Votes for Women: History Center to Celebrate 19th Amendment Centennial with Virtual Smithsonian Lecture

- The museum will also host a virtual film screening as part of its Women Forging the Way initiative -

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 11, 2020 — In celebration of the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote in the U.S., the Senator John Heinz History Center will virtually host Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence with the Smithsonian’s Kate Clarke Lemay on Thursday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m.

Ratified on Aug. 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens on the basis of sex.

Lemay is a historian at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery and coordinating curator for the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative. Her lecture will explore the history and complexity of the national suffrage movement, focusing on under-recognized individuals and groups of the Suffrage Movement and examining how portraiture became a crucial element of women’s activism.

Admission is $5 at heinzhistorycenter.org/events.

This program is held in conjunction with the History Center’s Women Forging the Way initiative and the new Smithsonian’s Portraits of Pittsburgh: Works from the National Portrait Gallery exhibition.

History Center’s African American Program to Host Virtual Film Screening

In addition, the African American Program of the Heinz History Center will host a virtual screening of “Dignity and Defiance: A Portrait of Mary Church Terrell” on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Part of the 2020 From Slavery to Freedom Film Series, the film explores the life of Mary Church Terrell and her lifelong fight for black women’s suffrage and civil rights. A conversation with Samuel W Black, director of the African American Program, and Robin Hamilton, the film’s producer, will follow the screening.

Admission is free, and advance registration is required at heinzhistorycenter.org/events.
The History Center’s **Women Forging the Way** initiative focuses on elevating women’s history in 2020 and beyond through public programs, museum displays, and digital storytelling.

**MEDIA NOTE:** Heinz History Center experts are available for interviews on the impact Western Pennsylvania women had on the suffrage movement leading up to the ratification of the 19th amendment. Please contact Brady Smith or Kim Roberts to coordinate.

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. 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).

This month marks 100 years since women gained the right to vote in the U.S. with the ratification of the 19th Amendment on Aug. 18, 1920. ([Pennsylvania on the Picket Line, Washington D.C, 1917.](https://www.loc.gov/item/93085177/) Courtesy of Library of Congress.)
The Heinz History Center will host a virtual lecture with historian Kate Clarke Lemay of the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery on Thursday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m. in celebration of the 19th Amendment centennial.

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