The Host committee has proudly crafted a Guide to Philly for those who wish to explore the city’s terrific restaurants and other sights beyond the scope of the meeting. Have fun! Click to download a PDF.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
7:30 – 11:00 AM

HOSPITALITY SUITE ― GUESTS

A Hospitality Suite, in the Banquet Room on the second floor of the Union League, will be open for coffee, tea, and continental breakfast, as well as a place to meet friends. On Sunday, spouses and guests are welcome to continental breakfast in the Meade/Grant Rooms.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
7:00 – 10:00 PM

WELCOME RECEPTION (ALL)
RITZ-CARLTON

Join us to say hello to old friends and new at the Petite Ballroom at the Ritz-Carlton hotel and enjoy tempting cuisine and refreshments.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

AMERICAN HISTORY & ART (GUESTS)

Enjoy a visit to Independence Hall, including a guided interior visit to the Assembly Room, site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. Included in the morning is a visit to the National Constitution Center featuring The Story of We the People, a main museum exhibit and Freedom Rising, from 1787 to the present. Freedom Rising is a multimedia theatrical experience that brings the Constitution to life through 360-degree projection, state-of-the-art sound and lighting, and a dynamic live actor who illuminates the American quest for freedom. En route to the National Constitution Center, we will have a peak at the world-famous Liberty Bell, a hallowed symbol of freedom around the world, and Ben Franklin’s grave, the final resting place of this American genius.

Lunch will be served at the colonial City Tavern. It’s been said that more elements of the Declaration
of independence and the framing of the United States Constitution were discussed over a tankard of ale at the City Tavern than inside Independence Hall.

After lunch, we will visit the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, America’s first Art Museum and School, for a docent-led tour of the highlights of the Historic Landmark Building.

The Museum is internationally known for its outstanding collections of 19th- and 20th-century American paintings, sculptures, and works on paper and its historically significant archives. Throughout the year, PAFA presents special exhibitions and work by some of the region’s talented contemporary artists.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
4:00 – 7:00 PM
LECTURE | RECEPTION (ALL)
UNION LEAGUE / PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART
8:00 – 11:00 PM
DINNER & MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT (ALL)
UNION LEAGUE

At 4 pm we will gather in Lincoln Hall at the Union League for a lecture on the life and works of Thomas Eakins, widely acknowledged as one of the most important artists in American art history, prior to boarding trolleys to take us to the world-famous Philadelphia Museum of Art, where an exciting new installation offers a once in a lifetime opportunity for us to see his two unparalleled medical historical paintings, hung for the first time side by side. These are the most ambitious paintings Thomas Eakins would ever create, and were ground-breaking and highly controversial when originally unveiled. "The Gross Clinic" and "The Agnew Clinic", portraying two of the most famous surgeons (who also did eye surgery!) of the time, in their element, are now juxtaposed for this exhibit only by the curators of the PMA. Shown at the Centennial of 1876, "The Gross Clinic" was a landmark work that inaugurated a tradition of paintings which celebrate the medical arts and prominent doctors such as Dr. Gross from the Jefferson University Medical School and Dr. Agnew from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. A curator from the museum will discuss the details of the paintings.

Then we go back to the Union League for an evening of delicious food and a potpourri of musical entertainment.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
THE CHARMS OF FAIRMOUNT PARK AND RODIN MUSEUM (GUESTS)

First, enjoy a guided tour of Woodford, an elegant Georgian country home and its magnificent American antiques, which presents both the struggles of the American Revolution and the riches of a prosperous city, through its unique story. Next, visit Strawberry Mansion. The largest of the Fairmount Park Charms houses, Strawberry Mansion illustrates three distinct phases in American Architecture as well as the lives of two important and distinguished Philadelphians.

Following the visits to the Mansions, we will continue on to the Philadelphia Museum of Art where we will enjoy a guided tour. Lunch will follow at the Cafe in the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Following lunch, we will enjoy a fascinating tour of the Rodin Museum and Gardens. In 2012, the Rodin Museum opened the doors to a fully renovated interior, complemented by the gorgeous redesigned outdoor sculpture garden. The museum holds the most extensive public collection of Auguste Rodin’s work outside Paris, including The Thinker and a bronze cast of The Gates of Hell.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
7:00 – 11:00 PM
BARNES FOUNDATION DINNER/DANCING (ALL)

Opened in 2012, the Barnes Foundation architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien designed a “gallery within a garden and a garden within a gallery”—a blend of art, nature, education and aesthetics. The museum features the eccentric Dr. Albert Barnes’ famed collection of Renoirs, Matisse, Monets and Cézannes—the largest private Impressionist collection in the world. Originally, highly controversial, the relocation of the Barnes from its original suburban location was lambasted in the award-winning documentary (click on link) “The Art of the Steal”, so the new museum’s opening was highly anticipated, and widely covered in this country and abroad. The brilliant new design, resolving the host of challenges inherent in keeping the best of the old while meeting the needs of the new opened to blockbuster reviews (click on links: NYTimes Review/Wall Street Journal), and has in its brief existence become a top international “must see” for aficionados of art, art history, architecture, curatorial innovation, and landscape design.