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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mount Vernon Place Conservancy's Washington Monument Restoration Wins 10th Preservation Award

(Baltimore, Maryland) – The Mount Vernon Place Conservancy's (*Conservancy*) 2014-15 restoration of the Washington Monument was awarded two Preservation awards at Baltimore Heritage's annual award ceremony last evening, bringing the project total awards to ten (see attached list).

Since October 2015, the \$6.5 million restoration has garnered an award from every organization in the city and region that bestows awards for excellence in preservation, design, or construction.

Lance Humphries, Executive Director of the Conservancy, notes of this most recent award: "We are incredibly pleased that Baltimore Heritage awarded the Conservancy a Heritage Preservation Award for 'outstanding outreach and engagement' during the restoration of the Monument. During the restoration, we strove to provide the public easy access to the incredible work our team was undertaking, through platforms like social media, and by documenting the ongoing work through video."

Humphries notes the Conservancy is equally honored that Baltimore Heritage awarded its general contractor, Lewis Contractors, a distinguished Restoration Award—an award for those projects that adhere to the highest standards of preservation. "To accomplish this challenging and important project, Lewis assembled an exceptional team of experienced and skilled craftsmen."

The string of awards began last October when the Baltimore AIA awarded the Monument's design team, led by CVM and Sandra Vicchio architects, an Award of Excellence. At the same ceremony Lewis Contractors won a President's Award as Contractor of the Year, and Jon Stonely, the wood craftsman from Worcester Eisenbrandt, Inc., who restored the Monument's spectacular "faux bronze" doors, was awarded Craftsman of the Year.

The Baltimore Architecture Foundation, the educational arm of the Baltimore AIA, also awarded the Conservancy at this ceremony the distinguished Golden Griffin award, one given to an organization demonstrating "a dedication to Architecture and to furthering its understanding in Baltimore."

Humphries notes that the Washington Monument and the four park squares of Mount Vernon Place are a National Historic Landmark District, the highest federal designation

given to American historic sites. With this designation the Conservancy's approach to the restoration involved extensive historical research, forensic analysis, and modern-day best practices in preservation.

Statewide preservation organizations such as the Maryland Historical Trust, and Preservation Maryland, have also honored the Conservancy's work. The Trust not only recognized the careful restoration, but also awarded the Conservancy an Award for Excellence in Programming and Exhibits, namely the outstanding digital exhibitions and videos, and the use of social media to document a restoration project. Preservation Maryland's Stewardship Award recognized the Conservancy as an exceptional caretaker of an important city, state, and national historic treasure.

Henry H. Hopkins, the President of the Conservancy's board, attributes these awards to the Conservancy's standard of excellence. "The Conservancy is very aware that we are the stewards of the first Monument to George Washington in the United States. We are pleased that our commitment to historical accuracy and superb craftsmanship have been recognized by leading organizations involved in design, construction, and preservation."

The Monument's \$6.5 million restoration was funded by the State of Maryland, the City of Baltimore, and over \$2 million in individual and foundation gifts.

Since its reopening on its Bicentennial, on July 4, 2015, the Monument has entertained over 16,000 visitors from the city and country, and travelers from almost every continent. "We have global visitation," notes Humphries. "We could not be more pleased that our work is enabling the Monument to again receive the attention and visitation that a monument of its historic importance deserves."

The Monument was begun on July 4, 1815, and largely completed in 1829 when the statue of Washington was raised to the top. Its construction began with the laying of the cornerstone on the first Fourth of July after the Battle of Baltimore. Baltimoreans placed in the compartment of the cornerstone some highly symbolic mementos of what the Monument meant to them. Laid on top of these contents was a copy of the Declaration of Independence, published the day before the cornerstone ceremony. Discovered during the Conservancy's restoration, these artifacts are additional proof that the monument was not only the first monument erected in the United States to honor the country's first president, but to celebrate American national independence.

Information at:

www.mvpconservancy.org

www.facebook.com/mountvernonplace

"A Monumental; Restoration" video on Mount Vernon Place Conservancy Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpGSyFDYB0w&index=9&list=PLLOPRkVUAXSeZHSdvf8rkv7ubCb7JpU5>

MOUNT VERNON PLACE CONSERVANCY
WASHINGTON MONUMENT 2014-15 RESTORATION

Awards 2015-16

Baltimore AIA

Michael F. Trostel, FAIA, Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation –
Owner: Mount Vernon Place Conservancy | Architects: CVM with Sandra Vicchio &
Assoc. | Contractor: Lewis Contractors

President Award – Contractor of the Year – Lewis Contractors

President Award – Craftsman of the Year – Worcester Eisenbrandt, Inc./ Jon
Stonely

Baltimore Architecture Foundation

Golden Griffin Award – Mount Vernon Place Conservancy

Note: This award is presented to an organization that has demonstrated a
dedication to Architecture and to furthering its understanding in Baltimore.

Baltimore Associated Builders and Contractors

Award of Excellence - Lewis Contractors

Award of Excellence - Ruff Roofers

Baltimore Heritage

Restoration Award - Lewis Contractors

Heritage Preservation Award for Outstanding Outreach and Engagement during
the Restoration of the Washington Monument - Mount Vernon Place Conservancy

Maryland Historical Trust

Excellence in Programming and Exhibits - Mount Vernon Place Conservancy

Note: This award also recognized the outstanding restoration of the Monument by
the design and construction teams.

Preservation Maryland

Best of Maryland - Stewardship Award - Mount Vernon Place Conservancy