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Media Contacts:

Cherrie Woods
443-263-1812
cherriew@maamc.org

Samantha McCoy
443-263-1815
mccoy@maamc.org

LEAH TAYLOR'S ARTS WALL EXHIBITION, "LIFT HIM UP," CELEBRATES THE POWER OF THE CHURCH

August 5, 2011, (BALTIMORE, MD) –Columbia, MD native and visual artist, Leah Taylor celebrates her faith and beliefs in her art installation, *Lift Him Up* on view on the Reginald F. Lewis Museum's Arts Wall until November 27, 2011. This collaged portrait of the Celebration Church of Columbia, where she is a member, includes 27 framed collages featuring high-spirited choir and congregation scenes arranged to give viewers the feeling of being inside a large gothic cathedral. The exhibition also includes pen and ink study drawings.

Covering two walls in the museum's third floor gallery, this uplifting exhibition shows the emotional relationship between the congregation and the choir. Made of magazine clippings and glue mounted to masonite, Taylor's exhibition has been six years in the making. The artist illustrates the important role the church plays in her life. "The church has always been a vital part of my life," she says, "it is where I get my strength and courage."

Taylor's unique collage style purposely obscures the facial features of her subjects. Her technique encourages viewers to recognize the church's collective spirit of praise.

"Majestic and moving is how I'd describe *Lift Him Up*," says Michelle Joan Wilkinson, director of collections and exhibitions. "Leah's work captures those infectious moments of praise, when the whole church becomes full with sounds, spirit and love."

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture is Baltimore's premier facility highlighting the history and accomplishments of African Americans with a special focus on Maryland's African American community. A Smithsonian affiliate, the museum is the East Coast's largest African American museum occupying an 82,000 square-foot facility with ample permanent and special exhibition space, interactive learning environments, auditorium, resource center, oral history recording studio, museum shop, café, classrooms, meeting rooms, outside terrace and reception areas. The museum is located near Baltimore's Inner Harbor at the corner of Pratt and President Streets. The museum is also accessible on Baltimore's Charm City Circulator Orange and Green Routes. For more information, please call 443-263-1800 or visit the museum's website at www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org.

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