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## **PITTSBURGH SHOWCASES REGION'S STRENGTHS THROUGH AMAZON HQ2 PROPOSAL**

*All Pittsburgh Fans Asked to Join Effort and Share Why #OURPGHQ2*

**PITTSBURGH** – October 19, 2017 – The regional partnership formed to pursue the Amazon HQ2 opportunity (PGHQ2) today submitted the region's proposal for Pittsburgh to host Amazon's second headquarters. The proposal was submitted jointly by City of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Stefani Pashman.

The proposal, *Future. Forged. For All.*, is a clear articulation that there is no better choice than Pittsburgh for Amazon's HQ2, now and into the future. A dedicated project team composed of a broad group of civic, business, university and foundation leaders worked diligently together for nearly six weeks to craft a clear, concise, cohesive message that directly addresses the requirements that Amazon identified in its request for proposal.

"It's a proud moment for Pittsburgh," said County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. "What Amazon is looking for in cities across North America is already here. We have been preparing for this for thirty years. Our region has tremendous assets that should be appealing to Amazon: a world-class talent pool, high quality of life at a low cost, a stable business environment, and significant capacity to grow."

“Like Amazon, Pittsburgh thinks big. Like no other place, we can offer the opportunity to build the city and headquarters of the future, together making a lasting, positive impact for all,” said Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto. “Beyond a great place to do business, with unique financial and quality of life advantages, our proposal offers unmatched opportunity to address social equity investments in education, infrastructure and housing affordability.”

The PGHQ2 partnership will serve as the Amazon welcome committee and dedicated partner ensuring a soft landing and support for Amazon’s long-term success should the Pittsburgh region be selected. Housed at the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, PGHQ2 will coordinate the efforts of all local jurisdictions, businesses, universities, and foundations that have volunteered their support for Amazon’s Pittsburgh expansion.

“The region was built on collaboration and our collective efforts to attract Amazon are no different,” said Stefani Pashman, CEO, Allegheny Conference on Community Development. “Our proposal emphasizes how the community is prepared to activate our powerful public-private partnerships spanning corporate, philanthropic and government entities for the benefit of Amazon and of the Pittsburgh region. PGHQ2 embodies this spirit of cooperation and also builds off the knowledge and expertise that the Allegheny Conference has developed serving as the region’s economic development organization.”

Amazon issued its request for proposals for a second headquarters city on September 7, and final bids are due October 19. More than 400 passionate stakeholders, working alongside consultants from HR&A Advisors, Maya Design and Gatesman, contributed to Pittsburgh’s proposal. The PNC Financial Services Group donated a floor of the Two PNC building downtown to provide a centralized location for this cross-sector effort. Due to the competitive nature of the bid process, specifics from the proposal, such as key sites and economic details of Pittsburgh’s offer, remain confidential under a non-disclosure agreement signed with Amazon.

Representatives of the PGHQ2 team, including County Executive Fitzgerald and Mayor Peduto, are asking Pittsburgh fans to share why Pittsburgh is their headquarters, too. In a social challenge, issued from the new [HQPittsburgh.com](http://HQPittsburgh.com) website, Pittsburgh enthusiasts are asked, “Whether you chose Pittsburgh, or Pittsburgh chose you, share why the Burgh is yours,” and encouraged to post photos, videos, memes or comments to their social channels to tell their story, using the hashtag: #OURPGHQ2.

The [HQPittsburgh.com](http://HQPittsburgh.com) site also shares testimonials from Pittsburgh region small and large business owners, foundations, community organizations, educational institutions and more. Those interested in submitting a testimonial, or who have questions regarding the work by PGHQ2, can reach out through [AmazonPGH@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:AmazonPGH@pittsburghpa.gov).

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Below are quotes from select PGHQ2 partners reflecting the passionate support for Pittsburgh as Amazon’s second headquarters.

“We’re excited at the prospect of making our proposal – and this new partnership – a reality. Welcoming Amazon’s second headquarters to Pittsburgh would grow jobs, spin start-ups, advance research, leverage highly-skilled talent, and immediately enrich our city’s growing innovation district. This is what our universities are here to support. We welcome the opportunity to work with Amazon.”

Patrick Gallagher, Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh

“Pittsburgh has become a magnet for major companies who want to get ahead of the curve, and entrepreneurs who want to make a difference. The computing and data technologies that are shaping this century have their roots here, and the vitality and can-do spirit that gave the world artificial intelligence, driverless cars, and so much more make this an ideal environment for Amazon’s continued development as an innovative disruptor of consumer markets.”

Farnam Jahanian, Interim President, Carnegie Mellon University

“Like Pittsburgh itself, CCAC continues to evolve – providing the region’s business and industry partners with the creative workforce solutions they need to successfully compete in today’s fast-paced and increasingly complex global economy. For innovative companies like Amazon, Pittsburgh offers a workforce skilled in the lexicon of the modern workplace – one reliant on problem-solving, advanced technological know-how and a solid commitment to sustainable growth and development.”

Dr. Quintin Bullock, President, Community College of Allegheny County

“This process, and bid, is about our region’s future. We don’t just talk about a future forged for all, we walk the walk. We know that the collaboration and collective effort put forth will benefit all those in our community. Having Amazon choose Pittsburgh will also mean other indirect investment and, just as importantly, opportunity for all of our residents, new and old.”

Esther L. Bush, President & CEO, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh