



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATE OF THE HILL DISTRICT**  
**Saturday, June 20, 2015; The Kaufmann Center, 1825 Centre Ave;**  
**11am - 3pm (doors open at 10:30am)**

*"A swirling energy of revitalization, rehabilitation and renovation with the fervor of a revival is occurring in the heart of the City of Pittsburgh. The Hill District is positioning for its comeback!"*

—Marimba Milliones, President & CEO, Hill CDC

**Pittsburgh—June 5, 2015** The Hill Community Development Corporation (Hill CDC) invites Pittsburgh to the inaugural **State of the Hill District** event recognizing the Hill District's cultural legacy, current economic development and community activities and the **unveiling of the Centre Avenue Redevelopment Plan**.

With more than \$400 million in residential and commercial development combined with future entertainment and mixed-use development, the Hill District is hitting its stride, and the community is leading the way. The State of the Hill District will be a comprehensive review of what is happening in the Hill District and will include lively entertainment, interactive discussion and a barbecue cook-off. "The assets of the Hill District will be on full display, it should be a wonderful, informative and festive event," says Councilman Daniel Lavelle, who will greet State of the Hill District honorees.

Marimba Milliones, President and CEO of the Hill CDC will do an interactive keynote address unveiling the Centre Avenue Redevelopment Plan. The presentation will include updates on the Lower Hill District, new housing projects and the historic New Granada Theater block development.

The event's summit format will include **two hot topic community panel discussions** facilitated by Michele Cooper of McAuley Ministries, and William Generett of Urban Innovation 21 on:

**Getting to the Heart of Community Development:** *How Children & Families, Art & Culture, Health & Wellness, Education and Faith Matter* Moderated by Michele Cooper of McAuley Ministries - Confirmed Panelists: Paul Abernathy of Focus Pittsburgh; Celeta Hickman, Artist, Educator and Co-Founder Ujamaa Collective and Yvonne McBride, Author and Oral Historian.

**Bricks, Mortar and Money: Seizing Our Moment:** *Buildings, Businesses and Breakthroughs* Moderated by William Generett of Urban Innovation21 - Confirmed Panelists: Christine

Mondor of evolveEA; Karris Jackson of POISE Foundation and City Councilman, Daniel Lavelle.

Plus, during a special ceremony, **State of the Hill District Awards** will be given to residents and stakeholders involved in last year's Lower Hill District efforts and other community collaboration initiatives. Honorees include:

Audrey Anderson  
William Bercik  
William Generett  
Glenn Grayson, Jr.  
David Hopkins  
Donte Kyte  
Marc Little  
Deborah Pittrell-Parker  
Carl Redwood  
Brenda Tate  
Chloe Velasquez  
Rev. Lee Walls  
Eugene Williams

John Anderson  
Pastor Vincent Campbell  
Phyllis Ghafoor  
Hill District Minister's Alliance (Pastor Grigsby)  
Bomani Howze  
Joann Lewis  
Charles Mosley  
Emma Pipkin  
Kimberly Slater-Wood  
Sala Udin  
Diamonte Walker  
Dewitt Walton  
Mercedes Williams

Enjoy **performances by the Hill Dance Academy Theatre (HDAT)** and **musician Tony Campbell** (with Pookie Bell, Howie Alexander and Dwayne Dolphin), to the **unveiling of the Centre Avenue Redevelopment Plan**.

Come **feast on soul food during the BBQ Cook-Off on the Plaza** featuring sizzlin' ribs, chicken and succulent sides when **Z Best BBQ** faces off with **In God's Hands Catering!** A **continental breakfast** will also be provided by **Thyme Limit Catering**.

#### **State of the Hill District Sponsors:**

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*McCormack Baron Salazar*

*POISE Foundation*

*TREK Development*

For more information about the Hill CDC or to register for the State of the Hill District, go to [www.hilldistrict.org](http://www.hilldistrict.org) or call 412.765.1820.