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## **Yinzplosion! History Center's New Exhibit Reveals Unseen Artifacts**

***-Pittsburgh's Hidden History will feature more than 300 objects, images, and documents from the museum's collection-***

PITTSBURGH, April 24, 2025 – The Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center is unlocking the vault and unveiling a treasure trove of artifacts from its vast collection.

The #1 History Museum in America invites visitors into a whimsical world of wonders inside its dynamic new exhibition, ***Pittsburgh's Hidden History***, opening this Saturday, April 26. The exhibition features a yinzplosion of rarely and never-before-seen objects that tell stories from Pittsburgh's past.

From scary to stunning, tiny treasures to magnificent marvels, the everyday and the extraordinary, ***Pittsburgh's Hidden History*** takes visitors on a thematic journey through artifacts, photographs, and documents that connect with our region's history.

Visitors can explore objects from iconic Pittsburgh institutions like The Original Hot Dog Shop, Primanti Bros., Kaufmann's, and Kennywood.

The exhibit features a getaway sleigh used in an infamous shootout with the Pittsburgh police and the notorious Biddle brothers following a prison break in 1902 – a story so dramatic that it was later made into a Hollywood film, "Mrs. Soffel." It marks the first time the sleigh has been on public view in a History Center exhibit.

Other highlights include:

- A spooky section on "scary Pittsburgh," featuring creepy dolls, haunting clown masks, and the ghoulishly green Vampiress from Kennywood's now-shuttered dark ride Le Cachot
- Some of the oldest objects in the collection, from an 18th century key to Fort Duquesne to an unfinished flint tool unearthed at Meadowcroft Rockshelter that dates back 14,000 years
- Rare sports treasures like a 1910 Honus Wagner trading card and the green club jacket worn by Eric Springer, the first African American member of Oakmont Country Club
- Couture clothing, like an Alcoa aluminum mini dress by legendary fashion designer Oscar de La Renta, an 1880s pink afternoon dress made by noted French couturier Madame Vignon, and a Gilded Age gown

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It's a cornucopia of curiosity. A magical menagerie of memories. A little bit of this n'at!

The exhibition, which is on view through Oct. 5, 2025, is supported by **The Heinz Endowments, The Richard King Mellon Foundation, The Benter Foundation, The Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Allegheny Regional Asset District, and Visit Pennsylvania.**

### **Hidden History Trivia Nights**

Throughout the exhibition run, the History Center will host a series of Hidden History Trivia Nights on select Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m., including May 15, June 12, July 10, Aug. 7, and Sept. 4.

Visitors can test their knowledge of weird, wild, and wonderful stories inspired by Pittsburgh's past. These one-of-a-kind trivia showdowns will blend the best of ***Pittsburgh's Hidden History*** with iconic pop culture moments.

Hidden History Trivia Nights are 21+ programs and will include a cash bar and snacks. Before trivia begins, visitors are encouraged to explore the ***Hidden History*** exhibit to uncover facts that may be featured in the competition.

Admission is free with pre-registration at [heinzhistorycenter.org/events](https://heinzhistorycenter.org/events).

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](https://heinzhistorycenter.org).



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The ***Pittsburgh's Hidden History*** exhibit features the getaway sleigh used in an infamous shootout with the Pittsburgh police and the notorious Biddle brothers following a prison break in 1902 – a story so dramatic that it was later made into a Hollywood film, “Mrs. Soffel.” It marks the first time the sleigh has been on public view in a History Center exhibit. Top photo: Jack and Ed Biddle lay on the ground after the police ambush, Detective Buck McGovern (to the left) points his rifle at them, January 31, 1902. Photo courtesy of the Detre Library & Archives at the Heinz History Center.

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