



Smithsonian

Media Contacts:

Brady Smith  
412-454-6459  
[bmsmith@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:bmsmith@heinzhistorycenter.org)

Kim Roberts  
412-454-6382  
[kmroberts@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:kmroberts@heinzhistorycenter.org)

**Final Countdown: Last Chance to See the History Center's *Destination Moon* Exhibit**

**- The History Center will host programs for space buffs of all ages during the final weeks of the Smithsonian's *Destination Moon* exhibit, which closes Feb. 18 -**

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 4, 2019 – It's the final countdown! Just two weeks remain to see the Smithsonian's epic ***Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*** exhibition at the Senator John Heinz History Center before it closes on Monday, Feb. 18.

The "Smithsonian's home in Pittsburgh" is one of just four museums in the country to host this epic exhibit developed by the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES).

The History Center's ***Destination Moon*** exhibit marks the last chance for visitors to experience a national treasure in Pittsburgh – Command Module *Columbia* – which served as the living quarters for the Apollo 11 crew of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins. It is the only portion of the spacecraft to return to Earth. Following the ***Destination Moon*** tour, *Columbia* will be reinstalled in a permanent exhibition in the National Air and Space Museum. It will likely never travel again.

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***Destination Moon*** explores the Apollo 11 Moon landing mission and the many Western Pennsylvania innovators and companies who helped make it possible. The exhibit features more than 100 one-of-a-kind artifacts, including mission-flown objects used by the Apollo 11 crew.

The family-friendly exhibit also features interactive activities for all ages, including an immersive "launchpad" entrance, a virtual 3-D tour of *Columbia's* interior, a lunar lander video game, a replica command module, and more.

The History Center will host an exciting slate of ***Destination Moon*** programs in the exhibit's final weeks.

***Feb. 9 – Kids Get in Free for Destination Moon Family Day***

On **Saturday, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, the History Center will host its second ***Destination Moon Family Day***. Kids 17 and under get in **FREE** for four hours of special activities focusing on women's contributions to the space program. The Family Day will feature a special, family-friendly performance of "Beyond the Moon" by Pittsburgh CLO's Gallery of Heroes program at 11 a.m. The mini-musical celebrates Neil Armstrong's historic Moonwalk and tells the story of a 16-year-old girl who dreams of being the first person to set foot on Mars. In addition, visitors can explore the stars

in the Carnegie Science Center's mobile planetarium and meet Theresa Klein, Senior Guidance Navigation and Control (GNC) Engineer at Pittsburgh-based space robotics company Astrobotic.

**Feb. 15 – History Uncorked: Out of this World**

The History Center will host the 21<sup>st</sup> annual **History Uncorked: Out of this World** on **Friday, Feb. 15** from **7:30 - 11 p.m.** Presented by **BNY Mellon**, this year's event will feature space-themed activities throughout the History Center's five floors of engaging exhibitions, including tarot card readings by Rebecca Bloom and Diana Paar and astrological readings by Alicia Hull of Tides of Io.

During this 21+ night of celestial fun, guests can enjoy a live performance by The Uptown Woods, a fifth-floor dance party hosted by DJ Bamboo with pop-up performances by rapper Mars Jackson, delicious food and drinks from local hot spots, a Silent Auction with a special appearance by KISS-FM's Tall Cathy, and after-hours access to **Destination Moon**.

General admission tickets are \$65 and VIP tickets are \$110. Purchase tickets at [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events).

**Feb. 16-18 – Destination Moon Closing Weekend**

**“Beyond the Moon” Performance with Pittsburgh CLO**  
**Saturday, Feb. 16 | 11 a.m.**

The History Center will host a second performance of Pittsburgh CLO's “Beyond the Moon” in celebration of the final weekend **Destination Moon**. Visitors can enjoy this family-friendly mini-musical celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing mission.

**Astrobotic's John Thornton and the Future of Space Travel**  
**Saturday, Feb. 16 | 2 p.m.**

In this special presentation, Astrobotic CEO John Thornton will explore how the Pittsburgh-based space robotics company is innovating the future of space travel. Thornton will discuss what the company is doing to help NASA return to the lunar surface, what the future of space flight looks like, and some current projects the award-winning Astrobotic team is working on, including some prototype spacecraft on display in the **Destination Moon** exhibit.

**Space Photography with the Smithsonian's Dr. Jennifer Levasseur**  
**Sunday, Feb. 17 | 2 p.m.**

National Air and Space Museum curator Dr. Jennifer Levasseur will [discuss Apollo photography and its incredible connections to Pittsburgh](#) on the final Sunday of **Destination Moon**. [In her presentation, Levasseur will explore how](#) the Apollo astronauts made history not only with their travels to and from the Moon, but with the incredible photographs they took along the way.

All Closing Weekend activities on Feb. 16-17 are included with regular museum admission: \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors (62+), \$9 for children ages 6-17 and students, and free for History Center members and children ages 5 and under.

For a detailed listing of History Center programs, visit [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events).

**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.

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**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.

**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 Western Pennsylvania 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).



There are just two weeks left to see the Smithsonian's **Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission** exhibition at the Heinz History Center. The exhibit, which features Command Module *Columbia* and Apollo 11 mission-flown artifacts, will be on display through Monday, Feb. 18.



The Heinz History Center will present a full slate of programs to celebrate the final weeks of the Smithsonian's ***Destination Moon*** exhibition, including a kids-free Family Day, History Uncorked: Out of this World, a Smithsonian lecture, and more.

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