



GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

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**** Media Advisory ****

Glen Echo Park's Historic Dentzel Carousel Will Close Early for Repairs on June 30, 2019

Glen Echo, Maryland – The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture will close the Park's historic Dentzel Carousel early this year in order for the building that houses the carousel to undergo major maintenance and repairs. Opened in the Park in 1921, the carousel normally operates from May through September each year. For the 2019 season, it opened with Carousel Day on April 27 and will close on June 30. The work will take approximately 6-9 months. The carousel will open again in Spring 2020.

The carousel was saved through actions of the local community when threatened with a sale to another park community in the early 1970s and is a local treasure loved by many in the Washington, DC area. The carousel is also the site of civil rights protests that took place in the 1960s during the era of the privately-owned amusement park. These much-needed repairs will keep the carousel safely protected for many years to come.

Major repairs include replacing the roof of the carousel building, replacing the outdated fire suppression system, as well as rebuilding the band organ room, which houses the Wurlitzer band organ.

The work will be done in two phases. In the first phase, the carousel building roof will be replaced, includes structural repairs to the roof. The new roof will be replaced with the same painted design that is a prominent feature of the current roof. The carousel building exterior will also receive a new coat of paint in the existing color scheme. Although a full restoration of the decorative elements of the carousel was concluded in the early 2000s – in addition to a \$23 million renovation of other Glen Echo Park facilities in the mid 2000s – the carousel roof was not in need of full replacement at that time. The work must be completed during fair weather to ensure appropriate temperatures for the roofing materials to be applied.

In phase two of the project, the fire suppression system inside the carousel building will be upgraded with a new sprinkler and fire alarm system. The band organ room will also be renovated to better protect the historic 1926 Wurlitzer 165 Band Organ.

The total cost of the project is \$1.059 million, with contributions from the National Park Service, which owns the property and buildings at Glen Echo Park, the Montgomery County Arts Council (through a Capital Improvement Grant) and the State of Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

Executive Director of the Glen Echo Park Partnership, Katey Boerner, expressed her enthusiasm for this critical project, saying “We are really excited to have the funding in place for this important work. The National Park Service has led the project funding and been joined by Montgomery County and the State of Maryland in a collaborative effort. I think everyone realizes the value and importance of this carousel and wants this work completed before the 100-year anniversary in 2021.”

The carousel has a ridership of close to 55,000 each year. Hours for the carousel through June 30 are: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 10 am - 2 pm; Saturday & Sunday, 11am - 5 pm. The cost is \$1.25 per ride.

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Note to editors: High-resolution images from previous years' events are attached.

ABOUT GLEN ECHO PARK AND THE GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP

Glen Echo Park is a vibrant arts and cultural center presenting festivals, exhibitions, and dances, as well as children’s theater, music programs, nature programs, and art classes to more than 375,000 visitors each year. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a nonprofit organization, oversees these and other activities, including preserving the historic structures in the Park. Glen Echo Park, part of the National Park Service, is located in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades.

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org) and also by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (creativemoco.com). All programs are produced in cooperation with the National Park Service and Montgomery County, Maryland.

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