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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Workshops Planned to Discuss Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Future

The conversation around library service and sustainable long-term funding continues May 15, 16 and 17

(PITTSBURGH, PA – April 28, 2010) Community members interested in working with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to find a solution for sustainable long-term funding are invited to attend a series of workshops focused on the Library's future. The Library has developed a three-part Community Conversation initiative to continue last year's discussion around funding and to engage the public, the Library Board of Trustees and other key stakeholders in a productive, open and transparent dialog about the future of Pittsburgh's library service.

The three-part workshop series, which will span a six month process, will enable the Library's Board of Trustees to understand the needs and priorities of library users. At the same time, the public will have the opportunity to learn about the constraints of limited public funding for critical library services.

"Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is a valuable public asset, and the more minds that are dedicated to solving the problem of declining library funding, the more likely a good solution will be found," stated Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, president and director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. "We want to ensure that our system remains strong, viable and available for future generations."

The conversation begins with several two-hour Community Workshops scheduled for May 15, 16 and 17, 2010. After a brief presentation of background information to update the community on important developments, community members will discuss issues, priorities and opportunities for Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Conversation will be focused by a discussion guide, provided at the workshop and also available on the Library's Web site at www.carnegielibrary.org/future.

The first stage of Community Workshops will be held at the following times and locations:

Saturday, May 15 / 10 am – Noon
Serbian Club, 2524 Sarah Street, 15203

Saturday, May 15 / 2 – 4 pm
Sheraden Senior Center, 720 Sherwood Avenue, 15204

Sunday, May 16, 2 – 4 pm
CLP-Allegheny, 1230 Federal Street, 15212

Monday, May 17 / 6:30 – 8:30 pm
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 419 S. Dithridge Street, 15213

Stage Two of the Community Workshops will be held in July to test ideas on how to achieve long-term financial and operational health for the Library system. In September, the final Community Workshops will take place to refine ideas and explore potential directions for the future.

City and county residents may attend any or all of the workshops and pre-registration is not required. Community members unable to attend a workshop in person are still able to provide input by completing an online questionnaire at www.carnegielibrary.org/future or submitting feedback to Maggie McFalls, Community Engagement Coordinator, at feedback@carnegielibrary.org. All feedback received by May 31 will be included in a Stage One Summary report.

Community members interested in learning more about Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and how they can help protect Pittsburgh's library system can find additional information and ongoing updates at www.carnegielibrary.org/future.

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Engaging our Community in Literacy and Learning

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh contributes to the educational attainment, economic development, and cultural enrichment of the region. Through critical services such as early learning programs for children, job search assistance and computer and Internet access, the Library fosters lifelong learning and is a renowned leader among the nation's libraries. With more than 2 million visitors and 3.5 million items borrowed each year, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset and one of the largest public libraries in Pennsylvania. Established in 1895 by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie as a public trust to be funded by the community, the Library derives approximately 90% of its annual operating budget from public or government sources, including the Allegheny County Regional Asset District (RAD), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Pittsburgh.