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August 26, 2015

The Delaware Historical Society's Read House & Gardens in Historic New Castle, Delaware Joins *Smithsonian Magazine's* 11th Annual Museum Day Live!

Free admission on September 26, 2015, with a downloadable Museum Day Live! ticket.

New Castle, DE — The Delaware Historical Society's **Read House & Gardens** will open its doors free of charge on Saturday, September 26, 2015, as part of *Smithsonian Magazine's* eleventh annual Museum Day Live! event. On this day only, participating museums across the United States emulate the spirit of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington DC-based facilities, which offer free admission every day, and open their doors for free to those who download a Museum Day Live! ticket.

Inclusive by design, the event represents Smithsonian's commitment to make learning and the spread of knowledge accessible to everyone. Last year's event drew over 400,000 participants, and this year's event is expected to attract more museum goers than ever before.

"Museums exist to serve their communities; it is important for people to know that museums are welcoming spaces for everyone to come and learn. Participating in *Museum Day Live!* is another great opportunity for the Read House & Gardens to provide visitors with an enjoyable experience that encourages them to return again and again," said Katie McDade, Curator of Education, Read House & Gardens.

Located on the New Castle riverfront, in the heart of the old city, the twenty-two room, 14,000-square-foot Read House dominates the streetscape with a monumental simplicity and distinctive Philadelphia architectural style. Designed for George Read II, son of a Delaware signer of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the house combined innovative Federal period design and advanced technological systems to create comfort and refinement. Outside, the formal gardens installed in 1848, provided enjoyment for the late nineteenth and early twentieth century residents and continue to delight visitors today. Beneath the soil the layered history of Delaware's earliest inhabitants and settlers survives. Their story unfolds through ongoing archaeology on the property.

The Museum Day Live! ticket is available at Smithsonian.com/museumday. Visitors who present the Museum Day Live! ticket will gain free entrance for two at participating venues for one day only. One ticket, per household, per email address is permitted. For more information about Museum Day Live! 2015 and a full list of participating museums and cultural institutions, please visit Smithsonian.com/museumday.

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four

18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an “American Treasure” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and The Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, expected to reopen in 2016.

For more information about the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit www.dehistory.org.

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