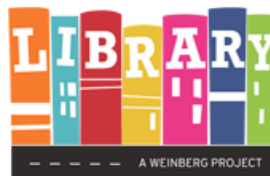




The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEINBERG FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOLS SELECTED FOR SECOND YEAR OF “LIBRARY PROJECT”

Announcement made as part of grand opening celebration for first three libraries renovated through multi-year, \$multi-million community partnership

BALTIMORE (September 12, 2012) -- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the United States, today announced the next three Baltimore City schools selected for the second year of the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project:

- **East Baltimore Community School**
- **Arlington Elementary**
- **The Historic Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary**

The schools were chosen in partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools which, every year, renovates a set number of libraries through its own process considering academic and facility needs. After considering six candidates for 2013, the Weinberg Foundation – in coordination with City Schools – selected East Baltimore Community School, Arlington Elementary, and The Historic Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary.

East Baltimore is significant because it is a completely new construction project with a school spanning ages birth to middle school, providing many interesting opportunities for the library’s usage. Arlington Elementary is situated in Lower Park Heights, a community in which the Weinberg Foundation has invested heavily in recent years. The Historic Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary (PK-5) plays an important part in Baltimore City history as the first school for children of color.

“The sheer joy and excitement of today’s grand openings only serves to build our anticipation and enthusiasm – and that of our many partners – as we look forward to the completion of these next three spaces which will be catalysts for learning and literacy,” said Rachel Garbow Monroe, Weinberg Foundation President. “We also look forward to bringing these three schools together with those celebrating today so that each can learn from one another, maximizing the opportunities presented through the Library Project.

After an initial commitment of \$1 million from the Foundation, and with the success of this initiative in just its first year, the Weinberg Foundation recently announced a major expansion of the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project. The Foundation’s original commitment has been increased to \$5 million -- of the total \$12 million project cost -- to build 12 new school libraries over four years.

This Weinberg Library Project involves 30 businesses, nonprofits, and government partners, working with Baltimore City Public Schools to design, build, equip, and staff new or renovated school libraries where existing public funding can be leveraged. Each library will feature new equipment, books, furniture, and technology including e-readers, computers, and the “Pratt Library Parents’ Place” for parents and

guardians to visit the library and share time with their child. The spaces have specially designed smaller areas within the overall space for group and private reading. A graphics package, including signage that

welcomes students to the library in more than 50 languages, and murals that literally wrap from the floor to the ceiling are among the innovative design elements of the transformed spaces.

The renovated library spaces average approximately 2,000 square feet. The total costs of all construction and programmatic activities in each library averages out to \$1,000,000 per library of which the Weinberg Foundation contributes an average of \$330,000 (roughly a third) for combined capital and operating costs at each site. The balance of the funding is primarily in the form of federal (QZAB) and local (Baltimore City Public Schools) dollars. The Weinberg Foundation has also been able to leverage additional financial and in-kind contributions through its facilitation of the numerous community partners.

Please follow all Weinberg Library Project developments at www.baltimorelibraryproject.org and on Twitter at #libraryproject.

Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project Partners:

*The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Art with a Heart, Inc.
Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers
Baltimore City Public Schools
Baltimore Community Foundation
Baltimore Education Research Consortium
Baltimore Reads, Inc.
The Baltimore Sun Media Group
Barnes and Noble, Power Plant
Bogdan Computer Services, Inc.
Comcast
CPS Gumpert
Diamond Book Distributors
Dyslexia Tutoring Program
Enoch Pratt Free Library*

*Fund for Educational Excellence
The Heart of America Foundation
Incite Creative
JRS Architects, Inc.
Kirk Designs
Maryland Food Bank
Maryland State Department of Education
Office of Governor Martin O'Malley
Office of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Office of U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski
Office of U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
Parks and People Foundation
United Way of Central Maryland
VPC Incorporated
Wells Fargo Banking Corporation*

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About The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States, provides approximately \$100 million in annual grants to nonprofits that provide direct services to economically disadvantaged people, primarily in the U.S. and Israel. Grants are focused on meeting basic needs and enhancing an individual's ability to meet those needs with emphasis on older adults, the Jewish community, and our hometown communities of Maryland, northeastern Pennsylvania, and Hawaii. The trustees, some of whom also serve as executive officers of the Foundation, are Alvin Awaya, Judge Ellen M. Heller, Robert T. Kelly, Jr., Barry I. Schloss, and Chairman of the Board Donn Weinberg. Rachel Monroe serves as the Weinberg Foundation's President. For more information please go to www.hjweinbergfoundation.org.