

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Andrew E. Masich
President & CEO



Photo by Tom Gigliotti.

250 Years in the Making

Throughout the year, thousands of out-of-towners and residents alike have shared in Western Pennsylvania's historic birthday celebration.

The settlement at the forks of the Ohio—which started humbly on November 25, 1758, when George Washington and General John Forbes arrived at the smoldering ruins of Fort Duquesne and named this area Pittsburgh (pronounced “Pitts-boro”)—has developed into a city with a strong work ethic, can-do spirit, and a unique tradition of innovation.

Now 250 years after Washington and Forbes' expedition, we are re-branding Pittsburgh, the “most livable city in the nation,” as a hub of technology, education, medical science, and 21st-century commerce. It's a place where people with good ideas change the world for the better. Although Washington and Forbes may not have imagined it then, Pittsburghers have left an indelible imprint on both our nation and our world.

As one of Pittsburgh's oldest cultural institutions, the History Center welcomes everyone to celebrate our world-changing “firsts”—past and present—at a wonderful exhibition, *Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation*. Opening November 8, 2008, this long-term show features the region's most innovative individuals and ideas, from Heinz's ketchup, Westinghouse's airbrake, and Ferris' gigantic wheel to Conrad's pioneering radio station, Kenny Clark's Bee-Bop, and Salk's Polio vaccine. Who knew the Jeep, the Ice Capades, the Zippo lighter, and the Big Mac were all Western Pennsylvania originals?

Working in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University's Entertainment Technology Center, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, and scores of regional artists and historians, the exhibition will be as innovative in presentation as it is in content, with great audio visuals, dozens of interactives, and priceless artifacts from the Smithsonian and the History Center's vast collection. But most importantly, we'll tell the stories of people—Pittsburghers—who have changed our lives.

Escape from “Kidsburgh”
through the Liberty Tube.

HC Marketing.



If you have ideas about individuals or organizations that should be included in the *Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation* database, please contact us—we'd love to hear from you.