Our Past is the Key to the Future

The History Center’s Board, staff, and members believe in looking to the future and that long-range strategic planning is essential to achieving our mission, especially when resources are limited. Our mission is pretty simple: history is the key to unlocking a better future. This means we preserve and interpret American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection in order to help people make good decisions in the present and to plan for the future.

Since 1879, the History Center (then known as the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania) has been a volunteer organization. Yes, we have an amazingly talented and hardworking staff, but the Board of Directors, hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of members all contribute their time, talent, and resources. We also need our volunteers’ ideas.

As we begin our next strategic planning cycle, we need you to share your thoughts about the future of history education. Please drop us a line. What are we doing right? What can we improve? How can we more effectively:

• Reach larger and more diverse audiences?
• Work in partnership with others?
• Develop programs that are relevant to our communities?
• Increase earned income to ensure sustainability?

The History Center is Pittsburgh’s oldest cultural institution. Today, it is also Pennsylvania’s largest history museum and a proud affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. Working together, I am confident that we can make a real difference in our region and beyond by instilling a sense of pride and inspiring future generations with the same “We can do it!” spirit that built Pittsburgh and made American history.

Send your thoughts to AndyMasich@heinzhistorycenter.org

Learn more about Rosie the Riveter and Western Pennsylvania’s real-life Rosies in the We Can Do It! World War II exhibition.

*Catherine Sciarra*