

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andrew E. Masich
President & CEO



Happy Birthday, Pittsburgh

Two hundred years ago, a great American city was born. Although Pittsburgh was given its name in 1758 (for which we celebrated the 250th anniversary in 2008), and was incorporated as a township in 1771, it was not until 1816 that Pittsburgh was officially chartered and became a city. On March 12 of that year, the Pennsylvania House and Senate passed a law to incorporate Pittsburgh, which at the time had about 5,000 residents. On July 9, 1816, residents elected the city's first mayor, Revolutionary War hero Ebenezer Denny.

Throughout 2016, more than 300 organizations have come together to help celebrate the city's 200th birthday. Led by Mayor William Peduto (our 60th mayor), who named me chairman of the Pittsburgh Bicentennial Commission, these organizations are sharing the good news about Pittsburgh's rich history and the bright prospects for the city's future.

With the launch of the History Center's *Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation* exhibition, we are honoring hundreds of Pittsburghers who have helped to change the world over the past 200 years and beyond. From Queen Aliquippa to Rosie the Riveter, George Washington to George Westinghouse, the *Innovation* exhibit recognizes the incredible impact our region has had on peoples' lives. Starting with the first people taking shelter at Meadowcroft Rockshelter 16,000 years ago and moving forward to the

people who battled over this land, to those who built the region's reputation as a steel capital, and onward through advances in education, medicine, entertainment, energy, and technology, the exhibit shines a spotlight on this region's unique history and influence on people around the world.

Pittsburgh's story is still unfolding and we need your help to identify history-making innovations that are occurring right now. Curators are standing by, so please contact Emily Ruby at elruby@heinzhistorycenter.org.

We hope you'll visit the new exhibit and learn more about Pittsburgh's Bicentennial at www.pgh200.com. Happy birthday, Pittsburgh. We have a lot to celebrate. 🌟

Mayor Bill Peduto joins Andy Masich to cut the bicentennial birthday cake.

Photo by Rachellynn Schoen.

