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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August Wilson Center Debuts Highly-Anticipated Exhibition  
*In My Father's House***

*Exhibit explores Pittsburgh family life; includes fine art from both local families and national collections*

**PITTSBURGH, PA—September 7, 2010**—The August Wilson Center for African American Culture will unveil its first commissioned exhibition—*In My Father's House*, Saturday, September 11 in The Center's Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation Changing Exhibit Gallery.

*In My Father's House* is a mixed-media exhibition of five rooms in a house with each room highlighting the way people of African descent preserve and display visual art and material culture. It is underwritten by UPMC with additional support from FedEx Ground.

One unique feature about this exhibit is that it is actually created like a house. Each room, designed and presented by a nationally-recognized curator, tells the story of a fictional Pittsburgh family, their hopes, dreams, struggles and triumphs. Like most of us, they have collected the things they love; the things that help tell who they are.

Included in this exhibit is amazing fine art on loan from local families, national collections including personal and commercial galleries, universities and art museums. The exhibit also features a short film created exclusively for *In My Father's House* by one of the curators, Demetria Royals. The seven-minute film chronicles African American history from slavery to the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Erin O'Neill, exhibitions manager for the August Wilson Center, said *In My Father's House* is a rare exhibition in that it features five rooms with six different African American points of view, showing the diversity that exists within a community.

"We have the same overarching cultural umbrella with unique perspectives to (the collectors') wants and needs and collecting habits and I think it is one of the most beautiful parts of the exhibit. I think the human experience is mirrored in this, not just the African American experience," O'Neill said.

"UPMC is pleased to have this opportunity to support arts and culture throughout the entire community," said Robert J. Cindrich, UPMC's chief legal counsel. "UPMC has had a long-standing and significant commitment supporting western Pennsylvania's vitality, and the arts are an integral part of our culture and community."

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### Exhibit Walk-through

**The Entryway** displays a “gathering of images” representing a cross-section of Pittsburgh’s multi-faceted African American community. Curator—Mary Martin, a visual artist and art instructor at the Winchester-Thurston School; and vice-president of Women of Vision Inc., a Pittsburgh-based art collective of African American women visual artists.

**Room #1 Material Culture (Living Room)** features the everyday objects that can be in a home, such as old photographs, records, quilts, handmade dolls. Curators—Lonnie Graham, Professor of Integrative Arts and Photography The Pennsylvania State University, School of Visual Arts and Deborah Willis, Ph.D., Professor of Photography and Imaging, New York University Tisch School of the Arts.

**Room #2 The African/African Diaspora (The Kitchen)** is inspired by August Wilson’s “Two Trains Running,” and looks at African American history—particularly the Black Power Movement—through the eyes of a 1960s “power” couple. It focuses on art and artifacts by artists of African descent who hail not just from Africa, but also the Caribbean, Latin America and Mexico. Curator—Cheryl Finley, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Art History and Visual Culture, Cornell University.

**Room #3 African American Masters Room (Dining Room)** celebrates the tradition of African Americans collecting works produced by master African American artists and how that tradition has been handed down to subsequent generations. Curator—Tuliza Fleming, Ph.D., Curatorial Consultant and Museum Curator, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

**Room #4 From Drums to Zeroes And Ones** represents the transition from drums, which Africans used as a form of communication in Africa and as part of the African Diaspora, to zeroes and ones, the language of computers, and the role technology plays in the lives of African Americans. Curator—Demetria Royals, Producer/Director- Director’s Guild Of America and Executive Director-Transparent Media Inc.

*In My Father's House* will be on exhibit at The Center from September 11, 2010 through July 2011 and is included with regular admission. The Center’s hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm. Admission: Suggested donation is adults, \$5; seniors and students (with ID), \$3; AWC members and children ages 5 and under, free. For details, the public can call 412.258.2700, or visit [AugustWilsonCenter.org](http://AugustWilsonCenter.org).

**MEDIA:** Please contact Treshea N. Wade, manager of communications and e-marketing, at 412.338.8734 or [twade@AugustWilsonCenter.org](mailto:twade@AugustWilsonCenter.org) for any pictures or interview requests.

### **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 website at [AugustWilsonCenter.org](http://AugustWilsonCenter.org) and by calling 412.258.2700.

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### **About UPMC**

UPMC is an \$8 billion integrated global health enterprise headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is one of the leading nonprofit health systems in the United States. As western Pennsylvania's largest employer, with almost 50,000 employees, UPMC is transforming the economy of the region into one based on medicine, research, and technology. By integrating 20 hospitals, 400 doctors' offices and outpatient sites, long-term care facilities, and a major health insurance services division, and in collaboration with its academic partner, the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences, UPMC has advanced the quality and efficiency of health care and developed internationally renowned programs in transplantation, cancer, neurosurgery, psychiatry, orthopedics, and sports medicine, among others. UPMC is commercializing its medical and technological expertise by nurturing new companies, developing strategic business relationships with some of the world's leading multinational corporations, and expanding into international markets, including Italy, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Japan. For more information about UPMC, visit our website at [UPMC.com](http://UPMC.com).