



Glen Echo Park Celebrates Opening Weekend of Historic Carousel with Carousel Day Festival

Carousel Rides, Free Performances & Kids Crafts, Food Trucks, and More!

For more information, email jcloud@glenechopark.org.

GLEN ECHO, MD (April 1, 2024) – [Carousel Day](#), an annual tradition at Glen Echo Park and one of the Park’s most popular festivals, will be held this year on [Saturday, April 27, from 11am to 4pm](#). In addition to **free** performances – including music, dance, and storytelling – Carousel Day features art projects for kids, open art studios and galleries, a parade through Park grounds led by resident performers, and much more. Carousel Day is presented by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (the Partnership) and often attracts up to 4,000 people who come to the Park to celebrate the opening of the [Dentzel carousel](#) for the season. This year mark’s the ride’s 103rd season in Glen Echo Park.

The theme for the Park Partnership’s 2024 event season is [celebrating and fostering well-being through the arts](#). In support of this theme, which is inspired by the Partnership’s vision, Ama Mills-Robertson, Chief Program Officer, explained, “We look forward to highlighting ways in which Park programming currently meets the public’s need for physical, mental, and community well-being, and we are eager to present new programming that fosters well-being in all of these areas. We have seen first-hand how the arts nurture our creative spirit, allow us to express our authentic selves, and bring joy through both visual and performing arts.”

Carousel Day performers aligning with this theme include:

- Long-time partner of the Park, **Story Tapestries**, will share a musical storytelling performance, *Halconcito Pichón (Little Hawk) and the Magic Quest*, as well as *Community Quilt*, a collection of historical stories of immigration to the United States from the 1600s to the present told through dance, music, and the spoken word. Both performances will encourage audiences to find and cherish their own identities, as well as those of their communities.
- Part of the Partnership’s new DanceFit series – programming that brings physical well-being front and center – **The Line Dance Addicts** will host a [free participatory line dance class for all ages](#). Visitors should not miss this chance to try out one of the offerings in the DanceFit series at no cost! The Line Dance Addicts is an urban group of adults who enjoy learning dance steps and routines choreographed by a myriad of people from all over the United States. They began thirteen years ago at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center in Northeast D.C. A shared joy for line dancing grew the initially small group into a dedicated 40+ participants, and the program is going strong to this day.

[Encouraging children to express their innate creativity](#), this year’s event will feature free family-friendly crafts, including butterfly and dragonfly paper hand puppets; Create-Your-Own-Carousel; carousel-animals-in-nature headbands; and carousel animal fans.

Opening Carousel Day will be the **Washington Revels** leading a musical parade through the Park. They will also perform in the Park’s Bumper Car Pavilion and lead a Maypole Dance. Students from the **Washington Conservatory of Music** will perform throughout the Park, with **Stone Tower Studio** students drawing the musicians while they play. Toward the end of the festival, the Conservatory will host a jazz and art event, “Hearing with Your Eyes,” in its space.

Dance enthusiasts will enjoy performances by **Coyaba Dance Theater** and the **Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance**. [Coyaba will bring high-energy West African dance and drumming to the historic Spanish Ballroom](#), while



students from Culkin will celebrate Irish culture through music and movement.

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Looking for a laugh? This year, Carousel Day will welcome **Happenstance Theater** to the Park! Its show in the Spanish Ballroom, *PREPOSTEROUS!*, will feature hilarious physical comedy and clowning. Visitors might do a double take while waiting to ride the carousel, as talented cast members will pop up here and there to entertain those waiting in line.

Other Carousel Day performers include **chitra.MOVES**, led by Chitra Subramanian, a professional dancer, choreographer, and educator in Washington, D.C. Her aesthetic draws from hip hop and Indian Classical foundations to tell stories, elevate artists, and meaningfully engage new audiences. Chitra.MOVES will lead a family dance class as well as perform in the Bumper Car Pavilion.

The **National Park Service**, a major partner of the Partnership along with Montgomery County, MD, in operating the Park – and also the owner of the site – will present several activities, including:

- A Glen Echo Park Civil Rights and History walking tour at 11:30am, 1:30pm, or 3:30pm. Earn a Glen Echo Park Civil Rights badge for attending the program!
- Junior Ranger programs are a great way for "children" of all ages to learn about National Parks by completing fun activity booklets and earning their Junior Ranger Badges. Stop by the NPS Mobile Visitor Center, pick up the free booklets of your choice, and learn about the history of Glen Echo and the Civil Rights Movement. A selection of Junior Ranger Books and Badges will be available, including Glen Echo Park Civil Rights, Clara Barton National Historic Site, The U.S. Colored Troops from Theodore Roosevelt Island, and Captain George Pointer from Great Falls Park.

Of course, Carousel Day would not be complete without the star of the Park – the 103-year-old Dentzel carousel. Carousel rides are \$2.00 per ride or \$5.00 for an all-day ticket. Visitors may also enjoy refreshments from Praline café, and food/ice cream trucks from **Fly Pizza** and **Ben & Jerry's**.

Also happening in the Park on Carousel Day:

The Park's two award-winning children's theaters – **the Puppet Co.** and **Adventure Theatre MTC** – will present shows on Carousel Day, including *Sing Down the Moon: Appalachian Wonder Tales* at Adventure Theatre MTC and *Alice in Wonderland* at the Puppet Co. Tickets may be purchased ahead [here](#).

On display in the **Partnership Galleries** will be three unique exhibitions: *2024 Yellow Barn Studio Instructors Exhibition* in the Popcorn Gallery, *Wrapped Attention*, a solo show by Leigh Lambert in the Stone Tower Gallery, and *Intervals*, a solo show by Lou Joseph, in the Park View Gallery.

In our dance venues, **Waltz Time** presents their annual Viennese waltz ball, **An Evening with Strauss**, and **Gottaswing** presents a fun and friendly swing dance featuring Jay Brown's Grace Street Seven. A long-time dance presenting partner at Glen Echo Park, Waltz Time generously presents the waltz ball as a benefit for the Park.

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High resolution images and carousel b-roll available by emailing jcloud@glenechopark.org.

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About Glen Echo Park and the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

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 300,000 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. For more information on Glen Echo Park, visit glenechopark.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

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.