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Dawna Baker Joins the Reginald F. Lewis Museum as Director of Development

October 1, 2009 – Baltimore, MD —Dawna Swinton Baker, has been named **Director of Development** at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture in Baltimore, Maryland. Mrs. Baker brings with her, 18 years of fundraising experience that includes working with nonprofit organizations on both local and national levels.

Most recently, Baker held the position of Associate Director of Development at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education where she helped establish the development team and focused on annual giving, estate planning and major gifts. Prior to working for Hopkins, Mrs. Baker served as Director of Development for Adventist Heritage Ministries at Philanthropic Service for Institutions, Silver Spring, MD; Manager of Radio Projects and Programming at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Washington, DC; and Associate Director of Development at South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC.

Baker's career in development began 18 years ago when she transitioned from a career as television news reporter/anchor to nonprofit manager. Serving as program director in 1991, and later general manager of public radio station WSSB-FM, Orangeburg, SC, she came to understand her passion for the nonprofit mission and development work.

When asked what she wants to accomplish in her new position, Mrs. Baker said she plans to pour into the museum every bit of her experience, knowledge and energy possible to produce a new level of philanthropic support, not only from the residents and leaders in the City of Baltimore, but the entire state and nation. "My goal is to cultivate new and existing relationships with individuals, businesses, foundations and corporations—everyone interested in helping us share globally, and with integrity, the human drama of Maryland's African American experience."

Mrs. Baker received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism from Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina and will complete a Masters of Science in Management at the University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, MD in Spring 2010.

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum is Baltimore's premier facility highlighting the history and accomplishments of African Americans with a special focus on Maryland's African American community. 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. For more information, please call 443-263-1800 or visit the museum's website at www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org

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