Just the Way You Are: History Center to Celebrate 50 Years in Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood

–The Smithsonian’s pop culture curator will moderate a panel discussion with friends and colleagues of Pittsburgh’s favorite neighbor–

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 5, 2018 – As the 50th anniversary year of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” draws to a close, the Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center will host a panel discussion called Just the Way You Are: 50 Years in Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood on Sunday, Nov. 11 from 2-4 p.m.

Held in partnership with the National Museum of American History, the program will feature the Smithsonian’s curator of entertainment history, Ryan Lintelman, who will discuss Mister Rogers’ profound impact on the nation over the past 50 years and moderate a panel discussion with several of Rogers’ friends and colleagues.

Panelists will include:

- Margy Whitmer, longtime producer and associate of Fred Rogers and a producer for today’s “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood” television show;
- Kathy Borland, art director and production designer for the show;
- David Newell, the actor who portrayed the Mr. McFeely character and served as public relations manager for the show; and
- Barbara Anderson, professor emerita at Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama and costume designer on “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood."

During the program, attendees will have the opportunity to share their own stories and memories of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” at a special story-sharing station.

Admission includes access to the History Center’s six floors of award-winning exhibitions, including the original “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” television set on display in the museum’s fourth-floor Special Collections Gallery.

Admission is $18 for adults and $9 for kids. Please register online at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events.

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,

On Sunday, Nov. 11 at 2 p.m., the Heinz History Center will host “Just the Way You Are: 50 Years in Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” The panel discussion will feature friends and colleagues of Fred Rogers moderated by the Smithsonian’s pop culture curator Ryan Lintelman. (Photo courtesy of Fred Rogers Productions)

The Heinz History Center is home to the largest collection of original artifacts from the “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” television show on public view. Guests can visit the sets during “Just the Way You Are: 50 Years in Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” a panel discussion at the History Center on Nov. 11 at 2 p.m.