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Fort Pitt Museum and Meadowcroft Win Statewide Achievement Awards
-The two Heinz History Center museum system sites are proud recipients of 2018 Institutional Achievement Awards from PA Museums-

PITTSBURGH, April 17, 2018 – Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village and the Fort Pitt Museum, both part of the Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center museum system, are proud recipients of 2018 Institutional Achievement Awards from PA Museums.

Meadowcroft Honored for Innovative GigaPan Technology and Curriculum

Meadowcroft's Institutional Achievement Award recognizes the museum's newest educational curriculum, First Peoples: Archaeology at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter. The First Peoples curriculum uses interactive GigaPan images to guide students around the world through an archaeological exploration of the Meadowcroft Rockshelter, a massive rock overhang used for shelter more than 16,000 years ago and the oldest site of human habitation in North America.

Developed by Carnegie Mellon University and NASA, GigaPan imaging technology creates large, high-resolution panoramas made up of billions of pixels that enable viewers to explore the image's subject in crisp, vivid detail.

Meadowcroft's First Peoples curriculum with GigaPan technology was made possible through the generous support of the **Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation**, and through a partnership with **Carnegie Mellon University's CREATE Lab and Learning Media Design Center**.

To view the GigaPan images, visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft-gigapan.

Fort Pitt Museum Recognized for Powder Horn Exhibit

The Fort Pitt Museum's Institutional Achievement Award recognizes its newest exhibition, ***From Maps to Mermaids: Carved Powder Horns in Early America***.

The exhibit reveals the stories behind powder horns, delicately carved cow horns used by soldiers, settlers, and American Indians to store the gunpowder necessary for their survival. Surviving in large numbers, carved powder horns represent early American folk art in its purest form and serve to illuminate the past.

More than 60 authentic artifacts spanning from the 17th century to the 19th century work together to tell the stories of the colonial frontier.

From Maps to Mermaids: Carved Powder Horns in Early America will be on display at the Fort Pitt Museum until October 2018.

The ***From Maps to Mermaids: Carved Powder Horns in Early America*** exhibit was made possible through the generous support of **Laurel Foundation**, the Heinz History Center's **Chairman's Circle**, and the **Allegheny Regional Asset District**.

Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village operates in association with the Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian and Pennsylvania's largest history museum. Meadowcroft, a National Historic Landmark, is the oldest site of human habitation in North America and features a massive rock overhang used by the region's earliest inhabitants for shelter more than 16,000 years ago. The 16th century Monongahela Indian Village includes wigwams, recreated prehistoric artifacts, and hands-on activities related to agriculture. Two 18th century structures help to spotlight the similarities and differences between the everyday lives of European settlers and American Indians in the Upper Ohio Valley. Meadowcroft's 19th century village features a covered bridge, one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, and church that create a charming country village setting. Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village is located in Avella, Pa., Washington County, within an hour's drive of Pittsburgh. For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft.

The **Fort Pitt Museum**, built in a recreated bastion of the British fort originally constructed in 1759, focuses on the critical role that Western Pennsylvania played during the French & Indian War, the American Revolution, and the founding of Pittsburgh. The Fort Pitt Museum is located in Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh. The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, operates the Fort Pitt Museum in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/fort-pitt.



Award-winning curriculum by Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village uses GigaPan imaging technology so students around the world can study the Rockshelter, a National Historic Landmark and the oldest site of human habitation in North America.



The Fort Pitt Museum's award-winning ***From Maps to Mermaids: Carved Powder Horns in Early America*** exhibition showcases powder horns (used to carry gun powder) made or used by soldiers on the colonial frontier and explores their practical uses and representation of early American folk art.

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