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My America: New History Center Exhibit Kicks Off America's 250th
-In partnership with the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators, the My America exhibit features
more than 60 works of art-

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 9, 2025 – As the region and the nation prepare to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026, the Senator John Heinz History Center has partnered with the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators (PSI) on a new exhibition that uses the power of illustration to reflect on the ideals at the heart of the America's founding — freedom, equality, justice, and liberty.

Opening this Saturday, Oct. 11 in the museum's fifth floor Barenfeld Gallery, ***My America: An Illustrated Experience*** features 63 original works of art by 35 illustrators that answer the question: what does America mean to you?

From paintings and portraiture to sculpture and cartoons, the artwork asks visitors to consider how American ideals have been realized, challenged, and redefined over time.

The ***My America*** exhibition invites visitors to celebrate voices that shaped our nation, embrace diverse perspectives, and continue the shared work of building a more perfect union to mark America's 250th anniversary.

Exhibit highlights include:

- Portraits of beloved Pittsburghers like civil rights activist Daisy Lampkin, environmentalist Rachel Carson, and television host Fred Rogers
- A large-scale sculpture of 50 historical figures, including the flag-raisers at Iwo Jima, highlighted by imagery of Americans through time
- Illustrations of iconic places, from Plimoth Plantation to Pittsburgh neighborhoods, that explore the power and meaning of home and community
- The artwork "Thoughts and Prayers" which is designed to spark reflection and civil discourse about freedom of expression
- Hands-on interactives that invite you to create your own art, from designing a felt flag to piecing together a puzzle that reflects your vision of America

The exhibition also celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators, one of the largest illustrator groups in the United States.

Visitors can meet and interact with PSI artists throughout the exhibit's opening day on Saturday, Oct. 11.

My America: An Illustrated Experience will be on view through Monday, Sept. 7, 2026.

Celebrating America's 250th in Pittsburgh

The exhibition is a core component of the History Center's year-long commemoration of the U.S. Semiquincentennial, marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, in partnership with **America250PA**.

America250PA was established by the Pennsylvania state legislature and Governor in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event, and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.

My America is also part of the History Center's **America 101 initiative**, which empowers and inspires citizens to learn more about history and civics through public programs, special exhibitions, digital learning tools, and educational curriculum.

Learn more at **heinzhistorycenter.org**.

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 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. The History Center and Fort Pitt Museum are always free for kids, supported by the Kamin "Free for Kids" Initiative. More information is available at **heinzhistorycenter.org**.



Featuring 63 original works of art by 35 illustrators, ***My America: An Illustrated Experience*** uses the power of illustration to reflect on ideals associated with the American Revolution and the pillars at the heart of the nation's founding — freedom, equality, justice, and liberty. Image: "History of Persistence" by James Mellett.

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