

MUSEUM CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH NEW U.S. CITIZENS

***The Charlotte Museum of History will host a free Fourth of July party
that includes a U.S. Oath & Naturalization Ceremony***

CHARLOTTE, N.C., June 25, 2018 – The Charlotte Museum of History will celebrate Independence Day with a special event on Wednesday, July 4, that combines old-fashioned Fourth of July fun with an [U.S. Oath & Naturalization Ceremony](#) for more than 20 new U.S. citizens. The event and ceremony are free and open to all.

“On Independence Day, we celebrate what it means to be an American, including the values of freedom and liberty that are so essential to our democracy,” said Adria Focht, president & CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History. “What better way to mark the Fourth of July than to watch our nation welcome new U.S. citizens? Oath & Naturalization ceremonies often take place in courthouses, which can seem inaccessible or intimidating. We welcome everyone to attend this ceremony. It’s a great reminder to those of us who are already U.S. citizens of all the rights and responsibilities we enjoy through our citizenship.”

This is the third year the museum has hosted an Oath & Naturalization ceremony as part of its Independence Day commemorations. The museum is home to the 1774 “Rock House,” built by one of America’s earliest Patriots and citizens, Hezekiah Alexander. He is one of the Charlotte leaders who published the Mecklenburg Resolves in 1775, taking the first steps to break away from England. Their bold actions helped propel Mecklenburg County, and eventually the 13 American colonies, towards independence. In April of 1776, the leaders of North Carolina officially authorized their delegates to vote for Independence, and on July 4th a new nation was born.

U.S. Oath & Naturalization Ceremony

Dr. Brian Madison Jones, dean of the College of Arts & Letters and James B. Duke Distinguished Associate Professor of History at Johnson C. Smith University, will be the



keynote speaker at the Oath & Naturalization ceremony. Christopher Baker will perform the national anthem. The League of Women Voters will be on hand to register new voters before and after the ceremony.

Fourth of July Activities

Guests will enjoy a variety of activities in addition to the ceremony, including:

- Tours of the historic home of Patriot Hezekiah Alexander. It is Charlotte's oldest standing home and the only home in Mecklenburg County that pre-dates the Revolutionary War.
- The ringing of the American Freedom Bell, the largest ground-level bell in the world.
- Firework-themed crafts for kids and kids-at-heart.
- A Fourth of July carnival, including history-themed games.

The British History Behind America's Revolution

As part of the event, the museum will present a lecture by University of Virginia (UVA) historian Dr. S. Max Edelson titled "The New Map of Empire: How Britain Imagined America before Independence." Edelson will use dynamic illustrations of original maps of the U.S. colonies to show Great Britain's plans to create a new London-controlled empire, over which the American colonists would have little influence. His lecture explains how Americans reacted to this grand scheme and rejected the bonds of empire. Edelson is associate professor of history at UVA and director of MapScholar, an online visualization platform for map history. Edelson's lecture is the third in the Ron Hankins "History Talks" lecture series, sponsored by the Wells Fargo Foundation.

How to Go

The museum's Independence Day celebration takes place on Wednesday, July 4, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at The Charlotte Museum of History, 3500 Shamrock Drive.

- 10 a.m. – Home site tours, crafts and carnival activities happen throughout the day, with the exception of the 11 a.m. hour, when the Oath & Naturalization Ceremony occurs
- 11 a.m. – U.S. Oath & Naturalization Ceremony



- 12 p.m. – Ringing of the American Freedom Bell
- 1 p.m. – Lecture by Dr. S. Max Edelson

The event is free and open to the public. More information and registration can be found at charlottemuseum.org/events.

About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History engages a broad audience in the history of the Charlotte region through the stories of its people, places and events to promote dialogue and historical perspective. The museum is the steward of the Hezekiah Alexander House (ca. 1774) and home site, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. To learn more, visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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