

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE (FORMER SPHINX CLUB)

Following a BDC-conducted Request for Proposals (RFP) process, Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC), a non-profit, community-based development organization, was awarded the redevelopment rights to the former Sphinx Club site at 2101-2111 Pennsylvania Avenue in the Druid Heights community. A vital piece of Baltimore's African American heritage and culture, the 12,000 square foot site, consisting of six commercial properties on the northeast corner of the Pennsylvania Avenue/Bloom Street intersection in West Baltimore, is part of the Upton Urban Renewal Plan.

DHCDC has proposed a \$4.1 million, 18,650 square foot mixed-use project consisting of a three-story BALL (Black Athletes and Lost Legends) House Museum, which would contain displays about Negro League teams that played before major league baseball admitted African Americans. The museum would be connected to the Negro League Café at the Sphinx Club, a sports bar, restaurant and performance venue

that would be created inside the former Sphinx Club at 2105-2107 Pennsylvania Avenue. Additional elements of the project would be incubator office space for start-up companies and an outdoor dining area. The Sphinx Club façade would be restored to its 1940's appearance, while the 5,375 square foot museum would be housed in a new structure at 2101 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Pennsylvania Avenue ("The Avenue") was known worldwide for its jazz clubs, theaters and nightclubs as the heart of African American entertainment in Baltimore. The former Royal Theater hosted many of the great musicians of the 1920's to 1960's. The Sphinx Club, a private club known for its after-show parties where jazz greats congregated with local celebrities, opened in 1946 and closed nearly 50 years later in 1992.

BDC has entered into an Exclusive Negotiating Privilege (ENP) with Druid Heights Community Development Corporation for the project.

Space for the vital warehouse/distribution sector is expanded by facilitating the creation of two new business parks: Chesapeake Commerce Center and Hollander 95.

