

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Andrew E. Masich
President & CEO



African American History

Commitment to diversity has long been one of the Heinz History Center's core values. Diversity is evident in the makeup of our board, staff, committees, and our volunteers. We recognize that diverse people, cultures, and ideas make us stronger and better able to achieve our educational mission.

Those values have never been more critical than now, amidst a powerful movement for social justice in our nation.

It is why the Heinz History Center has strengthened its support and resources for the museum's African American History Program,

which is dedicated to the preservation, dissemination, and interpretation of the life, history, and culture of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania.


This initiative is led by Samuel W. Black, known nationally for his leadership in African American museums and for his award-winning publications and exhibitions. The entire History Center staff—including curators, archivists, and educators—support Sam's program, which is also guided by trustees who are leaders in the field of Black history and community experts who serve on the History Center's African American Advisory Council.

This important work is accomplished through artifact and archival collecting, consulting, educational programming, exhibitions, publications, and public outreach.

African American history is woven

through the History Center's six floors of exhibitions. The acclaimed *From Slavery to Freedom* exhibition explores more than 250 years of history and highlights the enslavement of Africans and its impact on the American economy, the anti-slavery movement, the Underground Railroad, and the impact of 19th-century activism on the modern quest for civil and human rights in Pittsburgh.

The African American History Program hosts public programs throughout the year, including the popular Black History Month Lecture each February, genealogy workshops, special panel discussions, and the *From Slavery to Freedom* Film Series.

Working with our community, the History Center is dedicated to elevating Black voices and ensuring that these stories are preserved to inspire future generations. 



The long-term *From Slavery to Freedom* exhibition features compelling artifacts, immersive displays, and six interactive touch-screen stations where visitors can virtually explore 19th-century safe houses that were part of the Underground Railroad in Western PA.

Heinz History Center.

