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The Frick Pittsburgh Announces the Opening of New ADA-Compliant Restroom

Accessible resource adds another milestone in Point Breeze museum's efforts to accommodate all visitors

PITTSBURGH – The Frick Pittsburgh is pleased to announce the opening of a new ADA-compliant restroom at the Frick Art Museum, the latest milestone in the organization's efforts to create greater access and comfort for visitors of all ages and abilities. Construction began at the museum in January, with contractors working to transform a previously underutilized kitchenette into an all-gender, accessible space. The newly renovated restroom includes a spacious changing table suitable for both children and adults, grab bars for additional support, and an open floor plan for freedom of mobility.

The Frick Art Museum was further made accessible this spring with the installation of a power-assist mechanism to open the door at the museum's main entrance. Adapting modern technology to suit the construction of the 1970s era building turned out to be a major undertaking for the Frick operations team.

"Facing off against an old-school door frame with no blueprints to guide us, we had to get creative," said Frick Director of Operations Rob Henninger, "We called in a few favors, brainstormed with experts, and came up with a plan. The soft marble of the door frame turned out to be our saving grace for stability. After some trial and error, we figured out the best spot for a custom bracket. A local architect drew up the design, a nearby shop made it a reality, and when all was said and done, we brought the new bracket on site and mounted everything to make the power-door mechanism possible."

The new accessible restroom and power-assist museum door will be celebrated with a ribbon-cutting event on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

These important updates to the 55-year-old art museum follow other recent projects to expand accessibility at the Frick, including the opening of the Scott Family Infant Care Room within the Grable Visitor Center, sidewalk and curb cut accessibility updates, campus lighting improvements, the creation of new ADA-compliant parking spaces, the use of open captions at film screenings, and ongoing staff training in American Sign Language.

Efforts to increase accessibility at the Frick Art Museum in particular began in 2023 with the removal of bulky entryway admission desks to allow wheelchair, walker, and stroller users greater freedom of movement, and will continue into 2024.

“By helping to ensure that everyone who comes to our site feels valued and expected, our ongoing site accessibility improvements signal the Frick’s warm welcome to all visitors,” said Elizabeth Barker, executive director of The Frick Pittsburgh. “We want our guests to be able to enjoy their visits fully, undistracted from the experiences with art, history, and nature that we are so excited to share with our community.”

The accessible restroom was made possible by funding from the Allegheny Regional Asset District and the PNC Charitable Trusts.

ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH

The Frick Pittsburgh offers authentic experiences with art, history and nature that inspire and delight. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds are warmly welcomed to explore collections of fine and decorative arts, vehicles, historic objects, and buildings – including Clayton, the Frick family home and only intact Gilded Age mansion remaining from Pittsburgh’s Millionaire’s Row – left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Helen Clay Frick, daughter of noted industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Alongside these treasures, the Frick offers an active schedule of temporary exhibitions and programs on our 10-acre garden campus in the heart of Pittsburgh's East End. Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For additional information or images, please contact Kaitlyn Clem, Marketing and Communications Manager, at Media@TheFrickPittsburgh.org.