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## **\*\*\* April 2022-2023: A Cycle of Celebration\*\*\***

### **August Wilson House to commemorate its public opening with a year of programming – kicking off this spring with annual block party**

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PITTSBURGH (March 3, 2022) – August Wilson House will celebrate the restoration and unveiling of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson’s childhood home at 1727 Bedford Ave., in the Hill District, this year with a multi-month lineup of community programming. Festivities will commence on April 30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the annual August Wilson Birthday Celebration Block Party presented by Dollar Bank and will run through April 2023.

The highlight of the celebratory year will be the public opening of August Wilson House in summer 2022. Upon its completion, it will be an arts center for programming, workshops and panel discussions, as well as the destination for resources related to Wilson’s life and work in the region and beyond.

“Dollar Bank is proud to support the opening of the August Wilson House and, once again, serve as the presenting sponsor for the Annual Block Party,” said Morton Stanfield Jr., Dollar Bank Senior Vice President of Community Development. “This is a great achievement, and we commend the Daisy Wilson Artist Community on their vision and execution in bringing this project to fruition.”

Since the block party’s inception in 2015, this free family-friendly event has attracted thousands to Pittsburgh’s historic Hill District. This year’s gathering will be extra special because it will be a chance for the community to not only celebrate the work and impact of Wilson – who would have turned 77 next month – but also to contribute to the finishing touches on his childhood home through the Legacy Brick Campaign.

People can help make August Wilson House a home by purchasing a personal brick that will be incorporated into the house's restoration. August Wilson House has partnered with actor Russell Hornsby, who played Lyons in Denzel Washington's 2016 film adaptation of Wilson's "Fences," to help spread the word of the campaign.

"I love August Wilson. He touches my soul, our souls in a way that no one that I've ever read has," Washington said about Wilson's body of work.

Hornsby stars in videos about the brick naming campaign that will roll out online this spring. The chance to reserve a brick will be available online soon and at the August Wilson Birthday Celebration Block Party presented by Dollar Bank.

Following August Wilson House's public opening, one of Wilson's plays will be produced and performed in the backyard of the house in late summer/early fall. Details and dates for these events and more planned through spring 2023 will be shared in the coming months.

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#### **ABOUT AUGUST WILSON HOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT**

The vision of August Wilson House is to extend playwright August Wilson's heritage by advancing art and culture of the African diaspora and impacting the cultural landscape far beyond the Hill District. It also will celebrate the rich store of personal memory and community history into which Wilson dipped the ladle of his transforming art. The project is led by the Daisy Wilson Artist Community, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to the revitalization of August Wilson House at 1727 Bedford Ave., and its surrounding Hill District neighborhood. ([augustwilsonhouse.org](http://augustwilsonhouse.org))