History Center Set to Open New Museum Conservation Center

-The History Center becomes one of the first museums in the nation to provide professional conservation services directly to the public-

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 17, 2014 – The increasing public demand for information and services on how to care for and preserve family heirlooms and antiques has prompted the Senator John Heinz History Center to open a new building that will become the hub for artifact conservation services in Western Pa.

Beginning this Saturday, Sept. 20, the Museum Conservation Center – located behind the History Center at 1221 Penn Ave. in the Strip District – will provide visitors with expert advice on how to preserve their treasures, including works of art, photographs, wedding dresses, furniture, and much more. The Museum Conservation Center will also connect visitors with conservators should their heirlooms require professional repair.

With the opening of the Museum Conservation Center, the History Center becomes one of the first museums in the nation to provide professional conservation services directly to the public.

A series of regular conservation workshops in the new building are being planned throughout the year in which visitors can learn museum-quality techniques for preserving their cherished heirlooms.

In addition to conservation services, the nine-floor LEED Certified Green Building also houses the History Center’s artifact collection, which includes more than 32,000 artifacts. The new 55,000-square-foot storage space features Smithsonian-quality lighting, temperature, humidity, pest control, and security.

Conservation Center’s First Workshop to Focus on Preserving Family Documents

On opening day this Saturday, Sept. 20, the History Center’s new Museum Conservation Center will host a hands-on workshop focusing on preserving your family’s history and primary documents.

Experts from the History Center’s Detre Library & Archives and Museum Conservation Center will provide tips on how to best preserve birth certificates, passports, family letters, and other materials that help tell your family’s story.

Workshop activities will guide visitors through identification, organization, and storage of paper documents to ensure the best care for materials today and for future generations.

Admission to the workshop is $35 for regular visitors and $30 for History Center members. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, please contact Barb Antel at bjantel@heinzhistorycenter.org or 412-454-6450. An optional Museum Conservation Center Workshop Kit may also be pre-ordered at the time of registration for an additional cost of $30.
For more information on the Museum Conservation Center, visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org or contact Barb Antel, conservation services manager, at bjantel@heinzhistorycenter.org or 412-454-6450.

**The Senator John Heinz History Center**, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is a museum within a museum, comprehensively presenting the region’s remarkable sports story through hundreds of artifacts and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city’s Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center’s museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

The Museum Conservation Center at the Heinz History Center, which opens this Saturday, Sept. 20, will provide visitors with expert advice on how to preserve their antiques and family heirlooms, including works of art, photographs, wedding dresses, furniture, and much more.

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