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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Hill District is Open!

Dedication of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Hill District marks first new library in 28 years

(PITTSBURGH, PA – October 25, 2008) More than 200 Hill District residents and community leaders helped Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh officials open the city’s newest library today. The new library, located at 2177 Centre Avenue at Kirkpatrick Street, is the first freestanding library built under Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s Libraries *for* LIFE Capital Campaign and replaces a library at the Phoenix Hill Mall on Dinwiddie Street.

“Libraries are microcosms of the community – a central anchor to our past, present and future,” said Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, President and Director, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. “Our new location provides even greater access to the Library and positions the Library as a cornerstone of this community’s redevelopment. We are honored to be part of its future.”

Drummers from the Miller School signaled the arrival of a book processional that delivered August Wilson’s *Radio Golf*, the last book housed at the area’s former library on Dinwiddie Street, to its new home at 2177 Centre Avenue. The book began its half-mile journey with Hill District resident Sylvia Griffen relaying the book to community volunteers. The journey ended with Nava and Niger Hilaire (age one) placing *Radio Golf* in its rightful place on a library shelf.

Dr. Mistick was joined by Jim Ferlo, State Senator, District 38, Tonya Payne, City of Pittsburgh Council District 6 and many other local community members for a balloon drop to officially open the building. The event capped a two-day celebration that included an open house complete with tours, entertainment, storytellers, activities and crafts. On Friday, October 24, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato joined other community leaders at a sold-out Champagne Luncheon to benefit the Library’s Capital Campaign.

The completion of the \$3.15 million Hill District Library marks the eighth completed project in Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s Capital Campaign and successfully transforms the site of a 1950’s-era gas station into a welcoming gateway to the Hill District. The new library includes a teen lounge, reading room with café style seating and a tribute to August Wilson that includes a 10-foot-by-7-foot map from 1923 with locations highlighted from his Century Cycle boxed set and a stool salvaged from Eddie’s Restaurant, a neighborhood eatery frequented by Wilson and featured in his play “Two Trains Running.”

As with all of the Library’s construction projects and renovations, an extensive community process was completed to enable citizens of the Hill District to be a part of the planning and design of their new library. Designed by architect Rob Pfaffmann, Pfaffmann+Associates PC, the 8,334 square foot library features “low emissivity” glass windows, reflective rubber on the roof, carpeting made from chemical-free recycled material and walls of Homasote, a recycled newspaper product. Customers will immediately notice an urban bioswale, or sustainable rain garden, along the side of the building. This unique landscape element is designed to recycle rain water and prevent silt and pollution from running into the sewage system.

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Building Communities, Enriching Lives

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 8,000 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.

About Libraries *for* LIFE

While Andrew Carnegie provided the seed money to build the library facilities; he did not leave an endowment for their ongoing operations and maintenance. Thanks to local, county and state government, corporations, foundations and individuals, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Libraries *for* LIFE Capital Campaign is renewing library buildings to meet the needs of today's library customer. In 2000 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh embarked upon a \$55 million capital campaign, the first in the Library's history, to make neighborhood libraries accessible system-wide. Since the campaign began, the Library has renovated or relocated six neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. The visibility of the completed renovations has brought new vitality, with all locations benefiting from increased visitor and circulation numbers.