



## **BOSTON KICKS-OFF THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY'S COMMEMORATIVE YEAR TODAY**

*Organizations in Boston and Across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Working Together to Create a Year of Dynamic Programming to Honor the Semiquincentennial of the Boston Tea Party*

BOSTON (December 16, 2022) – Today, Meet Boston, the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party Board of Advisors (BOA) and Revolution 250, a consortium of organizations working together to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the events that led to the American Revolution, officially kick-off the 250<sup>th</sup> commemorative anniversary year of the Boston Tea Party, a momentous event that forever changed the course of American history.

The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, the “single most important event leading up to the American Revolution”, will occur on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Boston will not only be the **FIRST** to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a landmark historic event in the United States’ journey to independence and the founding of a free nation, but also will be the epicenter, and on the world’s stage, in honoring the anniversary of the historic event that is the Boston Tea Party.

“The Boston Tea Party helped spark the Revolutionary War and is one of the earliest milestones on the path to our nation’s founding,” says Rosie Rios, Chair of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission. “It was a dramatic demonstration of the colonists’ willingness to fight for truths they knew to be self-evident -- that we all have the unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As we approach the nation’s semiquincentennial -- the 250<sup>th</sup> commemoration of when our leaders firmly established those beliefs through the Declaration of Independence -- it is crucial that we recognize the vital role the Boston Tea Party played in shaping the America we know today.”

Boston will be in the spotlight in honoring this historic event officially launching a commemorative year of celebrations today and will be leading the way as America begins to celebrate all major historic 250<sup>th</sup> anniversaries leading up to 2026, the semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America.

According to Martha Sheridan, Executive Director, Meet Boston and 250<sup>th</sup> Boston Tea Party Anniversary BOA Co-Chair, "The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boston Tea Party will be a spectacular commemorative event. It will have a profound impact on our industry and the greater Boston economy during a critical time of year. As our nation approaches its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026, it’s fitting that Boston should be in the global spotlight as we celebrate the catalytic events that led to American independence, starting with the singular significance of the Boston Tea Party."

A multitude of organizations across Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are working together to create a commemorative year of public engagement, dynamic programming, special exhibits, events, installations, and performances. The year will culminate in a grand-scale, live reenactment of the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 2023, slated to be one of the largest theatrical moving performances in the United States.

“The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and our members are enthusiastic partners and collaborators in the celebration of the Boston Tea Party’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary,” says James E. Rooney, President & CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and 250<sup>th</sup> Boston Tea Party Anniversary BOA Co-Chair. “Boston holds

momentous history that is pivotal in the country's journey to realizing freedom. This is a celebration for everyone in Greater Boston – and the country and world – as we commemorate the courage and grit that connects every community to this revolution that changed the course of history.”

An overview of current initiatives as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> Boston Tea Party Anniversary Commemorative Year:

### **National and Regional Collection of Loose Tea - Beginning December 16, 2022**

Today marks the commencement of a tea donation drive where citizens of the United States can participate by sending loose-leaf tea to Boston be thrown into Boston Harbor as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> Boston Tea Party Anniversary reenactment. ***Send dried loose-leaf tea (NO used tea bags) to: Boston Tea Party 250th Anniversary, Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, 306 Congress St, Boston, MA 02210. Include name, address, e-mail & phone number. An official certificate of participation will be sent to each person donating tea. Deadline to send tea: December 1, 2023.***

In addition, a newly launched Historic Tours of America trolley, fully wrapped depicting the *Eleanor*, one of the three ships that were part of the Boston Tea Party, will be launching a tour of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts beginning in Spring 2023 to collect loose-leaf tea from citizens across the state. This schedule will be announced in early 2023.

### **First Night Boston 2023 - December 31, 2022**

First Night is Boston's annual and free New Year's Eve celebration of musical performances, a “People's Procession” parade, ice sculptures and fireworks celebrating the beginning of a new year. This year, First Night will honor the Boston Tea Party. Featured ice sculptures throughout Boston will salute this historic event, Colonial actors will be leading the “People's Procession” and much more.

### **250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Boston Tea Party NEW “Tea Talks” Speaker Series 2023**

A NEW “Tea Talks” Speaker Series honoring the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party will be launching in 2023 exploring many different facets of life in early Boston, New England, and Colonial America through expert storytellers from nationally renowned authors and tea masters to historians and cultural experts etc. More details to be announced in early 2023.

### **NEW Boston Tea Party Descendants Program**

A NEW Boston Tea Party Descendants program will be launching in 2023 in partnership with the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the country's leading resource for historical family research, fostering genealogical connections to participants in the Boston Tea Party, their families, and those involved in the making of colonial rebellion in Boston. The program will not only connect people to their shared histories, but also serve as a hub of information and shared resources for local, national, and international historians, indefinitely. More details to be announced in early 2023.

### **41<sup>st</sup> Boston Harborfest - June 29 - July 4, 2023**

Boston Harborfest is the country's largest Fourth of July festival. During the 41<sup>st</sup> Harborfest in 2023, the Boston Tea Party will be the featured theme as Boston celebrates its historic harbor and history. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, dedicated to accurately reliving and representing a key time in history (1773-1775), will be offering a series of hands-on activities & interactive performances throughout Harborfest.

### **Boston Tea Party Participant Grave Marker Project**

The Boston Tea Party Grave Marker Project, which began in 2019, marks the final resting places of many of the brave people involved in the “single most important event leading up to the American Revolution” with a commemorative marker inspired by Nathaniel Currier's *The Destruction of the Tea at Boston Harbor* lithograph created in 1846, a popular and often used artistic representation of the Boston Tea Party. ALL known participants will receive markers by the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. To date, a total of 119 commemorative markers have been placed at graves of known Boston Tea Party participants buried within some of New England's oldest burying grounds. In 2023, the grave markers will be placed at gravesites of Boston Tea Party patriots in MI, NY, OH, PA, VA and as far away as Paris, France. The markers will be on display indefinitely. **The FINAL honorary commemorative marker will be placed in Boston at the grave of Patriot Samuel Adams in the Granary Burying Ground in 2023 (date TBA).**

## **Engaging Students Throughout Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Throughout the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party's commemorative year, students across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are invited to express their personal thoughts and connections to the themes centered around the ideas of the Boston Tea Party -- *protest, civic engagement, representation and commemoration* -- through creative writing projects, videography, or artistic design. The goal is to not only educate students on the iconic events that helped shape America, but also allow them to connect these ideals to their own lives. Their creative pieces will be showcased on [www.bostonteparty250.com](http://www.bostonteparty250.com). More details to be announced in early 2023.

## **Boston Area Hotels, Restaurant and Bars to Honor the Boston Tea Party**

Throughout 2023, Boston area hotels, restaurants and bars will be offering a dose of patriotism with hotel packages, tea-inspired cocktails, and dinners in honor of 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Boston Tea Party. More details to be announced in 2023.

## **Honoring 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Poet Phillis Wheatley**

Former enslaved person and American author, Phillis Wheatley, is one of the best-known poets in late-18th-century America. Considered the first African American and only the third American woman author of a published book of poetry, she will be honored with a special exhibition; and a major announcement will be made in 2023 around her connection to the Boston Tea Party. More details will be announced in 2023.

## **East India Company - London, England - September 2023**

A series of events in partnership with the East India Company, founded in 1600 and still in existence from where the tea came that was originally destroyed during the Boston Tea Party, celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party will be taking place in London in September 2023. The East India Company will also be shipping to Boston 250 pounds of loose tea to be thrown into Boston Harbor as part of the 250th Boston Tea Party Anniversary reenactment.

## **250<sup>th</sup> Boston Tea Party Anniversary LIVE Reenactment - Saturday, December 16, 2023**

The 250th anniversary year will culminate in a grand-scale, live reenactment of the Boston Tea Party on Saturday, December 16, 2023, the actual anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. Hundreds of reenactors will tell the story of the infamous Boston Tea Party and theatrically recreate the events of December 16, 1773 at historic Old South Meeting House and Faneuil Hall with a series of performances and programming, followed by a public procession to the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum where the Sons of Liberty will destroy loose tea, 250 pounds of tea sent to Boston from London's East India Company in addition to tea sent in from citizens from around the country, into Boston's historic harbor.

Information on the 250<sup>th</sup> Boston Tea Party Anniversary commemorative year, in addition to updates on all events and programming throughout the year, will be available at [www.BostonTeaParty250.com](http://www.BostonTeaParty250.com), and on social media channels: Instagram/Facebook: [@bostonteparty250](https://www.instagram.com/bostonteparty250); Twitter: [@BOSTeaParty250](https://twitter.com/BOSTeaParty250).

### **ABOUT MEET BOSTON**

Meet Boston is the primary private sector marketing and visitor services organization charged with the development of meetings, conventions, and tourism-related business, with a goal to enhance the economy of the Boston metropolitan area, and to drive visitor dollars to all of greater Boston's diverse neighborhoods and communities. Meet Boston is a not-for-profit, membership-driven sales & marketing organization of more than 900 companies in Boston, Cambridge and across New England that depend upon the visitor and convention industries for their own success and growth. For more information, visit [www.meetboston.com](http://www.meetboston.com).

### **THE 250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY**

Meet Boston, the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party Board of Advisors and Revolution 250, a consortium of organizations working together to commemorate the 250th anniversaries of the events that led to American Revolution, in conjunction with a multitude of organizations in Boston and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are working together to create a series of commemorative programs throughout the entirety of 2023, culminating in a grand-scale, live reenactment celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party which will be taking place on Sat., December 16, 2023. Details of all 2023 programming and information on the major reenactment celebration, visit [www.BostonTeaParty250.com](http://www.BostonTeaParty250.com). Instagram/Facebook: [@bostonteparty250](https://www.instagram.com/bostonteparty250); Twitter: [@BOSTeaParty250](https://twitter.com/BOSTeaParty250).

### **ABOUT REVOLUTION 250**

Formed in 2013, Revolution 250 is a consortium of more than 70 organizations and individuals led by the Massachusetts Historical Society, who are connected by a commonly held belief of the value in learning about, examining, and commemorating the history of the American Revolution. These institutions represent a long-standing commitment to understanding this history and will explore the importance of America's war for independence for years to come. Revolution 250 will commemorate the 250th anniversaries of significant people, places and events that led to the American Revolution, and the creation of such founding documents as the Declaration of Independence, the

Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. These anniversaries will be integral in engaging public interest and garnering public appreciation for the pivotal role Massachusetts played in securing the independence of the United States of America. For more information, visit [www.revolution250.org](http://www.revolution250.org).

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