

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andrew E. Masich
President & CEO




Taking a Look Behind the Scenes

Since 1879, the Senator John Heinz History Center has been collecting materials that tell the story of the people of Western Pennsylvania. Over nearly 140 years, the museum's collection has grown to more than one million objects, including a vast assortment of photographs, books, maps, and manuscripts in the Detre Library & Archives, along with an amazing compilation of three-dimensional objects from our region. To help showcase this collection, we recently opened *Visible Storage* in the Sigo Falk Collections Center on the museum's fourth floor.

This behind-the-scenes look into the History Center's storage complex offers a glimpse of our Museum Conservation Center and a sampling of how the museum preserves the vast collection of Western Pennsylvania history. Artifacts ranging from George and Marguerite Westinghouse's Tiffany china to John Cigna's legendary Harley-Davidson motorcycle provide a sense of the variety found in the museum's collection. Just about everyone who visits *Visible Storage* will find something interesting. Auto enthusiasts will enjoy a 1939 Bantam Speedster along with a Westinghouse electric car from the 1960s. Militaria experts will want to inspect Western Pennsylvania long rifles, along with Civil War swords, World War II pistols, and a Thompson machine gun used by the Pittsburgh Police in the 1930s. Fashionistas will marvel at vintage clothing, including Civil War-era bonnets and 1920s hats and flapper footwear. Glass aficionados will love the presidential china and glass, used by the Reagan, Clinton, and Bush administrations, created by the Lenox Company.

Visitors to *Visible Storage* will also see museum professionals in action as they process new collections and prepare them for exhibit. You'll get an insider's look into the photography studio and see museum staff cataloging some of the nearly 5,000 new artifacts donated to the museum each year alongside colleagues building intricate museum fixtures in the mount-making workshop.

Visible Storage, which is part of the recently opened LEED Gold-certified Museum Conservation Center, is accessed via a sky bridge (or "Falkway") across Mulberry Way from the Special Collections Gallery. We thank the Falk Foundation and the Hillman Foundation for their generous support of *Visible Storage* and our efforts to preserve Western Pennsylvania history. 

The Museum Conservation Center's LEED Gold award.
Photo by Liz Simpson.



A stunning array of artifacts in a storage environment can be viewed in the new *Visible Storage* exhibit.

Photo by Brian Butko.



Jean and Sigo Falk at the media preview for *Visible Storage*.

Photo by Betty Arenth.

