

EXHIBITS

Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission

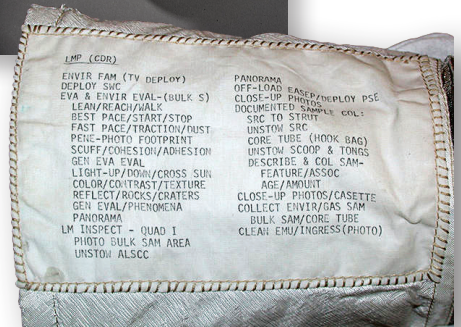
The History Center is partnering with the Smithsonian Institution to bring a blockbuster exhibition of lunar proportions to Pittsburgh. Beginning on September 29, the History Center will serve as the northeast host for the national tour of *Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*, a traveling exhibition organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). Along with dozens of artifacts from the Apollo 11 mission, the exhibition's centerpiece is the Command Module *Columbia* — the only portion of the historic spacecraft to complete the first mission to land on the moon and safely return to Earth. On display will be dozens of original Apollo 11-flown artifacts as well as models, videos, and interactives that give visitors an unprecedented look at the historic 1969 journey.



The extravehicular gloves made for and worn by astronaut Buzz Aldrin, lunar module pilot of the Apollo 11 mission in July 1969.

Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum, Photo by Eric Long.

Inset: A list of tasks to complete on the Moon was sewn onto the cuff of the gloves.



Summer 2018 — Ongoing Exhibits

Heroes and Sheroes: A Ruth E. Carter Costume Retrospective

Presented in partnership with FashionAFRICANA, *Heroes & Sheroes* explores Carter's African-influenced costume designs, providing a master class in her use of color, textiles, and functionality.

Open August 24, 2018 – December 2, 2018



Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation

Visible Storage

A behind-the-scenes look at the museum's collection.

From Slavery to Freedom

Explore 250 years of African American history in Pennsylvania

Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum

Heinz

Special Collections Gallery

Treasures that celebrate our ethnicity, industry, innovation, and lifestyle.

Glass: Shattering Notions

Rediscovering Lewis & Clark:

A Journey with the Rooney Family

Prine Collection

of Woodworking Planes

Wrought Metal Treasures

from the Blum Collection

Clash of Empires:

The British, French & Indian War, 1754-1763

At Fort Pitt Museum:

From Maps to Mermaids:

Carved Powder Horns in Early America

At Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village:

Now open for its 50th season

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andrew E. Masich
President & CEO



Meadowcroft's 50th Season

In 1955, Washington County farmer Albert Miller stumbled upon a groundhog hole on his family's farm in Avella — then known as Bancroft Farm — and uncovered what looked to be a prehistoric tool.

Miller, an avid outdoorsman and local historian, was inspired by the discovery and believed the day would come when

a living history museum would fascinate people of all ages.

In 1969, after years of collecting artifacts and moving historic buildings to the site, Miller realized his dream. He built an entire 19th-century village on his farm, including log houses, a covered bridge, a blacksmith's shop, and a one-room schoolhouse for visitors to tour.

He and his brother, Delvin, combined the names Meadowlands (Delvin's farm) and Bancroft (the old family farm) to name the site Meadowcroft.


While operating Meadowcroft as a tourist attraction, Miller never forgot about the prehistoric tool he found near the groundhog hole, and in 1973, he asked University of Pittsburgh archaeologist Dr. James Adovasio to examine the object.

Intrigued by the unusual artifact, which turned out to be a prehistoric flint knife,

Adovasio assembled a team of students to study the area. The field school's excavation of the site over the next six years yielded nearly two million artifacts and ecofacts, including ancient stone tools, pottery particles, and evidence of ice-age fire pits.

Radiocarbon dating by the Smithsonian concluded that a rock shelter near the groundhog hole once served as a campsite for generations of prehistoric hunters and gatherers beginning 16,000 years ago, making it the oldest site of human habitation in North America.

In the decades that followed, Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village grew from a small attraction to an international destination for archaeologists, a family-friendly getaway for regional tourists, and a National Historic Landmark operated by the Smithsonian-affiliated Heinz History Center.

As we celebrate Meadowcroft's 50th season of operation in 2018, consider taking a day-trip to Avella to experience 16,000 years of history in one day. Witness the archeological wonder of the Rockshelter, see a blacksmith forge red-hot iron, step into a wigwam, and try your hand at the *atlatl* — a prehistoric spear thrower. At Meadowcroft, you can take a step back in time. 

Families love touring through Meadowcroft's nostalgic one-room school house in the Historic Village.

All photos HHC Communications.



Each June, Meadowcroft hosts the annual Atlatl Competition, which encourages both experts and novices alike to compete and hit targets using the *atlatl* — a predecessor of the bow and arrow used by prehistoric hunters to launch a spear with tremendous force.

