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PRESS RELEASE

**Alcoa Foundation Supports August Wilson Center
With \$600,000 Contribution to Capital Campaign**

***Gift is foundation's largest grant given to an
African American arts organization***

Pittsburgh, PA—April 28, 2008—The August Wilson Center for African American Culture announces today the receipt of a \$600,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation. The contribution is in support of the Center's Capital Campaign and will help to fund the development of permanent exhibitions, performances and educational programming for the new Center.

"We are gratified to receive the generous contribution from the Alcoa Foundation. This gift will go a long way toward creating a facility that promises to be an integral part of the cultural resurgence that is fueling Pittsburgh's economic revitalization," said Neil Barclay, the August Wilson Center's President and CEO.

"On behalf of the Center's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, I extend our deepest appreciation to the Alcoa Foundation for their dynamic contribution, tremendous show of confidence and continued support for our work," Barclay said.

"I'm delighted that the Alcoa Foundation's grant will enable the August Wilson Center to produce and present quality artistic programming that enhances public knowledge and appreciation of the African American experience," said Velma Monteiro-Tribble, Chief Operating Officer and Assistant Treasurer for Alcoa Foundation.

The August Wilson Center is in the final stages of its Capital Campaign for a \$35.9 million facility currently under construction in the Cultural District, Downtown. More than a museum, the two-story, 65,000-square-foot, multidisciplinary cultural center will be reflective of all aspects of African American culture and include exhibition galleries, a theater, an education center, a café and gift shop, and multipurpose spaces for community programs and events.

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With this grant, Alcoa Foundation becomes the title sponsor of Past as Present, a permanent exhibition in the new Center that will present, interpret and preserve the thriving art, culture and history of African Americans from Western Pennsylvania and the Diaspora. The Center's exhibits are a key element of a rich array of educational and public programs. They will use layered, multidimensional, interactive and innovative techniques to engage visitors, enhance public knowledge and appreciation, build cultural pride, and encourage learning through the arts in support of the Center's overall mission and vision. The many creative expressions of African Americans from Western Pennsylvania contribute to a broader understanding of human identity, experience and history.

Alcoa Foundation's gift also funds the Center's first touring exhibition, entitled Rhapsody in Black and White: The Photographs of Charles "Teenie" Harris. This exhibition pays homage to celebrated African American photographer, Charles "Teenie" Harris, whose photographs captured life in Pittsburgh's African American community over five decades of the 20th century.

The exhibition complements One Shot, a new feature-length dance work inspired by Teenie Harris, choreographed by Ronald K. Brown and brought to life by the members of Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, A Dance Company. Praised as "one of the most profound modern dance choreographers of his generation" by The New York Times, Ronald K. Brown blends African, modern, ballet and social dance styles to depict what is important about the human experience. His dance piece honors Harris by using music from Billy Strayhorn's jazz scores, Anonimo Consejo's Cuban rap, Ahmad Jamal and the torch ballads of Phyllis Hyman, as well as large projections of Teenie Harris's photographs.

One Shot and Rhapsody in Black and White are touring the United States, including stops in several Alcoa communities, and will be presented during the August Wilson Center's inaugural season in the new facility in 2009.

Rhapsody in Black and White is owned and organized by the August Wilson Center with the help of the Carnegie Museum of Art and PMG Arts Management. The images on view are from the Charles "Teenie" Harris Archive of Carnegie Museum of Art.

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About the August Wilson Center for African American Culture

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture preserves, presents and interprets the art, culture and history of African Americans in western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world. The Center realizes its mission through an engaging schedule of visual and performing arts presentations as well as historical, educational and public programs.

The Center is involved in a \$35.9 million Capital Campaign to build a new facility located at Liberty Avenue, Tenth Street and William Penn Place in Pittsburgh's Downtown. More than a museum, the multidisciplinary cultural center will be reflective of all aspects of African American culture. Opening in spring 2009, the Center's striking, two-story, green building will house exhibition galleries, a 479-seat theater for performances in all disciplines, an education center, a café and gift shop, and multipurpose spaces for community programs and events.

More information is available on the Center's Web site at AugustWilsonCenter.org and by calling 412.258.2700.

About Alcoa Foundation

Alcoa Foundation is a separately constituted nonprofit U.S. corporate foundation with assets of approximately \$504 million. The second largest asset-based corporate foundation in the United States, its mission is to actively invest in the quality of life in Alcoa (NYSE:AA) communities worldwide. Throughout its history, the Foundation has been a source of positive community change and enhancement, with over \$465 million invested since 1952.

The Foundation's grants address global and local needs in more than 36 countries by partnering with Alcoa communities around the world to make a difference. Global and local grantmaking is responsive to the needs and aspirations of Alcoa communities, and marshals the combined expertise, energies, and values of Alcoa and Alcoa Foundation to provide a world-class standard of excellence in corporate citizenship.

In 2007, Alcoa and Alcoa Foundation invested a combined total of \$49 million in community programs in 36 countries, focusing on four areas of excellence: conservation and sustainability, global education and workplace skills, business and community partnerships, and safe and healthy children and families.

For more information, visit www.alcoa.com, under Community.