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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**“LYNCING IN MARYLAND”: THE LEWIS MUSEUM & THE MD LYNCHING PROJECT PRESENT NEW PERMANENT INSTALLATION**

Baltimore, MD — October 23, 2024 – The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, in collaboration with the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, announce with solemn reflection, the opening of its new permanent installation, “Lynching in Maryland.” The installation will officially open on **Wednesday, October 30th, with a special reception from 5:30-8:00 PM** at the museum (830 E. Pratt Street | Baltimore, MD 21202). It will open to the public on Thursday, October 31st.

The evening will begin with a **performance by the world renowned Morgan State University Choir**, followed by **remarks from House Speaker, Adrienne Jones, City Council, President, Nick Mosby, and Councilman, Jermaine Jones**. Remarks will be followed by a **panel discussion** on the history and legacy of racial terror lynching in Maryland, and conclude with a **ribbon-cutting ceremony**, followed by an opportunity for attendees to **explore the installation**, located in the Museum’s third floor permanent history installation.

The “Lynching in Maryland” installation seeks to honor the victims of the 38 documented racial terror lynchings that occurred in the state between 1854 and 1933. The installation serves as a solemn reminder of the atrocities committed, while also educating the public about the lasting impact of racial terror on African Americans and their communities.

Terri Lee Freeman, President of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, commented on its significance: "This installation is a vital extension of our mission to preserve and share the African American experience in Maryland. It offers a space to remember and honor the victims of racial terror lynching while confronting the violent legacy of white supremacy that continues to impact our society. Through this installation, we strive to educate, inspire dialogue, and foster understanding—critical steps toward building a more just and equitable future."

Will Schwarz, President of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, added: "It’s critical that Marylanders acknowledge the truth about the history of racial terror in the state and are aware

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## **THE LEWIS MUSEUM & THE MD LYNCHING PROJECT PRESENT NEW PERMANENT INSTALLATION, “LYNCHING IN MARYLAND”**

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of its lethal effects. No fewer than 38 Black Marylanders were murdered in brutal acts of lawless, racially motivated terror. This installation will help visitors understand how the white supremacy that fueled this terror continues to function. We hope it will inspire Marylanders to find ways to advance the cause of racial justice in their own communities."

"Racial terror lynching" refers to the unlawful killing of an African American by a white mob, with the aim of maintaining racial hierarchy through fear and violence. According to the Equal Justice Initiative, at least 6,500 African Americans were lynched in the United States between 1865 and 1950. These brutal, often public acts were used as tools of racial intimidation and control.

The "Lynching in Maryland" installation provides deep insight into the consequences of these acts of terror—both the immediate human suffering and the long-term damage inflicted on communities and institutions. Visitors will explore the heroic efforts to end lynching and learn how its legacy continues to affect society today. The installation encourages reflection on how we, as individuals and communities, can work toward dismantling white supremacy and achieving justice.

The vessels seen in this powerful display each represent a victim of racial terror lynching in Maryland. Some vessels contain soil collected from the sites of these lynchings during solemn remembrance ceremonies. These efforts, often organized by local coalitions and the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, aim to bring this dark history into the public square, offering communities an opportunity for reflection, healing, and collective action.

We invite the community to experience "Lynching in Maryland," a powerful and necessary exploration of our shared history

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**WEB: [Lynching in Maryland at The Reginald F. Lewis Museum](#)**

#### **The Mission of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum:**

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum documents, interprets and preserves the complex experiences, contributions and culture of Black people in Maryland. We serve as a catalyst for sustained change by providing programs, exhibitions and bold conversations that educate and challenge.

#### **About the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project:**

The Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, Inc. works to advance the cause of racial reconciliation by helping Marylanders understand and confront the history of racial terror in the state. Through public programs, education, and collaboration with the Equal Justice Initiative and other organizations, the Project seeks to honor the victims and foster healing across communities.