

MEMBERSHIP

The Athenæum of Philadelphia is one of 16 surviving membership libraries. Some, like the Charleston (SC; 1748), New York Society (1754), and Newport (RI; 1741) libraries, date from the

18th century. The Athenæum of Philadelphia was established in 1814 as a subscription library, at a time when the free public library system did not exist and collections of books, available for reading or research, were still mostly limited to institutions and schools or colleges. Only a small number of individuals could afford to amass a collection of books. From its beginnings the Athenæum of Philadelphia emphasized not only its lending collections, but also programs where the members could meet and discuss historical, literary,



and cultural topics. In 1847 the Athenæum moved into its Renaissance Revival brownstone designed by John Notman.

Members have the use of both the historical and contemporary collections maintained by the Athenæum, and are invited to the full range of our programs, most of which are free or offered at a nominal fee. Furthermore, your membership will support this unique historical organization and help maintain its National Historic Landmark Building. Become a part of Philadelphia's rich 19th century history by joining the Athenæum today.

The Athenæum offers three levels of membership participation:

SHAREHOLDER: The Athenæum offers 1600 shares, a few of which become available each year. The current price of a share is \$500, with annual dues set at \$125. Persons wishing to purchase shares must be proposed by a current member or shareholder. Shareholders have full privileges in the organization **as well as access to Shareholder-only events.** Shareholders may vote at the Annual Meeting and serve on the governing Board.

SUBSCRIBER: Subscribers to the Athenæum pay an annual membership fee of \$200. Subscribers enjoy full use of the Athenæum's lending collection and programs, but may not vote at the Annual Meeting or serve on the Athenæum Board.

ASSOCIATES: Associate membership is reserved for those individuals who are 18 years of age, up to age 35. Annual dues are \$75. Associates may make full use of the Athenæum's lending collection and programs, but may not vote at the Annual Meeting or serve on the Athenæum Board.

Contact our Membership Coordinator for further information.