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For more information, contact:  
Shelley Johansson, Marketing Manager  
Johnstown Area Heritage Association  
P. O. Box 1889  
Johnstown, PA 15907-1889  
814-539-1889  
sjohansson@jaha.org  
[www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org)

## **International museum group to come to Johnstown**

***October 19-25 conference in Pittsburgh to include a day in  
Johnstown at JAHA museums***

JOHNSTOWN – The International Committee for Regional Museums (ICR) will hold its annual conference in Pittsburgh from October 19-25. The conference, “Regional Museums in a Post Industrial Age,” includes a day in Johnstown viewing JAHA museums.

About 30 people are expected for the conference. China, Taiwan, Egypt, Germany, Austria, Norway, Croatia, Slovenia and New Zealand are among the countries that will be represented.

“Johnstown Area Heritage Association has done an exemplary job of creating sustainable high quality museums dedicated to preserving and interpreting Johnstown history,” said Sue Hanna of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, which was instrumental in bringing the conference to this area. Visitors from abroad rarely have the opportunity to get such an in-depth look at a community and its heritage.

The conference will arrive in Johnstown on Thurs., Oct. 23 for a two-night stay. Their itinerary includes a visit to the Inclined Plane as well as JAHA’s existing museums, the Johnstown Flood Museum, Heritage Discovery Center, and Wagner-Ritter House & Garden. In addition, they will preview JAHA’s upcoming museums, the Johnstown Children’s Museum and the

Iron & Steel Gallery featuring the “Mystery of Steel” film presentation. At Burkert’s suggestion, the group will also tour St. Stephen’s and Immaculate Conception Churches, which are part of the Cambria City neighborhood where the Heritage Discovery Center is located.

“This is the first ICR conference in the United States since the 1960s, so it’s a great honor that they chose to come to Pittsburgh and Johnstown,” said Richard Burkert, JAHA executive director and a member of ICR.

The conference will also visit a variety of Pittsburgh museums, as well as Fallingwater.

ICR is a committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), an organization of museums and museum professionals committed to the conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world’s natural and cultural heritage. ICOM is a non-governmental organization that maintains formal relationships with UNESCO and the United Nations. ICR works to facilitate the development of regional museums for the benefit of their communities, through providing a forum for communication, co-operation and information exchange among museums, professionals and organizations. For more information, visit [www.icr-icom.org](http://www.icr-icom.org).

In addition to the International Committee for Regional Museums, the conference is sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Museum Council, the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations and the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.

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The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is a non-profit, membership-based organization dedicated to preserving and presenting Johnstown’s unique history to the nation through high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences. In addition to the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center, JAHA produces the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest, a 3-day free music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend; the Johnstown Film & Wine Festival; flood commemoration events; and a variety of additional cultural programming. JAHA will open the Wagner-Ritter House & Garden in 2006, and the Johnstown Children’s Museum will open in 2008. For more information on JAHA programs, museums and events, visit [www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org).

