

Coming Attractions

Preview of the 2012 IAMFA Mid-Atlantic Conference

By the 2012 Conference Team



Welcome to Philadelphia and the Brandywine Valley in 2012!

By the time you read this, it will be just eight months until the start of the 22nd IAMFA Annual Conference. The 2012 Conference will be called the Mid-Atlantic Conference because venues will be in an area in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. All venues will be within 30 minutes of each other, but are located in two states: Delaware and Pennsylvania, both rich in American history.

The conference is scheduled for September 16–19, 2012, so mark your calendars, and begin soon to make your plans to attend. Registration information is up on the www.IAMFA.ORG website now, so don't wait—make your plans now!

Read on for information on each of the 2012 Conference venues.

Philadelphia Museum of Art



The Philadelphia Museum of Art is among the largest art museums in the United States. It is located at the western end of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park. The Museum was established in 1876 in conjunction with the Centennial

Exposition of the same year. Originally called the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, its founding was inspired by the South Kensington Museum (now the Victoria and Albert Museum) in London, which grew out of the Great Exhibition of 1851. The Philadelphia Museum of Art houses over 225,000 works of art and a wealth of exhibitions, encompassing some of the greatest achievements of human creativity.

Rodin Museum



Located near the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Rodin Museum houses the largest public collection of works, outside of Paris, by the celebrated late nineteenth-century French sculptor Auguste Rodin.

The Barnes Foundation



On May 19, 2012, the Barnes Foundation will unveil its new Philadelphia

home. In rooms reflective of the intimate layout and unique character of the original Merion galleries, this renowned art collection will be accessible to the public as never before. Celebrated for its exceptional breadth, depth, and quality, the Barnes Foundation art collection includes works by some of the greatest European and American masters of impressionism, post-impressionism, and early modern art, as well as African sculpture, Pennsylvania German decorative arts, Native-American textiles, metalwork, and more.

The Delaware Art Museum



The Delaware Art Museum is best known for its large collection of British Pre-Raphaelite art; works by Wilmington-native Howard Pyle and fellow American illustrators; and urban landscapes by John Sloan and his circle. Founded in 1912, the Delaware Art Museum houses a world-renowned collection that focuses on American art and illustration from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries, as well as the British Pre-Raphaelite movement of the mid-nineteenth century. The Museum features an outdoor Sculpture Park, the Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Studio Art Classes, and the interactive Kids' Corner learning area.

Winterthur Museum and Country Estate



Winterthur Museum and Country Estate is located in Winterthur, Delaware, and houses one of the most important collections of Americana in the United States. It was the former home of Henry Francis du Pont (1880–1969): a renowned antiques collector and horticulturist. Until recently, it was known as the “Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum”.

Winterthur is situated on 979 acres (4 km²), near Brandywine Creek, with 60 acres (0.2 km²) of naturalistic gardens. There were 2,500 acres (10 km²) when it functioned as a country estate.

There are 175 period-room displays in the Museum and approximately 85,000 objects. Most rooms are open to the public on small, guided tours. The collection spans more than two centuries of American decorative arts, notably from 1640 to 1860, and contains some of the most important pieces of American furniture and fine art. The Winterthur Library and Research Center includes more than 87,000 volumes and approximately 500,000 manuscripts and images, mostly related to American history, the decorative arts, and architecture. The facility also houses extensive conservation, research, and education facilities.

In the 1990s, more informal museum galleries were opened in a new building adjacent to the main house, where special rotating and permanent exhibits are now housed. The Museum is

also home to the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture and the Winterthur/University of Delaware Art Conservation program.

Hagley Museum



Located close to Winterthur, Hagley Museum and Library is where the du Pont story begins. It was here that in 1802 E.I. du Pont established a gunpowder mill, which evolved into a major international corporation with worldwide impact. We will visit the scenic 235-acre campus along the banks of the Brandywine River, which includes the original mills of the DuPont Company, working machinery, a restored workers' community, and the fascinating links between history, science, and technology.

Longwood Gardens



Longwood Gardens consists of over 1,077 acres (435 ha) of gardens, woodlands, and meadows in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania in the Brandywine Creek Valley. It is one of the premier botanical gardens in the United States, and is open to visitors year-round offering

exotic plants and horticulture (both indoor and outdoor), events and performances, seasonal and themed attractions, as well as educational lectures, courses and workshops.

What is now Longwood Gardens was originally purchased from William Penn in 1700 by a fellow Quaker named George Peirce (1646–1734). Although it started as a working farm, in 1798 twin brothers Joshua and Samuel Peirce planted the first specimens of an arboretum, originally named Peirce's Park, which has been open to the public almost continuously since that time. By 1850, they had amassed one of the finest collections of trees in the nation.

Industrialist Pierre S. du Pont (1870–1954) purchased the property from the Peirce family in 1906 to save the arboretum from being sold for lumber. He made it his private estate and, from 1906 until the 1930s, du Pont added extensively to the property. A world traveler from an early age, du Pont was often inspired to add features to the garden after attending world's fairs, the most notable additions being the massive conservatory, complete with a massive pipe organ, and the extensive system of fountains. Mr. Du Pont opened his estate to the public many days of the year during his occupancy and was even known, on rare occasions, to personally (and anonymously) provide tours to visitors.

National Museum of American Jewish History



The National Museum of American Jewish History has long been a vital component in the cultural life of Philadelphia. Over the course of its

history, the NMAJH has attracted a broad regional audience to its public programs, while exploring American Jewish identity through lectures, panel discussions, authors' talks, films, children's activities, theater, and music. The Museum has displayed more than a hundred exhibitions in its first three decades of existence. As the repository of the largest collection of Jewish Americana in the world, with more than 25,000 objects, the NMAJH has developed extensive institutional experience in preservation, conservation and collections management supporting the fulfillment of its mission to preserve the material culture of American Jews.

Independence Hall



Constructed between 1732 and 1756 as the State House of the Province of Pennsylvania, Independence Hall is considered a fine example of Georgian architecture. From 1775 to 1783 (except for the winter of 1777–1778, when Philadelphia was occupied by the British Army), this was the meeting place for the Second Continental Congress. It was in the Assembly Room of this building that George Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army in 1775, and

the Declaration of Independence was adopted here on July 4, 1776. In the same room, the design of the American flag was agreed upon in 1777; the Articles of Confederation were adopted in 1781; and the U. S. Constitution was drafted in 1787. The building, inside and out, has been restored wherever possible to its original late-eighteenth-century appearance. Most of the furnishings are period pieces. The “rising sun” chair used by George Washington as he presided over the Constitutional Convention is original.

National Constitution Center



Located on Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center brings the U.S. Constitution to life for the whole family through multimedia exhibitions, live performances, timely public programs and dynamic educational resources. As America's first and only non-partisan, non-profit institution

devoted to the Constitution, the Center illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires acts of citizenship, so that “We the People” may better secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

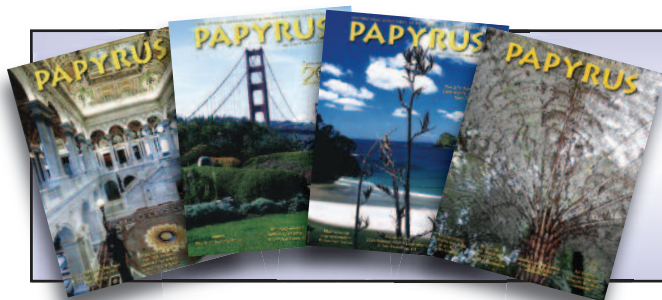
Ritz-Carlton Philadelphia



Located in one of Philadelphia's most historic buildings, the Ritz-Carlton Philadelphia is a luxury hotel situated on the city's Avenue of the Arts: a stretch of Broad Street that is loaded with fine arts venues. It is also within walking distance of a number of other notable attractions, including the Kimmel Center, the Academy of Music, City Hall, Rittenhouse Square, several theaters, and many historical buildings.

The hotel itself is located in the old Girard Bank Building, which was built in the 1830s. This stunning Neoclassical building with its signature rotunda is an ideal setting for a luxury hotel, and has become one of the most popular lodging choices in the city for those who are looking for upscale accommodation.

This is just a taste of what awaits you at the Annual Conference in Philadelphia and the Brandywine Valley in 2012. We look forward to hosting you and your families. 🏠



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