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FRANKLIN SQUARE FALL HIGHLIGHTED BY ALL-NEW PUMPKINFEST

PHILADELPHIA, September 30, 2011 – This month, Historic Philadelphia, Inc.’s Franklin Square introduces PumpkinFest, the non-profit’s first fundraiser created with families in mind. The fall festival, to be held on Saturday, October 29, offers a variety of enjoyable activities for all ages, including paint-your-own-pumpkin, face-painting, cupcake-decorating, the *Lightning Bolt Express* train, fall carnival games, Spooky Philly Mini Golf, unlimited rides on the *Philadelphia Park* Liberty Carousel, fun raffles and prizes, and much more. PumpkinFest’s can’t-miss highlights include seasonal foods from the acclaimed SquareBurger and Starr Catering, music from family-favorite *Two of a Kind* and the Philadelphia School of Rock. Parents and children alike will enjoy a costume parade hosted by Kathy O’Connell from WXPN’s Kids Corner along the Trick-or-Treat Trail, the magic of Chad Juros, and appearances by WHYY’s WordGirl and Winston Justice of the Philadelphia Eagles. PumpkinFest starts at 3 pm and ends at 6 pm on Saturday, October 29 (rain date October 30). Individual tickets are \$35, and family four-packs are \$125 in advance. Prices increase to \$40 for individuals/\$130 for families the day of the event.

Amy Needle, President and CEO of Historic Philadelphia, Inc., said, “Historic Philadelphia is looking forward to hosting the first ever PumpkinFest at Franklin Square, one of Philadelphia’s most historic parks. Fall is a gorgeous time of year in Franklin Square, decorated with pumpkins, corn stalks, and other fall favorites, and we welcome families to enjoy a lovely fall afternoon while also helping this non-profit maintain and program the Square year-round.”

Throughout the month of October, Franklin Square will stay busy with a full schedule of family-friendly events. All month long, Philly Mini Golf gets a seasonal twist with the introduction of **Spooky Mini Golf** (tickets required) on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, complete with lights, fog, and fun surprises. Starting October 15 and 16, and continuing on the rest of the month’s weekends, the *Lightning Bolt Express* comes to town, offering a fun, fall ride around the Square (tickets required). On October 22 and 23, visitors can pick a pumpkin

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out of the Franklin Square **Pumpkin Patch** to decorate and take home, absolutely free. On October 29 and 30, kids can also enjoy **Trick-or-Treat Trail**, when they can make their very own Trick-or-Treat bag and follow the Trail map, for free. Candy is provided by the Hershey Company.

In addition to hosting an array of public activities, Franklin Square also provides a great venue for private events. In celebration of Franklin Square's 5th birthday, construction will begin this fall on **Party Pavilion** in the Square's northwest corner. The pavilion can be reserved and is ideal for parties and a variety of special events, year round. For party inquiries: Jessica Whiteman at 215-629-5801x221 or jessica@historicphiladelphia.org.

While at Franklin Square, be sure to have a bite to eat at the popular **SquareBurger** stand, with delectable treats from Starr Restaurants. In addition to the popular Cake Shake, made with Tastykake Butterscotch Krimpet©, the October Shake-of-the-Month is Pumpkin Pie.

PumpkinFest is sponsored by Blank Rome, Kathy and Peter Linneman, and Stephen Starr Events.

Franklin Square is located in Historic Philadelphia at 6th & Race Streets. Hours vary by season. October – January hours are:

October 1 – 31: 10 am - 9 pm, Fri, Sat, & Sun (open Columbus Day)

SquareBurger also open 11 am - 2 pm, Mondays – Thursdays

November 25 – 27: 12 - 5 pm (SquareBurger same hours)

December 3 – 18: 12 - 5 pm, Saturdays & Sundays (SquareBurger same hours)

December 24: 12 – 5 pm (SquareBurger same hours)

December 26 – 30: 12 - 5 pm, daily (SquareBurger same hours)

December 31: 12 - 6 pm (SquareBurger same hours)

January 1 - 2: 12 - 5 pm, daily (SquareBurger same hours)

Check www.historicphiladelphia.org for complete operating hours by season. All hours are weather permitting.

Historic Philadelphia, Inc. makes our nation's history relevant and real through interpretation, interaction, and education, strengthening Greater Philadelphia's role as the destination to experience American history. Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s programs include the Betsy Ross House, Once Upon A Nation storytelling and Adventure Tours, Franklin Square, and Lights of Liberty. For more information, call (215) 629-4026, visit www.historicphiladelphia.org, or buy tickets in person at the Historic Philadelphia Center, 6th & Chestnut Streets. Follow Franklin Square at <http://twitter.com/FranklinSqr> or on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/FranklnSquareFB>.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: High-resolution photographs are available for media usage at: <http://tinyurl.com/HPIphoto>. Email cari@reliefcomm.com for login information.