



Contact:  
Suzanne M. Thinnes  
Communications Manager  
4400 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412.578.2458 (office)  
412.983-9409 (cell)

For Immediate Release

## Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Begins Construction on City's Newest Library

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – April 19, 2007)** Residents of Pittsburgh's Hill District neighborhood helped Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) officials break ground on a new facility this morning. The \$3.15 million project will be the first library built in Pittsburgh since 1980.

Construction is slated to transform the site of a 1950s-era gas station on the corner of Centre Avenue and Kirkpatrick Street into a welcoming gateway to the Hill District. Designed by Pittsburgh architect Rob Pfaffmann of Pfaffmann+Associates PC, the new library will include a teen lounge, meeting area and reading room with café style seating. A unique exhibition space dedicated to highlighting the work of local artists will initially feature photographs by Hill District native Charles "Teenie" Harris.

"Since 1899, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has played an important role in the lives of many Hill District residents," said Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Director. "This new location provides even greater visibility and access to the Library. We are committed to preserving the rich culture and history of the neighborhood, while reintroducing a whole new generation to our services"

This will be the eighth project in CLP's *Libraries for LIFE* Capital Improvements Campaign and the first building that will be a completely new structure. Previous renovations have proved to be models for economic growth, with customers spending a total of \$9.8 million to \$15.6 million annually at nearby businesses.

During the groundbreaking ceremony Dr. Mistick was joined by Jacqui Fiske Lazo, Chair, Board of Trustees, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Jim Ferlo, State Senator, District 38; Jake Wheatley, State Representative, District 19; Luke Ravenstahl, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh; Tonya Payne, City of Pittsburgh Council District 6; Evan Frazier, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hill House Association; Jerry Dettore, Executive Director, Urban Redevelopment Authority; Andrew Hawes, President, Friends of the Hill; Kathy McKenzie, Deputy County Manager; Rob Pfaffmann, Pfaffmann+Associates PC; William Russell Robinson, Allegheny County Council Representative; and children from local elementary schools.

Library officials anticipate that the new library will welcome its first visitors in the summer of 2008. Until the building is complete, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's current Hill District location, located at 419 Dinwiddie Street, will continue to serve the Hill District community so that customers will not be displaced during construction.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** An artist rendering of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's newest library is available for publication.

**About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**  
"Free to the People" since 1895

Established as a public trust in 1895, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with a distinguished history of leadership among the country's great public libraries. Through its 19 neighborhood locations, including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset. Each year the Library provides more than 6,000 free programs, classes and other learning and training opportunities that are tailored to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of people living in Western Pennsylvania.