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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Mount Vernon Place Conservancy Cancels Flower Mart at Mount Vernon Place 2020.**

**(Baltimore, Maryland)** –The Mount Vernon Place Conservancy (“*Conservancy*”) announces publicly that Flower Mart at Mount Vernon Place, planned for May 1-2, 2020, has been cancelled.

Lance Humphries, Ph.D., the Executive Director of the Conservancy, announced the news today noting the Conservancy decided to cancel the event over the weekend based on the CDC’s initial recommendations to avoid gatherings larger than 250 people in order to help contain the spread of COVID-19. “We then took several days to inform all of our vendors, musicians, and workshop presenters of our decision, as we wanted them to hear the news from us, and not from the media.” It is estimated that in 2019 8,000 people attended the event over its two days.

The Conservancy, which manages the Washington Monument and the park squares of Mount Vernon Place, in partnership with the City of Baltimore, took on the management of Flower Mart in 2019. The festival—the oldest ongoing festival in Baltimore--was begun in 1911 by the Women’s Civic League. Its original mission was to encourage the greening of the city by the planting of flowers and vegetables in home gardens, and on vacant lots.

The Conservancy’s highly successful 2019 festival returned the event to its original mission, Humphries noting: “The festival’s original mission is as relevant today as it was in 1911, and one we are pleased to support as the caretakers of one of Baltimore City’s most historic green spaces.”

Humphries observes that the Conservancy is particularly disappointed to cancel this event, as it is a time-honored harbinger of Spring in Baltimore—and one that brings the city alive and together to celebrate. “Although we are cancelling Flower Mart, when the time is right, we hope to be able to do something extra special in Mount Vernon Place for the public to enjoy.”

The Conservancy has published on its website all of the planned vendors and workshop presenters for Flower Mart, and encourages the public to support them during this challenging time.

**Flower Mart at Mount Vernon Place 2021 is scheduled for April 30-May 1, 2021.**

For more information about the Conservancy visit  
our website: [www.mvpconservancy.org](http://www.mvpconservancy.org)  
our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/mountvernonplace](https://www.facebook.com/mountvernonplace)