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Vibrant Pittsburgh and Urban Affairs Foundation Offer Mini Grants to Strengthen Civic Engagement Among the Region's Diverse Community-Based Organizations

PITTSBURGH – Two Western Pennsylvania champions of diversity — Vibrant Pittsburgh and the Urban Affairs Foundation, which is a part of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh — have joined forces to implement this year's Mini Grants Initiative: 2016 Civic Inclusion & Engagement Fund. This fund will promote diverse communities in the Pittsburgh region. Each organization has committed \$25,000 to create a \$50,000 pool to fund projects that increase the civic engagement of diverse and immigrant communities.

Melanie Harrington, CEO of Vibrant Pittsburgh, is thrilled about the foundation's participation. "We are pleased to team up with the Jewish Federation because they have been providing services for more than a century to Pittsburgh's immigrant and diverse communities. In addition, this is our fourth cycle of funding grants to community groups, so this partnership allows us to expand our resources and engagement."

Cindy Goodman-Leib, chair of the Community Relations Council, explained how the partnership between the Urban Affairs Foundation and Vibrant Pittsburgh resulted: "Several Jewish Federation agencies have been Vibrant Pittsburgh grant recipients. The value of those grant projects underlined our conviction at the Jewish Federation's Urban Affairs Foundation that healthy diverse communities contribute to the vitality of the region as a whole. We see awarding Mini Grants as a means of building the region in the way the foundation's mission statement specifies: 'to foster amicable relationships among ethnic, racial, national, religious and other groups in our community.' "

Funding through the Vibrant Pittsburgh–Urban Affairs Foundation's 2016 Civic Inclusion & Engagement Fund initiative will be available to applicants selected through a competitive proposal process. Lead organizations must have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and maintain a physical presence in the Power of 32 Region (see www.powerof32.org). Organizations can partner with other nonprofits, academic institutions, religious organizations, community groups, businesses and employee resource groups.

Projects eligible for Mini Grant funding should:

- Create opportunities for civic engagement that result in a more inclusive and engaged multicultural region, and
- Be collaborative by engaging diverse communities, organizations, or partners.

– more –

The term of proposed projects should be one year. The typical range of a grant award is \$1,000–\$7,500.

Grant application materials will be available starting March 21 at www.vibrantpittsburgh.org/resource-category/mini-grants. Completed grant applications are due by 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 4, 2016, and should be sent electronically to minigrants@vibrantpittsburgh.org. Vibrant Pittsburgh and the Urban Affairs Foundation will announce Mini Grant awardees in June 2016.

Past Vibrant Pittsburgh Mini Grants have funded health and human services, housing, education, mentoring, professional networking, social support, welcoming initiatives, and job-connection programs for refugees and immigrants.

About Vibrant Pittsburgh

Vibrant Pittsburgh is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the growth and economic competitiveness of the Pittsburgh region by engaging the region's employers; attracting, retaining and elevating a diverse talent pool; and positioning the region nationally and internationally as an inclusive and welcoming place for people of all backgrounds. Vibrant Pittsburgh efforts and this Mini Grants initiative are made possible by Vibrant Pittsburgh Members, including *Leading the Way Members*: Highmark Health, PNC Financial Services, and UPMC. More information is available at www.vibrantpittsburgh.org.

About Urban Affairs Foundation

The purpose of the Urban Affairs Foundation, part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's Community Relations Council, is to promote the involvement of Jewish organizations and individuals in urban concerns. The Community Relations Council engages in public policy activities to promote social and economic justice for all, build amicable relationships among diverse community groups, and enlist support on behalf of Israel.

About the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, one of 151 independent Federations associated with The Jewish Federations of North America, raises and allocates funds to build community locally, in Israel and around the world. With the vision of a thriving, vibrant and engaged Jewish community, the Federation aims to carry out its work in the context of cooperation and inclusiveness. For more information about the Federation, visit www.jfedpgh.org.

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