



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Denis Theatre Foundation Awarded Major Grant**

*Community Infrastructure and Tourism Grant of \$175,000 represents first significant public monies; viewed as endorsement of impact Denis Theatre to make on South Hills*

**PITTSBURGH, PA., JUNE 4, 2012**—The Denis Theatre Foundation announced today that it was awarded a major grant by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County through the Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund (CITF). The \$175,000 grant, which represents the first major public dollars committed to the project, will be used to further renovation of the 74-year-old theater in Mt. Lebanon and is widely viewed as confirmation of the project's economic impact.

"The CITF grant is a very competitive process," said Executive Director Valerie Golik. "We are very pleased that the board of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County and the Allegheny County Economic Development Office selected our project for funding. We know the Denis will enhance economic vitality for the region, create jobs short- and long-term, and will provide a wonderful destination for film, arts and education."

The \$175,000 grant will be applied toward the Denis Theatre Foundation's Phase I fundraising objective of \$2.5 million, and brings the total raised to \$1,475,000. Phase I construction and renovation, slated to begin this summer, will open the first of three planned movie screens and complete necessary infrastructure, including an elevator, new electrical and mechanical systems throughout the 17,000 square foot building. Completion of Phase I and the opening of the first screen is set for 2013.

"This grant represents another important milestone for the Denis," said board chair Jennifer Smokelin. "We've had tremendous support for the campaign, but we still must raise \$1 million in order to open the first screen. We hope that this latest grant will encourage new donors to step forward with their pledges of support."

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About the Denis Theatre Foundation

*Established in 2007, the Denis Theatre Foundation, a non-profit organization, has launched a \$4.5 million campaign to renovate and re-open the Denis Theatre as an independent cinema and community cultural center, serving the South Hills and beyond. The project, which has been divided into two phases, will raise the necessary funds to open one screen in 2013, and two more screens and other amenities by 2015. More information is available by visiting [www.denistheatre.org](http://www.denistheatre.org).*

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