

Media Backgrounder
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New and Expanded Developments

An update on exciting new happenings in Pittsburgh

- Pittsburgh's new **August Wilson Center for African American Culture** will open to the public in 2009. The Center will feature Pittsburgh's contributions to African-American art, culture and history. The \$36-million new Center will be built in the heart of Pittsburgh's Downtown on Liberty Avenue, one block from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The 80,000-square-foot facility will include a 500-seat theater, galleries, a bookstore, café and space for education and research.
- **Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium** unveiled an exciting new exhibit, called "Water's Edge." This exhibit features polar bears and sea otters, and will add walrus upon completion. Opening in three stages, which started in November 2006 with completion of the Polar Bear exhibit. The sea otters exhibit was completed May 2007 and the final stage is set for late 2007. In addition, plans for a large outdoor pavilion with a gift and concession area are also underway.
- **Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens** is underway with a \$36.6 million expansion project. The first phase of the project was the silver LEED-certified Welcome Center, which opened March 2005 and features a casual dining café, improved ticketing area and an expanded gift shop. The expansion project also includes state-of-the-art Production Greenhouses, which opened summer 2006; a 12,000 square-foot tropical forest conservatory, opened December 2006; the Special Events Pavilion which is open for business and social gatherings. A separate 23,000-square-foot building will house educational and research centers, plus administrative offices. Construction on this last phase will begin fall 2008.
- The **Carnegie Museum of Natural History's** \$36 million expansion of **Dinosaur Hall**, "Dinosaurs in Their Time," began early 2005. Expected to be completed in two phases, the first November 2007 which includes the majority of the exhibit. The second phase, to open June 2008, will feature the Tyrannosaurus Rex repositioned to reflect the most up-to-date scientific knowledge. Overall, the expansion will feature a three-story glass atrium and recreations of rivers, land and vegetation areas to show dinosaurs in their natural habitat. Originally built in 1907 by Andrew Carnegie, Dinosaur Hall has been named one of the best places

in the world to see dinosaurs by the *Discovery Channel* and *Forbes*. With more than 103,000 specimens, the museum has the finest Jurassic dinosaur collection in the world and is the world's third largest repository of dinosaur fossils.

- **Kennywood Amusement Park**, the century-old “roller coaster capital of the world,” is in the beginning stages of developing a \$60 million plan that will increase in size from 92- to 140-acres with bigger and faster rollercoasters, a hotel and an indoor water park, allowing the park to operate year-round.
- The North Shore's \$1.1 billion development surrounding **PNC Park** and **Heinz Field** includes retail and additional office space, an entertainment venue, an additional hotel, nightclubs and many restaurants.
- Pittsburgh's casino, **Majestic Star**, is expected to open May 2009. It will include restaurants, nightclubs and a 4,100-space parking garage.
- **Point State Park**, located in downtown Pittsburgh, is currently undergoing a \$4.5 million renovation. Improvements include new sidewalks, electrical and water lines, as well as Fort Pitt Museum upgrades. Completion set for late 2008.
- **Three PNC Plaza**, operated by PNC Bank, is set to begin work on a \$170 million skyscraper. The building will include “green” office space, retail space, condos and a 185-room Fairmont Pittsburgh Hotel. Opening scheduled for late 2008.
- The **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** has chosen a design for their two-block neighborhood along Fort Duquesne Blvd. This area will feature restaurants, shops, public art and a park. Construction set to begin summer 2009.
- **Neighborhood Cool**. To know Pittsburgh's neighborhoods is to love Pittsburgh. From the South Side Slopes and the bustling markets of the Strip District to the Downtown Cultural District to Little Italy in Bloomfield, Pittsburgh is the place where the character of the city is woven by the fabric of its neighborhoods. Check out some of Pittsburgh's coolest neighborhoods at www.pittsburghneighborhoodtours.com.