

## HCPI Awards \$258,000 for Twelve Community Spruce-Up Grants

On April 29 at Miller's Court, the Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP) announced 12 winners of the Homewood Community Partners Initiative's (HCPI) Community Spruce-Up Grant Program at an awards reception held at Miller's Court in the Remington community. The five-year HCPI Community Spruce-Up Grant program provides capital improvement grants to groups, individuals and associations in these neighborhoods— Abell, Barclay, Charles North, Charles Village, Greenmount West, Harwood, Oakenshawe, Old Goucher, Remington, Wyman Park and Waverly Main Street. Grants ranged from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for projects with a total cost of approximately \$15,000 to \$50,000.

The Spruce-Up Grants are meant to bolster the four pillars of the HCPI agenda. The improvement of: (1) quality of life, (2) housing, (3) public education, and (4) retail options. Promoting these elements through capital projects, has turned the Central Baltimore area into an appealing destination for housing, investment and leisure.

Awardees received a total of \$258,000 in grants courtesy of the program's three sponsors: Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Regional Neighborhoods Initiative in the State of Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development and the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation. Total spending for winning projects will equal \$671,000. Remaining capital is coming from matching funds and in-kind services—a considerable portion of which can also be traced back to the Central Baltimore Partnership and its partner organizations.

HCPI Chair, Fred Lazarus IV, President of MICA, noted. "The HCPI Spruce-Up projects have been great for the communities involved. Not just because of what they've done, but because they've motivated

people to think about what could be done! That's an ongoing process that will yield results long after these projects have been completed."

### Winning HCPI Grant Projects

#### 26<sup>th</sup> Street Community Plaza

Seawall Development will expand on the tire shop redevelopment by realigning the intersection of W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street & N. Howard Street, eliminating the dangerous sweep onto 26<sup>th</sup> Street. This realignment allows the reclamation of a large public space for the development of a plaza with landscaping, furnishings, game tables and interactive features to create a gateway to Remington with a signature sculpture—R.

#### Barclay Street Pedestrian Lighting

Harwood Community Association aims to promote Barclay Street as a safe, attractive and distinctive pedestrian pathway unifying the Harwood and Abell communities by installing outdoor porch light fixtures along the sides of homes along Barclay Street to provide a safely lit pathway for pedestrian traffic. The lighting will also help bridge the connection to the 29th Street Community Center, Barclay School, Waverly Farmers Market, Waverly Branch Library, library and businesses in Waverly Main Street.

#### Bold, Beautiful and Brilliant Barclay Initiative

The BMOG Coalition, with support from GHCC, aims to improve the aesthetics and ambiance of the Barclay neighborhood by cleaning and transforming unattended lots with foliage and gardens; using artistic measures to bring new life to vacant and boarded buildings; planting trees, addressing illegal dumping and litter with education, regular clean-ups and installation of trash receptacles.

#### Harwood Neighborhood Signage

Four mosaic bulletin boards will be installed at highly visible locations throughout the neighborhood, adding to Harwood's growing reputation as a neighborhood of mosaics. This project will increase access to information about events at the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Community Center and throughout the neighborhood.

#### Huntingdon Ave. Viaduct Path Improvements

Remington resident Nellie Power and partners will improve the safety, accessibility and aesthetics of the viaduct path as a connector between Wyman Park and Remington, creating a more user-friendly connection to the park.

#### Margaret Brent School Playground Improvements

The playground along N. Calvert Street is a heavily used space by school and neighborhood children. The Margaret Brent Family School Council, with support from GHCC, will transform the existing playground with new surfacing and equipment.

#### New Greenmount West: Gateway

The Clean and Green Team of the New Greenmount West Community Association will build on efforts to maintain and invigorate the public spaces in the community. They will create strong focal points at gateways to the community at Brentwood Commons and Federal/Calvert Park. Improvements include landscaping, a statement sculpture at Brentwood Commons and bold signage at the Federal/Calvert Park.

#### Old Goucher Tree Canopy Restoration

Building on the efforts of community members to enhance the public spaces, the Old Goucher Community Association, in partnership with Baltimore Tree Trust, will inventory existing trees and plant or replace trees throughout the neighborhood, focusing on the east-west streets.

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