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## MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW U.S. CITIZENS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY AT PUBLIC NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

Event returns to The Charlotte Museum of History for the first time since 2019

**CHARLOTTE, N.C., June 22, 2022** – The Charlotte Museum of History will once again celebrate Independence Day with a <u>Naturalization Ceremony for new U.S. citizens</u> on Monday, July 4, at 11 a.m. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

"What better way to highlight our nation's ideals of freedom and liberty than to witness new U.S. citizens take the oath of citizenship?" said Dee Dixon chair of the board of trustees at The Charlotte Museum of History. "These new citizens work for years to reach this milestone, reminding us of the awesome rights and responsibilities that come with being a U.S. citizen."

This the first time the museum has hosted an Oath & Naturalization ceremony since the start of the pandemic. Prior to that, the ceremony had become a special part of the museum's Independence Day celebrations.

The Charlotte Museum of History is home to the 1774 Alexander 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. These bold actions helped propel Mecklenburg County, and eventually the 13 American colonies, towards independence from Britain. In April of 1776, the leaders of North Carolina officially authorized their delegates to vote for independence, and on July 4, 1776, a new nation was born.

## How to Go

This in-person event is free and open to the public. It also will be livestreamed on the museum's Facebook and Youtube channels.



Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the Naturalization ceremony begins at 11 a.m. on Monday, July 4. The ceremony will conclude with a ringing of the museum's American Freedom Bell, modeled on the Liberty Bell and one of the largest ground-level bells in the world. The museum will offer an Independence Day-themed craft for kids.

More information and optional registration is 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 <u>charlottemuseum.org</u> and follow the museum on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

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