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History Center Receives Transformative Gift from Daniel and Carole Kamin

-The \$11.5 million gift will support the museum's expansion and allow the History Center to offer free admission for kids in perpetuity, beginning on Sept. 1-

PITTSBURGH, June 3, 2025 – The Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center announced it has received a transformative gift from longtime supporters **Daniel G. and Carole L. Kamin**.

The Kamins' gift of \$11.5 million will allow the History Center and Fort Pitt Museum to offer **free admission for all kids year-round, beginning on Sept. 1, 2025**. The Kamin "Free for Kids" initiative will include free museum entry for all children aged 17 and under and cover admission costs for all school groups.

"Learning and understanding our history has never been more critical. We are proud to support the Heinz History Center and its important mission," said Carole Kamin. "Dan and I hope this gift helps to eliminate one barrier for families and schools alike, so they can explore our region's rich heritage and be inspired to make a difference."

"This is the most significant individual contribution the History Center has ever received—a true watershed moment for our organization," said Andy Masich, president and CEO of the History Center. "Dan and Carole have been steadfast supporters of our museum, and this extraordinary gift firmly establishes their legacy as philanthropic leaders in both our city and our nation. As we approach America's 250th anniversary in 2026, we want to remove obstacles that keep young people from learning about their history. Thanks to this transformative gift, we are on our way to realizing that vision."

The contribution will also help support the History Center's expansion, which will include a new orientation theater, classrooms, exhibition space, and more.

"Thanks to the leadership and generosity of Dan and Carole Kamin, kids from Western Pa. and beyond will have more access than ever before to the History Center's award-winning exhibitions and programs," said Howard W. "Hoddy" Hanna III, chairman of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services and chairman of the History Center board of trustees. "As the History Center prepares to expand its footprint in the Strip District, this gift will help secure long-term sustainability for the museum and further position the History Center as a premier cultural attraction in Pittsburgh."

The Kamins have long been passionate about the preservation of Western Pennsylvania's history and culture, supporting the History Center as members and contributors for decades. The Daniel G. and Carole L. Kamin Courtyard in the museum's Great Hall includes the popular **Kidsburgh** exhibition, Liberty Tube slide, and café.

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The Kamin Family Foundation is the result of a journey that began with a family-owned business and evolved into becoming the 38th largest developer in the nation, with properties spanning 45 states and totaling nearly 17 million square feet.

The visionary leadership of Daniel Kamin, a Shady Side Academy graduate who earned a B.A. in history from the University of Pennsylvania, transformed the real estate landscape and elevated the family's legacy to national prominence. Dan's passion for science and history serves as the cornerstone of his philanthropic vision.

Carole Kamin is heavily involved with local charities as a community volunteer, serving as president of the Ladies Hospital Aid Society at UPMC Montefiore hospital and on numerous boards in the region. She was recently honored by the Pittsburgh Business Times as a 2025 Woman of Influence.

The family's commitment to community service and involvement in esteemed organizations underscore the foundation's dedication to the sciences, education, history, arts, medical, and environmental sectors. The Kamin Family Foundation stands as a testament to their enduring legacy, poised to make a meaningful difference in the Greater Pittsburgh Area and beyond for generations.

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 was voted as the #1 history museum in America by readers of USA TODAY (2024, 2025) and "Pittsburgh's Best Museum" by Pittsburgh Magazine (2022, 2023, 2024). The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the Pittsburgh's Strip District. The History Center's family of museums includes the Sports Museum; 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 heinzhistorycenter.org.



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