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PRESS RELEASE

**August Wilson Center presents
SoulScapes Family Day on Feb. 16**

Event is the CLOSING DAY of the SoulScapes exhibition by Women of Visions, Inc.

Pittsburgh, PA—February 12, 2008—The August Wilson Center for African American Culture presents *SoulScapes* Family Day on Saturday, February 16, 2008, to mark the closing day for *SoulScapes*, an exhibition by Women of Visions, Inc. The event will be held from noon to 4 pm at the Center's Gallery 209/9, 209 Ninth Street, in Downtown's Cultural District, and is free and open to the public.

The exhibition will be celebrated with a guided tour from noon to 1 pm, followed by an art workshop from 1 to 4 pm led by Women of Visions, Inc. artists. Visitors are invited to create a beaded prayer amulet inspired by Sonya Clark's "Beaded Prayer Project," which is based on traditional amulets that contained sacred prayers. The workshop is recommended for ages 9 and up.

The term **soul** in the Black vernacular often refers to a sense of ethnic pride in language, customs, religion, music and social consciousness, but soul can also be found in art, nature, objects and daily expression. This exhibition by African American women analyzes the many manifestations of soul through an array of oil, watercolor and acrylic paintings, ceramics, computer-generated and silver gelatin photographs, fiber, collage and mixed media works. Marica Jackson, a ceramic artist and president of Women of Visions, Inc., co-curated *SoulScapes* with Cecile Shellman, a specialist in aqueous media.

Women of Visions, Inc. is a 27-year-old African American women's visual arts organization. It is one of the oldest women's arts collectives based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with a national outreach to African American artists throughout the country.

All August Wilson Center exhibitions are presented free to the public. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 5 pm. The gallery is dark between shows.

Grants from the Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Ford Foundation, The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation made this exhibition possible.

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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 education 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 arts center will be reflective of all aspects of African American culture. Opening in early 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 www.AugustWilsonCenter.org and by calling 412.258.2700.