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**The African American Cultural Center Presents:
"When the Spirits Dance Mambo"
April 16, 2004, 6:30 pm**

PITTSBURGH (April 6, 2004) The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh in partnership with The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust presents: **"When the Spirits Dance Mambo"** for one screening only on Friday April 16, 2004 at the 937 Liberty Avenue Gallery at 6:30 pm.

About the Documentary

The 90-minute documentary shot in Cuba provides a comprehensive understanding of the rich sacred traditions of the varied African practices that were taken to Cuba. The impact of these traditions in the civil society, popular and contemporary creative life, continues to be felt globally. Featuring priests and priestesses, scholars and traditional and popular musicians, that vibrancy of sacred meaning is celebrated and honored.

Co-produced and directed by Robert "Bobby" Shepard and Marta Moreno Vega and the Caribbean Cultural Center as executive producer, *When the Spirits Dance Mambo* is an open invitation to feel the power of African sacred spirits from ritual to popular New York and Cuban stages. A tapestry of historical information, sites and sounds, *When the Spirits Dance Mambo* travels from past to present documenting the continuing power of ancestral cultural traditions.

From the pioneering creativity of Mario Bauzá, creator of Afro Cuban Jazz and his influence on Afro-American jazz along with his brother-in-law, Frank "Machito" Grillo to the exploding power of ancestral traditional drummers such as Chano Pozo, to the international fervor sparked by Machito and his Afro-Cubans, *When the Spirits Dance Mambo* is an energizing sacred message of freedom through dance, music and culture.

A Conversation with the Filmmaker

Joining us for the screening of the film is Dr. Marta Moreno Vega, the President and Founder of the Caribbean Cultural Center and author of *Altar of My Soul – The Living Traditions of Santeria* and Director/Producer of *When the Spirits Dance Mambo*. Dr. Vega is also co-editor of the international Afro-Latino and Caribbean non-

government organizations in preparation for the United Nation's World Conference Against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Forms of Intolerance that took place in South Africa August-September 2001. Dr. Vega will provide an in-depth discussion on the themes and stories explored in the film and the process of producing the documentary.

The event begins with a reception at 6:30, the screening of the film and discussion beginning at 7:00 pm and music and dancing until 11:00 pm. It will take place at 937 Liberty Avenue (downtown). To RVSP please contact the African American Cultural Center at 412 258 2700 or info@africanaculture.org.

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The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh will celebrate the contributions of people of African descent to the art, culture and history of America. The ultimate focus of the AACC will be the contributions of western Pennsylvania's African American community, whose historical significance in the arts, business, industry and sports is second only to New York's Harlem Renaissance.