



The Battle of Homestead Foundation is raising funds to create

The Center for the History and Future of Work

... a public heritage-destination venue combining archives, teaching rooms, labor history exhibits and program/event hall

... with the mission of inspiring young people to use lessons from Western Pennsylvania's industrial history to address today's workforce challenges of equity, diversity and fair labor practice.

What it does

The Center for the History and Future of Work celebrates the history of workers in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania — all workers, past and present — from the early industrial labor of miners, millhands and artisans to today’s diverse array of workers in knowledge, service, education, healthcare and other 21st-century occupations. The Center tells this history by presenting live events and online programs (exhibits, lectures, films, concerts, classes, workshops, public forums, archives) that emphasize the vital role these workers played in shaping their communities and ours.

Who it serves

The Center’s programs are accessible to all and provide enhanced labor history awareness to young people and students. Year-round programming serves as a popular history/culture destination for visitors from Western Pennsylvania and beyond, with accompanying community economic benefits.



How it operates

The Center is operated by a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization (Battle of Homestead Foundation). It employs an administrative staff and event volunteers.

The Foundation was formed in 1989 by a collective of citizens, workers, educators, historians and community leaders with the purpose of preserving and promoting a “people’s history” focused on the significance of the dramatic labor conflict at Homestead in 1892 ... and to connect that history and its surrounding communities with current issues of diversity, equity and fair labor practice.

How it’s funded

The Center’s income sources are derived from membership subscriptions, grants, event income and bequests from foundations and individual donors.

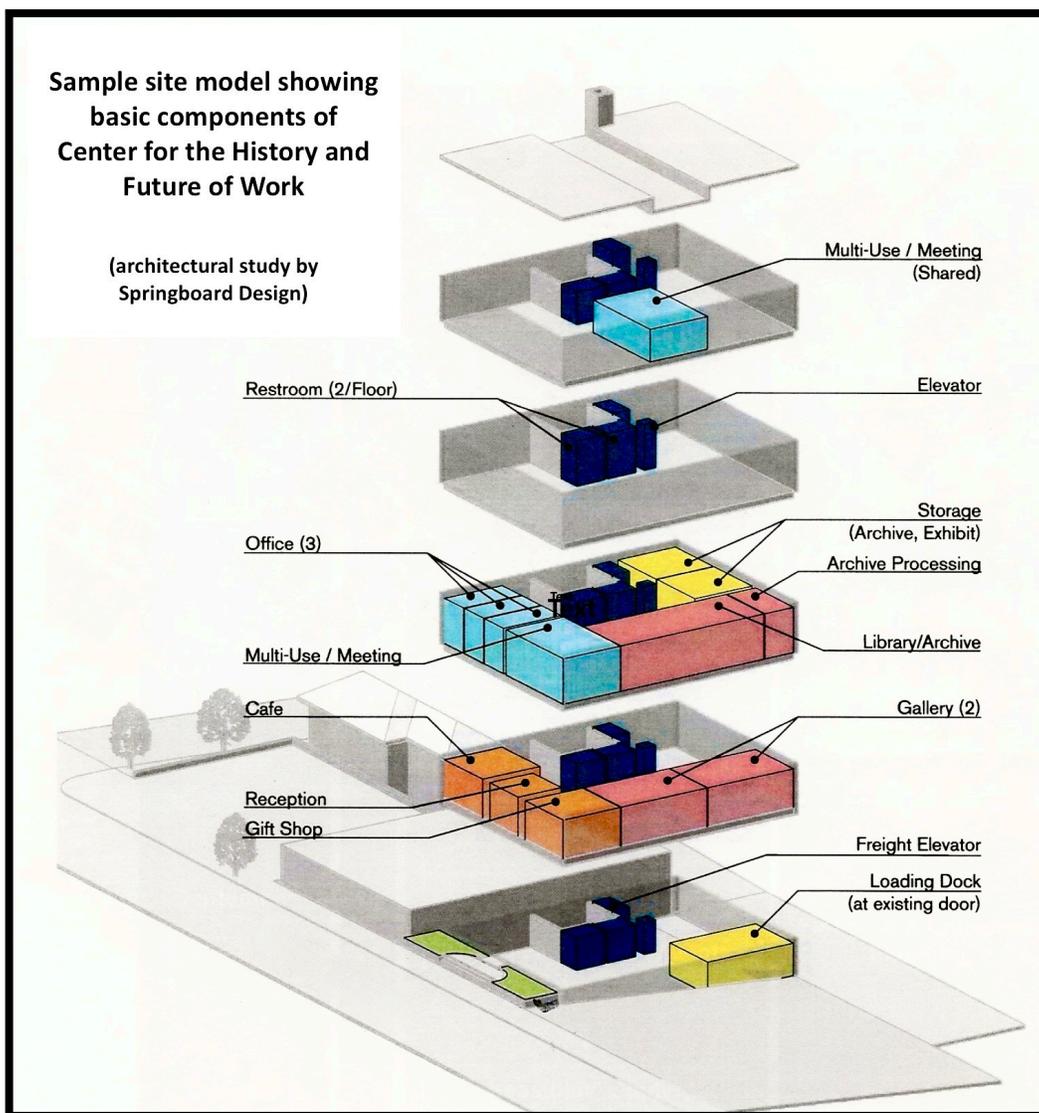
Why it matters

U.S. labor history is more than a chronicle of strikes and battles. It is a vitaly instructive narrative relating how American society evolves to be more equitable and inclusive through its citizens’ interactions in the daily workplace — interactions that shape our nation’s economic strength and define our common well-being.

The Center for the History and Future of Work makes that knowledge accessible to ordinary citizens interested in learning more about the world they live in today ... and the world they’ll be living and working in tomorrow.

The Center's interior physical layout

- lobby greeting area
- event space (with equipment storage, backstage room)
- exhibit space
- archives storage and processing room
- teaching rooms
- administrative office
- public restrooms
- conference room



Estimated interior area = 9,500 square feet; preliminary studies indicate adapting an existing structure as cost-effective and expedient method of creating a functional space.

That's a brief outline of our ambitious vision.

Would you consider a generous financial gift to help grow the Center from blueprints to bricks?

It's certainly a big project, and we can provide you with more details and studies, budgets and plans.

It's also a project of urgency and importance in a time when shifting demographics and transformative technology are changing the very essence of Work, seemingly day-by-day.

It's why we need a Center that looks not only at the history but the future of Work ... a Center that examines the crucial impact Work has on our societal structures and individual and family lives ... and whether that impact will sustain (or derail) the promise and opportunity our Work can achieve for ourselves and others.

If you're able to help us share that vision, please get in touch.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors
Battle of Homestead Foundation



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Battle of Homestead Foundation Public Programs – 2018-2022

EACH YEAR, the Foundation presents an ongoing series of public programs featuring national and international speakers as well as local scholars and community members.

The programming reaches 3,000+ viewers/attendees a year and was named among 2021's "Best Virtual Literary Series" by *Pittsburgh City Paper*.

The Foundation's online programming includes the *Charlie's Monday Marker* video tours of Western Pennsylvania history sites and the *Essential Work* podcast exploring current labor trends.

Co-presenters have included Pittsburgh Labor Council of Latin America Affairs, Izaak Walton League, Casa San Jose Center, United Steelworkers, West Virginia Mine Wars Museum, AFL-CIO, Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, A. Philip Randolph Institute, I.B.E.W. Local Union No. 5, Pittsburgh Labor Choir, Pennsylvania Labor Historical Society, Breathe Collaborative, WALS Foundation, Bertelsmann Foundation and more.

Annual Meetings:

2022 – Ramsay Stevens, "Developing Successful Green Building Projects with Organized Labor"

2021 – Richard L. Trumka, "The Future of Work and Unions"

2020 – Abolitionist Law Center, "Join the Fight to End Mass Incarceration"

Film Talks:

- *9to5: The Story of a Movement* (Julia Reichert & Steven Bognar)
- *Local 1196: A Steelworkers Strike* (Sam George)
- *City of Steel* (Bruce Spiegel)
- *The Vote* (Connie Honeycutt & Michelle Ferrari)
- *American Factory* (Julia Reichert & Steve Bognar)

Stage Performances:

- *Mother Jones in Heaven* by Si Kahn starring Vivian Nesbitt & John Dillon
- *Shakespeare & The Battle Of Homestead* featuring Mark Rylance & Friends

Music Concert:

Betty Davis' 75th Birthday Bash

Book Talks:

- *40 Patchtown* (Damian Dressick)
- *Crystal Eastman: A Revolutionary Life* (Amy Aronson)
- *Vertical Bridges: Poems & Photographs of Pittsburgh's City Steps* (Paola Corso)
- *How the 1940s "Labor Board Crew" Revolutionized Union Mediation in America* (Ronald Schatz)
- *The Bootleg Coal Rebellion: Pennsylvania Miners Who Seized an Industry, 1925-1942* (Mitchell Troutman)
- *Homestead Steel Mill, the Final Ten Years: USWA Local 1397 and the Fight for Union Democracy* (Mike Stout)
- *The Next Shift: The Fall of Industry and the Rise of Health Care in Rust Belt America* (Gabriel Winant)

Panel Forums:

- Vietnam, A Working Class War
- Steelworkers in the 21st Century
- Destruction of the Ward, 80 Years Later
- Our Families in the Battle of Homestead
- Protecting Ourselves from the Plastics Invasion
- Fannie Sellins 100th Anniversary Commemoration
- Fascism in Today's America: Can It Happen Here?
- Build Solidarity to Fight Anti-Semitism and Racism
- Family Separation at the Border: Its Impact on Pittsburgh
- 1892 Homestead Steel Strike 130th anniversary Commemoration
- Union & Protest Songs – Their History & How to Use Them Today
- Death of a Jewish Radical in Erie, 1922: Echoes from a Century Ago
- A New Vision for the Mon Valley: Alternatives to Plastics & Hydrogen Hubs
- Battle of Blair Mountain, 1921 ... What It Means for Working People in 2021
- Building Alliances for Tomorrow's Work Force: New Voices, Technology and Ideas
- 1920-2020, How We Took the Vote — A Conversation about Suffrage and Strategies
- Whitewashing Andrew Carnegie: Fine-tuning the Historical Record with Philanthropy
- A Great Blessing to Women: Tonics, Temperance & the 19th-Century Patent Medicine Industry