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Get to the Point: Fort Pitt Museum to Host Living History Programs this Summer

-Visitors to Point State Park can see live musket demonstrations each Saturday through Aug.-

PITTSBURGH, June 4, 2014 – The Fort Pitt Museum, part of the Senator John Heinz History Center museum system, will bring history to life at Point State Park with living history programs throughout the summer.

Each Saturday from June 7 through Aug. 30, visitors to the Fort Pitt Museum can see live musket demonstrations by 18th century re-enactors at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Other Fort Pitt Museum summer programs with living history components include:

- **Flag Day at the Fort, June 14:** In honor of Flag Day and the upcoming 200th anniversary of Francis Scott Key's "The Star-Spangled Banner," visitors can join thousands of Americans in singing the national anthem on Sat., June 14, at 4 p.m. The Fort Pitt Museum event, which is part of the Smithsonian's "Anthem for America" initiative, will feature a sing-a-long with colonial re-enactors surrounding the museum's 36-foot American flag. More information on the Smithsonian's national anthem sing-a-long can be found at <http://anthemforamerica.smithsonian.com/>.
- **Artillery at the Forks, June 21-22:** Visitors can learn how artillery affected 18th century warfare at Fort Pitt. As part of the event, a six-person crew will help fire the Fort Pitt Museum's replica 18th century cannon at select times throughout the weekend.
- **Fourth at the Fort, July 4:** Visitors can celebrate the birth of our country at the birthplace of Pittsburgh and help local veterans, Boy and Girl Scouts, and elected officials raise a 13-star, 36-foot American flag as part of a special Fourth of July ceremony. Living history demonstrations will include readings of the Declaration of Independence and musket firings throughout the day. In the evening, the Fort Pitt Museum will fire its replica 18th century cannon to kick off the annual fireworks display at Point State Park.
- **Fort Pitt Blockhouse: 250th Anniversary Celebration, Aug. 9-10:** Visitors will learn how the Fort Pitt Blockhouse, Pittsburgh's oldest existing building, was built 250 years ago. Blacksmith Jymm Hoffman will use a reproduction forge to demonstrate 18th century blacksmithing techniques, while musket demonstrations and cannon firings will be held throughout the day.

All public programs are free with regular museum admission.

Fort Pitt Museum to Showcase Local Artwork during Three Rivers Arts Festival

While attending the Three Rivers Arts Festival during the next two weeks, visitors can stop by the Fort Pitt Museum to explore Pittsburgh's rich history with original artwork by 14 local artists as part of the ***History Inspires*** art exhibition.

Located on the museum's first floor, the exhibit showcases artwork inspired by the region's 18th century history, as well as original pieces which examine the region's politics, landscapes, people, economics, and more.

The museum will host a special reception on Thurs., June 5, from 6-9 p.m. to kick off the **History Inspires** exhibit, which will be on display through July 14. Admission for the reception and the exhibit is free.

The Fort Pitt Museum's featured exhibition, **Unconquered: History Meets Hollywood at Fort Pitt**, explores the story behind the siege of Pittsburgh in 1763 and the star-studded 1947 Cecil B. DeMille movie that focuses on this turning point in American history. On display through Sun., Aug. 3, **Unconquered** features rarely seen original movie props, photographs, and costumes alongside authentic 18th century artifacts and documents.

One of the most affordable family-friendly cultural experiences in the region, admission to the Fort Pitt Museum is just \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens, \$3 for students with a valid ID, and \$3 for children ages 6-17. Children under 5 and History Center members get in free.

For more information on the Fort Pitt Museum's exhibitions and public programs, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org and click on the "Fort Pitt Museum" tab.

The Fort Pitt Museum, built in a recreated bastion of the British fort originally constructed from 1759-1761, focuses on the critical role that Western Pennsylvania played during the French & Indian War, the American Revolution, and the founding of Pittsburgh. The Fort Pitt Museum is located in Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, operates the Fort Pitt Museum in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org.



This summer, the Fort Pitt Museum will bring history to life at Point State Park as part of several living history programs, including select events where a crew of colonial re-enactors will fire the museum's replica 18th century cannon.

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