
In 1969, First Lady Patricia Nixon started the tradition of an annual gingerbread on display at the White House. Created by Assistant Chef Hans Raffert, the first gingerbread was a traditional German style A-frame standing two feet tall and weighing 40 pounds. Years later, White House Chef Roland Mesnier introduced a gingerbread design that depicted the White House itself – a concept that inspired the design of the Official 2022 White House Christmas Ornament.

See high-resolution images of the Official 2022 White House Christmas Ornament

“This year’s Official 2022 White House Christmas Ornament honors a now longstanding holiday tradition at the White House and serves as a testament to First Lady Patricia Nixon’s influence on American holiday traditions,” said Stewart McLaurin, President of the White House Historical Association.
Television host Al Roker unveiled the Official 2022 White House Christmas Ornament on the Today Show this morning. The White House Historical Association and the Richard Nixon Foundation will also host an event to announce the Official 2022 White House Christmas Ornament at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, California today. This in-person program is open to the public and will stream online on YouTube and Facebook at 2PM EST/ 11AM PST.

The White House Historical Association’s focus for 2022 centers on “White House Tastemakers and Trendsetters” – a theme that provides a closer look at the ways in which individuals who lived, visited, or worked in the White House have shaped our American culture.

The Official 2022 White House Christmas Ornament, in the image of a gingerbread house and features the White House North and South Porticos, adorned with candy canes, mints, gumdrops and swirled accents in white to mimic piped icing. A ribbon hangs below the house, reading “The White House” and “Christmas.” The Official White House Christmas Ornament is hand-crafted in the United States from solid brass, screen printed with enamel inks, and packaged in a collectible box with a scented card outlining Patricia Nixon’s gingerbread recipe.

MORE
Since 1981, the White House Historical Association has designed and manufactured the Official White House Christmas Ornament. Each year, the ornament commemorates a president’s time in the White House, in sequential order, or a significant White House anniversary. The Official White House Christmas Ornament is traditionally hung in the White House. Collecting and gifting these ornaments has become a holiday tradition for millions. The White House Historical Association is a private, nonpartisan, non-profit organization that protects, preserves, and provides public access to the People’s House.

The Official White House Christmas Ornament is available at shop.whitehousehistory.org.

Ornament price: $24.95

Learn more about White House holiday traditions and history of White House gingerbread.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY
Stewart McLaurin, President, The White House Historical Association
Stewart can speak about the Official White House Christmas Ornament program and holiday traditions at the White House.
To schedule, contact press@whha.org.

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About The White House Historical Association
First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy envisioned a restored White House that conveyed a sense of history through its decorative and fine arts. In 1961, the White House Historical Association was established to support her vision to preserve and share the Executive Mansion’s legacy for generations to come. Supported entirely by private resources, the Association’s mission is to assist in the preservation of the state and public rooms, fund acquisitions for the White House permanent collection, and educate the public on the history of the White House. Since its founding, the White House Historical Association has contributed more than $50 million in fulfillment of its mission. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit www.whitehousehistory.org.

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