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PRESS RELEASE

August Wilson Center Holds Five FREE Collecting Fairs Across the Region

AWC looking for dynamic family stories and prized family photos that may become part of opening exhibitions in new building

Pittsburgh, PA—August 26, 2008—This fall, the August Wilson Center for African American Culture is scouring Pittsburgh and surrounding communities to collect memories, stories and photos that may become part of the exhibitions when the new Center opens in spring 2009. Do you have a great story to tell or a treasured family photo? The August Wilson Center wants to hear and see them. Join the Center for a **Free** Collecting Fair at one of five locations.

At each fair:

- Learn more about collecting and oral histories.
- Tell and record your family's story and experiences of growing up, working and living in Western Pennsylvania.
- Bring family photos to be scanned into the Center's computer stations.
- Watch a sneak preview of what there is to see and do at the August Wilson Center before we open our permanent home this spring in Downtown Pittsburgh.
- Discover how you can leave your imprint on the Center's upcoming programming.

Dates, Times & Locations:

Saturday, September 6, 2008

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Brookline
708-710 Brookline Boulevard
10 am to 2 pm

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Allegheny Center Alliance Church
250 East Ohio Street, North Side
10 am to 2 pm

Saturday, October 4, 2008

The Kingsley Association Community Center
6435 Frankstown Avenue, East Liberty/Homewood
10 am to 2 pm

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Father Ryan Arts Center
420 Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks
10 am to 2 pm

Saturday, November 1, 2008

The Hill House Association
Canteen Room
1835 Centre Avenue, Hill District
10 am to 2 pm

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August Wilson Center Holds Five Collecting Fairs For Oral Histories Project/Page 2

“Western Pennsylvania was built on a solid foundation of hard work, determination and perseverance. We want to hear your stories. We want to see those cherished photos. It’s important to give these living testimonies, so that the evidence of this region’s greatness is around for generations to come,” said Shay Wafer, the Center’s Vice President of Programs.

The August Wilson Center’s Collecting Fairs are made possible through generous support from *Community Connections*, an initiative of Pittsburgh 250 and The Sprout Fund, as well as an Allegheny Regional Asset District Renaissance Grant, The Heinz Endowments Pittsburgh 250 Anniversary Arts Project, and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities’ *We the People* initiative on American history.

In addition to funding the collection of family stories and photos, the \$50,000 *Community Connections* grant awarded to the Center in December 2007 is supporting the collection of oral histories of the region’s legendary Black artists. To create its *Community Connections* project, *Civil Rites: Oral Histories of Two Generations of Pittsburgh Artists*, the Center will collect the work and personal stories of local artists of African descent for a multimedia presentation that will coincide with the dedication of the Center’s new \$35.9 million facility presently under construction. The project is expected to be part of a permanent exhibit.

The August Wilson Center is in the final stages of its Capital Campaign for a \$35.9 million facility 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.

To make a financial contribution to the August Wilson Center or for more information on the Collecting Fairs, visit AugustWilsonCenter.org or call 412.258.2700.

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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 486-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 Pittsburgh 250 Community Connections

Community Connections, an initiative of Pittsburgh 250, set an ambitious goal to invest in community-based projects that encourage civic engagement throughout southwestern Pennsylvania, and commemorate the region’s 250th anniversary through projects that provide lasting value to individual communities and the region as a whole.

Led by The Sprout Fund in partnership with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, *Community Connections* is an initiative of Pittsburgh 250 and a grassroots community program that complements the signature projects and major regional events occurring in 2008 around the 250th anniversary of the Pittsburgh region.