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**MEDIA ALERT**  
May 15, 2017

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## **Propel Schools, City of Asylum Partner to Celebrate Pittsburgh's Diversity**

— May 16 event part of Remake Learning Days —

**WHAT:** Propel Schools' Afterschool Program, which serves more than 700 students in underserved communities in Allegheny County, and City of Asylum, a nonprofit offering literary programs to encourage cross-cultural exchange, are hosting "Under the Tent and Around the World," a Remake Learning Days event.

The celebration of diversity features different cultures and is in conjunction with the refugee resettlement nonprofit agency, Acculturation for Justice, Access and Peace Outreach (AJAPO).

Guests from the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Somali and Iraq will join community members and families from Propel's 11 schools to experience the cultures of Japan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Argentina, Peru, Guatemala and Haiti through readings, art, music, cooking demonstrations and food sampling.

Highlights include a dance performance by Children of Shangri Lost, a student advocacy group for Bhutanese refugees, and an improv performance by Penny Arcade. City of Asylum authors Tuhin Das and Graciela Bonnet will share original stories in their respective native languages, Bengali and Spanish.

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 6-8 p.m.**

**WHERE:** Tent near City of Asylum  
318 Sampsonia Way  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212



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## **NOTE TO MEDIA:**

Author bios are below and photos attached. Media are invited to attend. To make arrangements for event photos or interviews, please email Kelly Wall at [kellywall@propelschools.org](mailto:kellywall@propelschools.org).

### **Graciela Bonnet**

Graciela Bonnet, publisher, draftsman and poet, was born in Córdoba, Argentina, in 1958. She holds a degree in Spanish literature from the Central University of Venezuela (1984). She is the author of “En caso de que todo falle” and “Libretas doradas, lápices de carbon.” In 2000, she participated in the meeting of Women Poets in Cereté, Colombia. She lives in Pittsburgh.

### **Tuhin Das**

Tuhin Das is a poet, who was born and raised in Barisal, Bangladesh. His life as a writer began as a young student when he would write children's poems and submit them to newspapers. Das is the author of seven poetry books in his native language, Bengali, and he also writes stories for young readers. He is now the writer-in-residence of City of Asylum in Pittsburgh.

### **About Propel Schools**

*Propel Schools is a network of public charter schools that transforms the lives of children in underserved communities through innovative, student-centered learning. Propel sets a standard for creating productive citizens by prioritizing academic excellence and fundamental life skills. Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Propel has become one of the largest, fastest-expanding charter school organizations since it was established in 2003. Today, Propel serves 3,700 students at 13 Allegheny County locations. Visit [propelschools.org](http://propelschools.org) to learn more.*

### **About City of Asylum**

*City of Asylum creates a thriving community for writers, readers and neighbors. The nonprofit organization provides sanctuary to endangered literary writers, so that they can continue to write and their voices are not silenced. City of Asylum offers a broad range of literary programs in a variety of community settings to encourage cross-cultural exchange. It anchors neighborhood economic development by transforming blighted properties into homes for these programs and energizing public spaces through public art with text-based components.*

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