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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mount Vernon Place Conservancy Announces Flower Mart at Mount Vernon Place May 3-4, 2019

(Baltimore, Maryland) – The Mount Vernon Place Conservancy (“the Conservancy”) announces that Baltimore’s annual rite of spring – **Flower Mart at Mount Vernon Place** – will take place in the squares surrounding the Washington Monument on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

This year, under the Conservancy’s new leadership, the festival returns to its original roots with a 21st-century twist.

“We’re embracing the Flower Mart’s original 1911 vision of encouraging the greening of the city, a central goal of our stewardship of Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore’s most historic green space,” says Lance Humphries, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Conservancy.

Besides cherished traditions, such as lemon sticks, ice cream, and plant sales, local nurseries, artists, jewelers, woodworkers, eateries (many from the Mount Vernon area), breweries, and more than 20 musicians from Baltimore are some features of this year’s Flower Mart.

Baltimore Tree Trust, TreeBaltimore, and the UME Master Gardeners are among the non-profits offering “greening” expertise to attendees. Free workshops and lectures on topics such as beekeeping, flower arranging and urban gardening, are being offered both days by speakers from the National Aquarium, Baltimore City’s Office of Sustainability, and others.

Flower Mart was founded in 1911 by the Women’s Civic League, an organization formed to advocate for better living conditions in the City of Baltimore. A focal point of the original festival was to encourage flower, plant, and vegetable gardening in the yards of homes and vacant lots—thereby making them green. “We find this message relevant today,” says Humphries.

The Washington Monument will feature extended hours for the duration of Flower Mart. Visitors will have the opportunity view the recent award-winning restoration, and climb the 227 steps to observe the festival from above, with a 360° view of the city.

The event is heavily underwritten by The Agora Companies, whose campus surrounds Mount Vernon Place. “We are thrilled that The Agora Companies stepped up to be our first major

sponsor, recognizing the importance of this tradition to the Mount Vernon community and city,” notes Humphries.

For a full listing of the vendors, musicians, lectures and workshops, and sponsors, visit the Conservancy’s website:

<http://mvpconservancy.org/flower-mart/>

ABOUT THE CONSERVANCY:

In 2012, the City of Baltimore entered into a partnership with the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy to restore, manage, and maintain the Washington Monument and the four park squares of Mount Vernon Place. The Conservancy’s first project restored the Washington Monument, reopening it on its Bicentennial July 4, 2015. The next phase of restoration will focus on making the North and South Square more accessible and sustainable.

Annually, the Conservancy maintains the Monument and keeps it open to the public. The Conservancy also provides free events and concerts held in the four parks throughout the spring and summer. Today, the Conservancy continues to improve the quality of Mount Vernon Place.

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