



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

The Frick Pittsburgh Presents

Signature Clayton Tour Experience: Gilded, Not Golden

Frick historic home tour reimaged for the first time in over 30 years

PITTSBURGH, PA, May 17, 2023 - The Frick Pittsburgh is pleased to present the **Signature Clayton Tour Experience: Gilded, Not Golden**, a new tour of Clayton, the Henry Clay Frick family home, which centers the lived experiences of the Frick family, their contemporaries, and working-class Pittsburghers as they navigated the Gilded Age, a pivotal era in American history. The development of **Gilded, Not Golden** was a multi-year effort led by Frick Education and Curatorial staff, specialized museum consultants, and a curated advisory board with the goal of creating a visitor experience that more broadly and thoughtfully investigates life in 19th-century Pittsburgh. The tour, which situates visitors in the tumultuous year of 1892, marks the first reimaging of the Clayton experience since the home opened to the public as a historic house museum in 1990.

"The development of **Gilded, Not Golden** marks not only a significant moment in the Frick's history as a cultural institution, but an important step in our ongoing mission to foster an environment of inclusivity on our campus," said Elizabeth E. Barker, executive director of The Frick Pittsburgh. "Many of the themes explored in this new tour remain strongly relevant. By demystifying the Frick family's status as one-percenters, and elevating the experiences of everyday Pittsburghers deeply impacted by Gilded Age titans, we hope visitors see aspects of themselves reflected through this thoughtful exploration."

"Previous tours of Clayton took a fairly broad look at the daily life of a wealthy family living in the 19th century. **Gilded, Not Golden** focuses instead on a single year of the Fricks' lives at Clayton, which was a choice that grew organically out of the brainstorming process with our advisors," added Kelsie Paul, manager of interpretation and engagement. "As we explored the major issues that were affecting people's lives during that era, we realized that for the Fricks and for Pittsburgh, 1892 felt like a climax of sorts—a time when everything from major forces like industrialization and labor strife to more intimate personal experiences like grief and child

loss collided. By narrowing our focus to this singular year, we hope that visitors will feel like they better understand how this one family fit into the larger fabric of our city's story at a time when Pittsburgh was one of the most important industrial centers in the world. **Gilded, Not Golden** invites visitors to actively participate in a conversation about this important era in our history and to consider how the Pittsburgh we live in today was shaped by it."

ABOUT THE SIGNATURE CLAYTON TOUR EXPERIENCE: GILDED, NOT GOLDEN

Guided tours of Clayton immerse visitors in the year 1892, a critical year for our nation, Pittsburgh, and the Frick Family. Considered to be the height of the Gilded Age, the early 1890s brought the era's extremes into stark relief—both the progress of technological advancements and economic growth, and the harsher realities of issues like wealth disparity, social unrest, and environmental degradation. Nowhere were these extremes more pronounced than in Pittsburgh—America's industrial powerhouse and one of the era's most influential cities. Tours of Clayton explore how these extremes affected the lives of everyone who lived in Pittsburgh at the time, though in dramatically different ways.

Rather than focus on the design of Clayton and its contents, this tour experience emphasizes the stories of real people— those who lived within Clayton's walls and those who did not. Visitors to Clayton should expect to participate in a dialogue alongside their guide and other visitors. Conversations will include discussions of a wide variety of historical experiences, not just those of the Frick family, as well as the ongoing legacy of the Gilded Age and its impact on our lives today.

HOURS AND ADMISSION

The **Signature Clayton Experience: Gilded, Not Golden** is open to visitors Tuesday through Sunday, 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tours last approximately 60 minutes and are most appropriate for children ages nine and up. Visitors should be aware that **Gilded, Not Golden** explores challenging topics including violence, grief, and child loss.

Gilded, Not Golden is free for Frick members; \$20 non-members; \$17 seniors aged 65+, post-secondary students, veterans and active-duty military, pre-K-12 teachers, and first responders; \$10 youth ages 17 and under; \$1 Museums for All and EBT access card users.

ACCESSIBILITY

Only Clayton's first floor is wheelchair accessible. Video accommodations are available to those who are unable to visit the second floor.

COLLABORATORS

The Frick would like to thank Michelle Moon and Rainey Tisdale, interpretive consultants, for their guidance and expert stewardship in the development of **Gilded, Not Golden**. We owe further thanks to the group of extraordinary museum professionals, educators, and scholars who served on the **Gilded, Not Golden** advisory board and were instrumental in the creation of the new tour experience. They are:

Ron Baraff, Director of Historic Resources and Facilities, Rivers of Steel

Dr. Rudi Batzel, Assistant Professor of History, Lake Forest College

Callie Hawkins, Director of Programming, President Lincoln's Cottage

Ryan Henderson, Interpretive Specialist, Rivers of Steel

Dr. Modupe Labode, Curator, National Museum of American History

Dr. Amanda Moniz, Curator of Philanthropy, National Museum of American History

Monica Montgomery, Director of Community Engagement and Programs, Historic Germantown

Dr. Jessica Ramey, Associate Professor of Gender Studies, Chatham University

Doug Swanson, Assistant Professor of Writing, University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Sarah Weicksel, Director of Research and Publications, American Historical Association

Dr. Sylvia Rhor Samaniego, Director of the University Art Gallery, University of Pittsburgh

Sonnet Takahisa, Independent Educator, Arts and Cultural Strategies, Inc.

Dr. Nicole J. Williams, Curator of Collections, Preservation Society of Newport County

ABOUT CLAYTON

The home of the Henry Clay Frick family from 1882–1905, this meticulously preserved 23-room mansion reveals the lifestyle of a prominent, wealthy family who lived in Pittsburgh at the height of the city's cultural and economic importance. Today, Clayton is the last remaining home of its kind in Pittsburgh, standing as a testament to another era and offering unique insights into our city's past.

The Frick family—Henry Clay Frick, Adelaide Howard Childs Frick, and their children, Childs Frick, Martha Howard Frick, Helen Clay Frick, and Henry Clay Frick, Jr.—lived in Clayton during

the Gilded Age, the forty-year period following the end of the American Civil War, a time of rapid, intense change that ushered in the modern era of the United States. Forces such as industrialization, urbanization, technological advances and immigration collided to fundamentally alter the American way of life—creating great wealth and progress, but also social upheaval and startling inequity that continue to impact our world today.

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 KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org or 412-342-4025.

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