

# Market Center Community Development Corporation

## *Revitalizing Baltimore's Historic Core*

For Immediate Release

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### **HISTORIC MARKET CENTER AREA CDC RECEIVES \$20,000 GRANT**

Market Center Community Development Corporation, Baltimore Heritage, Inc., Lexington Market, Inc., and Seawall to partner on the Lexington Market Public History Project

BALTIMORE, Maryland – July 30, 2020 – As the project to transform Lexington Market gets under way, the **Market Center Community Development Corporation** (MCCDC) is pleased to announce that the Maryland Historical Society (MdHS) has approved a grant of \$20,000 for the Lexington Market Public History Project through its [Pathways Grant program](#). Baltimore Heritage, Inc., Lexington Market, Inc., and Seawall are partners in the project.

This project will showcase the history of Baltimore's premiere public market by asking people to share stories and personal remembrances of the Market, capturing these recollections, and celebrating them through programming, educational materials, exhibits, and long-term preservation. The partners recognize that Lexington Market's diverse people – business owners, regular patrons, visitors, and employees – are a core part of its history and central to its future. The stories will also be tied to archival research.

“So many Baltimoreans have fond memories of Lexington Market, whether they recall weekly shopping trips with their grandmother or working at a stall for decades,” said Johns Hopkins, Director of Baltimore Heritage. “These everyday stories are an important part of Lexington Market's history, and the storytellers themselves make Lexington Market special.”

As the historic and current anchor of Market Center, and its most widely identifiable historic asset, Lexington Market has always played an important role in the health and wellbeing of the community. The successful transition to a new market building will stimulate renovation and reuse of vacant and underused buildings, which in turn will help ensure the success of the market. The partnering groups hope to use this inflection point – the redevelopment of the historic market – as a platform for collecting, archiving, and sharing the Market's more than 238-year history.

“We know that many people are rooting for the inclusive revitalization of Market Center, and we share that goal, starting with Lexington Market,” said Kristen Mitchell, Executive Director of the Market Center CDC. “There is no reason why Lexington Market cannot again shine as a center of commerce and community, a place where all people feel welcome, and where future Baltimoreans come to make more history.”

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This project has been financed in part by the Maryland Historical Society. However, project contents or opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Maryland Historical Society.

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### **About the Market Center Neighborhood**

Once the retail epicenter for Baltimore, the 27-block Market Center is a diverse community of commerce, arts, entertainment, anchor institutions and residential buildings. Its location in the heart of downtown is rich with history and landmarks, and is home to world-class live theater, the famed Lexington Market, long time businesses and major employers.

Market Center is roughly bounded by Baltimore Street to the south, Greene to the west, Cathedral/Liberty to the east and Madison to the north.

### **About Market Center Community Development Corporation**

Formed in November 2017 as the non-profit 501(C)3 arm of the Market Center Merchants Association (MCMA), [MCCDC](#) is leading the way to support and encourage investment, community development, and the renaissance of Baltimore's historic retail core. MCCDC's mission is to catalyze a healthy, dynamic, and diverse community in Market Center. MCMA is a 501(C)6 business league whose mission is to promote commerce, retain and recruit businesses, and improve the customer and residential experience.

### **About Baltimore Heritage, Inc.**

[Baltimore Heritage](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving historic buildings and revitalizing neighborhoods. We celebrate the stories of our city's people and places through tours and education. We support homeowners and neighborhood organizations as they work to preserve and restore their homes and local landmarks.

### **About Lexington Market, Inc.**

Situated on the blocks between Eutaw, Lexington, Greene and Saratoga Streets, Lexington Market has served the community on this Baltimore City site since 1782. The world's largest, continuously operating public market, [Lexington Market](#) provides fresh meats, seafood, produce, international cuisine, prepared foods and in-market dining for thousands of visitors annually. It is managed by Lexington Market, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation that operates historic Lexington Market on behalf of the City of Baltimore.

### **About Seawall Development**

[Seawall](#) is a community organization made up of passionate social entrepreneurs who believe in re-imagining the real estate industry as we know it. We believe that all facets of the built environment should be used to empower communities, unite our cities, and help launch powerful ideas that create important movements. Combining decades of real estate development experience and non-profit community work, we have formed a socially conscious development company. Seawall has focused its energy and resources on providing discounted apartments for teachers, collaborative office space for

non-profit organizations, community-driven retail, launchpads for chefs, and creative space for charter schools.

Seawall's history of success is due in large part to deep relationships with neighborhood residents and business owners, as well as demonstrated and continuing commitment to responsible, inclusive development that is responsive to neighborhood needs and wants.

**About the MdHS Pathways Program**

The overarching goal of MdHS Pathways is to build the long-term resiliency and efficacy of the existing museums, historic sites, and other organizations that make up Maryland's heritage community. MdHS Pathways is made possible by an annually recurring allocation to MdHS from the state's Preservation of Cultural Arts Fund.