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PRESS RELEASE

April 24, 2018

**Germantown Second Saturday Festival
is Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

Eat, Shop, Play, Learn & Experience Germantown!

Featuring Performances by Ursula Rucker, BalletX, and Ms. Tia McNeil

Presented by Historic Germantown & Germantown United CDC

Germantown, Philadelphia, PA – The **Germantown Second Saturday Festival** will be held on **Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.** in Northwest Philadelphia’s Germantown neighborhood. The festival will take place at **Market Square Park** (5501 Germantown Avenue) and along **Germantown Avenue, between School House Lane and Coulter Street**, which will be closed to traffic. Rain or shine.

The community festival, presented by **Historic Germantown** and **Germantown United Community Development Corporation**, invites the public to experience Germantown. The festival celebrates the kick-off the Second Saturday series—when all 16 Historic Germantown sites are open monthly—and showcases the many thriving cultural, civic, and business attractions and activities that make Germantown an exciting place to live and visit.

Performance

Throughout the day, musicians, poets, and creative performing artists will take to the main stage on Germantown Avenue. Headliners include Germantown-based poet and performance artist [Ursula Rucker](#), one of the most acclaimed spoken word recording artists in the music industry today, powerhouse singer-songwriter and vocalist [Ms. Tia McNeil](#), who will be accompanied by her live band, and [BalletX](#), Philadelphia’s premier contemporary ballet. BalletX unites distinguished choreographers with an outstanding company of world-class dancers to forge new works of athleticism, emotion, and grace.

The main stage will also feature youth performances from two dance studios in Germantown, [Kinesics Dance Dynamics](#) and [Wissahickon Dance Academy](#). Additional musical talent includes percussionist **Karen Smith** and jazz and blues guitarist **Jim Dragoni, with son Andrew**. Poet, activist and youth poetry educator [Perry “Vision” DiVirgilio](#) will emcee the festivities.

Family Fun

The family-friendly Festival will also feature a **Kid Zone** with moon bounce, face painting, karate demonstrations, and many art-fueled interactive activities.

History

Visitors will learn about **Historic Germantown's 16 extraordinary historic houses, destinations, and museums**, including Awbury Arboretum, Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, Grumblethrope, and Wyck.

The two sites located within the festival grounds, the [Germantown Historical Society](#) and [Deshler-Morris House \(The Germantown Whitehouse\)](#), will be open for tours. Visit freedombackyard.com to learn more about Historic Germantown.

Eat + Shop

Over 40 vendors will participate in the **Festival Vendor Marketplace**, coordinated by Germantown United CDC. Side of the Road Jerk Chicken, Sweet Lavender, Uptown BBQ and Grill, Nick's Roast Beef, Hardy Funnel Cakes, and more will be serving up tasty eats.

Local merchants and information/resource tables include Action Karate, Kingdom in the Clouds, GTown Tees, Philly Roller Derby, Mosaic Development Partners LLC, Willow Wild Crafts, and many others! Attendees can also get to know many of Germantown's **civic and community organizations**, including Yes! And... Collaborative Arts, Center in the Park, Friends of Vernon Park, NW PHL Public Schools, Friends of the Wissahickon.

This is the third year Historic Germantown and Germantown United CDC have partnered on the Festival, bringing renewed attention and interest to Germantown and Market Square Park, an underutilized neighborhood park and public space. In 2017, this picturesque block of Germantown Ave and Church Ln welcomed three new and thriving businesses: [Kinesics Dance Dynamics](#), [Uncle Bobbie's Coffee and Books](#), and [Germantown Day School](#). In the spring of 2018, Market Square Park will debut a much anticipated farmers market, managed by The Food Trust. The street is also home to longtime Germantown staple [Gaffney Fabrics](#), [Inner Circle Midwifery](#), [St. Luke's Germantown](#), [Parkside Recovery](#), [Friends Free Library at Germantown Friends School](#), [Brennan & Company CPA](#), [Wells Fargo Bank](#), and others.

The festival is rain or shine.

Festival Parking, Public Transit, and Road Closures

The festival is accessible by SEPTA. **Bus Routes: 23 Bus, XH Bus; Chestnut Hill East Regional Rail: Germantown Station (150 E Chelton Ave).** Visit <http://www.septa.org> for schedules.

Street parking is available near the festival grounds.

Limited free off-street parking is also available. Locations will be announced soon.

Road closures: **Germantown Avenue between School House Lane & Coulter Street, and the unit block of E Church Lane will be closed to all traffic from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

About the Festival Partners



Historic Germantown

5501 Germantown Ave

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Historic Germantown is a partnership of 16 extraordinary historic houses, destinations, and museums in Northwest Philadelphia that have joined together to protect, preserve, and share some of Philadelphia's prized historical assets. Historic Germantown, located just minutes from Center City, is where one of Philadelphia's Revolutionary War Battles was fought; where the first-ever American protest against slavery was written; and where one of the few remaining houses on the Underground Railroad still stands. Learn more at freedombackyard.com.



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Germantown United Community Development Corporation (GUCDC) is a community-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and facilitate the revitalization of Germantown and its business corridors through a sustainable, creative, and community-driven approach to economic development. Vibrant commercial corridors or “Main Streets” contribute to strong neighborhoods. They provide a place to work, shop, and meet your neighbors. Through our Targeted Corridor Management Program contract with the city’s Commerce Department, Germantown United CDC provides assistance to businesses, brings planning and resources to the corridor, oversees activities to make the corridor clean and safe, and works to attract new businesses to the area. We are actively working to bolster and reinforce the vibrancy of the business district to meet the needs of the surrounding community and attract visitors from outside the immediate neighborhood. Germantown United CDC is also exploring opportunities to strengthen and diversify the mix of commercial uses in the business district, the potential to reuse vacant or underutilized properties, business and job attraction strategies, and available sources of funding to support recommended revitalization strategies.

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Press Contacts

To request interviews and high-resolution photos, please contact:

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