



GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**** Media Advisory ****

Glen Echo Park presents Carousel Day:

A FINAL CELEBRATION OF GLEN ECHO PARK CAROUSEL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Glen Echo, Maryland – On Sunday, September 26, the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture presents the final event in a months-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of Glen Echo Park's historic Dentzel carousel. Installed in the park in 1921, the carousel has been called "the jewel of Glen Echo Park," which was once an amusement park but has been a vibrant arts and cultural center for more than 50 years. The free event will run from 11am to 4pm and includes hands-on arts and crafts for kids, performances, and more. The Partnership expects thousands of visitors to come for a last ride on the carousel, which will close for the season at 6pm that day. Carousel tickets may be purchased in advance on the Park's website or at the carousel ticket booth for \$5 for unlimited rides all day.

Free performances will include Story Tapestries; Washington Revels Gallery Voices; Amadou Kouyate, an African musician and drummer; Culkin School of Irish Dancing; Christylez Bacon, a hop-hop and multi-instrument artist; Honey Pot Canoe, a rock and roll duet; and Tom Teasley, a world percussionist. Performance will take place in the Park's covered, open-air Bumper Car Pavilion as well as the historic Spanish Ballroom. (Montgomery County's mask mandate for indoor spaces will be strictly adhered to in order to ensure the safety of patrons, artists, and staff.)

Many of the activities that were part of the Carousel 100th Anniversary celebration were virtual and were filmed, or they were video productions – including "Carousel Stories," an oral history video project that tells individual stories and unique experiences of carousel riders over the last one hundred years. Highlights of some of the video productions and virtual events will be shown onscreen in the Park's Arcade building.

For refreshments, a Ben & Jerrys ice cream truck will be at the Park from 11am to 4pm, and the Park's café, Praline, will be open as well from 10am to 3pm. Additionally, 100th Anniversary commemorative merchandise, including shirts, tote bags, posters and limited-edition Glen Echo Park root beer from True Respite Brewery, will also be for sale.

The Glen Echo Park website has a special section devoted to Carousel 100th Anniversary activities and events: <https://glenechopark.org/carousel100>. There the public can find information on all the activities and events from the celebration, which took place from February through September, as well as purchase Carousel 100th Anniversary logo merchandise, and donate to the Carousel 100th Anniversary fund.

WHO: Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

WHAT: Carousel Day: Carousel 100th Anniversary Final Celebration

WHEN: Sunday, September 26, 2021; 11am - 4pm

WHERE: Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Glen Echo, MD

Cost: All activities and parking are free, except carousel rides. Carousel rides are \$5.00 per person for unlimited rides all day.

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Note to editors: High-resolution images of the carousel and performers are available..

CAROUSEL 100TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS

Carousel 100th Anniversary Celebration activities are paid for with grants provided by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the Maryland State Arts Council, and Heritage Montgomery, as well as funds from private donors, including: Long & Foster Real Estate; Corcoran Women’s Committee; GEICO; Loring Consulting Engineers, Inc.; OPaL Renovations; Carol Trawick; Phil Fabrizio; Quinn Evans; A.R. Landsman Foundation; David M. Schwarz Charitable Giving Foundation; Carol Sue and Chris Fromboluti; John and Heather Hanson; Les Mardiks; Ed and Susan O’Connell; Martha Morris and Joe Shannon; Karen Wilson; Mara and Bruce Mayor; Margo Reid, Capacity Partners*; Marjorie and Harley Balzer; Lois Ireland and Pierre Huggins; Harry and Susan Stern Family Foundation; Anonymous; Adrienne Dominguez; Joan Geer; Christine Mayo; Emily Porter; Ann Schnare; Adeptus Partners, LLC; Deb Jung and Ben Bialek; Arthur Curtze; Peter and Charlotte Dean; Daphne Clones and Eric Federer; Fiona and Burr Gray; Alyssa Merwin and Richard Henderson; Gretchen Gaston and Craig Hille; Elizabeth Kellar; Law & Associates, Inc.; Jane Pettit; Susan Gilbert and Ron Schechter; Emily Parsons and Thom Amdur; Steve and Kate Baldwin; Dorothy Boerner; Carol Bowis; Capital Bank; Founders Bank; Polly Hahn; Patty Howie; Dorothy Levy; Emi Lotto; Print1 Printing & Copying*; Paris Singer; Stacey Galik and Steve Strawn; Total Wine & More*; Beth Rogers and Mike Zangwill.

Additionally, the Dentzel carousel at Glen Echo Park was awarded the 2021 Heritage Award in the “Place” category from the State of Maryland through the Maryland State Arts Council, which came with \$5,000 in funding for the celebratory events.

CAROUSEL HISTORY



Installed in 1921 by the Dentzel Carousel Company of Germantown, Pennsylvania, the Glen Echo Park carousel is **one of only 135 functioning antique carousels in the country and one of the few still in its original location.**

Listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**, the carousel is truly a Washington area treasure!

Known as a “**menagerie carousel**” because of the variety of its animals, the Glen Echo Park carousel includes **52 animals**: 40 horses, 4 rabbits, 4 ostriches, 1 giraffe, 1 deer, 1 lion and 1 tiger. It also features two circus chariots. With its playful animals and striking ornamentation, the carousel has been an iconic symbol of the Park throughout the site's amusement park years and into its current phase as an arts and cultural center.

In the **summer of 1960, Howard University students led protests at the park** along with local residents. The students rode the carousel and were arrested for doing so in violation of the amusement park’s segregation policies that barred African Americans. The **case went all the way to the United States Supreme Court.** Their continued protests under the heat of the summer sun – and the active engagement of community members in the fight – led to the amusement park's desegregation, opening the venue to everyone for its 1961 season and beyond.

In 1970, slated to be sold after the private Glen Echo Amusement Park has closed in 1968, the Glen Echo Park carousel was **saved by a group of local citizens**, led by Town of Glen Echo resident Nancy Long. Private citizens and foundations also donated funds in support of a twenty-year restoration.

In **1983**, Rosa Patton —a North Carolina-based artist who specializes in carousel restoration—began working on the carousel’s 52 animals and other sections, including ceiling and barrel panels and the Wurlitzer band organ front. Assisted by her artist husband, other artists, and carousel staff at the Park, she removed as many as 10 layers of paint before repainting each carousel animal in its initial hues. She left several **small areas unfinished to reveal the original paint**, providing a “window” into the conservation process. The **twenty-year restoration** of the carousel was **completed in 2003**, the canopy building and floor were finished in 2005, and the band organ was refurbished in 2007.

Another more recent rehabilitation of the carousel is the latest chapter in its colorful history. In 2019-2020 it closed for major repairs to the carousel building roof and the band organ room, as well as receiving a new fire detection system. (It remained closed in 2020 due to the pandemic.)

Today, 1921 Dentzel Carousel is the **only remaining historic ride from the amusement park era at Glen Echo Park**. It is ridden by **more than 50,000 people each year** – including multi-generations of families visiting the Park. In 2021, the carousel celebrates its 100th Anniversary in the Park.

Find information on the Carousel 100th Anniversary Celebration at glenechopark.org/carousel100

ABOUT GLEN ECHO PARK AND THE GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP

Glen Echo Park is a vibrant arts and cultural center presenting festivals, exhibitions, and dances, as well as children’s theater, music programs, nature programs, and art classes to more than 375,000 visitors each year. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a nonprofit organization, oversees these and other activities, including preserving the historic structures in the Park. Glen Echo Park, part of the National Park Service, is located in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades.

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