

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cherry Hill Community Celebrates Restoration of Iconic Tom Miller Mural
Saturday, October 14, 11am-1pm



Photo Credit: Shawn James

The **Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts**, which manages the **Baltimore Mural Program**, celebrates the restoration of one of the largest murals designed by Tom Miller (1945-2000), one of Baltimore's most iconic muralists. Tom Miller is a renowned Baltimore artist most known for his unique "Afro-Deco" style and for fighting racial stereotypes aimed towards African Americans through the use of stylized images in his work. On **Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 11am to 1pm** at the **Enoch Pratt Free Library Cherry Hill Branch at 600 Cherry Hill Road**, a free reception will be held to celebrate the restoration of the mural. The celebration is free and open to the public and refreshments will be provided by CUPs Coffeehouse.

The mural restoration at a cost of \$30,000 was fully funded with Casino Local Impact Grant (LIG) funds from the Horseshoe Casino Baltimore as a collaboration of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts, the Baltimore Casino Local Development Corporation (LDC) and the City of Baltimore under Mayor Catherine E. Pugh.

"It's gratifying to see this important landmark restored to its original beauty," said Mayor Pugh. "I congratulate BOPA and the Cherry Hill community for having the vision to use local impact grant funds for this creative neighborhood investment."

This project has long been supported by the LDC, the body of state elected officials, community, business and institutional representatives that advises the Mayor on use of LIG funds in South Baltimore. "This mural is an example of how the impact grant funds are making a tangible difference in South Baltimore -- in this case celebrating our history and renewing our commitment to the arts and culture in Cherry Hill," said Senator Bill Ferguson, chair of the LDC.

Located at the Enoch Pratt Free Library Cherry Hill Branch, the mural was originally painted in 1987, the same year the artist earned his master's degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art. After 30 years, local artist Shawn James of Mural Masters was commissioned to restore this important landmark.

"The Miller Mural has become an icon for the Cherry Hill community. Its artistic and cultural identification with the community serves as an inspiration to continue the revitalization of the Cherry Hill community with art and culture as its cornerstone. We are thrilled to celebrate its restoration," said Michael Middleton, Chairman of the Cherry Hill Community Coalition.

Community arts educator Fanon Hill agrees. "The Cherry Hill community possesses a rich history of artistic excellence. The restoration of Tom Miller's iconic mural signals an exciting renaissance of arts and culture in Cherry Hill," said Hill, Executive Director of the Youth Resiliency Institute.

"We're thrilled to support this important project and help restore an exceptional work of art that has represented the vibrant spirit of the community for three decades," said Horseshoe Casino Baltimore Senior Vice President and General Manager Erin Chamberlin. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with BOPA and the many other organizations with whom we work to make a positive impact on Baltimore."

For more information, call 410-752-8632 or visit www.promotionandarts.org.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization which serves as Baltimore City's arts council, film office, and events agency. By producing large-

scale events such as Light City, Artscape and the Baltimore Book Festival, and providing funding and support to artists, arts programs and organizations across the city, BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.

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