



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

HISTORY CENTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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**History Center Partners with Google Arts & Culture to Launch
New Virtual Exhibit for Presidents Day Weekend**
*-The Smithsonian-affiliated museum becomes just the second cultural institution in
Western Pennsylvania to curate virtual exhibits on Google-*

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 16, 2017 – Beginning today, dozens of presidential artifacts from the collections of the Senator John Heinz History Center can be viewed online by people around the world as part of a new partnership between Google and “the Smithsonian’s home in Pittsburgh.”

Presidents in Office, the History Center’s new virtual exhibition recently curated on the **Google Arts & Culture** platform, features images of objects and archival materials from the museum’s collection that explore more than 150 years of presidential history with a Western Pa. connection.

The History Center becomes just the second cultural institution in Western Pa. (along with The Frick Pittsburgh) to curate a virtual exhibit on the Google Arts & Culture platform.

Highlights of the museum’s ***Presidents in Office*** online exhibit include:

- A tassel said to have been cut from President Abraham Lincoln's catafalque, the framework that supported his coffin during his 1865 funeral;
- Artifacts from presidential inaugurations, including a ticket from the 1937 inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lenox China Co. inauguration gifts to Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton; and
- An 1834 letter from President Andrew Jackson to Judge William Wilkins, a prominent politician from Pittsburgh, asking if Wilkins would be interested in serving as Minister to Russia (Wilkins accepted and served in that role from 1834-35).

The virtual exhibit is part of Google Arts & Culture’s Presidents Day collection (g.co/american democracy) celebrating the history of the U.S. presidency from George Washington to the present day. Virtual visitors can explore a president's journey to the Oval Office — from exciting political campaigns to Inauguration Day – along with the moments that defined their presidency.

Visitors can see all History Center collection items posted on Google Arts & Culture at: <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/partner/senator-john-heinz-history-center>

For more information on History Center exhibits, events, and collections, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

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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.

[Google Arts & Culture](#) is a new, immersive way to experience art, history, culture, and world wonders from over a thousand organizations worldwide. Google Arts & Culture has been created by the Google Cultural Institute and it is available for free for everyone on [the web](#), on [iOS](#), and [Android](#). Read more [here](#).

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