

News Release



For Immediate Release
February 23, 2006

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TEAM SELECTED TO MANAGE CONSTRUCTION FOR THE AUGUST WILSON CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

PITTSBURGH, PA – The team of Turner Construction Company, Ebony Development, LLC and Sterling Contracting, LLC was recently chosen from among a field of competitive bids to manage the construction of the stellar new August Wilson Center for African American Culture. Construction on the \$35.9 million state-of-the-art, facility (formerly known as the African American Cultural Center) will begin in spring 2006. The center, which will be located on Liberty Avenue in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh, is scheduled to open to the public in fall 2007.

Turner, the nation's largest builder and local firms Sterling Contracting, LLC and Ebony Development, LLC, both African American-owned companies, are partnering to provide essential staff and expertise to the project team. The Turner/Sterling/Ebony team will provide pre-construction and construction management services. By combining staff from each firm, the three companies will be better able to provide stronger resources for the building process. The construction budget is approximately \$19.6 million.

"It was a priority to find not only the most capable and responsible team, but a team that would work actively to encourage minority participation, and engage the African American community," said Neil Barclay, President and CEO of the AWCAAC. "I believe with this partnership we have achieved this goal."

The construction of the August Wilson Center for African American Culture facility is a public/private partnership. The expansive three-story, 80,000-square-foot building will feature: a 500-seat theater, a permanent exhibition gallery devoted to Western Pennsylvania's African American cultural history, a changing exhibition gallery, music café, a gift store with street access that will include Internet access and a multi-purpose room/rehearsal space that can seat 200 for small performances and that can be rented for community events.

Created by architect Allison Williams of Perkins+Will, the cornerstone of the center's sleek triangular design is a distinctive bowed structure of metal and glass that marks the corner of the building at Liberty Avenue and 10th Street. This curved element gives the building an implied sense of movement, as if the energy of African American culture contained within were bursting forward into the city. Functionally, this curved element provides a transparent enclosure for large, light-filled halls on the second and third floors.

About Turner Construction Company

Turner Construction Company was founded in 1902 by Henry C. Turner. In October 1969, Turner became a publicly-owned corporation whose shares were traded on the American Stock Exchange from 1972 until December 1998, when the company listed its shares on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: TUR). In 1984, The Turner Corporation was formed as a holding company for Turner Construction Company and other subsidiaries. In September 1999, The Turner Corporation was acquired by HOCHTIEF, Germany's largest construction firm and one of the world's leading international construction companies.

Turner Construction Company is the nation's largest builder with 46 offices in cities nationwide and has an average annual construction volume of \$6.2 billion. Locally, the Pittsburgh office employs 80 professional staff. The company has previous experience building cultural centers and museums including the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History in Detroit and the African-American Research Library in Denver.

About Sterling Contracting, LLC

Founded in 1998, and located in Homestead, Pennsylvania, the focus of Sterling Contracting, LLC, from day one has been providing stellar service to its clients. Sterling Contracting, LLC, is a dedicated and honest company, striving continually to be a company on the move, shaped by the desire to be the best commercial contracting company in the Western Pennsylvania region. Sterling Contracting, LLC has diverse experience providing turn-key construction and renovation services for tenant improvements, retail spaces, hotel renovation, restaurants, hospitals, medical facilities and commercial offices.

About Ebony Development, LLC

Plunging into the industry feet first, Ebony Development's first project was a 15,000 square foot office building, Williams Square, in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Williams Square was the dream of then President Irvin E. Williams to move his financial services business closer to home. In 1996, this dream materialized into the newest office building in the neighborhood in over 30 years and made Williams the first African American in Western Pennsylvania to become the developer and owner of a commercial office building.

Today, Ebony Development, LLC recently nominated as third among Pittsburgh Business Times' 100 fastest growing companies, has grown into a multi-million dollar development business and a recognized urban real estate development leader. The company specializes in creating quality urban designs, improving life quality and developing sustainable solutions for urban redevelopment, brownfield development, and mixed-use and infill development in urban neighborhoods.

About The August Wilson Center for African American Culture

Formerly known as the African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh, the recently renamed August Wilson Center for African American Culture presents, interprets and preserves the art, culture and history of African Americans in Pittsburgh and of people of African descent throughout the world. The Center realizes its mission with an engaging schedule of visual and performing arts programs as well as educational and public programs. More information is available at www.africanaculture.org.

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