



## Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

# CAROUSEL FACT SHEET

Considered one of the most beautiful carousels in the United States, the Glen Echo Park ride was installed in 1921 by the Dentzel Carousel Company of Germantown, Pennsylvania. The carousel is one of only 135 functioning antique carousels in the country and one of the few still in its original location. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the carousel is truly a Washington area treasure!

Known as a "menagerie carousel" because of the variety of its animals, the Glen Echo Park carousel includes 40 horses, four rabbits, four ostriches, a giraffe, a deer, a lion and a tiger. It also features two circus chariots. With its playful animals and striking ornamentation, the carousel has been an iconic symbol of the Park throughout the site's amusement park years and into its current phase as an arts and cultural center.

In 1983, Rosa Patton Ragan—a North Carolina-based artist who specializes in carousel restoration—began working on the carousel's 52 animals and other sections including ceiling and barrel panels and the Wurlitzer band organ front. She was assisted by her husband, artist Ron Rozzelle, and other artists and carousel staff at the Park. Ragan removed as many as 10 layers of paint before repainting each carousel animal in its initial hues. She left several small areas unfinished to reveal the original paint, providing a "window" into the conservation process.

Ragan has restored many antique carousels, including one on Martha's Vineyard that is considered the oldest platform carousel in the United States. Most of the work on the Glen Echo Park animals was done in her North Carolina studio. The restoration of the carousel was completed in 2003, the canopy building and floor were finished in 2005, and the band organ was refurbished in 2007.

The restoration is the latest chapter in the carousel's colorful history. In 1970, slated to be sold, the Glen Echo Park carousel was saved by a group of local citizens, led by Town of Glen Echo resident Nancy Long. More recently, private citizens and foundations donated funds to support the restoration.

Today, the carousel is ridden by more than 50,000 people each year – including multi-generations of families visiting the Park. In 2021, the carousel celebrates its **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** in the Park.

Find information of the Carousel 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, links to videos, carousel coloring pages, and more on our [Carousel](#) webpage.

### ABOUT THE GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a non-profit organization, manages the arts programs and historic buildings Glen Echo Park, a vibrant arts and cultural center in Montgomery County, MD. The Park offers classes and camps in visual and performing arts, art exhibitions, children's theater performances, summer concerts, environmental programs, special events and festivals, and a lively social dance program. Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades.