

BDC AWARDS ENP TO AHC THEATRE, LLC FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER READ'S DRUG STORE

*123 N. Howard Street to Be Redeveloped into the Audrey Herman Community Arts Center,
Establishing a Permanent Location for Spotlighters Theatre*

BALTIMORE (November 3, 2016) – The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), on behalf of the City of Baltimore, will enter into an Exclusive Negotiating Privilege with AHC Theatre, LLC, for the disposition and redevelopment for 123 N. Howard Street, the former Read's Drug Store, into the Audrey Herman Community Arts Center. The intent of the RFP was to promote redevelopment of city-owned properties to encourage adaptive re-use of historic properties to activate vibrant ground-level uses and mixed-use development in line with the vision for the Bromo Arts & Entertainment District.

The Audrey Herman Community Arts Center will establish a permanent location for the Spotlighters Theatre and its community programming, consisting of a 21,300 square foot facility with a 120-seat theatre and community art center with rentable spaces. In addition, the second floor will host an exhibit space for a replica of the original lunch counter and a gallery to the site of the historic 1955 sit-in by Morgan State students.

"In addition to proposing a project that fits in so well with the City's vision for the Bromo Arts & Entertainment District, we are very excited that Spotlighters will include an exhibit commemorating the historic sit-in at the Read's Drug Store, which was the forerunner to events that occurred later in the deep South," said Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. "The Audrey Herman Community Arts Center will be a great addition to a part of downtown's west side, which continues to attract residents, visitors and investment."

Once the multi-phase redevelopment is completed, it will consist of 2800 square feet of storage space, a workshop, and operations office; more than 2300 square feet of rehearsal, costume, green room and dressing room spaces; more than 2700 square feet of multi-purpose rental space and a combination of flex classroom spaces.

The creation and vision for the Bromo Arts & Entertainment District is the result of the UniverCity Partnership, which is co-chaired by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Jay Perman, M.D., president of the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB). It consists of approximately 100 stakeholders representing small business, higher education, private real estate, downtown corporations, behavioral health, law enforcement, and government, who are committed to the revitalization of downtown's west side. A report of the Partnerships initiatives can be found at

<http://baltimoredevelopment.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2016-UniverCity-Partnership-West-Side-Report.pdf>

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