



# Touring the cultural side of Pittsburgh

By Marcia Duncan Lowry

*Enjoy sightseeing in Pittsburgh during the conference*

Everyone knows the peril associated with "all work and no play," but that will not be a concern when you attend ACRL's 7th National Conference in Pittsburgh, March 29–April 1, 1995. The lineup of planned tours and events is certain to banish the word "dull" from your conference vocabulary. And these activities will not interfere with the serious business at hand, either. All tours and events have been carefully scheduled for pre- and post-conference leisure time.

## Center city

What better way to begin a stay in Pittsburgh than a guided Gray Line tour of "one of America's most livable cities"? The four-hour tour begins atop Mount Washington on the city's South Side, providing a spectacular vista of the "city of three rivers."

Crossing the Monongahela River into the heart of the Golden Triangle, the tour will pass by the site of historic Fort Pitt. Learn of Pittsburgh's growth from a fort in the wilderness to a modern city of distinction. The

downtown architecture of Pittsburgh commingles period styles and a stop is scheduled at one of its modern wonders, PPG Place, known as the city's "crown jewel." From the city center the tour will swing eastward to Oakland, the cultural and research center.

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## The Nationality Classrooms

In Oakland there will be a unique opportunity to visit the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Classrooms, which are housed in the campus landmark Cathedral of Learning. These functioning classrooms are tributes to the heritages of the city's ethnic groups. Funded by those communities and often designed by renowned architects abroad, the designs reflect Classical, Byzantine, Romanesque, Baroque, Renaissance, Tudor, and folk styles to recreate cultural periods prior to 1787, the founding date of the university. This tour of "Cultural Pittsburgh" will be offered both Wednesday morning, March 29, and Saturday afternoon, April 1.

## Victorian splendor

A sampling of Pittsburgh's days of Victorian splendor awaits those who choose to join the tour of Clayton, the Henry Clay Frick mansion, in the lovely Pittsburgh neighborhood of Point Breeze. The Frick home was built in the 1860s; had electricity installed by 1883 by George

Westinghouse himself; and had a telephone by 1888. Clayton was opened to the public in 1990 after a five-year, \$6 million restoration. Also available for touring are the Carriage Museum, displaying the Frick family carriages and auto-

mobiles, and the 1897 glassed greenhouse which is stocked year round with plants and flowers. An added attraction on the six-acre estate is the Frick Art Museum. Helen Clay Frick, daughter of the industrialist, built the museum in 1969 to house her sizeable collection of fine

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and decorative arts, including Italian, French, and Flemish works. A lovely cafe opened this year on the grounds. This "Victorian Sampler" is planned for Wednesday morning, March 29, and Saturday afternoon, April 1.

### The Andy Warhol Museum

Another treat is in store across the Allegheny River on Pittsburgh's North Side. A scheduled tour of the Andy Warhol Museum is slated for Wednesday morning, March 29, and Saturday afternoon, April 1. Opened in 1994, the museum displays the works of this famous Pittsburgh native, and is the country's most comprehensive museum devoted to a single artist. There will be ample time to experience Warhol's paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, films and videotapes. A gift shop and cafeteria are also available.

### Fallingwater

If escape from city life into the wooded Laurel Highlands east of Pittsburgh sounds appealing, then a trip to architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater is a must. Designed for Edgar Kaufmann, Pittsburgh department store owner and philanthropist, the house is described in *Architectural Record* as "the world's most significant work of architecture of the last 100 years." The glass window walls, natural boulder fireplace hearth, and terraces perched on a waterfall were designed to make the outdoors part of the living space. This was a favorite retreat of the family, filled with exquisite art, where they entertained such notables as Albert Einstein. Be sure to wear "sensible shoes" for the quarter-mile nature walk from the parking area to the estate. The tour will depart at noon, Saturday, April 1, and a boxed lunch will be provided.

### Pittsburgh at night

When the sun goes down, the opportunities for exploring Pittsburgh do not set. Two events are scheduled for conference attendees. An

evening with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is planned for Saturday, April 1. The program entitled "Romeo and Juliet Come Alive" consists of selections from Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Gounod, and Diamond, and will include dramatic readings from Shakespeare's text. Heinz Hall, home to the Symphony, is worth a visit in itself. It has earned an international reputation for grandeur and excellence as a concert hall and showplace. Red velvet, Lavanto marbles, crystal, and gold leaf create an opulent setting.

If the highbrow is not to your liking, a more casual musical experience is available on Thursday evening, March 30. Join the Captain's Dinner Dance Cruise and enjoy moonlight on the three rivers aboard one of the Gateway Clipper Fleet's nostalgic riverboats. The Gateway Clipper is America's largest and most successful boat operation and offers a variety of day cruises as well. Spend three relaxing hours with music and a buffet dinner. The cruise sails from the dock at his-

toric Station Square on the South Side.

### On your own

Should these scheduled events not fit into your conference plan, all is not lost. Pittsburgh is a very friendly, safe, and manageable city. The subway, known as the "T," is free in the downtown zone and there are ample buses and taxis available for getting you around town. A future article will detail self-guided walking tours of several of the city's interesting neighborhoods and shopping districts proximate to downtown, as well as highlight what's going on the week of the conference. Stay tuned!

The Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau's Tourism Department is at your service if you would like to contact them directly for help in planning your Pittsburgh experience. The Tourism Department's address is 4 Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; phone: (800) 366-0093. ■



Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, a home built on a waterfall.

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