



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

# HISTORY CENTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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## **History Center to Display Fred Rogers' Sweater and Shoes from "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood"**

***-New Mister Rogers artifacts will also be added to the museum's third floor Discovery Place exhibit and posted as part of a Google Arts & Culture virtual exhibit online-***

PITTSBURGH, March 19, 2018 – The Senator John Heinz History Center, the “Smithsonian’s home in Pittsburgh,” will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” by displaying Fred Rogers’ iconic sweater and shoes from the show beginning Tuesday, March 20 – which marks Rogers’ 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The cardigan sweater and Sperry shoes were a staple of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” which aired nearly 900 episodes nationally from Feb. 19, 1968 through Aug. 31, 2001. At the beginning of every show, Rogers – while singing his signature “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” song – would go to his closet, grab his sweater and comfortable sneakers, and put them on. At the end of the show, the whole ritual was reversed. Most of Rogers’ sweaters were hand-knit by his mother.

The artifacts (his green cardigan sweater and blue shoes worn during the 1980s), will be installed in the History Center’s fourth floor “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” display, which is the world’s largest collection of original items from the show.

Also featured in the display are:

- 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;
- 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; and
- A life-like figure of Mister Rogers, wearing his iconic sweater, necktie, khakis, and sneakers.

### **More “Mister Rogers” Artifacts and Video Added to Discovery Place Exhibit**

The History Center has also installed new “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” artifacts and interactive features in **Discovery Place**, a learning space that provides young visitors with the opportunity to explore Pittsburgh innovations and the invention process in a fun setting where creativity, science, and history merge.

Daniel Tiger’s clock (believed to be one of two clocks used) from the show is featured in the **Discovery Place’s** “Faces of Innovation” section, which explores the characteristics that innovators share.

Three new media clips have also been added to the third-floor exhibit, including portions of episodes from “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” and “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood” that highlight the themes of courage and bravery; along with Fred Rogers’ 1968 testimony to Congress, exemplifying his personal courage in standing up for his ideas.

**Google Arts & Culture – “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” virtual exhibition**

The History Center is one of just two cultural institutions in Pittsburgh to curate virtual exhibitions on Google Arts & Culture – an immersive new way to experience art, history, culture, and world wonders from over a thousand organizations worldwide. The History Center’s next Google Arts & Culture virtual exhibition will focus on “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” and feature artifacts from the collection. The virtual exhibit will be posted this month, so stay tuned to the History Center’s Facebook page and [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org) for more details.

**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).





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