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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Mount Vernon Place Conservancy
Announces new Executive Director position
to be filled by Dr. Lance Humphries**

(Baltimore, Maryland) –The Board of the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy (“*Conservancy*”) announces its recent appointment of Dr. Lance Humphries as the Conservancy’s first Executive Director.

Henry H. Hopkins, President of the Conservancy’s board of directors, noted of the appointment: “Lance has been a leader in this organization since its founding in 2008. Over the past several years as Chair of our Restoration Committee, Lance led our award-winning Washington Monument restoration effort, and served as the articulate spokesperson for the organization. We are extremely pleased that he has assumed this important leadership position.”

In its brief time as a non-profit, the Conservancy has raised over 8 million dollars in capital funding and overseen the design and restoration of Baltimore’s iconic Washington Monument. While this major investment was underway, the Conservancy was also improving the maintenance and management of the Mount Vernon Place’s park squares, and bringing attention to this important resource through an increased online presence.

Mr. Hopkins notes that Lance’s extensive knowledge of the history of the Monument and squares, as well his command of preservation best-practices make him a perfect candidate for this important role.

“The goal of the Conservancy is to make Mount Vernon Place the world-class attraction it deserves to be,” notes Hopkins. “That goal will take a significant investment from both public and private sectors. We are pleased that under Lance’s leadership our first restoration project was so expertly handled, and that it has garnered so many restoration and preservation awards. Mount Vernon Place deserves the highest caliber of care and treatment.”

Humphries, a native of Michigan, attended the College of William and Mary, and then the University of Virginia, where he obtained his doctorate. He moved to Baltimore in 1995 to complete his doctoral thesis on Baltimorean Robert Gilmore, Jr. (1774-1848), one of America’s great art collectors, and who was for nearly 30 years the president of the private Board of Managers that erected Baltimore’s Washington Monument.

“I’ve been involved with the Monument for 20 years now,” notes Humphries. “Considering its national importance, I was surprised to learn after moving to Baltimore how little it is known outside the city. A significant goal of the Conservancy is to return the Monument and its setting to a “must see” destination in the city, as it was for over 150 years.”

Since the Monument re-opened on July 4, 2015, over 13,000 visitors have visited, not only from Baltimore, but from across the nation and world. “We are very pleased with our initial attendance,” notes Humphries.

Humphries’s professional career includes publishing books and articles, curating museum exhibitions, and consulting on restoration projects such as that which returned James Madison’s Montpelier, to its Madison-era appearance. In the Baltimore community he has been active in preservation circles since moving to the Mount Vernon neighborhood in 2001.

In 2008, Humphries was one of the founding board members of the Conservancy, the first conservancy to be established in Baltimore. The Conservancy was created after years of advocacy on the part of the Mount Vernon community, suggesting that this important cultural asset was in need of a broader and more focused stewardship and significant public and private financial investment—such as the Conservancy model can best provide.

For more information about the Conservancy visit

our website: www.mvpconservancy.org

our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mountvernonplace