



MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Treshea N. Wade
Manager of Communications
August Wilson Center for African American Culture
Office 412.258.2692
Cell 412.716.8961
TWade@AugustWilsonCenter.org

PRESS RELEASE

August Wilson Center Hits Construction Milestone

Last steel beam to be installed at 12:30 pm Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Pittsburgh, PA—August 12, 2008—With the installation of the final steel beam on schedule, the August Wilson Center is one step closer to the conclusion of its new \$35.9 million home. The final piece of steel—draped with an American flag—will “top out” the Center at 12:30 pm Wednesday afternoon.

The final piece completes the structural part of the construction process. Now workers can begin closing in the building, located at Liberty Avenue and 10th Street, Downtown Pittsburgh in the city’s Cultural District.

“The topping off of the August Wilson Center signifies an important milestone in this construction process. We look forward to opening the facility in the spring, serving as a cultural magnet for visitors from the region and around the world,” said Neil Barclay, the Center’s president and CEO.

“I know I speak for our Board, Capital Campaign Steering Committee and the Center’s many donors in extending my sincere thanks to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh, Oxford Development Co., Turner Construction Co., Ebony Development, Sterling Contracting, LLC, and our many contractors and construction workers who have utilized their skill to bring the project to this stage,” he added.

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

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.

Steel arrived on the site and began going up mid-June, and since then, 700 tons—or 1,400,000 pounds—of steel were put in place for the frame of the Center. Construction on the facility began in August 2007.

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Now that the frame of the building is complete, the next immediate steps include projects such as installing mechanical and electrical components and also installing underground piping in the area of the dressing rooms, public rest rooms and kitchen, all on the first floor.

The Center is expected to open in spring 2009.

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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 **www.AugustWilsonCenter.org** and by calling 412.258.2700.