

June 30, 2022



Mission

Preserving, promoting, and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of Ybor City and supporting the Ybor City Museum State Park

NEWS BRIEF



The Fourth of July gives us a mid-summer break and an opportunity to observe our nation's independence. While you are enjoying baseball, hot dogs and apple pie, along with the traditional family barbecues and fireworks displays, here's a bit of local heritage.

The City of Tampa, which was incorporated on July 15, 1887, celebrates its 135th birthday this year. Note that the city was incorporated only two years after Eduardo Manrara brought Vicente Martinez-Ybor to Tampa --- then a small fishing village of about 750 citizens --- and encouraged him and other factory owners to establish what became the city's renown cigar industry. Many immigrants followed as they sought a better life and a piece of the "American Dream". This was the beginning of a diverse and inclusive community that ushered in the era of "Modern Tampa".

The Ybor City Museum Society is proud to celebrate this heritage with you in our newsletters and in all the activities that support our mission. Thank you to Arminda Mata for contributing the following stories.

Happy 4th of July!

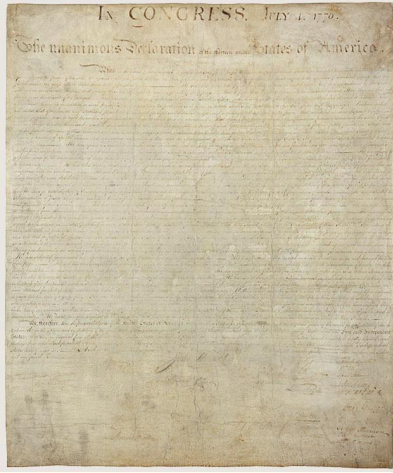
Chantal Hevia, President and CEO

Photo: The "Mascotte" leaves Havana Harbor, bringing Cuban immigrants to Tampa

Why We Observe

On this holiday weekend, it is important to remember why we celebrate the Fourth of July. Often referred to as Independence Day, the holiday marks July 4, 1776, when the Continental Congress approved the draft of Declaration of Independence.

Between 1697 and 1732, the British founded thirteen colonies in America that were governed by Britain,



highly taxed, and forced to provide food and lodging to British soldiers, all without any of their own representation. On September 5, 1774, delegates from the colonies secretly established the Continental Congress to push for more rights.

As tensions rose and hostilities began between the colonies and Britain, the delegation created the Declaration of Independence and cut off all remaining ties with England. George Washington became the commander of the American militia and led the

Revolutionary War, which lasted from April 19, 1775, until September 3, 1783, resulting in great losses on both sides.

In 1781, the United States put the first constitution into effect, and a new Constitution was enacted in 1789. For various reasons, the nation chose to celebrate the day the first Declaration of Independence was enacted rather than when the colonies won independence from the British. First, July 4, 1776, was the day they acknowledged their own freedoms, which gave them a reason to fight for these freedoms. Second, the wording in the Declaration of Independence is said to be a foundation for others seeking democracy in stating, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

It is this phrase that created the United States stance for freedom and has drawn immigrants for hundreds of years to do the same. This Fourth of July, celebrate the freedoms for which the nation has fought throughout its history.

[Click here to read the Declaration of Independence.](#)

(Declaration of Independence, 1776, photo courtesy of archives.gov)

Ybor City's Heritage

Similar to other cities in the United States, Ybor City celebrated the Fourth of July with regattas, picnics, fireworks, and parades. As previously written, its heritage was a melting pot of cultures that came together to build a dynamic community that epitomized the Independence Day celebrations.



During the turn of the 19th century, Tampa’s population grew exponentially with the arrival of the cigar industry. Ybor City became a cultural hub of immigrants arriving

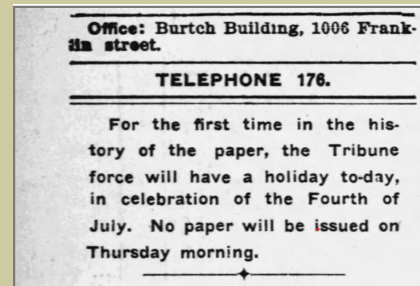
from Cuba, Italy, Spain, Germany, and Romania, as well as other parts of Europe. Many came for work with the intention of returning to their home countries, while others came to escape war, poverty, corruption, and oppressive governments. They all, however, coexisted in a community that helped launch Tampa into a modern vibrant city.

Similarly, early immigrants were seeking the same freedoms and opportunities that others have sought, even in modern times. An article in the Tampa Tribune dated July 5, 1907, highlighted Ybor City's heritage with, "Yesterday was a gala day in Ybor City, all the foreigners joining the Americans in celebrating the day of independence in a fitting manner."

[Click here for entire Tampa Tribune article.](#)

(July 4th parade on Franklin St., 1918, photo courtesy of USF Special Collections)

Ybor City in History



July 9, 1899, seventeen cigar factories went into "lockout" after negotiations in a three-month long strike of cigar workers failed. According to the Tampa Tribune, an estimated 3,568 cigar workers rejected negotiations with cigar manufacturers led by Eduardo Manrara to end the strike. The reasoning was the manufacturers refused one out of four of their demands, the discontinuation of "filler" weighing. [Click here for article.](#)

(Ybor and Manrara Cigar Factory, 1899, photo courtesy of Hillsborough County Public Library)

July 4, 1900, the Tampa Tribune announced that for the first time in its history, they would close on July 4th and there would be no production of the paper on July 5, 1900. The Tribune continued to celebrate in this manner until July 5, 1903, when production resumed. The Tampa Tribune continued to highlight celebrations throughout Tampa on the Fourth of July.



July 1, 1903, according to the Tampa Tribune the Sanchez y Haya cigar manufacturing company moved their headquarters to Ybor City to combine their entire operation into one location. Ignacio Haya, founded the Sanchez y Haya Cigar Co. in New York and on April 13, 1886, Haya opened the first cigar factory in Ybor City. Haya continued to split his time between New York and Ybor City, with productions in both locations. In 1903, Frank Sanchez made the decision to move the remainder of the business from New York to Ybor City.

(Sanchez y Haya Cigar Factory, 1898 photo courtesy of USF Special Collections)

COOKING CORNER



Apple Pie

Fourth of July celebrations are known to consist of barbeques and picnics. Although there are a range of foods that come to mind when thinking of a Fourth of July celebration, it is hard to forget about a good old-fashioned pie with a helping of vanilla ice cream for the hot days of summer. Although pie is not an American creation, apple pie is an American favorite.

Introduced to America during the colonial period, fruit pies were covered with a crust called a "coffyn" or coffin that was discarded. It wasn't until after the Revolutionary War that the word "crust" was used, and Americans began enjoying the entire pie. Enjoy this tasty American tradition... and don't forget the ice cream!

(Photo and recipe from allrecipes.com)

[Get the Recipe](#)

Our Community



Tampa Baseball Museum at the Al Lopez House. "Storytime with Coach Mulry" for children ages kindergarten through 2nd grade. **July 20, 2pm.** [Information and Registration](#), TampaBaseballMuseum.org

Tie the Knot Ybor, Sunday, July 24, 2022, 12pm-5pm. Spend the afternoon exploring six iconic venues in an immersive bridal experience. Your ticket includes light bites and 2 cocktails, free transportation on the Jolley Trolley, a tote bag with goodies, and a chance to win a honeymoon valued at \$5,000! [Register today!](#)

Ybor City Saturday Market. Operating since 2000, it is the largest continually operating outdoor market in the Tampa Bay Area. Centered in Tampa's Historic District, the market is one of the most popular shopping destinations for locally produced items unique to the Tampa Bay Area. Open every Saturday year-round, summer hours are 9 am - 1 pm (May - September). [Learn More](#)

Saturday Yoga in Ybor, every Saturday at 9:30am . Join others in the community for yoga in the Garden of the Ybor City Museum State Park. Classes are donation based and proceeds benefit the Park. [Learn more](#)

Ybor City Museum State Park

A visit to the Ybor City Museum State Park is a terrific way to share Tampa's cultural heritage with friends, family, and out-of-town guests.



You can also inquire about renting the Garden, a beautiful 10,000 sq. ft. outdoor space, by [clicking here](#). This unique venue creates its own ambience for your wedding, corporate meeting, or other special event.

The garden is one of six venues included in [Tie the Knot Ybor](#) on July 24, 2022.

New Hours of Operation : 9 am - 4 pm Wednesday-Sunday

The "Casita" is currently closed for maintenance.

Admission: \$4 per person, free for children 5 years and younger

1818 E. 9th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605, 813.247.6323



Membership

Join or renew your Ybor City Museum Society membership so that you can enjoy benefits and special events. Membership donations support mission -driven projects, including exhibits and educational programming.

[Join or renew today.](#)



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The Ybor City Museum Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization,

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donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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