



Second Story Tours

Newsletter

February 2024



Welcome to 2024!!

February is Black History Month!

Since 1976, every U.S. President has designated February as Black History Month, a time when we celebrate the achievements of African Americans. This year's theme is African Americans in the Arts.

"The Annunciation" by Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1898. Philadelphia Museum of Art

Henry Ossawa Tanner

One of the first African American artists to gain international acclaim was Philadelphia's own Henry Ossawa Tanner. Tanner was born in Pittsburgh in 1859. His father was a reverend and his mother had escaped slavery via the Underground Railroad. Tanner attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia before moving to Paris where he felt greater freedom from racism. His painting "The Annunciation," (see above) is an unconventional portrayal of a familiar religious story. It can be viewed at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

[Learn more about this incredible artist at the Philadelphia Museum of Art's website.](#)

Photo of Henry Ossawa Tanner courtesy Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution



Rising Sun at the African American Museum in Philadelphia



Don't miss the current exhibition "Rising Sun: Artists in an Uncertain America" at the African American Museum in Philadelphia located at the corner of 7th and Arch Streets.

Extended through March 3, 2024, the exhibition features new works of art that ponder the question: Is the sun rising or setting on the American experiment?

Photo of the African American Museum of Philadelphia by [Beyond My Ken](#)

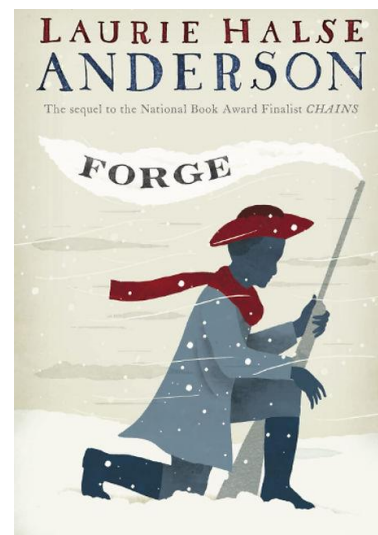
From the AAMP website, "Visitors will see how each artist engaged with the theme of the rising sun in a time when perspectives about human rights, equality, free speech, and other democratic principles are radically disparate."

To learn more about the exhibit, visit the [African American Museum in Philadelphia's website](#) or [contact us](#) to add the AAMP to your field trip!

Forge, the Sequel to the Acclaimed Book Chains

The second book in the series by Laurie Halse Anderson, *Forge* follows the tale of Curzon, an enslaved boy who runs away to join Washington's Army. During the bitter winter in Valley Forge in 1777-78, Curzon and his friend Isabel, an enslaved girl who is also in the camp, learn about themselves, their friendship, and the meaning of freedom.

Read more about this book and the two others (*Chains* and *Ashes*) in this outstanding series for young adults.



**Don't Wait to Book Your Spring
Trip to Philadelphia!**



Space is filling up quickly! Contact us to reserve your preferred date for your field trip.

[Click here to contact us.](#)