

## News Release



For Immediate Release  
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### **CHARLES “TEENIE” HARRIS’ PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN SPOTLIGHTED IN NEW EXHIBITION, “LOOKING FORWARD”**

**Spirited exhibition on view April 28 through July 15, 2006 at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture’s 209/9<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery**

**PITTSBURGH, PA** – Photographer Charles “Teenie” Harris was known for his ability to instantly capture special moments with one shot of his camera. One of his major inspirations and favorite subjects was children, as they provided a unique view of the world around them. A selection of over 50 of Harris’ images of children are the heart of a new exhibition from the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, entitled **LOOKING FORWARD**. The exhibit opens April 28<sup>th</sup>, and is on view through July 15<sup>th</sup> their 209/9<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery.

Harris’ rapport with children was evident in the access they granted him into their world, which is clearly displayed in the photographs of the *LOOKING FORWARD* exhibit. Most of his photographs of children exemplify a strong sense of trust, rapport, and understanding that was likely developed before the camera was put into focus, making the image uniquely warm and honest.

The August Wilson Center chose to entitle this exhibit *LOOKING FORWARD*, with the concept that children hold society’s hopes for a better future, and that in valuing, watching and celebrating our children, we actively participate in “looking forward” and planning for that future. This notion is one that seems to have been shared by Harris, and can be seen in the regard for children he showed while photographing them. Harris was able to ebb and flow out the corners of a child’s world and leave with candid documents giving our generation a clear enough picture of the past with which to look forward.

To produce this exhibit, The August Wilson Center for African American Culture has worked intimately with the Carnegie Museum of Art, selecting from the over 80,000 images in their Teenie Harris Archive. All photographs in *LOOKING FORWARD* are courtesy Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh: Heinz Family Fund. The Exhibition Design was created by Springboard Architecture Communication Design LLC

**The Opening Reception for *Looking Forward* will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 9pm, and is free and open to the public of all ages.** Parents are encouraged to bring their children.

**Regular gallery hours are: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: Noon to 5 p.m.; Thursday: Noon to 7 p.m.** Phone: 412.281.5484 (during gallery hours only) or 412.258.2700. Admission is free.



*Looking Forward* marks the final exhibition of the August Wilson Center for African American Culture's 2005-2006 season.

**About Charles "Teenie" Harris (1908-1998)**

Charles "Teenie" Harris is well respected as a man and as a photographer. His life work is the largest photographic collection of an urban African American community. After working as a chauffeur, mechanic, and co-founding the Pittsburgh Crawfords baseball team, he began a career as a freelance photographer. His brother "Woogie" Harris financed his first professional camera and photography studio, after which he began working as the staff photographer for the Pittsburgh Courier, where he had an astounding career from 1936 to 1975.

In 2001, Carnegie Museum of Art acquired Harris' archive of nearly 80,000 photographic negatives. As few of these were titled or dated, the CMA began an extensive project, inviting the community to view and identify subjects in the photos. The August Wilson Center for African American Culture joins the museum in inviting the public to participate in the identification process.

**About The August Wilson Center for African American Culture**

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture presents, interprets and preserves the art, culture, and history of African Americans in Pittsburgh and of people of African descent throughout the world. The Center realizes its mission with an engaging schedule of visual and performing arts programs as well as educational and public programs.

The programs of the August Wilson Center's 2005-2006 season are supported by lead gifts from The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation and The PNC Financial Services Group. Additional programmatic support provided by The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and The Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation. Operating support has been provided by the Allegheny Regional Asset District. More information is available at the August Wilson Center's Web site, [www.augustwilsoncenter.org](http://www.augustwilsoncenter.org)

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