



Western Reserve Historical Society



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**New Exhibit *American Dream: Immigrants and the Business of Fashion*
Opens October 17, 2025 at the WRHS Cleveland History Center**

CLEVELAND, OH – Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is opening a new exhibit, *American Dream: Immigrants and the Business of Fashion* in the Chisholm Halle Costume Wing of the Cleveland History Center. This exhibit explores the lives and legacies of four Jewish Immigrant women whose bold visions and entrepreneurial spirits transformed 20th-century American Fashion. Through their groundbreaking work, visitors will discover how these women left an indelible mark on style and culture. The exhibition also highlights the local impact of their work – featuring stories from Clevelanders who wore their creations and the department stores and boutiques that brought their fashions to Northeast Ohio. Open October 17, 2025 through September 6, 2026, the exhibit is supported by Cindy Halle & Friends.

Featured designers include Hattie Carnegie (1886-1956), Nettie Rosenstein (1890-1980), Irene Zerner Gothé (1906-1986), and Pauline Trigère (1908-2002). Their garments and accessories range from the 1930s through the 1980s. Wearers include Cleveland theater patron, Phyllis Peckham, Taylor Chair Company CEO Moselle Meals, and the National Council of Jewish Women activist Michaeline Maschke. The boutique owner Cindy Halle even worked closely with Pauline Trigère. Her experiences help bring the exhibition to life.

Western Reserve Historical Society maintains one of the largest collections of historic costume and textiles in the United States. Housed within the WRHS Chisholm Halle Costume Wing and the Bingham-Hanna Mansion, the collection comprises approximately 40,000 garments, accessories and domestic textiles, ranging in date from ca. 1750 to present day. The collection is international in scope and contains both historic and contemporary designs, including mass-produced, ready-to-wear, couture and one-of-a-kind pieces.

Tickets to *American Dream: Immigrants and the Business of Fashion* are included with general museum admission to the Cleveland History Center in University Circle. Museum hours are 12:00pm-8:00 pm



Western Reserve Historical Society



Thursdays and 10am-4pm Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. More information is available online at wrhs.org or @clestartshere.

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About the Western Reserve Historical Society

Founded in 1867, WRHS is a regional American history organization with seven properties across Northeast Ohio. Included in its collections are 39 historic structures – 7 of which are on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) - over 100,000 objects in its museum collections, an expansive library of published and primary source materials, an auto-aviation collection, costume and textile collection, and more. WRHS presents exhibitions, programs and experiences that tell the dynamic stories of the people of Northeast Ohio through art, documents and artifacts from a variety of collections. Through its Heritage Management Program, WRHS is a resource for corporations and organizations.

Cleveland History Center provides the public with a much-needed sense of place in today's mobile society. Serving as the headquarters for WRHS, Cleveland History Center shares the story of Northeast Ohio through the use of the Western Reserve Historical Society's extensive collections. Each document and artifact tell the story of the American experience that personally engages individuals, young and old to make these stories come alive. Ride on the restored Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel, walk through two historic mansions, experience the evolution of the automobile in Cleveland and the world in the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum, and discover "why Cleveland."

At Hale Farm & Village, American history comes to life through authentic experiences, programs and events, 34 historic structures, farm animals, heritage gardens, farming and early American craft and trade demonstrations. Hale Farm & Village is widely used by the community as a key field trip destination for K-12 students, a unique venue for public programming, and as a highly sought-after venue for private parties and events.

WRHS is a Smithsonian Affiliate and is a member of the America 250-Ohio Commission commemorating the semiquincentennial of the United States in 2026. WRHS was awarded accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) in March 2025, the industry gold standard for museum excellence for over 50 years. AAM accreditation signifies a museum's quality and credibility to the entire museum community, to governments and outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. WRHS is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Sponsorships, bequests, grants, admissions, and other funds are used by WRHS to preserve and



Western Reserve Historical Society



enrich the region's artistic and cultural heritage. WRHS earned a top four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the nation's most-used independent evaluator of charities and nonprofits. Administrative offices are located at 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106 Visit us online at www.wrhs.org or on social media @clestartshere.

About America 250-Ohio

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its semiquincentennial, which is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Each state has been encouraged to create a celebration and commemoration of this anniversary to reflect the unique character and contributions of each state to the nation over the past 250 years. Ohio is fully embracing this opportunity. The Ohio Commission for the Semiquincentennial (aka America 250-Ohio Commission or AM250-OH) was created by the Ohio legislature and launched on March 1, 2022. The charge of the AM250-OH Commission is to "...to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States and the impact of Ohioans on the nation's past, present, and future." — Ohio Revised Code (149.309). More information can be found at America250-Ohio.org.