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For Immediate Release

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Issues Updated 2010 Budget and Assessment Documents to Allegheny Regional Asset District

(PITTSBURGH, November 5, 2009) – Today Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh submitted an updated 2010 budget to the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD). The submittal includes an updated five-year budget projection along with supplemental materials. Also available on the Library’s Web site are independent studies from the RAND Corporation and Carnegie Mellon University, and other materials relevant to the assessment process undertaken by the Library system’s Board of Trustees.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s revised projection, which includes known State budget impacts as of this date, shows a structural gap of \$1.5 million for 2010, increasing to \$5.1 million by 2014. While alternative cost-saving measures were implemented in 2009 to address short-term funding issues, including administrative budget cuts, a wage freeze, hiring freeze and reduction of hours at the Main Library in Oakland, the Library’s Board of Trustees determined that current levels of funding could not sustain the system in the long-term. In early October, with no new sustainable funding sources on the horizon, the Board adopted an “Action Plan” to address the long-term health of the system. The plan calls for reducing hours across the system; closing, merging or relocating eight facilities; reducing staff; increasing fines and fees; expanding a dynamic outreach program and seeking additional long-term dedicated funding.

“In the last year we have trimmed our expenses to reflect declining revenue,” said Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, President and Director, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. “We are at point where we cannot cut anymore without significantly impacting the entire library system. We know how important libraries are to the people of this region. We share the dismay and sorrow at the prospect of losing them. But absent the guarantee of sustainable long-term funding our hands are tied.”

“Perhaps what is most challenging about this process is that while the State budget cuts to libraries were less than we anticipated, the overall impacts of the state budget are far greater,” added Mistick. “The State cuts will affect not just basic operational funding, but also critical library collections and tax credits provided to organizations that support the Library. We are doing everything possible, including reducing expenses and working collaboratively with local government leaders to find new sources of sustainable funding.”

The Allegheny Regional Asset District accounts for approximately 70% of the Library’s operating budget, and has announced a preliminary allocation to the Library for 2010 of \$17.6 million.

The materials submitted to RAD are available online for public review at www.carnegielibrary.org/future.

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