



Libraryinsider

Welcome to the University of Pittsburgh Library System's *Library Insider*. Here, we share brief updates on library spaces, services, programs, and people, and extend invitations to library-hosted events we hope you will find interesting. Thanks for reading!

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Thank You, Pitt Day of Giving Donors!

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The Archives and Special Collections Hyland Gallery Showcases the Nationality Rooms' Rich Heritage

The University Library System (ULS) hosted an opening reception and gallery talks in the Archives & Special Collections Hyland Gallery for two new exhibits, "Read the Room! Uncovering the Italian Room's Transnational Traces," curated by Professor Lina Insana, and "The Women Behind the Walls" (of the French Nationality Room), curated by Joanna Conings. This event marked the centennial celebration of Pitt's Nationality Rooms and its support organization, the Intercultural Exchange Program. The Archives & Special Collections (A&SC) unit holds the administrative and development records of most Nationality Rooms and their committees. This invaluable collection includes

presentation programs, architectural drawings, and photographs of the rooms and committee members.



As chair of the Italian Nationality Room Committee, Prof. Insana was familiar with the University Archives and the "treasure trove" within them, but it was her first time creating an exhibit based on her archival research. Fortunately, collaborating with the A&SC Engagement and Outreach Librarian (Megan Massanelli) and the University Archivist & Records Manager (Zachary Brodt) was "a dream," she said. "If it's possible, I have even more respect for the team than I did before I started the project," Insana remarked. She encourages newcomers interested in creating an exhibit to "lean on all the expertise and support of the library staff. It really is a robust support structure."



The Nationality Rooms are a testament to Western Pennsylvania's immigrant heritage and are designed to aid international students as they transition into American academic life. Joanna Conings, a PhD candidate from Belgium, curated selections from the French Nationality Room for the exhibit. Her journey began when the ULS's Head of Digital Scholarship and Publishing (Rachel Starry) visited her classroom, offering guidance on best practices for creating digital

exhibits. The positive experience influenced her decision to submit a proposal to the Nationality Rooms Programs' call for physical exhibits.

"The library staff is very available for you," Conings shared. "They will work with you to articulate your needs, and those needs will be met. It's incredible."

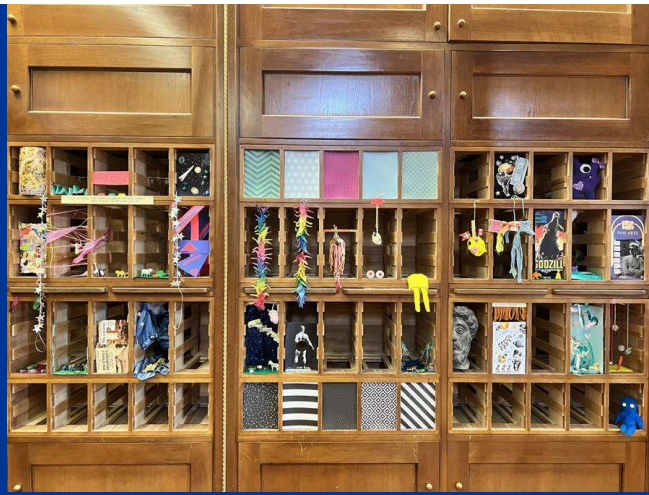
The library's resources, expertise, and stewardship of Pitt's rich archival history allow these stories to emerge, be shared, and appreciated for years to come. Both exhibits will remain on display in The Hyland Gallery until August 2026. Come by and explore the unique history of Pitt's Nationality Rooms through a library lens!



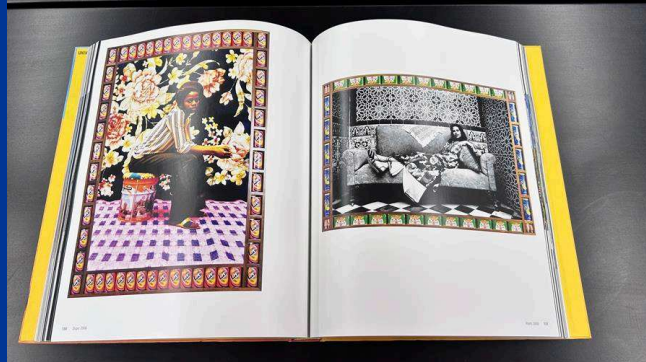
Creativity Sparks in Frick Fine Arts Library's Card Catalog

Major improvements to the Frick Fine Arts Library's (FFAL) environmental systems are planned for May through August 2026. Moving materials for the renovations created temporary empty spaces throughout the library, including in the card catalog. The FFAL staff invited patrons to fill those catalog cubbies with miniature art installations.

Browse the creative contributions from library visitors and the newest additions by staff at the George M. Bevier Science and Engineering Library!



A curated selection of FFAL materials has already been moved to the second floor of the Hillman Library. It covers a wide variety of topics, including studio resources, exhibition catalogs, zines, graphic novels, and much more. Stop by and get inspired!



**Thank You, Pitt Day of Giving
Donors!**

107 DONORS

Gave

\$33,321

**THANK YOU
Alumni, Friends, Faculty,
Staff, and Students!**

#PittDayofGiving

Thank you to our 107 donors, including alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, who contributed more than \$33,000. The ULS raised the bar this year by surpassing the total number of donors from Pitt Day of Giving 2025 and will be rewarded based on our leaderboard standing. We also received \$750 in bonus funds for ranking among the top ten highest number of donors in the Places, Experiences, & More category. Our Pitt Day of Giving donors supported the Student Learning Fund, General Library Fund, August Wilson Archive, and Archives & Special Collections.

Celebrating Pittsburgh: Historic Views from the Archives

Have you noticed Pittsburgh in the news lately? As you've likely heard, this April the NFL Draft will be held at Pittsburgh's Acrisure Stadium, formerly known as Heinz Field. In the spirit of showcasing our City of Bridges, we've uncovered some archival photographs of Pittsburgh's stadiums over the years, and scenic views of Downtown and Point State Park. Scroll through to take a peek into the past from our photo collections, followed by images of the Pittsburgh you know today.



Point State Park (The Point) and the Duquesne Incline seen from Duquesne Heights. Photograph by Herb Ferguson, from the [Herb Ferguson Photograph Collection](#), 1988.



An aerial view of downtown Pittsburgh showing Three Rivers Stadium and Point State Park. Photograph by Joel B. Levinson from the [Joel B. Levinson Photographs collection](#), 1994.



An under-construction Heinz Field (renamed Acrisure Stadium in 2022) and Three Rivers Stadium, which was demolished in 2001. Photograph by Herb Ferguson, from the [Herb Ferguson Photograph Collection](#), 2000.



Acrisure Stadium. Stock photo by [Kiran Naidu](#), 2025.



Modern-day view of The Point. Stock photo by [Geoffrey Gu](#), 2024.

If you're in town, visit us [anytime we're open](#)! We have some great events coming up and exhibits exclusive to Pitt and Pittsburgh. (Learn more below.)

What's Happening Next at the ULS

3 Minute Thesis Competition



Mon. April 6

Join us as Pitt graduate students compete for prizes while explaining their complex research to a general audience in just three minutes.

From noon to 2 p.m.
Archives & Special Collections Instruction Room, 340 Hillman Library

[Learn more](#)

Origins of Astronomy Week



April 6-10, 2026

Is the fault in our stars?

Find out at Origins of Astronomy!

Mark your calendars for a week of faculty talks, makerspace activities, and more!

FOR A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

pi.tt/OriginsOf



Mon. April 6 - Fri. April 10

How has astronomy shaped our understanding of the universe? Join us in Hillman Library for a week of faculty talks, makerspace activities, exhibits, and other events showcasing early observations of the night sky and modern discoveries.

- Stop by the Open Lab to create an astrolabe, a handheld instrument used to measure the altitude of celestial bodies above the horizon.
- Print an astronomy design in the Text & Context Lab and learn about early printing techniques used to create illustrations of the stars and heavens.
- Come to our faculty panel discussion and learn how the boundaries of astronomy and astrology were not so distinct in cultures of the past.
- Take a break and watch some celestial-themed films streaming in the Media Group View Room, ground floor (G42).

We hope to see you there!

[Learn more](#)

Archival Scholars in Conversation



Fri. April 17

Join us for a conversation with Archival Scholars Research Award (ASRA) winners, who will discuss their research using the University Library System's archival, rare, and special collections. Following the conversation, they will officially launch their exhibit on the Archives & Special Collections' large-scale digital interactive wall.

The event is free and open to the Pitt community. Light refreshments will be served.

From 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Thornburgh Room, Hillman Library, first floor

Learn more

See our [events and workshops calendar](#) to find upcoming programs of interest.

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