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One Giant Leap for Pittsburgh: Smithsonian's *Destination Moon* Exhibit Set to Launch at the History Center

- The Smithsonian-affiliated History Center is one of just four museums in the nation to host the Smithsonian's blockbuster exhibition on the Apollo 11 mission -

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 27, 2018 – To commemorate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the historic Apollo 11 Moon landing mission, the Senator John Heinz History Center is partnering with the Smithsonian Institution to launch the region's most anticipated cultural attraction of 2018.

The Smithsonian-affiliated History Center is one of just four museums in the nation – and the only one east of the Mississippi River – to host ***Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission***, an epic exhibition that blasts off in Pittsburgh this Saturday, Sept. 29.

Developed by the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), ***Destination Moon*** takes visitors on an in-depth exploration of the Apollo 11 mission, when astronaut Neil Armstrong took “one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind” before a worldwide television audience, becoming the first human to walk on the Moon.

The exhibit marks a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see a national treasure in Pittsburgh – the **Command Module *Columbia***. *Columbia*, built by Pittsburgh-based North American Rockwell, is the only portion of the spacecraft to complete the first mission to “land a man on the Moon and safely return him to Earth,” as President John F. Kennedy boldly declared in 1961. The national tour of ***Destination Moon*** marks the first time *Columbia* has left the Smithsonian since 1971.

“As a Smithsonian affiliate, the History Center is honored to bring such an important exhibition to Western Pennsylvania,” said Andy Masich, president and CEO of the History Center. “This is an historic opportunity for both regional and out-of-state visitors alike to see an iconic national treasure – the Apollo 11 Command Module *Columbia* – right here in Pittsburgh.”

In addition to *Columbia*, ***Destination Moon*** showcases more than 100 one-of-a-kind artifacts, including mission-flown objects used by Apollo 11 crew members Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin. Highlights include Aldrin's helmet and gloves worn during the mission, a detailed star chart, flight plans, a survival kit complete with a large machete, the “rock box” used to bring the first lunar samples back from the Moon, and fragments of the Wright Flyer that Armstrong carried to the Moon.

The family-friendly exhibit will also feature an immersive “launchpad” entrance, the audio from mission control, and interactives like a lunar lander video game and a virtual 3-D tour of *Columbia*’s interior – complete with astronaut “graffiti.”

Pittsburgh’s Connections to Apollo 11

More than 400,000 Americans helped make the Apollo 11 mission a success, including thousands here in Western Pa. Visitors to the History Center’s ***Destination Moon*** exhibit will learn how Pittsburgh innovators and companies, including Westinghouse, North American Rockwell, Alcoa, Wabtec’s Union Switch & Signal, American Bridge Company, MSA Safety, Allegheny Ludlum (now ATI), and many others, demonstrated their “We Can Do It!” spirit to play a crucial role in putting the first man on the Moon.

Visitors will see a prototype of the telescoping pole – invented by Pittsburgher Jack Kinzler – for the iconic American flag that Armstrong and Aldrin planted on the Moon; along with the prototype Westinghouse camera that brought the people of Earth the first images of Armstrong’s Moon walk and immortal “giant leap for mankind” moment.

The exhibit will also explore how the region’s brightest minds continue to impact the space program today and will feature the *Peregrine* Lunar Lander developed by Astrobotic, the Pittsburgh-based company founded by renowned Carnegie Mellon University roboticist Red Whittaker.

Destination Moon Launches with Out-of-This-World Programs

Blastoff Opening Day

Sept. 29 – begins at 9:30 a.m.

Celebrate the grand opening of this blockbuster exhibit with a “countdown to liftoff” before witnessing the launch of a real-life motor-powered rocket, courtesy of the South Hills Area Rocketry Klub (SHARK). Kids will enjoy air rocket launches, a mobile planetarium, and meet-and-greets with local spaceflight innovators.

Launch Party

Oct. 12 at 6 p.m.

Don’t miss this family-friendly Launch Party featuring five floors of activities, after-hours access to the ***Destination Moon*** exhibit, Moon-inspired beverages for both kids and adults, Moon Pies, a mobile planetarium, star-gazing from the History Center’s fifth-floor deck, air rocket launches, and much more!

First Man: An Evening with James R. Hansen

Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.

Dr. James R. Hansen, author of “First Man: The Life of Neil A. Armstrong” and expert consultant on the upcoming feature film of the same name starring Ryan Gosling, will share insights into his relationship with Armstrong, his work to research Armstrong’s career and the history of the Apollo program, and his recent work on the “First Man” movie.

For a full listing of ***Destination Moon*** programs, photos, advance tickets, and more, visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/moon.

Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission is organized by the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibition is made possible by the support of Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos, Joe Clark, Bruce R. McCaw Family Foundation, the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, John and Susann

Norton, and Gregory D. and Jennifer Walston Johnson. Transportation services for ***Destination Moon*** are provided by FedEx.

Destination Moon in Pittsburgh is presented by **UPMC**.

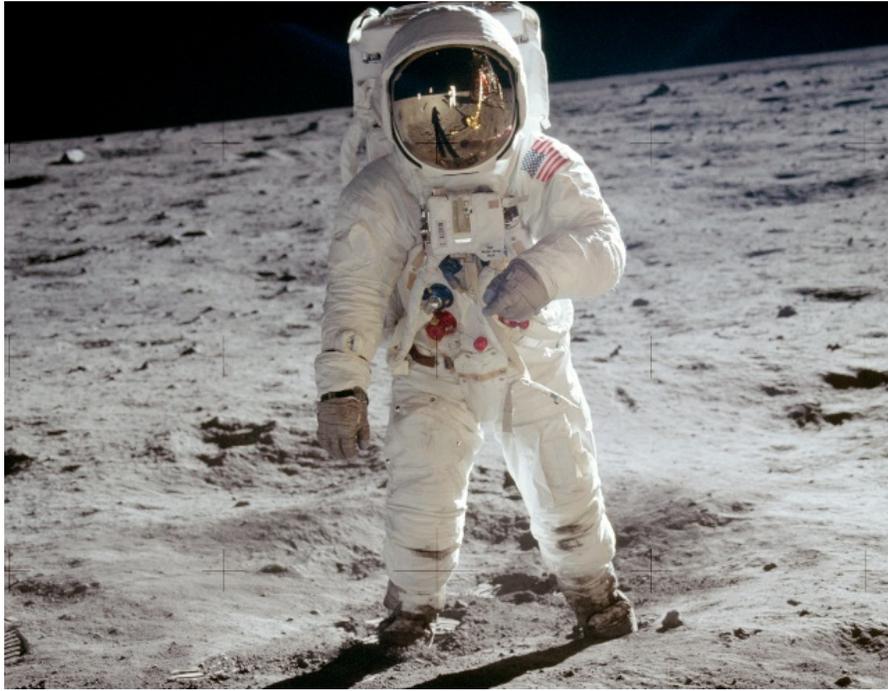
The exhibit is also supported by the Eden Hall Foundation, The Quentin & Evelyn T. Cunningham Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation, Nimick Forbesway Foundation, Alcoa Corporation, Allegheny Regional Asset District, Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation, Bozzone Family Foundation, Colcom Foundation, MSA, The Safety Company, The Grable Foundation, The Hansen Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, Jack Buncher Foundation, PNC, Richard King Mellon Foundation, S. Kent Rockwell Foundation, Wabtec Corporation, W.I. Patterson Charitable Fund.

Destination Moon is on display through Feb. 18, 2019.

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 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 Command Module *Columbia* will be on display at the History Center as part of the ***Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*** exhibition (Photo by Eric Long, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution).



The Smithsonian's ***Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*** exhibition at the History Center will explore Apollo 11 mission, the birth of the American space program, the space race, and its Western Pennsylvania connections beginning on Sept. 29. Pictured: Astronaut Buzz Aldrin walks on the surface of the Moon near the leg of the lunar module Eagle during the Apollo 11 extravehicular activity (EVA). (Photo courtesy of NASA)

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