Pittsburgh’s Most Famous Neighborhood Has a New Home
-History Center unveils largest public display of original items from the “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” television set-

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 22, 2015 – The Senator John Heinz History Center today unveiled a new long-term display honoring one of the most iconic children’s television programs of all time.

Exhibited inside the History Center’s fourth floor Special Collections Gallery, visitors will see the largest collection of original items from the “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” television set on public view.

“These objects are important touchstones to the past and important reminders of childhood and a kinder and gentler world,” said Andy Masich, president and CEO of the History Center. “Mister Rogers touched the lives of millions of children and their parents. These iconic sets and artifacts are sure to bring back memories.”

Featuring select artifacts from the popular children’s show, the new display marks the first time these items are on long-term view. Highlights from the “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” installation include:

- The entryway and living room set that Mister Rogers walked through to begin each show;
- King Friday XIII’s Castle;
- Great Oak Tree, the residence of Henrietta Pussycat and X The Owl;
- Picture Picture, the display that helped Mister Rogers teach children using interactive media;
- Mr. McFeely’s “Speedy Delivery” tricycle; and
- A variety of additional items from the “Neighborhood of Make-Believe,” including King Friday XIII’s telephone, Henrietta Pussycat’s outfit, Chef Brockett’s hat, Harriett Elizabeth Cow’s desk, and the bench that Mister Rogers sat on during each show.

Also on view is a life-like figure of Mister Rogers, wearing his iconic sweater, necktie, khakis, and sneakers.

Recognized as one of the most popular children’s shows in television history, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” originated in 1963 as “Misterogers” on CBC Television in Canada and eventually made its U.S. network debut in 1968 on NET, which later became PBS. The show, geared primarily to 2- to-5-year-olds, was produced in Pittsburgh until the 2000/2001 season and taught generations of children important life lessons along with the values of kindness and compassion.

The new “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” collection is included with regular History Center 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, please visit the History Center’s new website at www.heinzhistorycenter.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 today unveiled a new long-term display honoring one of the most iconic children’s television programs of all time. Exhibited inside the History Center’s fourth floor Special Collections Gallery, visitors will see the largest collection of original items from the “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” television set on public view.
Featuring select artifacts from “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” including the entryway and living room set that Mister Rogers walked through to begin each show, the new display marks the first time these items are on long-term view.

The new “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” display at the History Center features a variety of items from the “Neighborhood of Make-Believe,” including King Friday XIII’s Castle and telephone, Henrietta Pussycat’s outfit, Chef Brockett’s hat, Harriett Elizabeth Cow’s desk, and much more.

#  #  #