

# City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
Room 402, City Hall  
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250180)

## RESOLUTION

A resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of Odunde, the largest African American street festival in the United States, and its impact on African and African American heritage, culture, and community.

WHEREAS, Since the first Odunde organized in 1975 by Lois Fernandez and Ruth Arthur, the festival has become the largest and most influential African American festival in the United States, taking place in in a 16-block area with 2 stages of live entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Odunde plays a pivotal role in celebrating African culture, fostering pride in African heritage, and promoting cultural exchange through performances, music, food, and art; and

WHEREAS, The festival started as a small neighborhood event and now brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals, including international participants from African nations, the Caribbean, and Brazil, to share in the presentation, which has become a national model for cultural street festivals in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Odunde serves as a platform to bring together many internationally known performers, dignitaries, folk artists, and cultural leaders, and significantly contributes to the economic and cultural development of our region; and

WHEREAS, Odunde made significant contributions to educational initiatives, community empowerment, and the preservation of African and African American history, inspiring individual of all ages and backgrounds to embrace and celebrate the coming of another year; and

WHEREAS, The 50th anniversary of Odunde marks an extraordinary milestone in its history, reflecting its enduring legacy of celebration, unity, and cultural pride; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors the 50th anniversary of Odunde, the largest African American street festival in the United States, and its impact on African and African American heritage, culture, and community.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 250180 continued*

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Oshunbumi Fernandez-West, the CEO of Odunde, as evidence of the sincere sentiments of this legislative body.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 250180 continued*

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the sixth day of March, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for Council President Johnson  
Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers, Gilmore Richardson, Phillips, Gauthier, Thomas, Landau, Young, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke, Driscoll, O'Neill, Squilla, Bass and Ahmad