

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andrew E. Masich
President & CEO

The Greatest Lineup in History

As the oldest cultural institution in Pittsburgh—founded as the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania in 1879—the History Center has been collecting items and stories related to our region for 133 years.

In recent years, major exhibitions such as *Clash of Empires: The British, French & Indian War*, the Smithsonian's *First Ladies*, exhibitions focusing on George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Ben Franklin, and last year, *Vatican Splendors*, have thrilled millions of visitors. But the next 12 months will feature the greatest exhibition lineup in the history of the History Center.



Andy Masich, Hall of Famer and Steelers legend Franco Harris, Steelers owner Art Rooney II, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Joe Horrihan helped kick off the *Gridiron Glory* exhibition with a special press conference held at the History Center.

HHC Communications.



This Johnny Unitas uniform will be displayed during the *Gridiron Glory* exhibition, opening October 6.

Courtesy Pro Football Hall of Fame.

This summer, *The Story of Negro League Baseball: We Are the Ship* recalls the Negro Leagues through nearly 50 original paintings and sketches by Kadir Nelson. The award-winning artist and author spent seven years interviewing former players and researching baseball archives to present an authentic depiction of life in the Negro Leagues. *The Story of Negro League Baseball* includes a

special section on the Negro League tradition in Pittsburgh, focusing on the Homestead Grays and Pittsburgh Crawfords. With a collection of paintings, original artifacts, and the unveiling of a new lifelike figure of baseball legend Josh Gibson, this exhibit will be a home run for baseball fans.

This fall, the History Center will host the world premiere of a major exhibition focusing

on the history of professional football, from its humble beginning in 1892 to its rise as America's number one sport. A partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame, *Gridiron Glory: The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame*, will feature more than 200 artifacts, many of which have never been seen outside of Canton, Ohio.

When the exhibition opens October 6, visitors will learn that the first professional football game, featuring Yale All-American guard "Pudge" Heffelfinger, was played right here in Pittsburgh between the Allegheny Athletic Association and the Pittsburgh Athletic Club. Beginning with the accounting

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ledger from that game, known as “Pro Football’s Birth Certificate,” *Gridiron Glory* will feature items from early football stars such as Knute Rockne and Jim Thorpe all the way up to more modern Hall of Famers such as Jim Brown, Tony Dorsett, Dan Marino, and Jerry Rice.

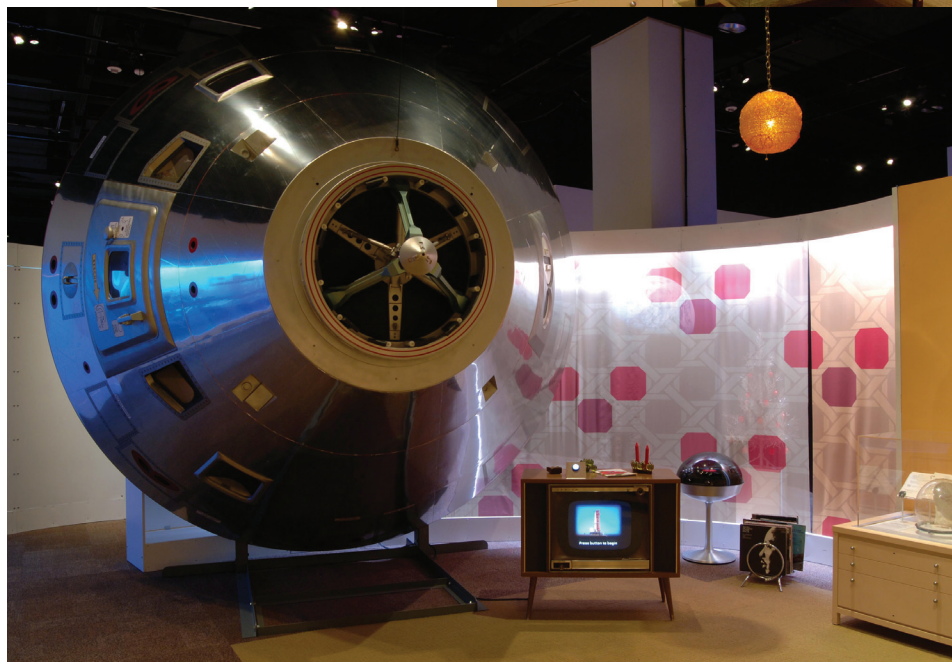
Original videos created by NFL Films and more than a dozen interactive activities featured inside *Gridiron Glory* will challenge both the body and mind. A variety of football-related public events at the History Center this fall will make for a rock ‘em, sock ‘em good time for Steelers Nation and football fans everywhere.

Beginning in November, the History Center will debut a long-term exhibition that



Visitors to the *1968* exhibition, which opens in February 2013, can view an Apollo space capsule and Huey helicopter.

Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society.



will focus on the legacy of American slavery, the Underground Railroad, and the impact of 19th-century activism on the modern quest for civil rights. Opening November 30, *From Slavery to Freedom* will explore the lives of former slaves and the role they played in the continuing quest for freedom and equality.

A new lifelike figure of abolitionist Martin Delany will join artifacts from other Pittsburgh activists such as John Peck, John B. Vashon, and Lewis Woodson to help tell the story of the African American experience.

In 2013, the History Center will welcome a major exhibition highlighting a watershed

year in American history. The *1968* exhibit will feature evocative objects and state-of-the-art multimedia displays that show how the year became a turning point for a generation coming of age.

Visitors will see a “Huey” helicopter, an Apollo space capsule, and 1968 campaign memorabilia while experiencing memorable music and films. Baby boomers will love visiting the original set from *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood* while younger visitors will learn how the Vietnam War, the assassinations of key American leaders, and the rise of the Black Power and feminism movements converged in one seminal year.

Exhibitions commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and the mysterious time capsule of the sunken steamboat *Arabia* will amaze visitors in the coming years.

There is no doubt about it, in the months ahead, we will see the best lineup in history! 🌟