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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership highlights the growing number of organizations preparing to welcome the world to Pittsburgh in one week

(PITTSBURGH – September 17, 2009) With the Pittsburgh Summit now just one week away, the Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership Thursday highlighted some of the dozens of organizations that are helping to welcome the world to the region.

Downtown businesses that are finding creative ways to operate despite the security perimeters are part of that equation. Tonic Bar & Grill at the corner of Liberty Avenue and Tenth Street is just a block away from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The seven-year-old bistro will be open for business during the summit, offering regular service plus a three-course prix-fixe menu, with live musical entertainment Thursday night.

“I see this as way to offer something unique to Downtown residents during the summit,” said owner Denise Gaynor. “I want to create something special and memorable for them – and also be available to serve some of the thousands of hungry and thirsty journalists, delegates and other visitors to Pittsburgh.”

Showing off an iconic image of the city is another component. The Point State Park fountain has struggled with electrical and pumping problems over the past several years, with only the lower “peacock” sprays operating since the spring. Riverlife and the Alcoa Technical Center worked together to make a temporary fix that returned the main 150-foot plume of water to life just in time for the summit and the recent Steelers-Titans game.

“We all saw how beautiful Pittsburgh looked during the opening game of the NFL’s season last week,” said Stephan Bontrager, communications director of Riverlife, which works to reclaim, restore and promote Pittsburgh’s riverfronts. “As partners in the \$42 million renovation of Point State Park with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Riverlife was proud that so many Pittsburghers were able to enjoy the park during the concert and experience the full grandeur of one of its most beautiful features – the Fountain at the Point.”

Following the summit, Riverlife will launch a fundraising campaign to restore the fountain to regular operation.

Other events building on the momentum of the G-20-plus-five conference are in full swing. The World Affairs Council’s student summit opened at Fox Chapel High School Thursday morning. On Friday afternoon Carnegie Mellon University economist Allan Meltzer and PNC’s Stuart Hoffman join United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard to discuss what Pittsburgh can teach the world about economic recovery. A People’s Summit begins Saturday

and continues through Tuesday, when the Freedom Conference opens at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, and state Rep. Jake Wheatley sponsors trade expos for Pittsburgh neighborhood businesses in the North Side and the Hill District.

Just because something is important doesn't mean it can't be fun. Special events around the summit include art exhibits at The Warhol Museum and the Pittsburgh Technology Center, the "Chalk For Peace" collaboration at the Children's Museum and around the North Side, this Saturday's international cricket match at South Park, and Monday night's special G-20 dragon-boat tour along the Allegheny River by the Pittsburgh Paddlefish Dragon Boat Team. (Mr. C.M. Venkat and other cricket players, and Massimo Cenciarini and other paddle boaters are attending this news briefing.) Visit the Partnership's Web site, www.PittsburghG20.org, for a complete list of summit-related events.

Also Thursday the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, in conjunction with Duquesne Light, launches its Festival of Lights, bathing the Convention Center and other nearby buildings in color to celebrate the G-20 summit. The festival also commemorates the silver anniversary of the trust, which was founded to use the arts to transform a former red-light district into a cultural center.

Today, the offerings of the Cultural District attract more than 2 million people to Downtown Pittsburgh annually. Pittsburgh Cultural Trust President and CEO Kevin McMahon said, "In conjunction with the trust's 25th anniversary of transforming Downtown from a blighted neighborhood into an international model of urban revitalization through the arts, this is an opportune time to highlight sites in the Cultural District."

Please visit www.PittsburghG20.org for ongoing updates of summit-related news and information, tips for your commute, calendar of events updates and more.

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The **Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership** (www.pittsburghG20.org) is a public-private partnership of organizations throughout the Pittsburgh region that have come together to welcome the world to Pittsburgh during the G-20 Summit on September 24-25, 2009. Chaired by Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato and City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the Partnership provides time, talent and resources to assure a welcoming, clean and green event and showcase Pittsburgh's economic, environmental and quality of life transformation.