

## **BDC, MIB and MD Commerce to Highlight Baltimore Makers at the Natural Products Expo East**

BALTIMORE, September 12, 2018 – The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), Made In Baltimore and Maryland Department of Commerce will host an exhibitor space at this year's Natural Products Expo East to highlight Baltimore makers.

Natural Products Expo East is the largest natural, organic, and healthy products trade show on the east coast. More than 1,600 exhibitors from 115 countries showcase the new products and trends in natural, organic, and healthy lifestyle; and roughly 30,000 industry professionals attend the Expo. It will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center this week from September 13-15.

“As part of BDC’s mission is to help businesses expand, the Natural Products Expo presents an excellent opportunity for Baltimore makers to get to the next level by marketing their products to potential wholesalers, retailers and buyers,” said William H. Cole, president & CEO of the Baltimore Development Corporation. “We wanted to find a way to enable these small businesses to exhibit at this tradeshow, which otherwise may have been cost-prohibitive for them.”

This collaboration with Made In Baltimore and MD Department of Commerce is part of an ongoing effort by BDC to help home-grown companies to thrive and continue to make quality products, provide employment opportunities and increase manufacturing in the City. Increasing manufacturing in the region is important because it can provide jobs with family-sustaining wages and has relatively low-barriers to entry.

“We’re very proud to support the small businesses and manufacturers from Maryland that are bringing their innovative products and services to the growing natural products market,” said Commerce Secretary Mike Gill. “These companies are an essential part of Maryland’s economy, and this event showcases more of what our great state has to offer.”

The nine Baltimore makers who will be exhibiting at Expo East are the following:

- Dundalk Dan's: Makes of handcrafted, small-batch beef jerky
- Earth's Enrichments: Provides organic and natural skin and hair care
- HEX Ferments: Produces traditionally fermented sauerkrauts, Kim-chis, Kombucha and seasonal ferments
- Natasha's Just Brittle: Makes gourmet brittle, handcrafted chocolates and popcorn
- Priya Means Love: Produces skincare, hair care and body care products, including botanical perfumes and colognes
- Treats for Eats: Specializes in gluten-free and gluten-free vegan baked goods
- Vagrant Coffee: Mobile specialty coffee company
- Wholesome Nibbles: Makes nutritious treats and snacks
- WOOT!Granola: An artisanal, vegan granola company

“Made In Baltimore is excited to help showcase our city’s talent and unique products to the national audience of Expo East,” said Andy Cook, Program Director of Made In Baltimore. “Local makers and manufacturers are creating exciting new products every day; providing platforms for these businesses is what we’re here for.”

The nine Baltimore makers will occupy space in the Pratt Street lobby on level 300 across from Starbucks.

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