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**For Immediate Release**

## **It's "Lights, Camera, Action!" For Area Teens**

### *Aspiring Filmmakers Find Their Voice at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Free Media Arts and Literacy Class*

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – February 12, 2007)** – Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) is searching for aspiring filmmakers. Interested teens are invited to participate in the Library's free twelve week media literacy and digital video production class that begins on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the teen section of CLP – Main. However, students must register for the event either online or in person at the Library by February 22; registration is required. During the initial session, prospective students will be introduced to the class and receive hands-on instruction to the video production equipment. No previous video production is necessary.

Scheduled to run March 1<sup>st</sup> - May 17<sup>th</sup>, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's media class offers participants two integrated portions as part of its curriculum: a critical media analysis portion on Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and a video production portion on Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Following the last class students and their families will be treated to a special screening of student work.

Through this program, CLP hopes to inspire teens to use media to articulate their own experiences, voices and worldviews, as well as recognize when racial, gender, sexual or class identities are presented negatively or stereotypically. Traditionally, media classes provide the tools that enable students to present authentic representations of their own culture.

"Today, students are receiving more and more of their information from television, pictures and other media," said Joseph Wilk, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Teen Librarian and Media Class Program Manager. "However, many students in the Pittsburgh school system are not offered opportunities to develop the information and communication skills needed to live and work with television and movies."

The Library's media class is made possible through a \$49,900 grant from Commonwealth Libraries, Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA). The funding enabled Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to purchase a wide array of media production equipment, including mini-DV camcorders and tapes, advanced tripods, video production software, Mac G5 workstations and condenser microphones. Teens interested in filmmaking may also borrow materials through the Library's reference collection of popular and historic visual media.

The Library limits the number of media class program participants in order to provide individualized attention. Students are chosen for the class based on their previous access to resources as well as their communicated interest and willingness to engage during the information session. For additional information or to register, please contact Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Teen Services at 412-622-3121.

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#### **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.