

**MOUNT VERNON PLACE CONSERVANCY, INC.  
1221 N. CALVERT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MAYOR SHEILA DIXON TO ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF THE MOUNT  
VERNON PLACE CONSERVANCY**

**Announcement to take place Thursday, November 20 at the Walters Art Museum**

Baltimore, MD -- Mayor Sheila Dixon will announce the formation of a major public-private partnership for the restoration and future management of Mount Vernon Place, with the launch of the new Mount Vernon Place Conservancy, the first park conservancy organization in Baltimore's history. The announcement will be made on Thursday, November 20 at 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Walters Art Museum Mansion at 5 W. Mount Vernon Place in Baltimore. Mr. Peter Brink, Senior Vice President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will represent the National Trust at the announcement and thank Mayor Dixon for her support of the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy.

"The Conservancy will bring Mount Vernon Place to the highest standards of urban parks and gardens," said Dr. Lance Humphries of Baltimore, the country's leading expert on the history of the squares of Mount Vernon Place. "It has all the architectural elements to be a great urban space and a fascinating and important history that includes visits by presidents and foreign leaders who recognized its beauty and its importance to the country as a symbol of the ideals of American democracy."

The new Board of Directors of the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy, Inc. will raise an estimated \$10 million in funding to direct the first comprehensive restoration of Mount Vernon Place--embracing the Washington Monument and four surrounding squares--in more than 100 years. Surrounding Robert Mills' Washington Monument are four squares designed in 1917 by the New York architectural firm of Carrere & Hastings. Mount Vernon Place is the centerpiece of a National Historic Landmark District.

The restoration is scheduled to coincide with the bicentennial events celebrating the end of the War of 1812. In September 1814, Baltimoreans defeated the British in the Battle of Baltimore. In the pride of their accomplishment on July 4, 1815 they dedicated the Washington Monument in what was then called "Howard's Woods." July 4, 2015 marks the bicentennial of the monument and celebration of Mount Vernon Place's history.

“Following the restoration, Mount Vernon Place will become one of the leading tourist attractions in Baltimore and the state of Maryland,” said Tom Noonan, President of the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (BACVA). “A revitalized Mount Vernon Place will attract more businesses, more residents, more visitors, and more focus on major attractions outside the Inner Harbor.” [not yet approved]

Included in the restoration will be the upgrading of all electric and water service, restoration of highly deteriorated and damaged marble, increasing access for the disabled and enhancing much of the current landscaping. “This is a major investment,” said Friends of Mount Vernon Place President Jane McConnell, “But it will pay off many, many times over as Baltimore joins the ranks of other great American cities with spectacular historic parks that draw visitors and residents alike.”

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