



A story worth telling

Franklin Square's remarkable transformation from a desolate homeless encampment into a festive playground with a carousel and mini-golf marked its first year yesterday.

The once-forlorn square — one of five great squares set out by William Penn — has been visited by more than 650,000 people since its \$6.5 million renovation last summer.

What makes the park special is the Historic Philadelphia Inc. storytelling under the Once Upon A Nation program. Visitors learn not only the history of the square and that of the surrounding Chinatown neighborhood, but also the city's colorful past as a carousel-making capital.

PATCO officials are pushing ahead with their study of reopening the square's long-dormant subway station on the rail line linking Center City with South Jersey. Recreating that transit link would be further proof that a city park can be about much more than just child's play.



YONG KIM / The Philadelphia Daily News

Franklin Square, a festive playground.

