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History Center to Honor Black History Month with Special Programs
-Annual Black History Month Lecture to feature award-winning journalist and author-

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 22, 2025 – The Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center interprets and preserves African American history and culture year-round through a variety of events and exhibitions curated by the museum’s African American Program.

In recognition of Black History Month, the African American Program of the Heinz History Center will present a series of programs throughout February:

***From Slavery to Freedom* Film Series: “The Hero”**
Wednesday, Feb. 12 • 5:30-8 p.m.
Virtual Program

Presented as part of the *From Slavery to Freedom* Film Series, “The Hero” tells an inspiring and honest story of how the Angolan people are trying to reconstruct their lives with dignity and resiliency after forty years of uninterrupted war.

The film also tells the story of Luanda, a city, like so many in the Third World, trying to absorb the millions of people displaced by civil strife and global economic change. After a 13-year national liberation struggle against the Portuguese colonialists ended with independence in 1975, Angola plunged immediately into a brutal civil war. The national MPLA government, backed initially by Cuba and the Soviet Union, and the UNITA rebels, supported by the U.S. and the South African apartheid regime, remained locked in conflict until 2003, long after the end of the Cold War itself. The virtual screening is free with advance registration. Please visit heinzhistorycenter.org/events to register.

11th Annual Black History Month Lecture: David J. Dennis, Jr.
Thursday, Feb. 20 • 6-7:30 p.m.
Heinz History Center

Presented by the History Center’s African American Program, this in-person lecture led by award-winning journalist and author David J. Dennis, Jr. will explore the remarkable life of a prominent leader and activist during the Civil Rights Movement – his father, David Dennis Sr.

Dennis Jr. will discuss his father's role in organizing Freedom Rides, lunch counter sit-ins, and voter registration drives in the Jim Crow South, as told in his critically acclaimed book, "The Movement Made Us: A Father, a Son, and the Legacy of a Freedom Ride."

"The Movement Made Us" is a Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Bestseller, Nautilus Book Award Winner, and one of Kirkus Reviews 100 best nonfiction books of 2022.

An avid sports fan and sportswriter, Dennis Jr. is currently a senior writer at Andscape (formerly The Undeclared) and panelist on ESPN's "Around the Horn."

The lecture will be followed by a Q&A session and book signing.

To register, please visit heinzhistorycenter.org/events.

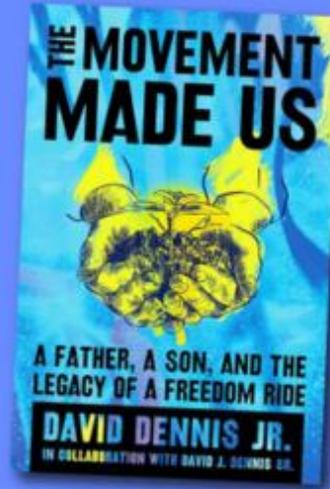
Long-Term Exhibits Highlight Black Heritage in Western Pa.

In addition to Black History Month programming, African American history is on display daily within the History Center's six floors of exhibitions, including the award-winning ***From Slavery to Freedom*** exhibition, which explores more than 250 years of African American history in Western Pa. The long-term exhibit highlights the enslavement of Africans and its effect on the American economy, the history of the anti-slavery movement, the Underground Railroad, and the impact of 19th-century activism on the modern quest for civil and human rights in Pittsburgh. The ***Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation*** exhibition honors several African Americans who made trailblazing breakthroughs, including Dr. Velma Scantlebury, the nation's first African American woman transplant surgeon and student of UPMC's late Dr. Thomas Starzl.

MEDIA NOTE: Samuel W Black, the History Center's director of African American programs, is available for interviews to discuss these exhibits, events, and the importance of preserving Black history 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 History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District. The History Center's family of museums 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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH LECTURE: DAVID DENNIS JR.



Award-winning journalist and author David Dennis Jr. will speak at the History Center's 11th Annual Black History Month Lecture on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. and discuss his book, "The Movement Made Us: A Father, a Son, and the Legacy of a Freedom Ride."

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