



PRESS RELEASE

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Vacants to Value Awards Seven Properties for Redevelopment

Baltimore Housing sought creative development plans for a variety of sites

(Baltimore, MD January 29, 2016) – Baltimore Housing is pleased to announce the award of seven city-owned properties and property bundles as offered through the *Vacants to Value (V2V) 2015 Surplus Sale*. Developers were asked to come up with creative solutions that would revitalize and put to good use these long-standing vacant properties. After much review, the following awards have been issued:

- **5837 Belair Road** awarded to Marching Elite Foundation (a former convalescent center in the Cedmont neighborhood)
- **2200 block of E. Biddle Street** awarded to Cross Street Partners, City Life Builders, and Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity (seven row houses located in the Middle East neighborhood)
- **1401 E. Biddle Street** awarded to Redbrick LMD (a former charter school connected to an operating recreation center in the Gay Street neighborhood)
- **906-914 N. Broadway** awarded to Herena USA (5 vacant lots in the Gay Street neighborhood)
- **1313 Druid Hill Avenue** awarded to The Aziz Group (this historic 4-level former apartment building is located in Upton’s Marble Hill community)
- **24 N. High Street** awarded to Leon & Dorothy Wigglesworth (a commercial storefront located in the Jonestown neighborhood)
- **811 W. Lanvale Street** awarded to C & A, Inc. (known as the Upton Mansion, this historic two story building is located in the Upton neighborhood)

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Baltimore Housing’s Vacants to Value initiative issued the Surplus Sale Request for Proposals (RFP) in June 2015. A unique opportunity, these blighted properties have opened the door to viable and creative plans that would initiate neighborhood transformation.

“In many cases, the properties being offered through the Surplus Sale have historic or architectural value in the community. In other cases, the mere size of these properties makes them a focal point,” said Paul T. Graziano, Baltimore Housing Commissioner. “We understand

the importance of these community anchors and look forward to seeing the positive effects of their redevelopment.”

While Baltimore's vacant and abandoned building stock is often viewed as a problem, many have great potential. With this in mind, the Vacants to Value initiative works by soliciting developers, investors, for and non-profit businesses, as well as individual buyers to rehabilitate these properties. The outcome offers a home for new residents and businesses, increased tax revenue for the city, and higher property values overall.

“We are really pleased with the turnout this year,” said Julia Day, Deputy Commissioner of Land Resources. “From rental and market rate housing projects to a music & arts complex for youth and studio space aimed at Baltimore’s budding music scene – the applications were well thought out and sure to enhance our City assets.”

Those properties included in the 2015 Surplus Sale that did not receive awards or were not awarded will be available via unsolicited bid through March 31, 2016. For the full list of properties, please go to www.vacantstovalue.org/surplus. For more information, please call the Vacants to Value Resource Center at 410-396-4111 and ask to speak to a marketing officer.

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