



Glen Echo Park Highlights Civil Rights and Diverse Voices with a New Family Event

Diverse Voices: A Family Event Highlighting Civil Rights History at Glen Echo Park

GLEN ECHO, MD (June 20, 2022) – Glen Echo Park’s historic Dentzel carousel, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in the Park last year, was central to the civil rights story of the Washington, DC area. Join the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture on July 9, 2022 from 11am to 3pm as we highlight civil rights and diverse voices through:

Storytelling Performances presented by Story Tapestries

Voices of the Civil Rights Movement – Sheila Arnold and Sarah Brady, Teaching Artists, introduce the voices of civil rights activists as a way to challenge and inspire a younger generation to explore the topic of civil rights and become today’s history makers. They also help to examine the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on later movements, including women, people with disabilities, etc. This interactive program teaches audiences about those who paved the way to equality for so many, and everyone will be challenged to raise their voices and join the voices of so many in the past, and just like them. A DIFFERENCE CAN BE MADE!

A Sneak Peek at a New Film Telling the Civil Rights Story of the Park's Dentzel Carousel

Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round: Black students, White suburbanites, and the desegregation of Glen Echo: A forgotten story of the early Civil Rights Movement. Ilana Trachtman’s upcoming documentary film shows Black students from Howard University and White neighbors from the Bannockburn community near Glen Echo Park came together to desegregate the privately-owned Glen Echo Amusement Park, which was on the site of the current Glen Echo Park.

Music & Songs presented by Washington Revels

David Fakunle of Glen Echo Park resident group Washington Revels' Jubilee Voices will present Black storytelling, music and songs.

Photographs by Young Artists from the Latin American Youth Center

View the Park through new eyes and “see” new voices through the photography of young artists with the Latin American Youth Center. Photographs will be on display at the event.

Share Your Vision of Glen Echo Park's Future

As part of the Partnership's 2022 “Re-Imagine Project,” the public is invited to imagine the Park’s future along with us! Throughout the 2022 season visitors will have the opportunity to be part of our “Re-Imagine Project” through hands-on art opportunities, sharing photos and ideas for the future, and more. At this event, visitors may imagine the future of the Park and share their vision via a video station. Drawings, selfies, and notes about a future vision will be collected all season long through uploads via QR codes around the Park.

Families may also enjoy performances at our two award-winning children’s theaters (glenechopark.org/childrenstheater), playground, picnic area, the Glen Echo Park Aquarium (tickets required; <https://glenechopark.org/aquarium>), and a variety of art galleries throughout the park. Food and drink will be available for purchase as well. Information and RSVP for the event (preferred not required) here: glenechopark.org/diverse-voices.

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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 350,000 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 [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

About the Dentzel Carousel

Installed in 1921 by the Dentzel Carousel Company of Germantown, Pennsylvania, the Glen Echo Park 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 52 animals: 40 horses, 4 rabbits, 4 ostriches, 1 giraffe, 1 deer, 1 lion and 1 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 for the past half-century.

In the summer of 1960, Howard University students led protests at the Park along with local residents. The students rode the carousel and were arrested for doing so in violation of the privately-owned amusement park's segregation policies. The case went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. Their continued protests under the heat of the summer sun – and the active engagement of community members in the fight – led to the amusement park's desegregation, opening the venue to everyone for its 1961 season and every year thereafter until the amusement park closed after the 1968 season.

Today, the carousel is the **only remaining historic ride from the amusement park era at Glen Echo Park site**. It is ridden by more than 50,000 people each year – including multi-generations of families visiting the Park. In 2021, the carousel celebrated its 100th Anniversary in the Park. Find information on the Carousel 100th Anniversary Celebration at glenechopark.org/carousel100.

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.