

THE  
**FRICK**  
PITTSBURGH  
MUSEUMS & GARDENS

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Ahead of the US's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday, The Frick Exhibits 'Lewis Hine Pictures America' & Hosts Dozens of Related Programs**

**PITTSBURGH** – In 2026, the United States will celebrate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. During this pivotal year, The Frick Pittsburgh's spring exhibition, ["Lewis Hine Pictures America."](#) will remind audiences of a critical time in both the country's and Pittsburgh's histories through rare vintage photographs by "the father of documentary photography." The exhibition runs from Feb. 21 through May 17.

The exhibition will showcase over 70 photographs, including some of Hine's most famous images of newly arrived immigrants at Ellis Island, children at work, the steel industry in Pittsburgh and the construction of the Empire State Building.

This exhibition is organized through Art2Art. Most of the works are from the private collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg. The Frick's version of the exhibition also features a selection of high-quality reprints from the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library, as well as a special wall design created by a local interdisciplinary artist.

Alongside the exhibition, the Frick will host dozens of programs, including film screenings, workshops, lectures, collaborative events with Rivers of Steel and the Nationality and Heritage Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh and more. Learn more about the exhibition and the programs below.

**NOTE:** The Frick will host a media preview event for the exhibition on Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. More information will be sent out soon.

**Images:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/dn7i45zr7ps6ryl1ejc6n/AFbxBOvkYf4QPAutUTZazg7s?rlkey=x4bwfnijxnw9atwrnwdscgfjy&st=2x2pg3rj&dl=0>

## About “Lewis Hine Pictures America”

This exhibition highlights the work of Lewis Wickes Hine, the “father of documentary photography.” Hine’s artistic photos exposed the harsh realities faced by immigrants, children and the working class in their everyday lives during the early decades of the twentieth century.

A trained sociologist and educator, Hine taught at New York’s Ethical Culture School, a proponent of progressive education. In 1905, Hine took his students to Ellis Island, putting a human face on the “huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” In 1907, Hine joined the Pittsburgh Survey, a socioeconomic analysis of the city. His photographs, combined with reports from seventy investigators, exposed the harsh living and working conditions in the modern industrial city and became an important tool to raise public awareness and influence social reform. Hine’s approach to photography aided in the images’ lasting impact.

The Frick’s unique presentation of this touring exhibition is enhanced by a special focus on Hine’s work in Pittsburgh. In doing so, it illuminates the disparity between the Fricks’ lived experience and the workers who toiled in the mills that provided Henry Clay Frick and his family with their extraordinary wealth. The themes discussed in the exhibition are further augmented by the Frick’s award-winning “Gilded, Not Golden” tour of Clayton, which looks beneath the glimmering veneer of the Gilded Age to illuminate the real living and working conditions for those who were employed by the Fricks, both in their homes and in their mills.

## “Lewis Hine Pictures America” Programs

### Behind the Lens: “Lewis Hine Pictures America”

Jan. 31 at 3 p.m.

From documenting immigration at Ellis Island to child labor and the construction of the Empire State Building, Lewis Hine’s career had many facets. Before the opening of the exhibition, the Frick’s Assistant Curator, Lauryn Smith, will give a talk about Hine as a man and artist. \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 for college students with ID.

### Opening Day of ‘Lewis Hine Pictures America’

Feb. 21 at 10 a.m.

The opening day of this exhibition will be celebrated with gallery talks and special benefits for Frick members.

Opening day activities are as follows:

### **Special Member Access and Breakfast**

*9 – 11:30 a.m.*

Members are invited to have early access to the exhibition starting at 9 a.m. and enjoy lite bites from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Information about memberships is available at [thefrickpittsburgh.org/membership](http://thefrickpittsburgh.org/membership).

### **In-Gallery Talks**

*Throughout the day on Feb. 21*

Engage with the stories behind the art in a 15-minute talk in the galleries. Talks take place in the galleries, and a limited number of stools will be available for seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Guided Exhibition Tours of “Lewis Hine Pictures America”**

*Wednesdays and Saturdays at 1 and 2:30 p.m., starting Feb. 25*

Visitors can join a guided tour of “Lewis Hine Pictures America” to explore his photographs on a deeper level. These tours are free with exhibition admission and last approximately one hour.

### **“Vaesen” Returns: Roleplaying Game Session**

*Feb. 22 at 1 p.m.*

Solve the mystery of which supernatural creature is terrorizing the steel mills of Pittsburgh in this custom version of the tabletop roleplaying game, “Vaesen.” Based on the artwork of Swedish illustrator and author Johan Egerkrans, “Vaesen” brings Nordic folklore and myths to life in a fictional Gothic setting through facilitated, role-play-based gaming. This program is 18+. \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members, \$15 for college students with ID.

### **Cocktails and Conversations: “Lewis Hine Pictures America”**

*March 5 at 6 p.m.*

Enjoy a themed cocktail or mocktail while spending an evening with the minds behind Lewis Hine Pictures America. Join Assistant Curator, Lauryn Smith, and exhibit designer, Quaishawn Whitlock, as they speak about their collaboration for the exhibition, from conception to creation, and finally installation. \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members, \$15 for college students with ID.

### **Through the Lens of Arrival: The Italian Immigrant Experience in Image, Film, and Live Music**

*March 8 at 2 p.m.*

Inspired by the “Lewis Hine Pictures America” exhibition, enjoy a live-accompanied screening of “The Italian” (1915), this special program traces themes of immigration, identity, and visual storytelling across photography and early film, enriched by historical insights and examples of archival materials from the Heinz History Center’s Italian American Collection. The program features Heinz History Center Director of Italian American Program Melissa E. Marinaro, Pittsburgh Film Orchestra’s Eric Cook and Pittsburgh Silent Film Society’s Chad Hunter. The program will be followed by a Q&A. Exhibition admission is not included. \$15 members, \$20 non-members, \$10 for college students with ID.

## **Guided Evening Tour of Clayton and “Lewis Hine Pictures America”**

*March 12 at 5:30 p.m.*

Take a deep dive into Pittsburgh’s industrial past during this unique tour experience. Start with a tour of Clayton, the last intact Gilded Age mansion in Pittsburgh, and finish with a tour of “Lewis Hine Pictures America,” an exhibition that depicts life and labor at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members, \$25 for college students with ID.

## **Film Screening: “Newsies” (1992)**

*March 15 at 2 p.m.*

Celebrate the current exhibition, “Lewis Hine Pictures America,” with a screening of the award-winning musical, *Newsies* (1992). Loosely based on the New York City newsboys’ strike of 1899, “Newsies” is a tale of teamwork and determination. Exhibition admission is not included. \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members and guests, \$5 for college students with ID.

## **Ken Kobus Presents: Generations at Work: One Family’s Steel Working History**

*March 21 at 2 p.m.*

Join local historian and author Ken Kobus for a presentation on three generations of steel working heritage at the Pittsburgh plant of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company. Focusing on J&L’s Pittsburgh facilities, located on the South Side and in Hazelwood, attendees will learn how the mill worked from an “inside the walls” perspective of three generations of the Kobus family. Kobus is the author of several books, most notably “City of Steel: How Pittsburgh Became the World’s Steelmaking Capital During the Carnegie Era.” Exhibition admission not included. \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, \$10 for college students with ID.

## **Guided Tours of the Nationality and Heritage Rooms and “Lewis Hine Pictures America” Exhibition**

*March 28 at 1 p.m.; April 10 at 2 p.m.; May 14 at 5:30 p.m.*

Co-presented by The Frick Pittsburgh and the Nationality and Heritage Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh, this special program studies immigration, culture and labor in Pittsburgh through time. Beginning with a visit to the Nationality and Heritage Rooms, classrooms gifted from the ethnic communities who helped build Pittsburgh, and ending with a tour of the “Lewis Hine Pictures America” exhibition, this program will take attendees back in time to discuss the rich cultural fabric of Pittsburgh. \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$20 for college students with ID.

## **Lunch Pail Lecture: The Pittsburgh Survey**

*April 2 at 12 p.m.*

Join Jennie Benford, Local History Librarian at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, for a close look at The Pittsburgh Survey, a 1906 sociological study that exposed living and working conditions for the working class. Exhibition admission not included. \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 for college students with ID.

## **Adult Art Workshop: Doodle Bowl Casting**

*April 11 at 2 p.m.*

Inspired by the craftsmanship and labor depicted in “Lewis Hine Pictures America,” this workshop allows all participants to design and carve a bowl that will be cast in solid aluminum. Co-presented with Rivers of Steel’s metal arts team and held at the historic Carrie Blast Furnace, all participants will leave with a new, functional work of art. No experience is needed; exhibition admission not included. \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 for college students with ID.

### **Film Screening: “An American Tail”**

*April 19 at 2 p.m.*

Celebrate the exhibition, “Lewis Hine Pictures America,” with a screening of the classic animated film, “An American Tail” (1986). Follow Fievel Mousekewitz as he and his family emigrate from the Russian Empire to the United States in 1885, with the hopes of freedom and change. Things don’t go according to plan when Fievel is separated from his family and must find his way back. Exhibition admission not included. \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members and guests, \$5 for college students with ID.

### **Research Your Roots: Genealogy 101**

*April 29 at 6 p.m.*

Interested in researching your family’s history? Join the Frick and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s Local History Department to learn how to get started, what questions to ask and which resources the library has for you. Exhibition admission not included. \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 for college students with ID.

### **Journeys in Movement: A Multicultural Dance Showcase**

*May 2 at 2 p.m.*

Bridging past and present through movement and music, this performance explores the paths and stories of early immigrants inspired by the visuals and spirit of the “Lewis Hine Pictures America” exhibition. Allegro Dance Company and the Shovlin Academy of Irish Dance convey these narratives through expressive choreography, reflecting heritage, identity, and the enduring human spirit. This program is followed by a Q&A with the performers. Exhibition admission not included. Cost: \$15 members, \$20 non-members, \$10 for college students with ID.

### **Lunch Pail Lecture: Maxo Vanka Millvale Murals**

*May 7 at 12 p.m.*

Get acquainted with the murals of Croatian artist Maxo Vanka, located in Millvale, through a presentation by the murals’ Director of Education & Interpretation, Becky Gaugler. Participants will discover how this local treasure, covering the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary of the St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church, was painted over two intense periods in 1937 and 1941 and reflect the lived experiences of the church’s working-class, immigrant congregation. Hear stories about the artist, the murals, and the history of the church and its Croatian immigrant congregation. These unique murals are at the intersection of history, art, and social justice – with timeless themes of love, struggle, faith and hope. Exhibition admission not included. \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 for college students with ID.

## **Neighborhood Night: Braddock**

*May 8 at 6 p.m.*

Braddock comes to the Frick in this inaugural event, celebrating the many neighborhoods of Pittsburgh. An assortment of Braddock-based businesses will set up pop-up locations around the Frick's site to welcome and engage visitors in all that Braddock has to offer, including local artists, restaurants, and more. The evening includes exclusive after-hours access to "Lewis Hine Pictures America" before the exhibition closes. \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members, \$20 for college students with ID.

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## **About The Frick Pittsburgh**

Since 1990, The Frick Pittsburgh has welcomed visitors to its 10-acre cultural campus in the heart of Pittsburgh's East End. Gifted to the people of Pittsburgh by Helen Clay Frick, daughter of noted industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick, the campus is home to Clayton, the family's Gilded Age mansion, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The *Gilded, Not Golden* tour of Clayton was honored with a 2024 Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History.

The campus also includes The Frick Art Museum, the Car and Carriage Museum, a greenhouse, gardens, and welcoming café. Through its permanent collections, traveling exhibitions, historic tours, and public programs, the Frick invites all visitors to experience history and art, reframed for today. Discover more about The Frick Pittsburgh at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

**For additional information or images, please contact Stephanie Mirah, Marketing and Communications Manager, or Kristin Garbarino, Director of Marketing and Communications, at [Media@TheFrickPittsburgh.org](mailto:Media@TheFrickPittsburgh.org).**