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Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – East Liberty Prepares to Expand *Saturday, June 13 marks last day of public service*

(PITTSBURGH, PA – May 21, 2009) As part of its Libraries for Life Capital Campaign, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh announced plans to begin a 15-month 39,000 square foot renovation and expansion project to its East Liberty location at 130 S. Whitfield Street. To accommodate the extensive renovation, the facility will temporarily close for business starting at 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 13.

Classes at the library's PC Center will be held through Saturday, May 30. Customers seeking open work time may visit one of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's other 17 locations. Computer classes on Internet use and Microsoft software products will be held at the PC Center at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main (Oakland), 4400 Forbes Avenue. Monthly class schedules are available at www.carnegielibrary.org or by calling 412.578.2561.

The \$5.6 million construction project will allow library services to move to one floor and provide a better visual presence in the community. Working with Library staff and community input, architects from EDGE Studio designed the building to incorporate a two-story atrium that will welcome customers to a library equipped with updated children and teen spaces, community meeting rooms and reading areas. As with all Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh renovations, CLP – East Liberty will be built to LEED standards and be fully accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Funding for the project is made possible through generous individual, corporate and foundation donations to the Library's Libraries *for* LIFE capital campaign. This project marks the tenth project in the campaign. The library's renovations have revitalized communities in different ways, making a significant economic impact on local businesses and increasing literacy through increased use and number of visitors, as much as 48% in some communities.

During construction, East Liberty customers are encouraged to visit neighboring Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh locations, including:

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Lawrenceville
279 Fiske Street

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main
4400 Forbes Avenue

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Homewood
7101 Hamilton Avenue

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Squirrel Hill
5801 Forbes Avenue

Customers may visit www.carnegielibrary.org for more information, or to locate other neighboring libraries. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh card holders may also borrow and return materials from any Allegheny County library.

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

To Engage our Community in Literacy and Learning

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, with 2.6 million visitors in 2008. Each year the Library provides valuable resources, programs, classes and training opportunities that engage the community in literacy, and life-long learning.

About Libraries *for* LIFE

Building Communities, Enriching Lives

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 governments, 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 seven neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. CLP-Hill District is the seventh library to be completed in the system-wide renewal, and the city's first newly constructed library since 1980. To date, the Library's efforts have resulted in significant investment in Pittsburgh neighborhoods, providing a range of library services and programs for children, teens and adults and facilities that accommodate new collections and 21st century technology.