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For Immediate Release

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**October – The Start of August
August Wilson Center for African American Culture
Groundbreaking Ceremony**

(Pittsburgh, PA) October 18, 2006 – The August Wilson Center nationally distinguishes itself from other cultural centers because it is the first African American Cultural Center to be found in a central downtown location. "It will bring together people from all walks of life and foster mutual understanding and appreciation rooted in the values and ideals that drive the evolution of dynamic cultures worldwide," says Neil A. Barclay, president and CEO of the August Wilson Center.

Today, the official groundbreaking ceremony for the August Wilson Center for African American Culture will occur at 10 am at the corner of Liberty Avenue and 10th Street in downtown Pittsburgh.

The center was named after the late playwright August Wilson, a Pittsburgh native. Wilson's most noted achievement is a 10-play cycle often called the Pittsburgh Cycle. Wilson is also the first African American to have two plays on Broadway concurrently and is one of seven American playwrights to win two Pulitzer Prizes. All but one of Wilson's plays takes place in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, where Wilson grew up, and each play illustrates the African American experience of life.

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AUGUST WILSON CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE
(formerly the African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh)

August Wilson Center/Add 1

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture is a nonprofit organization that celebrates the contributions of African Americans not only in Western Pennsylvania, but throughout the world, and will include presentations of dance, music, art, theater and other cultural, educational and artistic events.

The center, designed by architect Allison Williams, principal at the international design firm Perkins+Will, features a state-of-the-art 500-seat theater.

The approximately 65,000 square-foot, multi-disciplinary facility also includes a 4,000-square-foot permanent exhibition gallery devoted to Western Pennsylvania's African American cultural history, a 4,000-square-foot changing exhibition gallery for African American artists from Pittsburgh and beyond, a Music Café, an education center with two "smart" technology – enhanced classrooms, a community center and street-level gift shop.

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