



American Spirits THE RISE AND FALL OF PROHIBITION

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Last Call! History Center's American Spirits Exhibit Closes June 10 *-Visitors can enjoy a '20s-themed 21+ night, hear from the Smithsonian's beer curator, and sample local brews in the museum's final American Spirits public programs-*

PITTSBURGH, May 29, 2018 – It's almost closing time for the Senator John Heinz History Center's traveling exhibition, ***American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition***, which explores an exhilarating era of bootleggers, flappers, gangsters, speakeasies, and suffragists. Now in its final days at the "Smithsonian's home in Pittsburgh," the exhibit comes to a roaring finish on Sunday, June 10.

Created by the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, the 9,000-square-foot ***American Spirits*** exhibit brings the story of Prohibition vividly to life – from the dawn of the temperance movement, through the Roaring '20s, and up to the unprecedented repeal of a constitutional amendment.

This dynamic exhibit brings the Roaring '20s to life with more than 180 rare artifacts, including Pittsburgh's first "Tommy Gun," flapper dresses, temperance propaganda, flasks used for bootleg liquor during Prohibition, and a hatchet famously flaunted by temperance advocate Carry Nation.

Visitors can learn to dance the Charleston (a popular Prohibition-era dance craze), track down rumrunners in a custom-built video game, and pose for a mugshot beside a lineup of some of the era's most notorious gangsters like Al Capone and Meyer Lansky.

Boozy Public Programs Round Out American Spirits Run

21+ Speakeasy Social

Thursday, May 31

5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

\$12 per person

Bootleggers, flappers, and rumrunners unite for 21+ Speakeasy Socials this spring at the History Center! Guests can build their own specialty cocktail with the pros at Wigle Whiskey, sleuth out the answers to boozy trivia questions in a replica speakeasy, and even learn a dance or two while exploring the ***American Spirits*** exhibit.

History on Tap

Sunday, June 3

2 – 4 p.m.

\$20 per person (\$16 for History Center members)

Beer enthusiasts can learn the history behind the hops as part of a special event featuring Dr. Theresa McCulla – the Smithsonian’s first-ever historian of craft brewing and beer. Dr. McCulla will discuss her museum’s brewing history program and unpack how Prohibition influenced the alcohol industry, both in Western Pa. and throughout the nation. Mark Brewer, author/illustrator of “Brewology: An Illustrated Dictionary for Beer Lovers,” will join Dr. McCulla to discuss Pittsburgh’s expanding brewing scene. Following the frothy presentation, guests can sample craft beers by several local brewers, including Brew Gentlemen, Penn Brewery, and Spoonwood Brewing Co.

Last Call Saturday

Saturday, June 9

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Included with museum admission

It’s the last call for ***American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition!*** Visitors are invited to raise a glass to the exhibit’s final Saturday with tastings from local brewers, distillers, and winemakers in the Great Hall. Docent-led tours of the exhibit will be offered at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and discounted Prohibition-style swag from the Museum Shop will be for sale.

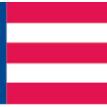
The ***American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*** exhibition is presented by **The Bognar Family** and sponsored by **Robert J. & Bonnie Cindrach** and **Latasha Wilson Batch**; with support from the **Allegheny Regional Asset District**, **The Heinz Endowments**, and **Richard King Mellon Foundation**.

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 ***American Spirits*** exhibition is part of the History Center’s **America 101** initiative, which engages and inspires the public to learn American history through public programs, educational outreach, and special exhibitions.

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition is created by the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pa. (www.constitutioncenter.org). The exhibit is made possible in part by a major grant from the **National Endowment of the Humanities** (NEH): Exploring the human endeavor.



Closing June 10, the Heinz History Center's ***American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*** exhibition brings the story of Prohibition vividly to life – from the dawn of the temperance movement, through the Roaring '20s, and up to the unprecedented repeal of a constitutional amendment. In this photo, Prohibition agents pour confiscated liquor into a sewer in New York City following a raid, about 1921 (courtesy of the Library of Congress).



Visitors to the ***American Spirits*** exhibit can pose for a mugshot beside Al Capone and Meyer Lansky in a lineup of some of the era's most notorious gangsters. The exhibit's final day at the History Center is Sunday, June 10.

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