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Contact:

Gigi Saladna
Senior Communications Manager
Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
412.304.4042
gsaladna@ura.org

URA TO HOST CONNECTIONS: A BLACK HISTORY MONTH NETWORKING EVENT

Celebrate the contributions of Black Pittsburgh's past, present and future; Free and open to the public

PITTSBURGH, PA (February 11, 2020) - The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) announced today that it will host "Connections: A Black History Month Networking Event," a free event open to the public, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at the URA offices at 412 Boulevard of the Allies.

The event theme is "I am...The story of Black Pittsburgh's past, present and future." Registration is at 5:30 p.m. with a short program at 6:00 p.m. that will feature an African-inspired dance routine from Reed Dance Company, and "I am" poems presented by students from Manchester Academic Charter School, grades 5-8.

The students' poems are based on "I am" poetry URA staff completed during a social and personal identity training, but revised to highlight the contributions of famous black historical figures from Pittsburgh and their impact.

"This is the URA's second annual Black History Month Event which is designed to celebrate both the historical and present-day contributions of African Americans who have helped to shape our city for the better," URA Deputy Executive Director Diamonte Walker said.

"We celebrate this opportunity to connect with the broader community while reflecting on the rich cultural history and modern-day currency of Black Pittsburgh."

This event also connects the public to local resources and programs for starting or growing a business, or buying or improving a home. Attendees will learn about URA housing and business programs, talk to some of the agency's business loan borrowers firsthand, and hear from URA staff about resources and opportunities for City of Pittsburgh small businesses, entrepreneurs and residents.

At 7:00 p.m. guests can network with 10+ CIE borrowers who will be present with their products on display. Light appetizers will be provided by MWBE businesses and CIE micro-loan borrowers, including CobblerWorld, Cooks Catering, Cilantro & Ajo, and Caribbean Vybz.

The event is free but attendees must [RSVP](#). See photos from last year's event [here](#).

About the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA)

The [URA](#) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, supporting the City's economic development goals, which are designed to create a city of inclusive opportunity for residents, stakeholders, and communities. The URA is committed to creating more housing that is affordable to the average Pittsburgher; encouraging more entrepreneurship and small business development; promoting inclusive growth and quality job creation; expanding neighborhood and main streets revitalization efforts; and developing a talented workforce that is equipped with the skills of the future.

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