

## Experts to study redevelopment potential of Homestead & W. Homestead

Six national experts in the redevelopment arena will convene on Homestead and West Homestead May 27-30 for The Avenues: Beyond the Waterfront workshop. The workshop, sponsored and facilitated by the Western Pennsylvania Brownfields Center at Carnegie Mellon University, aims to develop action items to spur redevelopment and organize community participation and foster consensus building.

The public is invited to a meeting Wednesday, May 28 in the boardroom of the Carnegie Library of Homestead at 7 p.m.

In summer 2007, the Homestead and West Homestead Council Presidents began working with the Western Pennsylvania Brownfields Center at Carnegie Mellon to address the redevelopment opportunities and challenges facing their communities. As a result, a local planning committee was formed to develop a site-focused workshop for the area.

The Planning Committee has identified the area of 6th and 7th Avenues, bound by McClure and Neel Streets as well as the WhemCo and ASKO properties as the area on which to focus. After a number of meetings with property owners, the Committee has identified six national experts, who will over the course of the workshop, interview local stakeholder groups. After the experts have collected local input they will retreat to brainstorm concrete action items to push responsible development forward in Homestead and West Homestead.

During the three-day workshop, visiting experts will develop steps to address community safety, redevelopment strategies, marketing, environmental justice, historic designation, and strategic connections. The experts will unveil their proposed action items Friday, May 30, at 12:00 in a public press conference hosted by Allegheny County Council President Rich Fitzgerald and state Senator Jay Costa, Jr. at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Amity Street in Homestead.

These recommendations will come after months of meetings and brainstorming, according to Meredith Meyer Grelli, Program Coordinator of The Western Pennsylvania Brownfields Center at Carnegie Mellon. "During the past nine months of workshop planning, Homestead and West Homestead Boroughs, Carnegie Mellon University, Allegheny County, Congressman Doyle's Office, Steel Valley Enterprise Zone, and the Mon Valley Initiative have come together on a regular basis, uniting their energies in this redevelopment effort," said Grelli. "The continuation of this collaboration will be vital to the success of the communities going forward."