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CONTACT: CYDNEY NUNN, MARKETING AND PR MANAGER cnunn@aacc-awc.org

**AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER ANNOUNCES
PATTI LABELLE TO HEADLINE
THE 9TH ANNUAL PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL
PRESENTED BY CITIZENS BANK
JUNE 20-23, 2019**

Pittsburgh, PA: The weekend of June 20-23, 2019 is the 9th annual Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival presented by Citizens Bank. As a signature program of the August Wilson African American Cultural Center (AWAACC) the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival (PIJF) is curated and directed by **Janis Burley Wilson**, the President & CEO of the AWAACC, who created and directed the jazz fest since its founding in 2011. The festival is a combination of free outdoor concerts and ticketed shows inside the August Wilson African American Cultural Center. This year, PIJF will be headlined by the incomparable Patti Labelle.

“The legendary Patti LaBelle in the intimate setting of our theater will be a one of a kind experience.” - Janis Burley Wilson

Burley Wilson says, “The Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival explores Funk in many forms this year; from Butcher Brown to WAR, and Black Women Rock Coalition’s tribute to Betty Davis to Stanley Clarke Band. The program will appeal to a broad base of music fans, while we stay true to our jazz roots, and funk things up a bit. We aim to please our devoted jazz fest attendees and attract even more jazz lovers from around the world. The team at the African American Cultural Center is committed to the continued growth and success of this dynamic festival that is a celebration of joy and unity through jazz.”

The festival is located on Liberty Avenue and takes advantage of the wider street and closer proximity to the performing arts center. In addition, the festival will feature more educational opportunities that include community concerts, master classes and artist talks throughout the weekend.

The Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival officially kicks off on Thursday, June 20th with a Wall of Sound Series performance by drummer, producer, beat scientist, French born, Massachusetts and Chicago bred, Makaya McCraven. His sound has been compared to Archie Shepp meets

Madlib and J Dilla by WIRE Magazine. *Tickets are on sale for this show in the intimate CAFÉ at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center at pittsburghjazzfest.org and aacc-awc.org.*

The evening of Friday, June 21st starts with the signature Jazz Crawl around town featuring the some of the best regional talent from 5:30-7:30pm. Highlights include the Tubby Daniels Band at ... and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in the Heinz Hall Garden.

At 7:30pm on Friday, Richmond, Virginia based garage jazz/funk outfit, Butcher Brown returns to play the Smithfield Stage, a free concert in the street.

At 8:00pm, Patti Labelle will take the stage at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center. As time continues to evolve, the soulful songbird's name has become synonymous with grace, style, elegance and class. Belting out classic rhythm and blues renditions, pop standards and spiritual sonnets have created the unique platform of versatility that she is known and revered for. *Tickets are on sale for this show in the theatre at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center at pittsburghjazzfest.org and aacc-awc.org.*

The highly anticipated Taste of Jazz party begins at 9pm at AWAACC. The celebration includes tasty samples from close to twenty downtown restaurants, and a sampling of different styles of jazz throughout the night. *Tickets are on sale for Taste of Jazz at pittsburghjazzfest.org and aacc-awc.org.*

On Saturday morning, June 22nd, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is excited to welcome families for a morning of jazz! The performance, Jazz Time! will engage both children and adults through the exciting story created by Anqwenique Wingfield and music and lyrics by Douglas Levine. Grandma Rose reminisces about the good old days when she was a popular vocalist with a band of the finest musicians. Through the magic of time travel she awakes to music being played by her old band! Now reunited, they sing the old songs that taught her all about jazz music. Songs that explore tempo, dynamics, melody, improvisation and more! This performance is intended for families with young children. The Trust Education Center is located at 805 Liberty Avenue. *Jazz Time! is free and open to the public.*

Ticketed, late sets on Saturday night in the pop-up jazz club, the Jazz Studio at the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival include the Tamara Tunie CD Release Party. The actor, director and vocalist wowed audiences with her musical project, Legends of the 'Burgh in 2016. She is back with a new project, recorded in Pittsburgh at Heid Studios. Following Ms. Tunie's set is the New York based jazz vocalist, Paul Jost and his quartet. Jost is a known for "swinging, scatting, and breaking hearts" in his shows in clubs around New York and brings that singer's singer sensibility to the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival. *Tickets are on sale for the Saturday Jazz Studio Sessions at pittsburghjazzfest.org or aacc-awc.org. Seating is limited.*

The Daughters of Betty is a project of the Black Women Rock Coalition, featuring the legendary, Nona Hendryx of the 1970's glam rock/funk group Labelle. Founded in 2004 by acclaimed poet, jessica Care moore, the band features up to twenty women musicians on stage at one time, rocking out inspired by artists like Betty Davis and others that were trailblazers in rock, funk and

soul music. *Tickets on sale now for Daughters of Betty, 9:00pm at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center theater on June 22nd at pittsburghjazzfest.org or aacc-awc.org.*

Saturday and Sunday free concerts on the outdoor stages of the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival include the following Grammy winning, legendary and emerging headliners: Charles Lloyd featuring Marvin Sewell, Reuben Rogers, and Eric Harland, Stanley Clarke Band, WAR, Nubya Garcia, Christian Sands, Roger Humphries' Art Blakey at 100 Tribute, Joey DeFrancesco, Keyon Harrold, and Captain Black Big Band with Orrin Evans. *More artists to be announced April 30th on International Jazz Day.*

All outdoor concerts are free of charge and all shows inside the AWAACC require tickets that can be purchased on the website, via phone or at the door. It is highly advised to purchase tickets IN ADVANCE for the concerts inside the Center, as seating is limited.

Sponsors include Citizens Bank, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, UPMC, UPMC Health Plan, UPMC Center for Engagement and Inclusion, JazzCorner, Southern Wines & Spirits, Flyspace Productions. Partners include Kente Arts Alliance, Lighthouse Arts, The Westin Convention Center Hotel, the Pittsburgh International Airport, Drury Hotel, Acrobatique Creative, Downbeat Magazine, Entertainment Cruise Productions, and others.

About August Wilson African American Cultural Center

The August Wilson African American Cultural Center is a venue dedicated to the presentation of art and culture reflective of African-Americans and the African Diaspora. It is located in Pittsburgh's Cultural District at [980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222](http://www.aacc-awc.org). The "Center" offers multiple exhibition galleries, a 492-seat theater for performances, and spaces for classes, lectures and community events. It was designed by African-American architect, Allison Williams.

The August Wilson African American Cultural Center thanks Allegheny Regional Asset District, Arts, Equity, & Education Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Buhl Foundation, Eden Hall Foundation, the Heinz Endowments, the Hillman Family Foundations, The Pittsburgh Foundation, and the Richard King Mellon Foundation, for their support of its operations and programming, which helps to make the exhibitions, events, educational activities, and performances possible.

The African American Cultural Center, identification number 47-2697273, is a tax-exempt, non-profit entity under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). The official registration and financial information for the African American Cultural Center may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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