



Media Contacts:

Brady Smith  
412-454-6459

[bmsmith@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:bmsmith@heinzhistorycenter.org)

Kim Roberts  
412-454-6382

[kmroberts@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:kmroberts@heinzhistorycenter.org)

## **History Center Honors Black History Month with Events and Exhibits**

***-Special events begin with the museum's fourth annual Black History Month Lecture on Feb. 2-***

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 29, 2018 – The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, interprets and preserves African American heritage year-round through a variety of exhibitions and events curated by the museum's African American Program.

In recognition of Black History Month, the History Center will host several special events throughout February, including:

### **Black History Month Lecture: Bound in Wedlock**

**Friday, Feb. 2**

6 – 8 p.m.

The African American Program's fourth annual Black History Month Lecture will feature Dr. Tera W. Hunter, professor in the History Department and the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University. Dr. Hunter will speak on her new book, "Bound in Wedlock: Slave and Free Black Marriage in the Nineteenth Century" – the first comprehensive history of marriage among African Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Admission to this event is free, but does not include access to museum exhibitions. Pre-registration is required at [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events).

### **Smithsonian Film Screening of "The Lost Tapes: Malcolm X"**

**Wednesday, Feb. 7**

6 – 8:30 p.m.

The Smithsonian-affiliated History Center will partner with the Smithsonian Channel and Comcast to host an exclusive screening of a new documentary, "The Lost Tapes: Malcolm X," which captures the rise and fall of Malcolm X, told through newscasts, speeches, and rarely seen archival footage. The event will feature a special preview screening of the documentary followed by a Q&A panel. Admission to this event is FREE, but pre-registration is required at [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events).

### **From Slavery to Freedom Film Series: "Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders"**

**Wednesday, Feb. 28**

5:30 – 8 p.m.

Frick Environmental Center

The *From Slavery to Freedom* Film Series examines themes from the History Center's award-winning exhibition with film screenings held at the Frick Environmental Center at 2005 Beechwood Blvd. in Pittsburgh. These events are free and open to the public; no pre-registration is required.

The 2018 film series kicks off during Black History Month with “Standing on My Sisters’ Shoulders,” which highlights firsthand stories of the Mississippi women who risked their lives and became heroines in the fight for Civil Rights. The film weaves a story of commitment, passion, and perseverance and tells the story of the women who fought for change in Mississippi and altered the course of American history forever. Visitors can also see the new ***From Slavery to Freedom Garden*** at the Frick Environmental Center, which showcases plants used for food and medicinal purposes by freedom seekers during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Upcoming ***From Slavery to Freedom*** Film Series screenings at the Frick Environmental Center will include:

- Wednesday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m. – “Until the Well Runs Dry”
- Wednesday, Aug. 22 at 5:30 p.m. – “The Assassination of Martin Luther King”
- Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 5:30 p.m. – “How They Got Over”

### **Long-Term Exhibits Highlight African American Heritage in Western Pa.**

In addition to Black History Month events, African American history is on display daily within the History Center’s six floors of exhibition space:

- The History Center’s award-winning ***From Slavery to Freedom*** exhibition explores more than 250 years of African American history. Presented by **BNY Mellon**, this long-term exhibit highlights the enslavement of Africans and its impact on the American economy, the history of the anti-slavery movement, the Underground Railroad, and the impact of 19<sup>th</sup> century activism on the modern quest for civil and human rights in Pittsburgh.
- The long-term exhibition, ***Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation***, highlights local African American history, including a recreated Crawford Grill with artifacts from Pittsburgh jazz legends such as Mary Lou Williams, Stanley Turrentine, and George Benson; and a WWII display highlighting the Pittsburgh Courier’s Double V Campaign and local Tuskegee Airmen.
- The **Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum** showcases Pittsburgh’s unmatched Negro League Baseball legacy with artifacts including Satchel Paige’s glove and a rare Homestead Grays uniform. Visitors can also see artifacts from local basketball star Chuck Cooper, the first African American player drafted in the NBA.
- The ***Special Collections Gallery*** features a collection of artifacts from local African Americans including legendary photographer Charles “Teenie” Harris’ camera, a 20-foot long 1941 Cadillac funeral hearse from the historic Gaines Funeral Home, and original garments created by West African immigrant Dosina Blemahdoo.

**MEDIA NOTE:** Samuel W Black, the History Center’s Director of African American Programs, is available for interviews to discuss these exhibits, events, and the importance of preserving African American history in Western Pa.


**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](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).





**THE LOST TAPES**  
**MALCOLM X**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
6:00 PM Doors Open & Reception  
6:45 PM Screening & Panel Discussion

**SENATOR JOHN HEINZ HISTORY CENTER**

Smithsonian CHANNEL 

COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL 

SENATOR JOHN HEINZ HISTORY CENTER IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION 

In honor of Black History Month, the Heinz History Center will partner with Smithsonian Channel and Comcast to host an exclusive screening of the new documentary, “The Lost Tapes: Malcolm X,” on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m.



The History Center’s long-term ***From Slavery to Freedom*** exhibition chronicles the anti-slavery movement, the Underground Railroad, and the impact of 19th century activism on the modern quest for civil and human rights in Western Pa.