

**Vibrant Pittsburgh Awards Another \$50,000 to Groups Committed to Growing the Diversity of the Region**

*11 diverse Affinity Groups receive Mini Grants*

**PITTSBURGH, PA—March 27, 2013**—The Board of Directors for Vibrant Pittsburgh approved \$50,000 in Mini Grant awards to diverse community-based groups that are designed to attract, retain, and welcome diverse talent to the Pittsburgh Region. This is the second Mini Grants funding cycle bringing the number of Affinity Group awardees to 25 and the total amount contributed to \$100,000.

The Mini Grants Initiative was established in early 2012 to support and elevate the visibility of the region's Affinity Groups and to leverage their interest in growing a more diverse place. Affinity Groups are civic, professional, community, student and other membership groups that represent or serve the region's wide array of diverse communities.

“The 11 Mini Grant awardees, along with the many members of Vibrant Pittsburgh's Affinity Groups Council, are helping to position the region as a destination of opportunity for people of all backgrounds,” said Melanie Harrington, CEO of Vibrant Pittsburgh. “Our diverse communities are an essential magnet for more diverse talent and are key to fostering greater retention of diverse talent.”

Vibrant Pittsburgh's Mini Grants support a wide range of activities including mentoring and professional networking projects, social supports for LGBTQ women of color, welcoming initiatives for diverse newcomers, and refugee and immigrant projects that connect people to jobs and resources. “We recognized the impact Affinity Groups and employers can have on the region and its economic development aspirations, and are committed to being inclusive and collaborative in our approach,” said Ms. Harrington.

A review panel consisting of leaders from business, education and nonprofit sectors reviewed the proposals. The final selection was approved by Vibrant Pittsburgh's Board of Directors.

***The 2013 Vibrant Pittsburgh Mini Grants award recipients are as follows:***

- Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh in partnership with Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)
- Chinese Association for Science and Technology, Pittsburgh (CAST-P)
- Circulo Juvenil de Cultura, Hispanic Studies Outreach Program in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University
- Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS)
- Junior Achievement of Western PA
- Latino Family Center AIU3
- New Voices Pittsburgh in partnership with Northside Coalition for Fair Housing
- Global Beats in partnership with Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
- Pittsburgh Hostel Project in partnership with The Birmingham Foundation
- University of Pittsburgh Physicians Program for Health Care to Underserved Populations: Birmingham Free Clinic
- Westmoreland Community Action

For more information about the Mini Grants Initiative, contact Adriana Dobrzcka at 412-281-8615 or [adrianad@vibrantpittsburgh.org](mailto:adrianad@vibrantpittsburgh.org). Visit Vibrant Pittsburgh at [www.vibrantpittsburgh.org/affinity-groups](http://www.vibrantpittsburgh.org/affinity-groups) to find highlights about the Mini Grants Initiative and the Affinity Groups Council. Also, to find Affinity Groups in the Pittsburgh Region, search Vibrant Pittsburgh's Affinity Groups Database on the website and follow Vibrant Pittsburgh on Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, or Twitter at Vibrantburgh.

***About Vibrant Pittsburgh***

Vibrant Pittsburgh, in collaboration with employers, colleges and universities, civic organizations, and Affinity Groups, has mounted an ambitious strategy to ensure the Pittsburgh region's economic competitiveness by attracting, retaining, and elevating diverse talent for the region's workforce. A growing group of employers have joined with us to achieve this mission including Bayer, BNY Mellon, Giant Eagle, FedEx Ground, Highmark, PNC Financial Services, PPG Industries, UPMC, and United States Steel Corporation. To learn more about Vibrant Pittsburgh and our initiatives visit [www.vibrantpittsburgh.org](http://www.vibrantpittsburgh.org).

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