in the very place where it all happened. GRAMMY Award winning **Yolanda Adams** will deliver a soul-stirring performance; **DJ Diamond Kuts** will keep the energy high throughout the morning; and several guests will make moving speeches, powerful performances, and impactful awards. This event is produced in partnership with the Office of the City Representative.

Be part of this historic milestone in Philadelphia's iconic historic district!

Saturday, July 4, 10:00 a.m., Independence National Historic Park

Event times and locations are subject to change.

BROADCAST & STREAMING:

As the official media partner of Wawa Welcome America, NBC10 will provide comprehensive coverage of the festival across all its platforms. The station will deliver reporting on celebrations from Juneteenth through July 4th, highlighting key moments and local stories throughout the festival. Coverage will include features on participating artists and streaming of select events, such as the Salute to Independence Parade on July 3rd. NBC10 will also serve as the exclusive broadcast home for the July 4th Concert and Fireworks. As the only way to watch the concert and fireworks for free, NBC10 offers audiences the opportunity to experience the culminating celebration from the comfort of their homes.

2026 FREE MUSEUM DAYS

Free Museum Days—Philadelphia's most notable museums, cultural institutions, and attractions will open their doors free of charge, or, for an optional pay-what-you-wish donation, throughout the entire festival.

The full Free Museum Day Series includes:

Times per museum may vary.

- **Friday, June 19, 10 AM - 5 PM** | African American Museum in Philadelphia, courtesy of Wawa

- **Saturday, June 20**, 10 AM - 5 PM | Fairmount Water Works; 11 AM - 3 PM | Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion; 12 PM - 4 PM | Historic RittenhouseTown; 12 PM - 4 PM | Paul Robeson House & Museum **pre-registration required*
- **Sunday, June 21**, 10 AM - 3:30 PM | Ryerss Museum & Library **pre-registration required*; 12 PM - 4 PM | Elfreth's Alley Museum; 10 AM - 5 PM | Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts **pre-registration required*
- **Monday, June 22**, 10 AM - 4 PM | Founder's Hall Museum; 10 AM - 4 PM | Lest We Forget Slavery Museum **pre-registration required*
- **Tuesday, June 23**, 9 AM - 4:30 PM | United States Mint; 11 AM - 5 PM | Christ Church Preservation Trust; 12 PM - 4 PM | Wyck Historic House, Garden & Farm
- **Wednesday, June 24**, 10 AM - 5 PM | American Philosophical Society; 10 AM - 5 PM | Woodmere; 12 PM - 6 PM | The Fabric Workshop and Museum
- **Thursday, June 25**, 10 AM - 4 PM | Carpenters' Hall; 10 AM - 5 PM | Independence Seaport Museum (Building Only); 11 AM - 5 PM | American Women's Heritage Society (Belmont); 12 PM - 5 PM | Museum for Art in Wood; 11 AM - 4 PM | Ormiston Mansion
- **Friday, June 26**, 10 AM - 5 PM | Penn Museum **pre-registration required*; 10 AM - 5 PM | The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University **pre-registration required*; 10 AM - 5 PM | Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History; 4 PM - 9 PM | The North Broad Renaissance
- **Saturday, June 27**, 10 AM - 4 PM | Historic Strawberry Mansion; 10:30 AM - 4 PM | Laurel Hill Mansion; 10am - 4pm | Woodford Mansion; 11 AM - 4 PM | Hill-Physick House; 12 PM - 4 PM | Johnson House Historic Site; 6 PM - 9 PM | Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site **pre-registration required*
- **Sunday, June 28**, 10 AM - 4 PM | The Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum; 10 AM - 4 PM | American Swedish Historical Museum; 11 AM - 3 PM | Richard Allen Museum at Mother Bethel AME Church
- **Monday, June 29**, 10 AM - 4 PM | The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, The Mütter Museum **pre-registration required*; 10 AM - 4 PM | Arch Street Meeting House
- **Tuesday, June 30**, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM | Wagner Free Institute of Science; 10 AM - 3 PM | Masonic Temple **pre-registration required*; 10 AM - 5 PM | The National Liberty Museum **pre-registration required*; 11 AM - 6 PM | The Print Center
- **Wednesday, July 1**, 10 AM - 5 PM | National Constitution Center, courtesy of Wawa
- **Thursday, July 2**, 10 AM - 4 PM | Stenton Museum **pre-registration required*; 12PM - 6 PM | Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania
- **Friday, July 3**, 10 AM - 5 PM | Science History Institute; 10 AM - 3 PM | Fireman's Hall Museum; 10 AM - 4 PM | Historic St. George's Museum & Archives; 12 PM - 4 PM | Historic Waynesborough
- **Saturday, July 4**, 10 AM - 2 PM | Cliveden of the National Trust; 10 AM - 2 PM | Historical Society of Pennsylvania; 11 AM - 4 PM | The Powel House

2026 FREE MOVIE DAYS

Free Movie Days—The Philadelphia Film Society has partnered with Welcome America to present a two-week eclectic program of FREE screenings by and about Philly. From Old Hollywood stars and directors to Eagles diehards, this explosive display of cinematic fireworks kicks off the summer right. All films will be showing on the Main Screen at the Philadelphia Film Society Center (1412 Chestnut Street).

Note: While these movies are free, PFS asks that tickets be reserved via their website www.filmadelphia.org

The full Free Movie Day Series includes:

- **Friday, June 19**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Rustin; 9:30 PM | Mannequin (in 35mm)
- **Saturday, June 20**, 2 PM | Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans; 4:30 PM | A Star is Born (1937)
- **Sunday, June 21**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Maybe This Year
- **Monday, June 22**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Split
- **Tuesday, June 23**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Days of Heaven (in 4K)
- **Wednesday, June 24**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Creed
- **Thursday, June 25**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Footloose (in 4K)
- **Friday, June 26**, 4 PM & 7 PM | The Wiz (in 4K)
- **Saturday, June 27**, 2 PM | High Noon (in 4K); 4:30 PM | High Society (in 4K)
- **Sunday, June 28**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Summer of Soul
- **Monday, June 29**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Mannequin (in 35mm)
- **Tuesday, June 30**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Invincible
- **Wednesday, July 1**, 4 PM & 7 PM | National Treasure; 4 PM & 7 PM
- **Thursday, July 2**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Mean Girls
- **Friday, July 3**, 4 PM & 7 PM | Independence Day (in 4K)

Thank you to our sponsors:

Wawa Welcome America, produced in partnership with the **City of Philadelphia**, extends its sincere appreciation to the sponsors whose support is making the 2026 celebration of America's 250th anniversary possible, including title partner **Wawa**; **Comcast NBCUniversal** and their local broadcast stations **NBC10**, **Telemundo62**, **NBC Sports Philadelphia**; **Independence Blue Cross**, the Official Health and Wellness Partner; **Bank of America**, the Official Banking Partner; **American Airlines**, the Official Airline; **Jefferson**, the Exclusive Hospital and Higher Education Partner; **VISIT PHILADELPHIA®**, and **Live Nation**.

Wawa Welcome America also proudly recognizes **Language Service Associates**, the Official Interpretation and Translation Partner of the 2026 celebration.

Other valued partners who create memorable experiences for residents and visitors include: **Herr Foods Inc. (Herr's)**, the Official Chip of Wawa Welcome America 2026, will share the flavors that have made it Philadelphia's hometown chip throughout the festivities. Herr's much anticipated new Flavored by Philly: Taste the 250 flavors will also hit shelves beginning in June. As a brand born in the Philadelphia region, **Rita's Italian Ice & Frozen Custard**, the Official Italian Ice, is excited to help guests cool down and celebrate America's 250th anniversary with their iconic

Italian Ice, Frozen Custard, and signature frozen treats throughout the festivities. As part of this year's Wawa Welcome America celebration, **JD Sports** will bring its Heritage Bus experience to fans on the ground with immersive programming rooted in sport, music, and culture. Featuring appearances from creator and cultural voice Tunji Taylor, the activation reflects JD's commitment to showing up where the next generation connects — blending global sport energy with local community moments through curated product, storytelling, and live experiences. As a leading destination for sport fashion and sneaker culture, JD continues to create experiences that move with the culture and bring fans closer to the moments that matter most.

Festival events and programming also made possible by The African American Museum in Philadelphia, PECO, Ensemble Arts Philly, iHeartMedia Philadelphia, Philly Pops, Rita's Italian Ice, Herr's Food Inc., Chaddsford Winery, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Pennsylvania Lottery, East Market, Language Services Associates, Tullamore Dew, Sesame Place, Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, Mitchell & Ness, Independence National Historical Park, Global Philadelphia, Historic Philadelphia, Independence Visitor Center Corporation, Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse, PhillyGoes2College, The Dell Music Center, Pyrotechnico, Visual Infinity, Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, The W and Element Hotel Philadelphia, Zoe Grey, Influence Entertainment, Under the Sun Productions, MTM Productions, Empress Luxury Events, D.E.B.S LLC, Innovative Catering Concepts, A Choir'd Taste, LLC, HiTouch, Roberts Event Group, Cashman & Associates, Chatterblast Media, AgileCat and Zeit House.

QUOTES:

Welcome America, Inc.

"From Juneteenth through July 4, residents and visitors alike will have the opportunity to come together through music, culture, education, community engagement, and celebration for Wawa Welcome America 2026, with an expanded lineup of events, world-class performers, and meaningful experiences that honor both our history and our future," said **Michael DelBene, President & CEO of Welcome America, Inc. and Executive Producer of Wawa Welcome America**. "There is no better place to reflect on our shared story than Philadelphia, and we're proud to create a festival that invites everyone to be part of this historic moment."

City of Philadelphia

"Philadelphia is the birthplace of American democracy, and our city has always known how to celebrate the ideals born here. Welcome America brings residents and visitors together through music, culture, and the unmistakable spirit of Philadelphia. As we prepare to welcome the nation and the world for America's 250th birthday, we're excited for everyone to experience the pride and energy that make our city so special." – **Mayor Cherelle L. Parker, City of Philadelphia**

Wawa, Inc.

"From all of us at Wawa, we are thrilled to be back once again for another Wawa Welcome America. As a title sponsor since 2010 and having been involved in the festival since it's beginning, we have always said there are two main reasons we love this festival – we truly believe there is nowhere better to be on the Fourth of July than right here in Philadelphia, and we are committed to making this a free festival for all. That's what has always set Wawa Welcome America apart, and that is what's more important than ever with the monumental year that is upon us as we commemorate America's 250th anniversary." – **Brian Schaller, President, Wawa, Inc.**

NBC10/Comcast

“At Comcast NBCUniversal, we are committed to investing in the communities we serve, which is why we are proud to again be the official broadcast partner of Wawa Welcome America.,” said **Joel Davis, President and General Manager at NBC10, Telemundo62, and NBC Sports Philadelphia**. “This event brings Philadelphia’s communities together by showcasing the very best of our city, and we’re excited to kick off this year’s festival.”

Independence Blue Cross

“Wawa Welcome America reflects what makes Philadelphia special: our neighborhoods, our history, and the way our community comes together. As the nation marks its 250th anniversary, this year’s celebration feels especially meaningful,” said **Kelly Munson, Independence Blue Cross President and CEO**. “Independence Blue Cross is proud to be back for our eighth year as the official Health and Wellness sponsor, supporting everything from neighborhood events to the July 4 fireworks. And as you move from event to event, I hope you’ll stop by the IBX Oasis, a calm, welcoming place to take a break, recharge, and support your well-being, both physical and mental, along the way.”

Bank of America

"This July marks our country’s 250th anniversary, making the Welcome America July 4th celebration in Philadelphia, where our nation's story began, more meaningful than ever. This year's premiere programming will bring together residents and visitors from across the globe, and we are thrilled to be part of this historic moment," said **Jim Dever, President, Bank of America Greater Philadelphia**. "At Bank of America, we are committed to supporting the communities where we live and work. Our partnership with Welcome America allows us to engage with our communities in different ways, through onsite ticket giveaways throughout the festival and providing attendees the opportunity to see the July 4th concert on the Parkway up close."

American Airlines

"American Airlines is excited to celebrate 2026 as a milestone year— honoring the airline's centennial anniversary, as well as the country's 250 years of independence," said **Cesar Marchese American's Vice President of PHL Operations**. "It's an honor to join the community in partnership with Welcome America to take part in these celebrations and care for thousands of customers who are traveling from across American's global network to experience the history and culture that's rooted throughout our great city. As Philadelphia's Hometown Airline, we're invested in creating a world-class experience offering more flights, more destinations, and more business opportunities that allow the City of Brotherly Love to continue to flourish."

Visit Philadelphia

“We’re proud to sponsor Wawa Welcome America again this year. There’s no better place to celebrate the Fourth of July than Philadelphia, where America’s story began,” said **Angela Val, President and CEO of Visit Philadelphia**. “In a year that holds such significance for our city and country, this festival brings visitors and residents together across neighborhoods and generations to celebrate the energy, diversity and spirit that define who we are.”

Jefferson

“For more than 200 years, Jefferson has been deeply rooted in Philadelphia communities,” said **Dr. Keith Leaphart, Executive Vice President and Humana Chief Health Equity & Community Impact Officer at Jefferson**. “We’re proud to support Wawa Welcome America once again as the official health and higher education sponsor and to present Jefferson Community Day as part of Philly Fair 250. These gatherings create space for neighbors and families to connect—not just through music, games, and food, but through access to health

resources, screenings, and career opportunities right in their own neighborhood. Partnerships like this reflect our ongoing commitment to building healthier communities together.”