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NEXT 3 DAYS IS NOW NEXTneighborhood AND WILL CELEBRATE HISTORIC HOMEWOOD AUGUST 18-19

Event includes a Vending Court; Kids Zone; live music, performances and a DJ Battle; Hometown Hollywood Movie showing; live art; Libation Tastin' Hour; homeowner and homebuyer resources; and home, art and business tours

PITTSBURGH, PA (August 15, 2018) –The Office of Mayor William Peduto and the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA), in partnership with <u>NEXTPittsburgh</u> and the Homewood-Brushton Business Association (<u>HBBA</u>), announced today that the event previously known as NEXT 3 Days is now a 2-day event, renamed NEXTneighborhood, and will celebrate Homewood on August 18-19.

"We want people to come back to Homewood, support the businesses here, and consider buying homes here," said Vernard Alexander, president, HBBA.

Rooted in history, Homewood is a neighborhood on the rise. Its business owners, nonprofit organizations, artists, and residents invite the public to explore, tour, and celebrate with them.

"The residents of Homewood helped us rename the initiative to NEXTneighborhood, since they wanted the event to celebrate Homewood as a community with a rich history and heritage, a vibrant arts and music environment, and a bright future," said Josette Fitzgibbons, URA's neighborhood business district manager. "The HBBA and the community were hands-on in creating the programming."

This year, the happy hour event and community celebration will both be held on Saturday, from 1-6 p.m., with the real estate tour on Sunday, from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

"I'm proud of all the work folks in Homewood continue to do to make their neighborhood an amazing one," Mayor William Peduto said. "The enduring legacy and continuing cultural contributions of institutions like the Afro-American Music Institute, and the more recent contributions of groups like the HBBA, are coalescing and I hope that everyone in the neighborhood, and folks that have never been there before, go experience it firsthand on Saturday at the Nextneighborhood celebration." **The NEXTneighborhood Homewood Block Party** kicks off at 1 p.m. on **Saturday** on Hamilton Avenue, between North Lang and North Homewood Avenues, and at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Homewood, 7101 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208.

- **1-5:30 p.m.** Vending Court: Guests will enjoy a variety of tasty treats, food trucks, merchandise and handmade products.
- **1-5 p.m.** Hometown Hollywood Celebrity Movie Showing: The Carnegie Library will feature the work of Homewood native, director Antoine Fuqua, whose movies include "Training Day," "The Equalizer" and "Southpaw."

Past, Present and Future Homewood and Live Painting: A mobile art gallery tribute to Homewood and its community historian, John Brewer; Live canvas painting will be done by OASIS Creative Space.

- **1-3 p.m.** Homeowner and Homebuyer Resources: URA staff and Dollar Bank will be available at the event to provide want-to-be homeowners and homebuyers with information and talk one-on-one.
- **1:30-5:30 p.m.** Live Performances and DJ Battle: Homewood community and culture are brought together with family, music, dance, storytelling and fun, centered around a DJ battle between DJ Gissy and DJ Ladi Bugg. Other performances will include Tambor Cimarron Drums of Freedom, Dance Africa Pittsburgh, Royce Band, Jacque Mae, LoRen, and more.
- **2-4 p.m.** Kids Zone: Kids can design back-to-school arts and crafts, and enjoy popcorn, balloons, face painting and storytelling.
- **4-6 p.m.** Libation Tastin' Hour: Adults (21+ years old only) can sample local brews, wines, spirits and sangrias while listening to the mix of DJ Brickz. Tastings are free, but donations are welcome.

On **Sunday**, NEXTneighborhood Homewood concludes with **Open House**, **Arts**, **and Business Self-guided Tours** from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tour-goers can explore open homes, arts and culture locations, and businesses throughout Homewood. Members of the HBBA will be stationed at Everyday Café, located at 532 North Homewood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208, to greet attendees, distribute tour maps and answer questions.

Updates and complete details can be found on <u>n3dinfo.com</u> and <u>nextneighborhoodhomewood.com</u>, the <u>Facebook</u> <u>page</u>, or by following the URA on Twitter at <u>@urapgh</u>.

NEXTneighborhood is an initiative created in 2015 by the Mayor's Office, URA, and NEXTpittsburgh, designed to showcase emerging neighborhoods in Pittsburgh and promote affordable housing. The program consists of 2 days to celebrate and highlight neighborhood culture, businesses and amenities, as well as affordable homes for sale, in an effort to attract new residents and consumers to the neighborhood. Formerly known as NEXT 3 Days, the then 3-day event has spotlighted the neighborhoods of Troy Hill, Allentown/Mt. Washington, Garfield and Carrick.

The <u>Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh</u> (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments; and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements. The URA is also committed to equitable development and incorporates best practices for equity and inclusion into its internal and external policies and activities.