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***DOYLESTOWN MUSEUMS HOST A DAY OF FREE ADMISSION
ON SATURDAY, JULY 16***

Doylestown, PA (July 6, 2016) – On Saturday, July 16, four popular attractions in Doylestown—the **Mercer Museum**, **Fonthill Castle**, the **James A. Michener Art Museum** and the **Moravian Pottery and Tile Works** will offer a day of free admission in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Mercer Museum. The collaborative *Doylestown Museums’ Free Day* will take place from **10 a.m. until 5 p.m.** Free parking will be available at Fonthill Park and free shuttle service, courtesy of Bucks County Transport will take visitors between Fonthill Park and the Doylestown Cultural District.

In the Doylestown Cultural District, visitors can explore the **Mercer Museum** and **James A. Michener Art Museum**. The Mercer Museum, a six-story concrete castle opened a century ago by collector and tile-maker, Henry Mercer features his amazing collection of pre-Industrial tools of early America. Visitor can take self-guided tours of the Mercer Museum to see objects like an antique fire engine, horse drawn carriages and more, hanging from different surfaces of the museum, or densely packed in rooms and alcoves. Visitors can also view an eclectic mix of artifacts and memorabilia in the Mercer’s latest exhibition, ***Long May She Wave: A Graphic History of the American Flag***. The exhibit looks at the inventive graphic interpretations of the American Flag as seen in artifacts including Civil War Era flags, Native American moccasins, campaign buttons and children’s toys.

At the James A. Michener Art Museum, visitors can view a world-class collection of Pennsylvania Impressionist paintings and changing exhibitions ranging from international touring shows to regionally focused exhibitions. On July 16, the museum will debut a new exhibit, ***Unguarded, Untold, Iconic: Afghanistan through the Lens of Steve McCurry***, a

visually arresting collection of photographs by Steve McCurry, the famed photographer whose iconic image *Afghan Girl* captivated the world in 1985. Offering thought-provoking perspectives on Afghan culture, food, religion, and history, the exhibition will include that photograph as well as dozens of others captured by McCurry. The Michener's Terrace café with indoor and outdoor seating, will also be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with food and drink available for purchase.

At Fonthill Park, guests will have the opportunity to visit two National Historic Landmarks built by Henry Mercer, **Fonthill Castle** and the **Moravian Pottery and Tile Works**. Mercer's concrete castle home, Fonthill, will be open for ground-floor tours. Guests can see Mercer's handcrafted tiles embedded in the walls, floors and ceilings of the Saloon, Morning Room and Library. Docents will be on-hand to answer any visitor questions.

The Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, a working history museum producing handmade decorative tiles and mosaics, will offer viewings of its orientation video and self guided tours that let visitors see ceramicists still making tiles in a manner similar to that employed by Henry Mercer.

Parking is free at Fonthill Park for the *Doylestown Museums' Free Day*. The shuttle buses will pick up visitors at Fonthill Park, Pine Street and the Front Entrance at the Mercer Museum.

The Doylestown Museums' Free Day is generously sponsored by the Bucks County Foundation.

About the Mercer Museum

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier tourist attractions, offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life. The Museum's collection includes more than 40,000 objects exhibiting the tools of more than 60 different crafts and trades, providing one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of material culture in America. The museum celebrates its Centennial in 2016 and was recently designated a Smithsonian Affiliate. The Mercer Museum is located at Pine Street & Scout Way in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. For more information, call 215-345-0210, or visit mercermuseum.org.

About the James A. Michener Art Museum

The James A. Michener Art Museum collects, preserves, interprets and exhibits American art, and promotes the work of nationally and internationally known Delaware Valley artists of all eras and creative disciplines. The museum presents exhibitions that explore a variety of artistic expressions and offers diverse educational programs that develop a lifelong involvement in the arts. The James A. Michener Art Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Michener Art Museum is located at 138 South Pine St., Doylestown, PA. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 am – 4:30 pm; Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and Sunday noon – 5:00 pm. For more information, visit MichenerArtMuseum.org or call 215.340.9800.

About Fonthill Castle

Fonthill Castle, Henry Mercer's amazing concrete castle home, boasts 44 rooms and 18 fireplaces. The interior walls, floors and ceilings are elaborately adorned with an incredible array of Mercer's original handcrafted tiles. The National Historic Landmark has been featured on A&E's "America's Castles," and in *Martha Stewart Living Magazine*. Fonthill Castle was recently designated a Smithsonian Affiliate. Fonthill is open daily for guided tours. For hours and pricing, visit fonthillmuseum.org.

About the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works

The Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, a National Historic Landmark, is maintained as a "working history" museum by Pennsylvania's County of Bucks, Department of Parks and Recreation. Handmade tiles are still produced in a manner similar to that developed by the pottery's founder and builder, Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930). Mercer was a major proponent of the Arts & Crafts Movement in America. He directed the work at the pottery from 1898 until his death in 1930.

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Images available upon request.