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History Center's *Visible Storage* Takes Visitors Behind the Scenes
-Visible Storage showcases more than 1,200 artifacts, including many which have never been on display, from its vast collection-

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 12, 2016 – The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, will provide visitors with a behind-the-scenes look at its collection with the opening of **Visible Storage**, located in the Sigo Falk Collections Center on the museum's fourth floor.

The long-term space showcases an unprecedented snapshot of how the museum preserves Western Pennsylvania history for current and future generations, revealing more than 1,200 artifacts from the History Center's vast collection of more than a million objects.

Artifacts ranging from George and Marguerite Westinghouse's Tiffany china to John Cigna's legendary Harley-Davidson motorcycle provide a sense of the huge variety found in the History Center's collection.

Objects in **Visible Storage** are organized by type, including household appliances, silver, toys, glass, armaments, paintings, and much more.

Highlights include:

- A Westinghouse electric car from the 1960s, a 1939 Bantam Speedster, and a bumper car from White Swan Park;
- More than a dozen Western Pennsylvania long rifles, along with Civil War swords, World War II pistols, and a Thompson machine gun used by the Pittsburgh Police;
- A variety of vintage fashion items, including Civil War-era bonnets, ornate women's footwear, and a 1920s flapper hat;
- A special collection of a dozen Westinghouse appliances, including irons, washing machines, a refrigerator, and a stove;
- Toys ranging from items from the Wolverine Toy Co. to Arnold Palmer's teddy bear;
- Presidential china and glass used by the Reagan, Clinton, and Bush administrations that was created by the Lenox Company; and
- Paintings by noted regional artists, including A. H. Gorson, John Kane, Russell Smith, and Burton Morris.

In addition to the artifacts on display, visitors to **Visible Storage** will see museum professionals in action, as they process new artifacts and prepare them for exhibit in the photography studio and mount-making workshop.

Visible Storage, which is part of the recently opened LEED Gold certified Museum Conservation Center, is accessed via a sky bridge across Mulberry Way from the **Special Collections Gallery**.

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All exhibitions are included with History Center admission: \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors (age 62+), \$6.50 for students and children (age 6-17), and free for children (age 5 and under) and History Center members.

Support for **Visible Storage** was provided by **The Falk Foundation** and the **Hillman Foundation**. For additional information, photos, and much more, please visit 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 will provide visitors with a behind-the-scenes look at its collection as part of **Visible Storage**, located in the Sigo Falk Collections Center on the museum's fourth floor.



The History Center's **Visible Storage** showcases an unprecedented snapshot of how the museum preserves Western Pennsylvania history for current and future generations, presenting more than 1,200 artifacts from the History Center's vast collection of more than 50,000 objects.

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