

**Highlandtown Arts & Entertainment District
Year 1 (FY2004) Annual Report to the State of Maryland
December 20, 2004**

A. NARRATIVE

- 1. List and describe Arts & Entertainment District accomplishments for the past fiscal year as they relate to the goals set forth in your application. (Information may include status of renovation and other capital projects; infrastructure improvements; marketing efforts; impact on tourism; vacancy rates; crime rate, etc.)***

The 358-acre Highlandtown Arts & Entertainment District encompasses all of Highlandtown, and runs from Fayette Street south to Fleet Street, and from Patterson Park east to Haven Street, incorporating Crown Cork and Seal's turn-of-the-century factory site and most of the Patterson Park neighborhoods. The District was established in April 2003 through the collaborative efforts of the Southeast Community Development Corporation, Creative Alliance, Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts, Highlandtown Merchant's Association, Highlandtown Community Association, Patterson Park CDC and Friends of Patterson Park.

The goals of the district are to create a wave of sustainable economic growth, with new development, visiting cultural audiences, new resident artists and supporting businesses, and commercial and neighborhood revitalization that brings families back to Baltimore City and keeps Southeast Baltimore neighborhoods strong. By creating an affordable place in Baltimore where artists can put down roots through home or business ownership, Highlandtown stands to become a place where innovative, locally-based contemporary arts thrive. With its strong working class roots, Highlandtown offers artists and other members of the "creative class" a variety of housing options within the context of a distinct and intact community. While benefiting from its close geographical proximity to the newfound affluence of Canton and Fell's Point, this district retains its economic and cultural accessibility thanks in large part to its growing minority (especially Hispanic) population. It is pervasive diversity of precisely this sort that, according to economist Richard Florida, acts as a magnet for those individuals and entrepreneurs who prosper by means of their creativity.

Highlandtown has been in an evolutionary process this past year and a half. The majority of the Highlandtown A&E District is located in a 30-block historic area which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 2003. The Creative Alliance successfully completed the first year of operation since its exciting opening May 2003 in a new location at The Patterson at 3134 Eastern Avenue. The development of a Healthy Neighborhoods Affiliate Project (October 2003) to revamp the residential community, and the National Historic Trust designation of a new Main Street District on Eastern Avenue (November 2003) both brought new resources to Southeast Baltimore and new staff to Southeast CDC. This powerhouse of coordinated programs has been amassing energy and direction, and represents a strong coalescing plan for the area.

The new Main Street Manager, Beth Perry, hired February 2004, also serves as the coordinator for the Highlandtown A&E district, bringing commercial opportunities to the arts community and infusing creative energy into the marketplace. Using the "Four Point Approach," Main Street organizes community members into four main committees geared to 1) setting goals, 2) promoting, 3) rehabilitating the commercial corridor, 4) and recruiting new business for the commercial district. Currently, Jennifer Mange, Public Art Coordinator and City Liaison to the Arts and Entertainment Districts, is a member of the Main Street Design Committee. Margaret Footner, Executive Director of Creative Alliance, sits on Main Street's Promotion Committee. Beth, Jennifer and Margaret have begun to meet monthly with Creative Alliance Artistic Director Jed Dodds to create a kind of "fifth" Main Street group addressing the A&E District.

Southeast CDC hosted community discussions about the A&E designation with a series of meetings over the summer and fall of 2003, and hosted an artist mixer and party with live music at the studios of 1 N. Haven St., for artists, community residents, business people and friends on November 14, 2003. About 100 people attended this festive event.

The District participated in the city's annual July Artscape festival in 2003 and 2004 with a Highlandtown/Station North cultural booth. BOPA featured the work of 46 artists living or working in both the Highlandtown and Station North Arts & Entertainment Districts in an exhibition at the Courtyard Galleries of City Hall (July 10 – August 31, 2004). Oct. 23-24, 2004 a number of artists in the Highlandtown A&E District participated in the 16th annual Open Studio Tour, a popular, city-wide, free event sponsored by School 33 Art Center.

In October 2003, the Southeast CDC made the transition to a new building at 3700 Eastern Avenue, in the heart of Highlandtown, and hired a new President & CEO, Marco Cocito-Monoc in December 2004.

2. List and describe proposed activities for the upcoming fiscal year.

Examining the area's economic development potential, the Southeast CDC plans to use the cachet of Highlandtown's Arts and Entertainment District as a foundation upon which to build its medium-to-long-term growth strategy. Quite fortuitously, Dr. Cocito-Monoc arrives in his new position with a great deal of experience in the development of creative business clusters. During his tenure as director of economic development for the City of Covington, Louisiana, board member of Greater New Orleans, Inc, and community builder for the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, Cocito-Monoc helped to fashion the state's tax credit system for its emerging film industry. He also worked to recruit Louisiana's first for-profit film and technology post-secondary training center. Now that he is firmly ensconced in Highlandtown, Cocito-Monoc is endeavoring to initiate a detailed master plan for that area's economic development that is founded upon the growth of creative enterprises in both the for-profit and non-profit arenas.

In addition, there are existing structures in Highlandtown, which provide a framework upon which the arts can grow. Merchant activity along the commercial district, a farmers market, residential activities and holiday events provide opportunities to infuse art and create new traditions. This coming year, artists will again have a prominent space in the Farmer's Market, the Family Day Fun Fair sponsored by the Creative Alliance will incorporate sidewalk painting, children's arts and artist workshops for the community, and merchants will be invited to vie for prizes for window décor.

The Highlandtown Arts & Entertainment District has been building a list of district artists by word of mouth, and through the compilation of lists from the Southeast Community Development Corporation, Highlandtown Main Street, Creative Alliance, and Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts. Currently, a somewhat formalized process is in the works to hold regular potlucks to draw artist together who live and work in relatively scattered locations in this area of the city. Starting in January, invitations will be extended to meet at the Story Lounge, the erstwhile living room/performance space of an artist couple wanting to promote art, film, and community happenings, for the first of a series of potluck discussions to form ideas and groups to flesh out new activities for the A&E District. This is probably the most exciting and important work the District could undertake, formulating a plan through the body of artists residing in the area, with plans to coordinate and build alliances with other programs, agencies and community groups for lasting change.

The Main Street program has a committee promoting the commercial district that has produced several designs for logos to promote the area, and will share that process so that an arts logo can be created that fits the A&E District and dovetails the two into a cohesive amalgam.

This next year, the simple coordination of ongoing events will promote the district and identify art happenings. A map with logo to identify artist studios into a walking tour, distributed at points of interest, watering holes and in stores will begin to stimulate interest from artists, residents and visitors. Involving merchants in displaying art in their stores, in offices, and restaurants will further gallery development. Development of a web presence is a priority. Main Street plans to have a monthly First Friday or Super Saturday which would be inclusive of the arts, and may feature working sidewalk artists and live entertainment.

3. List any additional local incentives offered to businesses and/or qualifying residing artists in the district.

Healthy Neighborhoods Inc.: Highlandtown is a named Healthy Neighborhood, offering low interest purchase and rehab loans, and includes personnel to offer assistance on loan application and to plan rehabs. For more information, go to:

http://www.livebaltimore.com/home_buying/hbuy_special_pur.html#healthy.

Live Near Your Work: The City of Baltimore, in conjunction with certain employers, will grant \$2,000 to new homebuyers to assist with purchasing a principal residence in eligible neighborhoods in the City, including the neighborhoods of the Station North and the Highlandtown districts. The homebuyer's employer must participate in this program in order for the homebuyer to receive the grant. For more information about the Live Near Your Work program, connect to:

<http://www.livebaltimore.com/homebuy/lnyw.html>

Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore, Inc: Specializing in purchase and rehab loans, NHS offers below rate programs available to up to 105% loan to value, flexible underwriting, closing cost loans, education for first time homebuyers, housing counseling and home improvement consultation. For additional information, call Shannon Snow, 410-327-1200, or visit 244 N. Patterson Park Avenue.

Historic Restoration Tax Credit: The majority of the Highlandtown A&E District is located in a recently designated 30-block area on the National Register of Historic Places. This designation enables a property owner to apply for tax credits or incentives. Both the State and the City provide tax credits on increased real property assessments relating to historic preservation efforts. For owner-occupied dwellings, the tax credit is 20% of the costs of renovation exceeding \$5,000 (under the State program) and 100% of the increased assessment for ten years if rehabilitation costs exceed 25% of the property's cash value (under the City program).

Home Improvement Credit: Baltimore City grants a tax credit on increased real property assessments relating to improvements made to principal dwellings. The tax credit is 100% and is phased out over five years, 20% each year.

Vacant Dwelling Credit: Baltimore City grants a tax credit on increased real property assessments relating to improvements made to vacant dwellings that are occupied as principal residences. The tax credit is 100% and is phased out over five years, 20% each year. Because of rapidly rising property values, there are rarely vacant properties available to qualify for this credit.

B. STATISTICAL

1. Number of artists certified.

It is the District's understanding that it is not required to certify artists for the purposes of awarding tax credits. Instead, artists seeking tax credits can simply identify such credits on their tax returns, and the relevant State and City taxing authorities will then determine whether the taxpayer fits the definition of "artist" under State law. If the taxing authorities reject the tax credits on the grounds that the taxpayer

is not an "artist," the District Coordinator may advocate on behalf of the taxpayer if the taxpayer appears to qualify as an artist.

Highlandtown has been amassing a list of artists in the district by word of mouth, and through the compilation of lists from the Southeast Community Development Corporation, Highlandtown Main Street, Creative Alliance, and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts.

These partner organizations have worked together to respond to many property inquires and conduct tours of the district. The number of artists living and/or working in the district has increased since the state and city designated this area a year and half ago. New artists have moved to the district as loft style residences and studios have been made available. Others have bought single-family residences to fix up with workspace in basements, on second floors, or in the front room if sales are planned. Newcomers include: 1) artists in the Creative Alliance residency program, 2) artists in rehabbed studio spaces at The Haven Street Warehouse at 1 N. Haven St., 3) a potter and school teacher who bought a stationery and art store on Highland Avenue where she hopes to work, sell pots and live, 4) a retired out of state art professor who joined the artist housing along Baltimore Street at Patterson Park, and 5) and group of artists rehabbing warehouse space.

2. Number of property tax credits granted.

No artist has been awarded property tax credits yet, in part because these credits have only been available in Highlandtown for one year. In addition, the State may not have revised real property assessments for some of the properties that have undergone renovation.

3. Number of businesses eligible for the admission and amusement tax exemption.

No venue has applied for an admission and amusement tax exemption, but we are targeting possibly qualified businesses with information.

4. Vacancy rates.

The 2000 Census indicated the following vacancy rates (vacant houses not for sale or rent) for the four neighborhoods located in the Highlandtown A&E District:

Highlandtown: 8.6 % vacancy (2000)

Baltimore Linwood: 13% vacancy (2000)

Baltimore Highlands: 9.7% vacancy (2000)

Patterson Place: 19% vacancy (2000)

The Main Street program in Highlandtown maintains a list of vacant properties within the commercial district. A strong marketing effort is being concentrated in the residential area between Highland Avenue and Haven Street, east and west, and between Pratt and Eastern Avenue to the north and south. In that area there are currently three vacancies. As the neighborhood develops, the program will move the revitalization frontier north to the Baltimore Highlands area, then northwest to the neighborhoods of Baltimore Linwood and Patterson Place.

The Southeast Community Development Corporation has a substantial group of programs and practices aimed at revitalizing the neighborhood, including housing counseling, residential marketing and commercial retention and recruitment.

5. Impact on property values.

Property values have been rising consistently because of the neighborhood's proximity to the waterfront neighborhoods of Fells Point to the east and Canton to the south, and its proximity to Patterson Park's large green space and programming. Commercial redevelopment initiatives bolster the area, including the newly designated Main Street program and the slated construction of the Southeast Anchor Library, to be the first regional branch in 30 years for the Enoch Pratt Free Library system.

The Highlandtown A&E District will help bring a new identity and create a designation for the area, enhancing its marketability. The Creative Alliance at The Patterson, already a linchpin in the new district, has spawned new businesses nearby, including a performance lounge, coffee shop and art gallery.

C. SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

1. Promotional materials: brochures; website notices; any marketing collateral.

Highlandtown Arts & Entertainment District brochure
Highlandtown Shoppers Guide
Main Street brochure
Highlandtown Merchant's Association Newsletter
Creative Alliance brochure
Schiavone Edward Contemporary Art Gallery brochure
Farmers' Market flyer
Baltimore City Living Resource Guide

2. Publicity: newspaper, magazine, TV/radio, web postings. – excerpts follow many entries

Brennen Jensen. "**Industry to Easels: Arts-District Designation Easing Conversion of Factories to Studios.**" Baltimore City Paper, May 8-14, 2002.

The metal door swings open at 405 E. Oliver St., and a grinning Daniel Sullivan says, "Welcome to the abyss." The portal opens into a vast chasm of a building—a four-story, 66,000-square-foot loft that began life in the 19th century as a brewery. Later it housed an industrial-equipment maker and a window-shade factory.

Eileen Murphy. "**The Art of Revitalization: Highlandtown Experiments With Creative Avenues to Urban Renewal.**" Baltimore City Paper, Nov. 8-14, 2000.

When Rafael Alvarez descends the basement stairs of his Macon Street row house, he enters another era. The author and reporter for The Sun has maintained his basement kitchen – once his grandmother's basement kitchen – exactly as it was in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, when Alvarez's family came to Highlandtown for Sunday dinner. . . There are signs of Alvarez's Highlandtown, but for the most part, it's a bygone era. The reality on the streets is different. In February, Mayor Martin O'Malley targeted the juncture of East Baltimore Street and Highland Avenue as one of the 10 drug corners he would clean up during his first six months in office. Long known for its high rate of homeownership, Highlandtown (and the adjoining Greentown enclave, arguably a separate neighborhood) has seen many single-family homes become multifamily rental dwellings. The Eastern Avenue commercial district, once home to department stores and fashionable shops, now hosts more than its share of beeper outlets, nail salons, and vacant storefronts. . . But there are signs of life, especially cultural life. . .

Jamie Stiehm. "**Highlandtown taking shape as a new arts district: Officials to Nominate Area for Government Program.**" Baltimore Sun, Apr. 1, 2002.

In Highlandtown, the arts are percolating at the Creative Alliance on South Conkling Street, a small performance, café, studio and class space resembling an early-1960s Greenwich Village folk singers

hangout. A few blocks away, at East Street and Eastern Avenue, stands the unfinished Patterson Center for the Arts, a \$4 million public works revitalization project. Renovating the former Patterson Theater is expected to conclude next year, with nine new live-in studios for artists in residence. City officials predict these venues will help shape Baltimore's second arts and entertainment district, designed to attract a community of actors, writers, painters, musicians, filmmakers and other kindred spirits to a defined area.

Adele Evans. **"A 'Corporation' Succeeds in Selling Patterson Park: Salvation: A Development Corporation has Already Saved a Big Chunk of Patterson Park-Highlandtown."** Baltimore Sun, Oct. 27, 2002.

Living in Towson was fine when her children were young, but after they grew up and her husband died, Paula Glowacki found that things became too quiet. "I was lonely. Everyone worked," she said. "It wasn't like when we had kids. I was older . . . and so unhappy." After plenty of reflection, Glowacki decided to try going home to Highlandtown. In February, she moved into a completely renovated row house near Patterson Park. Now friends and family surround her. A sister lives next door, another sister lives two doors down, and still another sister lives across the street.

Jacqueline Watts. **"It's Official: Highlandtown a Historic Area: Doing Renovations or Rehab? You May be Eligible for Tax Credits."** The Baltimore Guide, Jan. 8, 2003.

Highlandtown's historic. Not that we didn't know that already, but the National Park Service, the arbiter of all things historic – or at least of all things historic that hope to get tax credits for that historicity – caught up on December 27, placing 30 blocks of Highlandtown on the National Register of Historic Places.

Chris Kaltenback. **"The Transformation at the Patterson: Now Playing: Fun Ideas by Local Arts Group Creative Alliance."** The Baltimore Sun, May 11, 2003.

What started as a restaurant owner's wish to create a little ambience for customers has, in eight years, morphed into a thriving grassroots arts organization with a major role to play in the revitalization of one of East Baltimore's most storied neighborhoods.

Ed Gunts. **"Crossing a New Threshold in an Old Community: East Baltimore Theater Enters its New Life as an Arts Center."** The Baltimore Sun, May 11, 2003.

The marquee is where it has always been. Sandstone sunbursts still accentuate the arched entranceways. The red brick walls fit neatly with the Formstone houses next door. But there are changes that hint of new life at the old Patterson Theater in East Baltimore. Large windows have been cut into one wall so that people can see inside. A metal canopy and corrugated siding frame a side door. Above the marquee will be a vertical sign replicating one from the 1930s, complete with neon lights and large letters that spell PATTERSON. The \$4.5 million transformation of the Patterson Theater strikes a delicate balance between past and future, all-purpose and place-specific. Within the familiar theater shell, spaces have been reconfigured for new uses. Yet at every turn, one can see reminders of the original building, from charred walls that survived two fires to exposed trusses that hold up the roof.

Kathleen Johnston Jarboe. **"Highlandtown, Frederick Now Among Maryland's Artsy Areas."** The Daily Record, May 14, 2003.

The City of Frederick and the Highlandtown neighborhood in Baltimore City are poised to receive lucrative tax breaks after becoming state arts and entertainment districts.

Jacqueline Watts. **"Marquee design: Patterson Arts Center Opens Friday."** The Baltimore Guide, May 14, 2003.

The sign is up. A fancy coffee shop has opened across the street. With the grand opening of The Patterson Friday, the revitalization of Highlandtown, which has been proceeding like an old Yugo, will peel rubber along Eastern Avenue.

Editorial. **"Multiculturalism at Work."** The Baltimore Sun, May 15, 2003.

Tomorrow's grand opening of the Patterson as a \$4.5 million arts center underscores that Highlandtown's future lies in an even more active pursuit of multiculturalism. That's the key to regenerating the area's row house streets and aging population. The Creative Alliance, the one-time movie theater's steward, is good at promoting such diversity. In eight years of a vagabond existence that started in Fells Point, the arts organization has steadily offered an exciting mix of offbeat programming and in the process developed quite a following.

"Good News: Patterson Playing its Part." Neighborhood News Flash (community e-newsletter of Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley). May 16, 2003.

This weekend, beginning tonight and through Saturday, Highlandtown is the place to be as the Creative Alliance celebrates the re-opening of the Patterson, as a \$4.5 million arts center for the neighborhood.

Editorial. **"Reviving a Neighborhood."** Baltimore Business Journal, May 16-22, 2003.

Losing its movie theater and most famous restaurant would be enough to kill any neighborhood that teeters on the edge of decline. But Highlandtown, that scrappy blue-collar neighborhood in East Baltimore, defied the nay Sayers who thought the demise of the Patterson movie theater and Haussner's restaurant would lead it to the fate of many of this city's once-thriving business districts.

Editorial. **"Wake Up and Smell the Coffee."** The Baltimore Sun, Aug. 27, 2003.

You have heard the claims: Coffee prevents grumpiness and may reduce gallstones, Parkinson's disease, even suicides. But how about this one: Coffee heals ailing neighborhoods: This notion is winning wide acceptance among urban thinkers. At a recent Harvard seminar, the appearance of coffee shops was cited as one of the best gauges of neighborhood revival. And there's proof right here in Baltimore . . . More proof comes from East Baltimore's Patterson Park area. Two coffee houses have opened in the past year along Eastern Avenue to satisfy the caffeine cravings of young homebuyers and renovators. A third is under construction at Baltimore Street and Linwood Avenue, but there has been a change of plans. The reason: munchies. "The coffee house idea was something we wanted initially. But we decided to skip it: We are now aiming at a restaurant as a neighborhood gathering place," explained Jim Shettler of Patterson Park Community Development Corp.

Sarah Achenbach. **Now Showing: The Reborn Patterson Theater is the Perfect New Home for the Creative Alliance's Eclectic Arts Offerings."** Style, Sep./Oct. 2003.

One look at the new Patterson Cultural Center and it's obvious that this is a place that celebrates history – and plans to make a little of its own in the process. Every neon light is detail-perfect on the 32-foot "Patterson" vertical marquee, a replicate of the original sign that beckoned generations of Southeast Baltimore moviegoers from 1930 until the theater closed its doors in 1995. Last May, the 8-year-old Creative Alliance officially reopened the doors with grand plans to shine that light across the region's arts community, drawing artists, art lovers and the just plain curious to its eclectic, funky, accessible mix of the visual performing arts.

Scott Shane. **"Where Beer is Cold, His Taps are Cooler: Craft: A Baltimorean is Known Nationwide for 'Wild and Crazy' Tap Handles That May Bring Hundreds of Dollars for a One-Of-A-Kind Masterpiece."** Baltimore Sun, Sep. 29, 2003.

If, sipping a cool beer in a bar anywhere from Baltimore to Chicago to San Francisco, you should find yourself admiring an elegant wooden tap handle topped with a cow's head, a billiard ball or a football player's broken leg, you may have unknowingly joined the Mark Supik fan club. The East Baltimore woodworker has produced many an oak stair rail, turned out Greek Revival pillars for front porches and fireplaces, and even made pikes and halberds for medieval-battle re-enactors. . . But inevitably it is the beer pulls that people know his for.

Jacqueline Watts. **"Main Street Coming to Eastern Avenue: No Announcement Yet, but Highlandtown Could Receive City Grants, Aid."** [Baltimore Guide](#), Nov. 12, 2003.

The National Main Street program helps shore up old business districts, improving their looks, business mix, and economic structure. The program, which is part of the federal National Historic Trust, mainly works with small towns and cities, but it is operated in two major cities: Boston and Baltimore. Mayor Martin J. O'Malley is expected to announce in the next few weeks that Highlandtown has been added to the Baltimore Main Streets program. The neighborhood will receive a city grant of approximately \$186,000 over five years. In return, Highlandtown must raise \$242,000 to match the grants and make the program self-sufficient by the fifth year.

Kimberly A.C. Wilson. **"Highlandtown to be Funded for Makeover: It Is Due \$251,000 as City's 8th Main Streets Locality."** [Baltimore Sun](#), Nov. 19, 2003.

Designated this week as Baltimore's eighth Main Streets community, the neighborhood of Highlandtown can look forward to an infusion of public funds and business expertise aimed at stimulating its commercial district.

City/County Digest. **"Development Group Holds Grand Opening for Highlandtown Site."** [Baltimore Sun](#), Dec. 5, 2003.

A grand opening party last night marked the relocation of the Southeast Community Development Corp. from Butchers Hill to Highlandtown. The CDC moved Oct. 1 from a building it owns at 10 W. Wolfe St. to a leased, 18-foot-wide rowhouse storefront at 3700 Eastern Ave. The new location, across the street from the site of the planned Southeast Anchor Library, places the development organization squarely in the heart of Highlandtown.

Chris Kaltenbach. **"Grand Theatre Deserves Grand Treatment, Too: Revitalization, Not the Wrecking Ball for 1918 Showplace."** [Baltimore Sun](#), Jan. 9, 2004.

. . . Next week, Highlandtown's Grand Theatre will probably fall prey to the wrecking ball. Opened in 1918 as a vaudeville house, the theater welcomed generation after generation of East Baltimore moviegoers before closing in 1981. It's lain dormant since then, and, despite a flurry of activity a few years back, there was never enough genuine interest in reopening it. Within the next few years, a giant new Pratt Library is scheduled to be built along Conkling Street, where the Grand has stood for nearly nine decades.

Melody Simmons and Tracy Durkin. **"State of the Arts: Urbanite Canvasses the Creative Alliance."** [Urbanite](#), Mar./Apr. 2004.

If Baltimore were a canvas, how would it be painted? That curiosity recently drew Urbanite to Highlandtown to meet with an eclectic group of artists at Creative Alliance, the fabulous new arts palace that's taken root in the former Patterson Theater and transformed Southeast Baltimore into an arts district.

Jeffrey Lyles. **"Arts Districts Across State Offer Variety of Options."** [Gazette.net](#), Mar. 18, 2004.

. . . the state designated the Silver Spring, Hagerstown and Baltimore Station North districts, as well as the Gateway communities, as arts and entertainment districts in January 2002. Bethesda, Cumberland and Cambridge were added later in 2002, and the city of Frederick and Baltimore's Highlandtown neighborhood were added in 2003.

Jacqueline Watts. **"Wine Fest Returns to Highlandtown."** [Baltimore Guide](#), Apr. 14, 2004.

Carl Schoettler. **"Highlandtown Pours It On."** [Baltimore Sun](#), Apr. 17, 2004.

. . . Highlandtown remains classic urban Baltimore, with its Formstone rowhouses and multiple bridal shops. But behind that façade, it turns out, is a long-standing tradition of amateur winemaking. Tomorrow, these basement vintners will be celebrated by the oxymoronic-sounding

Highlandtown Wine Festival. . . "I would say in a six-block neighborhood there are at least 40 winemakers," says Joe DiPasquale, the proprietor of DiPasquale's Italian Marketplace on Gough Street behind Zannino's funeral parlor.

"Good News: Halloween in the Arts Districts." Neighborhood News Flash (weekly community e-newsletter of Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley), Oct. 29, 2004.

This weekend marks an especially festive and a particularly creative time of year in Baltimore, and what better place to celebrate Halloween than amid our two Arts Districts. The fact is, both the Station North and Patterson Park-[Highlandtown] areas have been host to unusual, quirky, and downright enjoyable events for years. It may be no coincidence that it's why they've been officially designated Arts & Entertainment Districts by the City.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mange, Public Art Coordinator and
Liaison to the City's A&E Districts
Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts

Marco Cocito-Monoc, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Southeast Community Development Corporation

DATE: December 20, 2004