

AUGUST WILSON CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

(formerly the African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh)

For Immediate Release

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AUGUST WILSON CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE CELEBRATES PENNSYLVANIA ARTISTS OF COLOR IN STUNNING TRAVELING EXHIBITION, ON VIEW THROUGH DECEMBER 9

PITTSBURGH, PA – November 6, 2006 – The August Wilson Center for African American Culture is presenting *Celebration of Visual Traditions*, a juried touring exhibition featuring 40 works of art by 25 emerging and established artists of color from Pennsylvania, from September 29 through December 9, 2006 at its Gallery 209/9.

Organized by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts' Preserving Diverse Cultures Division, which promotes the visual traditions of multicultural communities throughout the Commonwealth, and Penn State University, the exhibition showcases fiber arts, works on paper, paintings, sculptures and mixed media in an explosion of color and celebration of diversity. Seven local artists are featured, including Leslie Ansley, JoAnne Bates, Tina Williams Brewer, Vanessa German, LaVerne Kemp, Mary Martin and Ruth Richardson.

Juried by Penn State's Ann Shields, director of the HUB-Robeson Galleries, and Doris Nogueira Rogers, and dedicated to the memory of The Honorable K. Leroy Irvis, former Speaker of The Pennsylvania House of Representatives, *Celebration of Visual Traditions'* Pittsburgh showing also features a mini exhibition of Irvis' own artwork courtesy of his widow, Cathryn Irvis. A noted sculptor, painter and poet himself, Speaker Irvis was a leader in the establishment of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture's Gallery 209/9 at 209 Ninth Street in the Cultural District in downtown Pittsburgh is the second of four destinations for this traveling exhibition. The exhibition premiered at the HUB-Robeson Galleries at Penn State University and will travel following its Pittsburgh run to the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg and The African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Gallery 209/9 is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, from noon to 5 pm, and Thursday, from noon to 7 pm. Admission is free. For more information, visit the August Wilson Center for African American Culture Web site at www.augustwilsoncenter.org or call 412.258.2700.

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