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**URA RECEIVES GOLD EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD  
FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
FOR LAUNCHPGH.COM**

**PITTSBURGH, PA (October 8, 2015)** The [Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh](http://www.urapittsburgh.org) (URA) received a **Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award** for [LaunchPGH.com](http://LaunchPGH.com) in the category of Special Purpose Website for communities with populations of 200,000-500,000 from the [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedc.org) (IEDC).

The honor was announced at an awards ceremony on Monday, October 5, during the 2015 IEDC Annual Conference, which was held October 4-7, in Anchorage, Alaska.

“Congratulations to Tom Link, director of the URA’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), and his staff for this well-deserved recognition,” URA Acting Executive Director Robert Rubinstein said. “I want to thank PowerUp Pittsburgh, Wall-to-Wall Studios and everyone involved who helped to make this creative and innovative website such a success.”

The URA partnered with [PowerUp Pittsburgh](http://PowerUpPittsburgh.com) and [Wall-to-Wall Studios](http://WalltoWallStudios.com) to create this comprehensive web portal for entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs to find reliable information and connect to an extensive network for business opportunities. The URA manages and curates the platform, ensuring that the information stays relevant and timely.

Since its launch in August 2013, 23,703 people have visited LaunchPGH.com from 101 countries and 48 states.

“From localized community projects, to large scale endeavors, economic development efforts have played a vital role in the global economy,” said JoAnn Cray, CECD, Chair of the IEDC and President of Saginaw Future Inc. “As we address new and longstanding challenges, these efforts continue to take on even greater importance. The award serves as a salute to pacesetter organizations like the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh for leading the charge.”

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Recipients of IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards demonstrate to an experienced panel of judges that they are at the forefront of the economic development profession. They are recognized as the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

#### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedconline.org) (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,600 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org).

The [Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh](http://www.uraredevel.com) (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments; and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.

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