

MUSEUM CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH NEW CITIZENS

The Charlotte Museum of History will host a U.S. Oath & Naturalization Ceremony on the Fourth of July

CHARLOTTE, N.C., June 20, 2019 – The Charlotte Museum of History will celebrate Independence Day with a [U.S. Oath & Naturalization Ceremony](#) for more than a dozen new U.S. citizens on Thursday, July 4, at 11 a.m. The ceremony is free and open to all. After the ceremony, guests are encouraged to attend the Hickory Grove Parade Festival at Aldersgate Retirement Community, which is adjacent to the museum.

“Independence Day is about celebrating what it means to be an American, including our nation’s ideals of freedom and liberty,” said Adria Focht, president & CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History. “This is the fourth year that the museum has hosted an Oath & Naturalization ceremony to observe Independence Day. People who attended in the past tell us they are deeply moved by the ceremony, which reminds us all of the awesome rights and responsibilities that come with being a U.S. citizen.”

The Charlotte Museum of History 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. Jones also is the chair of the board of trustees of The Charlotte Museum of History. Joby Eberly, supervisory



immigration services officer in the Charlotte Field Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, will administer the oath of allegiance and Carly Dlugoszewski, senior immigration services officer in the Charlotte Field Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Arts+ student Bria Alexander will perform the national anthem, and the color guard of the Mecklenburg chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will present the American flag at the event. The League of Women Voters will be on hand to register new voters before and after the ceremony.

The museum will offer Independence Day-themed crafts for kids and families, including the chance to make their own miniature parade float celebrating the Queen City's history and culture.

How to Go

The event is free and open to the public. More information and optional 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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