

**PLANNING PROCESS KICKED OFF IN HILL DISTRICT**  
***Master planning efforts to create a community vision begin***

**(PITTSBURGH) January 25** – City, county and community partners today begin the master planning effort for the five Hill District neighborhoods and the Uptown neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh.

The Hill District Consensus Group, Urban Redevelopment Authority, City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, and Allegheny County Economic Development kicked off work on a nine month \$350,000 comprehensive master planning effort.

“The Hill District has undergone countless transformations through the years, and has contributed greatly to the City’s history,” Mayor Ravenstahl said. “This planning process will ensure that future development is integrated into the neighborhoods, which are once again integrated with Downtown.”

Based on extensive community feedback, three objectives for the master plan include the integration of the Hill District’s historical and cultural legacy; the re-integration of the Hill District with the Central Business District; and new investment and balanced development without displacing existing residents and businesses.

“The master planning process is a community organizing process that will guarantee that the people who live and work in the Hill District will benefit from new development”, Carl Redwood, Hill District Consensus Group said.

A series of public forums will be held to gather input and provide updates on progress. Specific information on dates and times of these opportunities will be publicized throughout the community and will be made available on the Hill District Consensus Group’s website [www.hdcg.org](http://www.hdcg.org).

A planning team, lead by CH Planning Ltd., comprised of experts in urban and transportation planning, place-making, eco- technology, real estate market analysis, art history and social sciences will study the area generally bounded by Crosstown Blvd (I-579), Bigelow Blvd, Centre Av, Allequippa St, Robinson St, Fifth Av, Birmingham Bridge, and the Monongahela River. Team members include Sasaki Associates, Basil Bauman Prost & Cole, Kimball Corporation, John J. Clark Associates, Carlos Peterson, Dr. Mindy Fullilove, Dr. Herman Jones, and Dr. Kimberly Ellis.

A \$320 million arena complex is currently being developed in the neighborhood by the Pittsburgh Penguins and Sports and Exhibition Authority, and the community has urged the comprehensive master planning effort. The request was incorporated into the Community Benefits Agreement signed last year.

The planning effort has been financed by the City of Pittsburgh’s Urban Redevelopment Authority, Allegheny County, the Heinz Endowments and the Pittsburgh Foundation.

A final plan will be presented by the end of September 2010.

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