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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August Wilson Center for African American Culture Recognizes Leadership and Transitions in Newly Elected Officers to Board of Directors

PITTSBURGH, PA—July 13, 2010—August Wilson Center leadership today will recognize and honor the service of dozens of local leaders from community organizations, government agencies and religious institutions as well as individuals who have completed their terms of service on the Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to the Center. The reception will take place at the Center on **Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 5 pm.**

Among those who will be recognized for their personal commitment to the vision and the success of the Center are **Carol R. Brown, Marva H. Harris**, the Center's former interim president and **Ralph Proctor**. Also to be honored are the Center's founding incorporators—**Mulugetta Birru, Oliver Byrd, Yvonne Cook, Valerie McDonald Roberts, Sala Udin** and **Nancy Washington**.

In addition, as part of a leadership transition underway since last spring, the Center's new president and CEO, André Kimo Stone Guess, will introduce the newly elected officers to the Center's Board of Directors:

New officers include:

Aaron A. Walton, Chairperson
Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs
Highmark, Inc.

David McL. Hillman, Vice Chairperson
President and Partner
PNC Equity Partners

Mark S. Lewis, CPA, Treasurer
President
POISE Foundation

Dr. Mona Generett, Ph.D., Secretary
Vice President, Community Development
Dollar Bank

Mr. Walton said he is "honored" to serve as Center's next chairperson.

"I look forward to providing the depth of leadership that will result in the Center achieving its vision of becoming the preeminent institution for African American arts and culture in the world," Mr. Walton said.

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“As we advance our mission at the August Wilson Center, it is important that we continue to strengthen our board with seasoned professionals,” said Mr. Guess. “We are delighted to welcome our board’s new officers. Their vision and vigorous advocacy for the Center is energizing.”

“Together, along with our staff, we will work toward the common goal of making the August Wilson Center *the* preeminent institution for African American arts and culture not just in the nation, but in the world,” said Mr. Guess.

The following is a list of those being recognized at the August Wilson Center’s reception:

Community Leadership: Mulugetta Birru, Robert W. Cranmer, Michael M. Dawida, Larry Dunn, David M. Matter, the late Elmer McClung, Joseph Preston, Jr., Valerie McDonald Roberts, William R. Robinson, William E. Strickland, Jr. and Sala Udin.

Community Organizations: Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, NAACP, Pittsburgh Branch; Urban League of Pittsburgh; African-American Chamber of Commerce; New Pittsburgh Courier; WAMO-Radio; “Eddie’s Digest.”

Religious Leaders: Bishop Donald O. Clay, the late Rev. Maurice Doss, Rev. Glenn Grayson, Rev. Victor Grigsby, Rev. Toussaint Hill, Rev. Dr. Johnnie Monroe, Rev. Thomas Smith and Rev. Dr. James Simms.

Board Members: Jason A. Barr, Jr., Esther Bush, Yvonne Cook, Phyllis Moorman Goode, Claudette R. Lewis, Lemuel Nixon, Thaddeus Mosley, Ralph Proctor, Damian Soffer, Tim Stevens, Sala Udin and Doris Carson Williams.

A complete list of the Center’s Board of Director’s can be found on our [Web site](#).

"On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I would like to thank the outgoing directors for their outstanding leadership and contribution to Center, particularly in steering this organization through it’s construction, grand opening and inaugural season. Your involvement was immeasurable," said Mr. Guess.

Media is invited to this event. Please contact Treshea N. Wade, manager of communications and e-marketing, at 412.338.8734 or twade@AugustWilsonCenter.org.

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About the August Wilson Center for African American Culture

Named for Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright and Hill District native August Wilson, the August Wilson Center for African American Culture engages regional and national audiences in its mission of preserving, presenting, interpreting, celebrating and shaping the art, culture and history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world.

Located in Downtown Pittsburgh’s Cultural District, the multidisciplinary August Wilson Center is reflective of all aspects of African American culture. The Center’s striking, two-story, green building houses seven 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. The Center is among a select few African American cultural institutions presenting visual and performing arts, the humanities and educational programs in a state-of-the-art venue.

More information is available on the Center’s Web site at AugustWilsonCenter.org and by calling 412.258.2700.