Juneteenth Celebration
Returns to the Mercer Museum

DOYLESTOWN, PA – The 2nd Annual Juneteenth at the Mercer Museum celebration returns on Sunday, June 18, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., presented by Doylestown Juneteenth, the African Diaspora Collective of Bucks County, the PairUP Society, the Bucks County Anti-Racism Coalition, the NAACP of Bucks County, and the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle.

After a successful first year in the heart of Doylestown's Cultural District, this year's event promises to be another welcoming community gathering outside on the green of the Mercer Museum, as well as inside.

Highlights of the day include speakers, live performances, musicians, a DJ, food trucks, vendors and artisans, family-friendly crafts and activities, and free admission to the Mercer Museum. The celebration is free to the public and will be held rain or shine.

Juneteenth, known as Freedom Day or Juneteenth Independence Day, commemorates the anniversary of the day when the last enslaved people in the United States learned that they were free. This took place in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863. The 2nd Annual Juneteenth at the Mercer Museum is sponsored in part by Bucks County Community College and Penn Community Bank.

"The Mercer Museum, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society, is once again honored to be working with our community partners to host this year's commemoration of Juneteenth in the heart of Doylestown," says Marjan Shirzad, Chief Operating Officer of the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle. "As a community resource and historic landmark, we look forward to providing a welcoming and celebratory atmosphere, and commemorating the day with live performances and family-friendly educational activities for all".

Adrienne King, Founder & Board President of The PairUP Society, Inc. adds, "In a time where there is so much divide, actions being taken to ban books about Black historical figures and limit the teaching of Black History, the annual celebration of cultural events like Juneteenth is an opportunity to create the sense of community, inclusion and belonging for Black families in Bucks County. Through this annual event it is our hope to celebrate, educate, uplift and empower our growing and diverse community."

Doylestown Juneteenth co-founder Angela Nutter remarks, "I am very much looking forward to this second year of this wonderful community celebration. The Mercer Museum has been an invaluable partner for this historic Juneteenth event and we look forward to a community-minded event."

A free DART Bus shuttle will run a continuous loop between the Mercer Museum and the Bucks County Parking Garage located at Broad & Court Streets in downtown Doylestown between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Parking is very limited at the Mercer Museum, and guests are highly encouraged to use the free shuttle or obey local street parking regulations.

Information is at mercermuseum.org/Juneteenth and will be updated regularly before the event.

About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS).

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 50,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

Fonthill Castle was built between 1908-1912 and was the home of Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his residence and showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows, and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, hand-crafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA, 18901. Fonthill Castle is located at 525 East Court Street in Doylestown, PA, 18901.

The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are open Tuesdays – Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For up-to-date ticket and schedule information, please visit mercermuseum.org.

For additional information, please contact:

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