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The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts Seeks Nominations for Pennsylvania's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts

Statewide program will celebrate and save the state's inspiring historic items through a new micro-fundraising platform

PHILADELPHIA – [The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts \(CCAHA\)](http://www.conservationscenter.org) has opened a statewide call to libraries, museums, historic sites and archives to participate in a new program called [Pennsylvania's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts](http://patop10artifacts.org). This initiative to save the state's most significant artifacts seeks nominations of inspiring historic items – drawings, paintings, manuscripts, rare books, maps, photographs, objects, textiles and more – that illuminate important stories of the state's history and are in need of conservation.

The top 10 objects, selected by an independent review panel of collections care professionals, will be featured on a new micro-fundraising site and promoted through marketing and social media campaigns in a new model for heritage fundraising and awareness building. On this website, the public can vote for and donate to their favorite objects from the group of 10, encouraging some friendly competition among institutions and history enthusiasts. **Institutions may now nominate an artifact at patop10artifacts.org.**

As the country's largest nonprofit conservation facility serving cultural, research and educational institutions and offering expert treatment of works of art and artifacts from around the world, CCAHA understands the crucial need for collections care. CCAHA created [Pennsylvania's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts](http://patop10artifacts.org), which is supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and by The Beneficial Foundation, to draw attention to the increasingly urgent need to preserve and protect Pennsylvania's cultural collections for future generations.

"This initiative is a wonderful opportunity for the participating organizations to engage with the public on the important issues of collections care and the need to preserve Pennsylvania's heritage," says **Ingrid E.**

Bogel, Executive Director of the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts. “With a sustainable fundraising platform and the community’s support, we will ensure that artifacts vital to preserving the state’s history remain accessible to the public, educators, students and researchers.”

The project is part of CCAHA’s **Save Pennsylvania’s Past** initiative, a multi-year, statewide effort to protect and preserve the millions of objects and historic artifacts that shape the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s history and define our nation.

Nominations for the Top 10 Endangered Artifacts are now being accepted at patop10artifacts.org, through April 15, 2013. The top 10 will be announced in the spring, followed by public voting and donations and the announcement of a People’s Choice Winner. Funds raised through the online platform during the competition will be used to conserve the Top 10 Endangered Artifacts.

The Rules

Each nominating institution must:

- Be located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Be a nonprofit organization or unit of state, county, or local government.
- Have a collection that is accessible to the public.
- Have one staff member or volunteer who will be available to coordinate and follow through with marketing and publicity if the organization’s object is selected as a Top 10 Endangered Artifact.

The selected artifact must:

- Be historically significant.
- Be demonstrably in need of conservation.
- Be an artifact or a related group of artifacts and cannot be a building.

The Pennsylvania’s Top 10 Endangered Artifacts review panel will strive to select a diverse group of artifacts from institutions varying in type and budget size and representative of various regions of the state.

About the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts

The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) is the country’s largest nonprofit conservation facility serving cultural, research and educational institutions, as well as individuals and private organizations. Its mission is to provide expertise and leadership in the preservation of the world’s material culture. CCAHA specializes in the treatment of works of art and artifacts on paper, such as drawings, prints, maps, posters, historic wallpaper, photographs, rare books, scrapbooks and manuscripts, along with related materials like parchment and papyrus. CCAHA also offers digital imaging services, on-site consultations, educational programs and seminars, fellowships and emergency conservation services. Learn more at ccaaha.org.

About Save Pennsylvania’s Past

Save Pennsylvania’s Past is a statewide effort to preserve the millions of objects and historic artifacts that shape the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s history and define our nation. Now in its second year, this two-year initiative is preparing collections care staff to address the challenges threatening Pennsylvania’s world-class collections through training programs and online resources.

As Save Pennsylvania's Past project leader, CCAHA has partnered with a creative coalition of arts, cultural, educational, government, and historic organizations from all across the state: the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC), PA Museums, and LYRASIS. The initiative is supported by an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Connecting to Collections Statewide Implementation Grant, by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and by the Arthur Ross Foundation, Inc.

Acknowledgements

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