

April and May at the Pump House!

2019 BHF Programs Introduction: Bridges from History

Thursday, April 25 @ 7:00 pm Free



BHF's 2019 Programs and Events offer an enticing menu of panels, films, exhibits, and performances, spotlighting 1919—a time of radical upheaval in our nation.

To introduce the BHF program series, historians Eric Leif Davin, Charles McColleston, Jacqueline Cavalier, and Howard Scott employ their extensive research and experience to spotlight the turbulent post-war era of 1919 USA. Among many topics, we'll hear about Suffragettes on the march; immigrants' struggle for labor and civil rights; the Great Migration North of Black Americans, wartime unions, strikes, and radicalism and resistance to capitalism.

Separated: Children at the Border

Thursday, May 2 @ 7:00 pm Free



This is a PBS Frontline documentary film about the history of immigration policy under both the Obama and Trump administrations. It focuses on what happened to Central American families whose children were forcibly separated from their parents and other relatives at the border. It seeks to explain how and why we got into this dismal state of affairs. The film explores several cases of

child separation and the sad results that followed. In interviews with parents, government officials, activists, and others, the story of what is happening at the southern border is traced. This history highlights important dates and issues, speaks of legal and illegal immigration, repeats myths, and refutes some of the misinformation that surrounds this issue. It humanizes the immigrants and does not neglect the important role that immigration has played in recent politics. Frontline ends the story after Trump signed the Executive Order to lift the Zero Tolerance policy during the summer of 2018. Thus, the most recent events, such as the coming of the caravan and the tear gassing of immigrants are not included in the coverage of events. In the end, the authors leave the problems of immigration and the separation of families at the border up to the American people to decide on what to do.

Scroll Down

Family Separation at the Border: Its Impact on Pittsburgh, a Sanctuary City

Saturday, May 4 @ 1:30 pm Free



This program addresses the important role immigrants have played and continue to play in our nation's history, culture, and work force. Historically, diverse immigrants from around the world provided the backbone of what our nation is today. This program will focus on the current U.S. immigration policy that makes it difficult for Central American immigrants to seek asylum in the U.S. Like other immigrants before them, today's immigrants are searching for a better life, freedom from violence, and economic security. Although immigrants in the past were often encouraged to enter the U.S. legally and then

become productive citizens, today many seeking this objective face insurmountable obstacles at the southern border. New questionable strict and constraining immigration rules (remember Zero Tolerance?) have built immense physical and emotional barriers. The result has forced many immigrants to be unwittingly detained, imprisoned, and deported. Meanwhile, without due process, approximately 5,000 children have been cruelly separated from their families, some perhaps permanently.

Addressing this immigration problem which has plagued our country and impacted Pittsburgh which has been designated a Sanctuary City will be **Monica Ruiz**, Executive Director of the Casa San Jose Center in Pittsburgh and **Guillermo Perez**, US Steel Labor Educator and Founder/President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of Labor Council for Latin American Development.



Mr. Perez will speak about Pittsburgh immigration history and will focus on the present day issues of how labor is supporting migrants in adjusting to seeking asylum here in Pittsburgh. Ms. Ruiz will discuss how her organization aids immigrants in Western Pennsylvania and will address the challenges immigrants from Central America are faced when they cross the border and settle in Pittsburgh. She will focus on how her organization supports the Pittsburgh Latino community by providing social services, advocacy for Latino rights, protecting Latinos at risk of deportation and provides

programs and special events. Both will offer opportunities and a call to action for those interested in supporting them and want to pursue a more active role in immigration concerns here in Pittsburgh.