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History Center to Host Smithsonian Jazz Event
-History Center's jazz video project to be displayed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in 2015-

PITTSBURGH, October 23, 2014 – The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, will celebrate the legacy of jazz music in Pittsburgh at **Places of Invention: Pittsburgh Jazz, 1920-1970**, a special public event on **Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The event, presented as part of the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation *Places of Invention* Affiliates Project, will feature special guest speakers, short films, and live jazz music provided by the Afro-American Music Institute in the History Center's fifth floor Mueller Center.

Speakers will include local historian Dan Holland, who will discuss "The Legacy of the Hill District," Renée Govanucci from the award-winning MCG Jazz, the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild jazz program, and the Pittsburgh Jazz Network's Dr. Nelson Harrison.

At 12:30 p.m., educators from the City Music Center will help visitors experiment with jazz music using tablets as part of a Music Innovation Lab in the History Center's ***Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation*** exhibition. The long-term exhibit features a re-creation of the Crawford Grill, the Hill District's legendary club which served as a hub of jazz music for over three decades, along with artifacts from Pittsburgh jazz legends, including Mary Lou Williams' piano and George Benson's electric guitar.

As part of the event, visitors will also be able to interact with historic re-enactors portraying Pittsburgh innovators, including George Westinghouse and H.J. Heinz.

The **Places of Invention: Pittsburgh Jazz Innovation, 1920-1970** event is included with regular museum admission: \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors (age 62+), \$6 for students and children (age 6-17), and free for children (age 5 and under) and History Center members.

For more information about the event, please contact History Center Lead Educator Kate Lukaszewicz at kalukaszewicz@heinzhistorycenter.org or 412-454-6314.

History Center Jazz Videos to be Displayed at National Museum of American History

As part of the **Places of Invention: Pittsburgh Jazz Innovation, 1920-1970** event, the History Center will unveil two video projects which will be on display in a groundbreaking collaborative exhibition, ***Places of Invention***, set to open at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in the Lemelson Hall of Invention in 2015.

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Through the *Places of Invention* Affiliates Project, the History Center was one of just 12 Smithsonian Affiliate project teams to receive a \$10,000 grant to research and document innovation in their communities, thanks to a generous grant from the National Science Foundation.

With guidance from the Lemelson Center, the History Center used oral histories, collections research, and archival information to create videos highlighting the region's rich jazz history.

The History Center videos specifically focus on the works of several legendary Pittsburgh jazz musicians, including Billy Strayhorn, Errol Garner, Earl "Fatha" Hines, Mary Lou Williams, Stanley Turrentine, George Benson, and Billy Eckstine. The videos also highlight the resources which allowed jazz to take root and blossom in the city, such as a lively club scene, local musicians' unions, and opportunities to learn the craft in Pittsburgh Public Schools or community music schools.

These short videos will become an integral part of the *Places of Invention* interactive map, accessible in-person at the National Museum of American History and online anywhere in the world.

For more information on the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center, visit <http://invention.smithsonian.org>.

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 History Center's **Places of Invention: Pittsburgh Jazz, 1920-1970**, event on **Saturday, Nov. 1**, will examine the legacy of Pittsburgh jazz greats such as George Benson, Billy Strayhorn, and Mary Lou Williams (pictured above).

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