Since the Vatican Splendors: A Journey through Faith and Art exhibition opened on Oct. 2, the Senator John Heinz History Center has welcomed record crowds to see 2,000 years of art, history, and culture.

Visitors have traveled to Pittsburgh from across the country, including states as far away as Arizona, Texas, and Maine, and thousands of ticket reservations have been made by religious congregations and groups from states such as Florida, Arizona, Michigan, Virginia, New York, and Kentucky.

“The record-setting crowds visiting Vatican Splendors show the importance of this exhibition as a regional destination for groups and individuals,” said Andy Masich, president and CEO of the History Center. “We anticipate robust crowds during the holiday season and are encouraging visitors to purchase their tickets now to see this extraordinary exhibition before it leaves Pittsburgh.”

Because of the increased attendance, the History Center strongly recommends that visitors purchase their tickets in advance. Generally, weekday afternoons are the least crowded time slots.

Vatican Splendors, presented by Federated Investors, Inc. and UPMC, is a 10,000 square-foot exhibition that provides Americans with a rare opportunity to see nearly 200 unique items from the collections of the Vatican.

The History Center is one of only three venues in North America to host the exhibition, which will be on view through Jan. 9.

Included in the exhibition are original works by Michelangelo, Bernini, Giotto, and Guercino, alongside objects discovered at the tombs of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, a reliquary containing the remains of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, and a bronze Cast of the Hand of Pope John Paul II, which visitors are encouraged to touch as they exit the exhibition.
Winter Classic: The Herb Drury Collection

Playing outsides is the true test of the winter athlete, and when the Penguins take to the ice at Heinz Field for the Winter Classic on New Year’s Day, they recall other Pittsburghers who have triumphed in the elements. One such athlete is United States hockey player Herb Drury, a two-time Olympic silver medalist. Born in Midland, Ontario, Canada in 1935, Drury came to Pittsburgh in 1936, playing for the Yellow Jackets at Duquesne Gardens, before serving in World War I. A naturalized citizen, he represented the United States in the 1952 and 1956 Olympic Games, where hockey was added to the existing summer sports. The U.S. lost to Canada in the finals, earning the silver medal. After the Olympics, Drury returned to Pittsburgh and the Yellow Jackets before joining the new NHL team, the Pittsburgh Pirates. The scrappy defenceman was chosen for the Olympic squad again in 1954 and headed for the outdoor rink in Chamonix, France to compete. As the 258 athletes from 16 countries parachuted through the streets of the French town, Drury led the American contingent, carrying the flag for his adopted country. He had an incredible run at the Games, scoring 22 goals and notching three assists, including the only U.S. goal in the medal game against the Canadians. Drury came home to Pittsburgh with his silver medal, returning to the Gardens to play for the Pirates. When the team moved to Philadelphia in 1930, Drury went on, playing his final season in the NHL at age 35, and then retiring to Pittsburgh until his death in 1965.

His silver medal and a scrapbook documenting his professional and Olympic career were left to his nephew, Frederick Paris. The story of a Canadian who made early hockey history in the present day is part of the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum Splendors:

Vatican Splendors: A Journey through Faith and Art

This past fall, distinguished guests Monsignor Roberto Zagnoli, curator of the Vatican Museums in Rome, and the Most Reverend David A. Zubik, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, gathered with exhibition donors and sponsors for a private dinner to celebrate the premiere of Vatican Splendors: A Journey through Faith and Art. Hosted by History Center Board Trustee Nadine Bogner and planned by Ronnie Walker, the exquisite event décor paid tribute to the majesty of the Vatican while enjoying traditional Italian fare while being entertained by soaring musicians. All distinguished guests were invited to take private tours of the Vatican Splendors exhibit, prior to the public opening the following day. Vatican Splendors is generously sponsored by Federated Investors, Inc. and UPMC. Co-chaired by Martin G. McGinnis and Christopher Donahue, the Vatican Splendors Cabinet includes: Nadine E. Bogner; Joseph L. Callahan; Charles J. Dougherty, Ph.D., Duquesne University; Robert P. Kelly, BNY Mellon; Kenneth R. Melani, M.D., Highmark Inc.; Thomas H. O’Brien, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; Jeffrey A. Rosoff, UPMC; David Shapiro, Giant Eagle; The Most Rev. David A. Zubik, D.D. History Center Announces 2011 History Makers Awardees

Robert P. Kelly, Chairman & CEO, BNY Mellon, and Ralph J. Papp, President and CEO of Citizens Bank, chairmen of the 19th Annual History Makers Dinner Award Dinner, are pleased to announce this year’s honorees. The 19th Annual History Makers Award Dinner will take place on Friday, April 8, 2011 at the Westin Convention Center Hotel.

Presented by Citizens Bank and BNY Mellon, the History Makers Award Dinner honors outstanding men and women whose contributions are judged to be of lasting importance to Western Pennsylvania and the world at large. This annual black-tie event provides vital funding for the History Center’s educational programs, exhibitions, and collections.

For information about event sponsorship and ticket purchases, please contact Audrey Brounman at 412-454-6404 or abrounman@heinzhistorycenter.org.

Worshiping with the Pope: A Special Event in the Art of the Vatican

The Vatican Splendors exhibit was held in the fifth floor Mueller Education Center, where guests enjoyed traditional Italian fare while being entertained by soaring musicians. The following day, all distinguished guests were invited to take private tours of the Vatican Splendors exhibit, prior to the public opening the following day. Vatican Splendors is generously sponsored by Federated Investors, Inc. and UPMC. Co-chaired by Martin G. McGinnis and Christopher Donahue, the Vatican Splendor Cabinet includes: Nadine E. Bogner; Joseph L. Callahan; Charles J. Dougherty, Ph.D., Duquesne University; Robert P. Kelly, BNY Mellon; Kenneth R. Melani, M.D., Highmark Inc.; Thomas H. O’Brien, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; Jeffrey A. Rosoff, UPMC; David Shapiro, Giant Eagle; The Most Rev. David A. Zubik, D.D. History Center Announces 2011 History Makers Awardees

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Andrew E. Masich, Bishop David A. Zubik, and Monsignor Roberto Zagnoli

Andy Masich, Nadine Bogner (seated), and Kristine Scarfe

The Monorchids Choir of Pittsburgh provided a fitting introduction to the exhibition opening.

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In addition to the headlines, America’s Best Weekly highlights the personalities who brought The Courier to life, including founder Edward Nathaniel Hazleton, Robert L. Vann, and the hundreds of reporters, editors, and photographers that made The Courier so recognizable.

Exhibition sponsors include The Pittsburgh Foundation, the Falk Foundation, and the University of Pittsburgh. For more information about America’s Best Weekly: A Century of The Pittsburgh Courier, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

New Exhibition Presents an Electrifying Look at Ben Franklin’s Life

Set to open April 14, 2011, the History Center’s upcoming exhibition, Ben Franklin: In Search of a Better World, explores the personal side of the legendary statesman – from his upbringing in 18th-century Boston, to his vast political career in Philadelphia, and his extraordinary legacy in the United States and throughout the world.

This award-winning exhibition, developed by the Minnesota History Center, includes one-of-a-kind artifacts and more than 25 hands-on interactive stations, allowing visitors to gain a personal understanding of Ben Franklin’s enduring desire to understand and improve the world around him.

Ben Franklin: In Search of a Better World features artifacts related to Franklin’s inventions including bifocals, the Franklin stove, the armonica (glass harmonica), and microscope – and his diverse interests related to publishing, firefighting, postal service, libraries and education, abolition of slavery, and government.

Also on display will be artifacts and documents from the Revolutionary War period, including an original copy of the United States Constitution with notations from Founding Father John Dickinson.

For more information about Ben Franklin: In Search of a Better World, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

History Center Celebrates 100 Years of The Pittsburgh Courier

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of one of the nation’s most prestigious newspapers, the History Center will open a new exhibition, America’s Best Weekly: A Century of The Pittsburgh Courier.

Beginning Feb. 11, America’s Best Weekly chronicles The Courier’s century-long run as the leading African American weekly newspaper in the country. From its establishment in 1910, The Pittsburgh Courier has covered news pertaining to African Americans nationwide. From the “Double V” campaign of World War II and the Civil Rights Movement, to the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles and President Barack Obama’s historic election, The Courier’s timely news coverage has made it the most influential publication of its kind.

In addition to the headlines, America’s Best Weekly highlights the personalities who brought The Courier to life, including founder Edward Nathaniel Hazleton, Robert L. Vann, and the hundreds of reporters, editors, and photographers that made The Courier so recognizable.

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Fort Pitt Museum Kicks off 15th Annual Junior Great Race with a Bang

This fall, staff and volunteers from the Fort Pitt Museum helped kick off the 15th annual Junior Great Race with a bang. Check out more photos of this event and other Fort Pitt Museum happenings on the History Center’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SenatorJohnHeinzHistoryCenter.

Hidden Treasures.

Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures Air Dates Announced

“Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures, An Antiques Appraisal Show” highlights collectibles, heirlooms, and other prized possessions nearly 2,000 members and visitors brought to the History Center for appraisals this fall.

Visitors met with more than 40 professional appraisers for a verbal assessment of potential monetary value of their prized paintings, antique toys, sports memorabilia, and much more. Expert Smithsonian conservator Don Williams was on hand to provide visitors with tips on the care and upkeep of their treasures.

KDKA-TV camera crews roamed the History Center in search of the most unique items to be included in the highly successful nine-part television series, hosted by History Center president and CEO Andy McGich and KDKA-TV news anchor Ken Ritz.

Make sure to tune in to upcoming episodes of “Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures” on KDKA-TV.

Mon., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Mon., March 14, 7:30 p.m.

What’s On Tap

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Visit Vatican Splendors Without Leaving Home

Experience Vatican Splendors: A Journey through Faith and Art like never before.

The History Center recently launched a 360-degree virtual tour of the new exhibition, allowing visitors to explore 2,000 years of art, history, and culture from the comfort of their own computer screen.

Visitors can control their virtual experience by moving the camera up-and-down and side-to-side, as well as zoom in and zoom out. Artifact hot spots throughout the tour will reveal unique content, including additional images and information that will expand visitors’ in-museum experience.

Virtual tours of Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation and the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum will premiere later this winter.

To begin your virtual experience of Vatican Splendors, visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org -> Exhibits & Collections -> Virtual Tours.

Stay Connected With History Center Happenings

Interested in learning more about upcoming History Center exhibits and events? Then join the museum’s E-newsletter mailing list.

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To join the History Center’s E-newsletter mailing list, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org -> Our Organization -> E-newsletter.

Honor Your Family’s Legacy at the History Center

Recently, family and friends gathered to celebrate the 80th birthday of Joseph Stefan Weilsnich, Jr.

To mark the special occasion, the family decided to create a time capsule in Joe’s name at the History Center.

The time capsule, to be opened by family members on Aug. 8, 2011, includes a patch of the Serbian flag, a statue of St. George (the patron saint of the Weilsnich family), Joe’s birth and baptismal certificate, photos of family and friends, newspaper articles, and a video of Joe’s life.

During a special ceremony, Joe and his family helped place and seal the capsule into the wall at the History Center, where it will wait for future generations of Weilsnich family members to discover and learn more about their family history.

To honor your family’s memory, or for other exciting commemorative opportunities available at the History Center, please contact Erin Engel at 412-454-6321 or erengel@heinzhistorycenter.org.

Four Major Photograph Collections Go Digital

The collections include the Otto Suburban Dairy; Jostik Sports Hall of Fame of Western Pennsylvania; the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad Company; and the Hebrew Institute.

To view these unique collections, please visit http://digital.library.pitt.edu/images/pittsburgh/.

For more information on the Historic Pittsburgh collection, please contact Matt Strauss at 412-454-6362 or mstrauss@heinzhistorycenter.org.
Second Annual Ability Pittsburgh Program Educates Students with Disabilities

More than 500 students with disabilities and their chaperones visited the History Center this fall for the second annual "Ability Pittsburgh" event. The program, designed to prepare students for career and learning opportunities after high school, included more than 30 national and local corporations, schools, and youth support organizations that met with students and discussed future employment options available to them.

"Ability Pittsburgh" also offered information related to health & fitness, self-advocacy, and technologies available to assist in everyday living.

For more information about the Center's education outreach efforts, please contact Terry Blanchette at 412-454-6411 or tblanchette@heinzhistorycenter.org.

History Center Welcomes New Café

The History Center is pleased to announce the opening of its brand new café, operated by MixStix.

Located on the History Center's first floor, MixStix offers a variety of sandwiches, salads, soups, and beverages, and is open to the public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.

Come down to MixStix this holiday season to enjoy a hot coffee, cool smoothie, or delicious wrap.

History Center Enriches Pittsburgh's Ninth Grade Students

For the fourth consecutive year, the History Center will partner with the Pittsburgh Public School District's "9th Grade Nation" program. Throughout the month of December, a total of 3,500 Pittsburgh Public School freshmen will visit the History Center and participate in a tour designed by "9th Grade Nation" civic teachers, Social Studies curriculum writers, and the History Center's education staff.

Following the tour, students will produce labels for selected artifacts at the History Center that will be used to create a youth guide about individuals and institutions that have affected change in Western Pennsylvania.

For more information about the History Center's education outreach programs, please contact Terri Blanchette at 412-454-6411 or tblanchette@heinzhistorycenter.org.

Extended Hours Provide Additional Access

To accommodate its record-setting crowds, the History Center will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. seven days a week through Jan. 9. Extended evening hours will also be in place during the final weeks of the exhibition and surrounding the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

"The History Center's extended hours provide even more opportunities for visitors throughout the region to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition," said Masch. "In conjunction with our special matinee discounts and holiday hours, more visitors than ever will have the chance to experience 2,000 years of art, history, and culture."

Weekly Walk-Up Offers Reduced Matinee Admission

Visitors interested in seeing Vatican Splendors can also enjoy special discounted afternoon admission. Every Monday through Friday after 1:00 p.m., admission prices are just $14 for adults and seniors and $11 for children (ages 6-12). Children age 5 and under are free. These prices represent a savings on the regular $20 adult, $17 seniors, and $13 children (ages 6-12) admission prices. The "Weekly Walk-Up" discount is available at the History Center box office only. No other discounts apply.

Vatican Splendors, the center's current exhibition, is produced by Evergreen Exhibitions in association with the Vatican Museum, James M. Cornelius, PhD-Curator of the Vatican City State. The exhibition is organized and circulated in conjunction with the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith of the Vatican City State.

Visitors can touch a bronze cast of Pope John Paul II's hand in the closing gallery of Vatican Splendors. Additional objects for display in the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum include Pope John and Clare Larkin's boat, the Bat, the Buffaloes, the Pittsburgh Pirates vinyl sign, the Alhambra Catholic Invitational Tournament 1st place insignia belonging to William K. Frank, and the Pittsburgh Baseball Club home jersey worn by donor for Wayne Dadig.

Visitors have traveled to the History Center from across the country for their chance to see Vatican Splendors.

Vatican Splendors

The Pittock Cultural Trust helped to celebrate the opening of Vatican Splendors by including exhibit images on the David L. Lawrence Convention Center as part of this year's Festival of Lights.

Large crowds, including many school groups, have lined up to see this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition.

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The Newsletter of the Senator John Heinz History Center Winter 2010-11 makingHISTORY

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