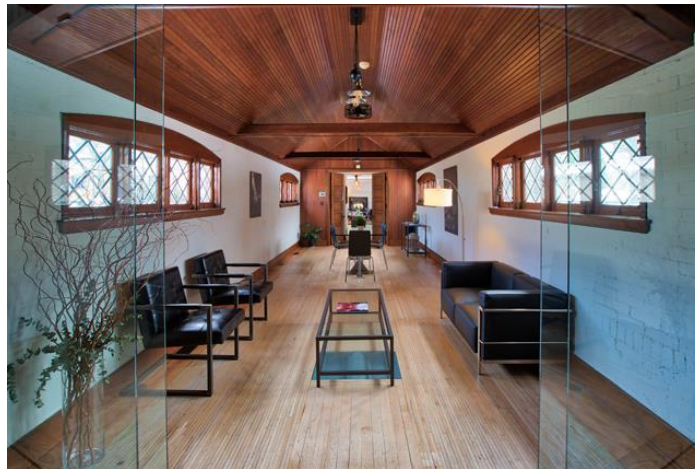


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For Immediate Release

THE FRICK PITTSBURGH ANNOUNCES
SPACES FOR WORK AND PLAY
A NEW PUBLIC TOUR



Photograph of the Playhouse by Rickard Kelly

Offered weekends July through September 2018

PITTSBURGH, PA, June 26, 2018—The Frick Pittsburgh in Point Breeze announces a new tour of two historic buildings on its nearly six-acre campus that are not open to the public. *Spaces for Work and Play* is a guided tour that provides an inside look into the Frick Children’s Playhouse and Haller House, an administrative office building. The 30-minute tour takes visitors into both buildings and uses archival materials and photographs to explore the stories and uses of these buildings through the years.

Spaces for Work and Play will be offered for a limited time this summer—on Saturdays and Sundays in July, August and September. Tour admission is free for Frick members; \$7 non-members and guests. Tour times vary on Saturdays and Sundays. Advance ticket purchase recommended by calling 412-371-0600 or buying tickets online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

ABOUT THE PLAYHOUSE

Once a center of activity for the Frick children, the charming, late-19th-century Playhouse has intrigued and delighted visitors to the Frick Pittsburgh for decades. Centrally located on the Frick's campus adjacent to the Greenhouse, the former Frick children's playhouse currently functions as office, meeting and event space for administrative staff. The Director's Office and Marketing Department are both located here.

Until 2014, the Playhouse served as the Frick's visitor center and housed a small museum store, however access to it has been restricted to Frick staff members in recent years. Following recent renovations, The Frick is delighted to offer an inside look at this historic structure during the summer of 2018 with a special public tour.

HISTORY OF THE PLAYHOUSE

Henry Clay Frick commissioned noted architects Alden & Harlow to make a number of improvements to the estate surrounding Clayton in 1897, including constructing a playhouse for the Frick children, Childs and Helen. Construction began in June 1897 and was substantially complete by the fall, right about the time Helen turned nine and her older brother Childs was 14. The finished Playhouse with its gambrel roof, shed dormers, and covered porch, evokes the emerging style of the American Arts and Crafts movement as well as the architects' New England roots. While entirely different in scale and style to Clayton, the charming, homey building was expressly designed to match the interests of the Frick children.

Childs and Helen used the Playhouse for entertaining, playing games, and, of course, bowling—in the long wing that extends off the back of the building. A section of the bowling lane is preserved in the floor. Bowling was a sport rising in popularity in the United States from the 1890s into the 20th century, and bowling lanes became a popular inclusion in Gilded Age mansions. The Fricks also included a bowling alley in their New York residence when it was constructed 17 years later.

The second floor featured a darkroom for photography buff Childs Frick. The first-floor parlor, outfitted with scaled-down furnishings, was a place where Helen could play with friends and host parties. Family photographs show many children gathered around the playhouse for parties and events. Childs also organized a group of local boys into a drill team called the Clayton Cadets, who used The Playhouse for meetings and practice. The playhouse was also used for dancing lessons.

In the 1950s, Helen Clay Frick commissioned architect Edward B. Lee to reconfigure some of the spaces in Playhouse to convert it to a residence for live-in staff. The exterior of the Playhouse, however, has remained largely unchanged and the interior still features the vertical tongue-in-groove paneling of Alden & Harlow's design. Architectural historian Margaret Henderson Floyd wrote, "The paneled interiors, bowling alley, and staircase form a miniature version of full-scale Longfellow, Alden & Harlow houses."

ABOUT HALLER HOUSE

Built in 1910 for C.H. Borntraeger, this former private residence became part of the Frick campus in 1986 and currently houses administrative offices. The building includes elements of American Craftsman and Arts and Crafts styles, a common feature of homes built in Pittsburgh in the first half of the 20th century.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The public may call 412-371-0600 or visit TheFrickPittsburgh.org to make reservations for the *Spaces for Work and Play* tour. General information regarding The Frick Pittsburgh may be obtained by visiting the Frick's website.

ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH

Located on the Pittsburgh estate of late-19th-century industrialist Henry Clay Frick, The Frick Pittsburgh is the steward of collections left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Frick's daughter, Helen Clay Frick. The permanent collections include fine and decorative arts, cars, carriages, historic objects, and buildings. The Frick experience includes The Frick Art Museum, the Car and Carriage Museum, Clayton,

the Frick family Gilded Age mansion, and six acres of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens. Also included are an Education Center, the Frick children’s playhouse (designed by renowned architects Alden & Harlow), a large working greenhouse (also designed by Alden & Harlow), The Café at the Frick, and the Grable Visitor Center, which houses the Frick Museum Store.

The Frick Pittsburgh is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Pittsburgh’s Point Breeze neighborhood. Free parking is available in the Frick’s off-street lot or along adjacent streets. The Frick is open 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday; 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Friday; and is closed Mondays and major holidays. The public should call 412-371-0600 for information, or visit the Frick online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

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