Welcome!
You’re invited to explore an array of historical objects, art, and artifacts that tell the city’s story, from its founding in 1682 to the present day, and discover what makes Philadelphia, well, Philadelphia.

FIRST FLOOR

1 Admissions and Museum Store
Questions? Our Visitor Services Staff is here to help!

2 City Stories: An Introduction to Philadelphia
Explore 330 years of Philadelphia history, from the days of William Penn to today, and watch our media installation to learn what Philadelphians have to say about their hometown. Before you leave, share your story.

3 Philadelphia Voices: Community History Gallery
This gallery showcases changing exhibitions about the work and history of Philadelphia-based community groups or non-profit organizations.

   NOW: Philadelphia’s Fabric Row: The Pushcart Years, 1905 to 1955; Explores 50 years of Philadelphia’s bustling fabric row on South Fourth Street.

4 Main Gallery
Trace the steps of the city’s founders or walk through your own neighborhood on the world’s largest walkable map of Philadelphia and City Image: Philadelphia in Photographs.

A little Guide to the Museum
Second Floor

5 The Ordinary, Extraordinary, and the Unknown: The Power of Objects
A selection of iconic and exceptional artifacts from the Museum’s collection of over 100,000 pieces—from Benjamin Franklin’s 1740s drinking glass to Joe Frazier’s 1970 championship boxing gloves and more than 100 objects to discover.

6 Highlights from the Collection: Face to Face
Explore some of the ways Philadelphians have portrayed themselves overtime—from late 1700s formal portraits to 21st century digital images, every picture tells a story. How would you choose to be represented? Take your portrait and send it to us!

7 Made in Philadelphia
Philadelphia was once considered the “Workshop of the World.” Dedicated to the city’s manufacturing history, the gallery showcases changing exhibitions about Philadelphia-made products.

8 Played in Philadelphia
Discover the city’s history across several cultural genres, including the arts, sports, and media.
NOW: Albert Schoenhut: Philadelphia’s Own Santa Claus.