

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andrew E. Masich  
President & CEO



Since 1879, the History Center has been collecting artifacts, archives, and photographs that document the lives of Pittsburghers—their families, their work, their pastimes, and the communities that we call home.

Today, the photographic collection in the Detre Library & Archives totals nearly one million images and continues to grow every year. Starting with the first daguerreotype in 1839 to the more than two billion images taken around the world each day, photography connects generations and remains one of the most popular means of self-expression.

Beginning December 17, visitors can transport themselves back in time to see what makes our city unique and experience life through the lens of Pittsburghers with the new exhibition, *#Pixburgh: A Photographic Experience*.

Using hundreds of photos and objects from the History Center and the Smithsonian Institution along with interactive activities, the exhibition explores how Pittsburghers' motivations for taking and sharing images has

continued to grow as technology has made photography more accessible. Throughout the exhibition, visitors will be able to compare a wide array of subjects and time periods, from turn-of-the-century police mugshots to the 1960 World Series, from early daguerreotypes to Polaroids, all while exploring Pittsburgh's cycles of change and renewal.

From the darkroom to the digital era, *#Pixburgh* provides visitors with a compelling glimpse into how Pittsburghers chronicle their city and their own lives in a format that's more popular than ever. We hope you enjoy the show.

This tintype of Andy was taken on the 125th anniversary of the surrender at Appomattox using an original tintype camera.



Smithsonian Connection

## Polaroid Land Camera 95A, 1948.

Edwin H. Land's research in light polarization led to his invention of polaroid, the common name for a plastic that can be used as a polarizing filter. In 1937, he founded the Polaroid company to adapt his innovation for products such as sunglasses. Land first demonstrated his instant film and camera system in February 1947 but it took another year of development before the camera was ready for commercial-scale production. This is the first of Land's instant cameras to roll off of the assembly line—it even carries his initials.

Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.