

“I love history and archaeology and would have visited the center just to learn, but this is so meaningful because it’s the history of this neighborhood!”

Visit: January 11, 2020

Candid remark from a lifelong resident who has lived in each of the neighborhoods at some point throughout his life.

“On behalf of all those copied here, please let me thank you and your colleagues for yesterday’s fantastic visit to the Penn Treaty Museum and Archaeology Center. It was an eye-opening experience and a reminder of how closely our work at the museum relates to what others are doing in the Philadelphia cultural community. I hope there will be opportunities for us to collaborate in the future.”

Visit: December 5, 2019

Email from John Vick, Collections Project Manager, Philadelphia Museum of Art, after he and six colleagues from the American Department at the Museum visited the Center. Visitors included Kathleen Foster, Senior Curator and Director, Center for American Art; David L. Barquist, the H. Richard Dietrich, Jr., curator of American Decorative Arts; Alexandra Kirtley, Curator of American Decorative Arts; Rosalie Hooper, Project Curatorial Assistant in American Art; Jenni Drozdek, Assistant Director for Interpretation; Yadi Angeles-Figueroa, Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow.

“Thank you so much for making time today to show STAR Scholars around the new Penn Treaty Park Archaeology Center. All were very impressed by the collection and the cutting-edge use of digital media. The visit really helped Emily and Samantha place their summer research activities into the wider context of culture heritage and the possibilities of digital media applications... Emily, Samantha and Panote spoke excitedly of how the Center was using the HoloLens and 3D printing to engage visitors with an interactive experience. It was a very enjoyable day and a great learning experience for the students, thanks for making it possible.”

Visit: August 15, 2019

Email from Glen Muschio, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Lenfest Center Fellow in the Digital Media Department of Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design at Drexel University.

“Thank you for the time you spent with the Digital Cultural Heritage class today. On the way back to campus, students spoke excitedly about the tour of the Archaeology Center and the Penn Treaty Museum... The Center is a great facility and I am sure will become a most valued community asset. Best wishes in your continued effort.”

Visit: February 14, 2019

Email from Glen Muschio, Ph.D.

Comments from visitor surveys taken on November 29, 2018

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“Such a beautiful place! As a person who grew up in Port Richmond—I had no idea we had any history and seeing all of this makes me feel like I and my community really matter in history. It’s a special feeling I did not expect.”

“It’s all very interesting—nicely balanced.”

What would you like to learn more about? “More of the same; relationship between maps, artifacts, advertising/clippings and photographs where available.”

“All of this was fascinating. I didn’t expect to find the botany as interesting as it was! Having the specialists explain their work was very meaningful—they need to be brought back! What an awesome mitigation effort. Thank you!”

“The preview event was informative and very interesting. Knowing and learning about the past may help preserve the history left behind.”

Local interest and interaction at the Center

A priest who grew up in the neighborhood and recently retired from teaching at a local Catholic high school visited three times last fall for more than an hour each visit. He read and reread text panels, asked lots of questions, and discussed local history with us.

Two preschoolers, one boy and one girl, visited as part of a class trip and each brought their whole family to the Center a month or more after their class visited.

A local mom and her young son visited, and a week later, she sent a friend who was new to the neighborhood. He told us she said he “had to visit the Archaeology Center, since it was her new favorite place!”

Local historian Ken Milano has organized multiple walking tours of the historic neighborhoods with large and small groups, and always includes a stop at the Archaeology Center.

Several visitors of different ages have brought family and friends to the Center because they were so impressed on their initial visit.

Positive comments keep coming in and the repeat visitation speaks for itself.

Archaeology Center special tours 2019

February 4 Drexel Digital Media students, Glen Muschio

April 17 Urban Creators (Urban Farm), Alex Epstein + 1

April 23 AECOM, DCS Americas Environmental – Frank Sweet, James Kyles, + 20

April 26 AECOM, DCS Americas Transportation – John Cardoni

May 22 Adaire Elementary – Susan Himelfarb, 4th graders, 40 students

May 30 Vernacular Architecture Forum

July 27 Margaret Shakespeare – freelance reporter, *American Archaeology* and various other publications

July 31 AECOM, Joe Tursi and Women’s Lead Group

August 15 Drexel Digital Media students, Glen Muschio

August 22 Bright Beginnings Preschool (Fishtown) – 15 Students

August 22 Penn Historic Preservation grad students, Ken Milano and Kecia Fong

Sept. 6 PennDOT, Mike Lenert and Keith Highlands

October 5 Young Friends of the Preservation Alliance, Venise Whitaker and Sam Pickard

October 12 Indigenous Peoples’ Day

October 16 Private tour for Representative Mary Isaacson and staff

October 31 Eastern States Archaeological Federation Conference, visitors included Janet Johnson and Kurt Carr from PHMC, Faye Stocum (Dover), Benjamin Israel (Baltimore)

Nov. 2 Georgia State University Preservation program (with Ken Milano)

Nov. 15 Community Partnership Charter School, Philadelphia, 16 second graders

Nov. 26 Adam Stiltz, Chef/Owner of Elwood (partner for planned programming)

Dec. 5 Philadelphia Museum of Art staff from American department (7), including John Vick, Alexandra Kirtley, David Barquist, Kathleen Foster (Senior Curator/Director), Yadi Angeles, Rosalie Hooper, and Jenni Drozdek