



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

**HISTORY CENTER**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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**History Center to Host Culinary Historian Michael Twitty**  
*-In this FREE program presented by the History Center's African American Program, Twitty will discuss his memoir of Southern cuisine entitled "The Cooking Gene"-*

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 20, 2018 – The Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center will host culinary historian Michael Twitty for a discussion on his memoir of Southern cuisine entitled "The Cooking Gene" on Thursday, Aug. 30 at 6 p.m.

A noted culinary and cultural historian, Twitty is the creator of Afroculinaria, the first blog devoted to African American historic foodways and their legacies. He is also a Smith fellow with the Southern Foodways Alliance, a TED fellow and speaker, and the first Revolutionary in Residence at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

In this program presented by the History Center's African American Program, Twitty will share his fresh perspective on race and food culture, as explored in "The Cooking Gene."

Recently honored with the 2018 James Beard Award for Book of the Year, "The Cooking Gene" explores how Southern food is integral to the American culinary tradition, yet the question of who "owns" it is one of the most provocative touchpoints in America's ongoing struggle around race.

Twitty will explore his ancestral culinary history and offer frank conversation about race and food history, tracing his ancestry—both black and white—through food, from Africa to America and from slavery to freedom.

Copies of "The Cooking Gene" will be available for purchase at this program, and Twitty will sign copies following his presentation.

Admission to this event is FREE but does not include access to museum exhibitions.

The History Center's African American Program is dedicated to the preservation, dissemination, and interpretation of the life, history, and culture of Africans and African Americans 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).



On Aug. 30 at 6 p.m., the Heinz History Center will host culinary historian Michael Twitty for a discussion on race, food history, and his memoir of Southern cuisine entitled “The Cooking Gene.” This program is free and open to the public.

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