

CLEVELAND HISTORY CENTER

of the WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For Immediate Release

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Final Look - Wow Factor: 150 Years of Collecting Bold Clothes – Closes April 22nd

Cleveland, Ohio (April 1st, 2018) - On April 22, 2017 Cleveland History Center opened *Wow Factor: 150 Years of Collecting Bold Clothes* in the Chisholm Halle Costume Wing. The exhibition features designers like Christian Dior to Oscar de la Renta and icons like Audrey Hepburn to LeBron James. After nearly a year on display, the exhibit that showcases legendary designers and the people who wore them will close on April 22, 2018.

Filling three galleries, *Wow Factor* includes over 100 garments, accessories, pieces of jewelry, and works of art worn by notable Cleveland men and women. These objects represent the quality and history of the costume and textile collection, which encompasses over 40,000 objects—some never before seen in a public forum. Each item tells a story of art, history, philanthropy, and the rich history of Cleveland.

“With *Wow Factor: 150 Years of Collecting Bold Clothes*, we celebrated 150 years of exceptional clothes and their history. These garments have helped us to tell the stories of everyday people who have done extraordinary things locally and nationally. This exhibit has been well received during the last year, and we hope people will visit these amazing pieces before they return to the vault,” says President & CEO, Kelly Falcone-Hall.

Other notable pieces that connect the past to the present in the exhibit come from Fount Leather (who appeared on the hit CNBC television show *Cleveland Hustles*), jewelry from *Bombay Taxi Boutique*, and pieces from *The Hunger Games* and *Alice through the Looking Glass* designed by Dana Schneider.

Wow Factor: 150 Years of Collecting Bold Clothes is on display in the Chisholm Halle Costume Wing at the Cleveland History Center through Sunday, April 22, 2018. Admission is \$10.

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About the Western Reserve Historical Society and Cleveland History Center

Founded in 1867 as an historic branch of the Cleveland Library Association on Public Square in downtown Cleveland, the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) shares the dynamic stories of Northeast Ohio and beyond – stories of the people, the artifacts and the archives that are the provenance for our region.

Operating six sites throughout Northeast Ohio, WRHS presents exhibitions, programs and experiences that tell the story of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio through art, documents and artifacts from a variety of collections at its headquarters, the Cleveland History Center in University Circle. Through the use of its vast collections of family history, community history, entrepreneurship, and technological innovation, the Cleveland History Center provides a much-needed sense of place in today’s mobile society. It is a base for learning about innovation that can be transferred into modern economic expansion.

Admission to the Cleveland History Center includes access to Cleveland Starts Here[®], two historic mansions, both on the National Register of Historic Places, the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum (with support from The Frederick C. and Kathleen S. Crawford Fund of the Cleveland Foundation), Chisholm Halle Costume Wing, Research Library, Kidzibits Playzone, Community History Galleries, and rides on the Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel.

WRHS is a Smithsonian Affiliate (www.affiliations.si.edu) a national outreach program that develops collaborative partnerships with cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. 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 funding are used by WRHS to preserve and 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. Visit us at 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106, at www.wrhs.org or on social media @clestartshere.