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For Immediate Release

APH Launches First Official Program of The Dot Experience, with \$100,000 Grant from PNC Foundation

Louisville, Ky. (Jan. 4, 2024) – In commemoration of today’s observance of World Braille Day, American Printing House (APH) announced a \$100,000 grant from PNC Foundation to fund the delivery of *Connect the Dots, powered by PNC*, a two-year series of educational experiences launching Jan. 6, 2024.

This new series of free family programs, designed to foster inclusion through a disability lens, will be presented during the leadup to the 2025 opening of The Dot Experience, APH’s highly anticipated visitor attraction currently under construction. Events will be hosted at various library branches throughout the city, in partnership with the Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL).

“As a champion for education and literacy, PNC is pleased to support this series, which will help APH continue its important community outreach during this exciting period of expansion, while also elevating awareness for APH’s many contributions to accessible learning at a global scale,” said Kristen Byrd, PNC regional president for Louisville.

As the first official program of The Dot Experience, *Connect the Dots, powered by PNC*, will shine a light on the history of braille and accessible learning innovations while showcasing real-world stories that bring the experiences of those who are blind or low vision to life.

“We are working to break down barriers and change perceptions of blindness, creating a world that is more welcoming for all,” said Craig Meador, Ed.D., APH president. “We are grateful to PNC Foundation’s commitment to family learning and literacy which creates a powerful platform for exposing children to an accessibility mindset and invites more people to think about how they can make the world a more inclusive place.”

The first Connect the Dots, *powered by PNC*, event will build on today's observance of World Braille Day and will be held at the Northeast Regional Library (15 Bellevoir Circle) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Sat., Jan. 6.

A full schedule of events, as well as posters children can use to track their program participation month-to-month, will be distributed to families attending the Jan. 6 event.

Programs are free for all and open to the public.

Connect the Dots, *powered by PNC*, 2024 schedule is below:

- Sat., Jan. 6 - Happy Birthday Louis Braille at the Northeast Regional Library (15 Bellevoir Circle)
- Sat., Feb. 17 - Light and Shadow at the Main Library (301 York St.)
- Sat., March 30 - "How do people who are blind read?" at the Highlands Shelby Park Library (1250 Bardstown Road)
- Sat., April 13 - Career: Sports at the Iroquois Library (601 W. Woodlawn Ave.)
- Sat., May 18 - "How do people who are blind do math?" at the Main Library (301 York St.)
- Sat., June 15 - Happy Birthday Helen Keller at the St. Matthews Library (3940 Grandview Ave.)
- Sat., July 13 - Touch and Texture at the South Central Regional (7300 Jefferson Blvd.)
- Sat., Aug. 3 - Career: Cooking at the Southwest Regional Library (9725 Dixie Highway)
- Sat., Sept. 28 - "How do people who are blind navigate?" at Newburg Branch Library (4800 Exeter Ave.)
- Sat., Oct. 19 - Sound and Vibration at Western Library (604 S. 10th St.)
- Sat., Nov. 2 - Career: Science at South Central Regional Library (7300 Jefferson Blvd.)
- Sat., Dec. 14 - "Happy Holidays Mary Ingalls!" at Jeffersontown Branch Library (10635 Watterson Trail)

About PNC Foundation

The PNC Foundation, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group (www.pnc.com), actively supports organizations that provide services for the benefit of communities in which it has a significant presence. The foundation focuses its philanthropic mission on early childhood education and community and economic development, which includes the arts and culture. Through PNC Grow Up Great®, its signature cause that began in 2004, PNC has created a bilingual \$500 million, multi-year initiative to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life.

About the Dot Experience Project

- The Dot Experience will be a new “front door and attraction” for APH.
- The Dot Experience construction is \$22 million, which includes exhibits.
- The Dot Experience will be 28,000 square feet. This is nearly five times the size of the previous APH Museum.
- APH is working to raise \$15 million in contributed funds from corporate, individual, and philanthropic sources toward the project.
- All additional funds for this expansion will come from APH’s endowment and investments.

The Dot Experience name pays homage to APH’s history and commitment to braille, a series of six dots that in combination, form letters, numbers, music, and words, and serve as the code for communication and lifelong literacy for individuals who are blind.

The Dot Experience brings APH stories and more to life on a world stage. Museums have traditionally been structured in a way that limits the experience and enjoyment of visitors with disabilities, and while much work has been done to open doors, many of these efforts are selective or pocketed to one audience or one area of a museum.

The Dot Experience will focus on inclusion, accessibility, and innovation embracing the expression “nothing about us without us” in a comprehensive way – through first-person stories of blind and low vision individuals, and through intentional involvement of the blindness community at every level of the project.

Every aspect of The Dot Experience is being planned with accessibility in mind. To help bring the vision to life, APH is working with Solid Light, a nationally recognized design-build firm, located in Louisville and with Prime Access Consulting (PAC), inclusive design consultants. The Dot Experience will open in 2025 on APH’s campus.

For additional information, renderings, and more, [download our Groundbreaking Media Kit at APH.org.](#)