



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE/RENDERING OF REDEVELOPED SPHINX CLUB



■ PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE (FORMER SPHINX CLUB)

BDC continued working to revitalize West Baltimore's historic Pennsylvania Avenue in 2010 through the redevelopment of the former Sphinx Club and adjacent properties. Located at 2101-2111 Pennsylvania Avenue in the Druid Heights community, the former jazz and supper club is a vital piece of Baltimore's African American heritage and culture. Pennsylvania Avenue ("The Avenue") was known worldwide for its jazz clubs, theaters and nightclubs as the heart of African American entertainment in Baltimore. The Sphinx Club, a private club known for its after-show parties where jazz greats congregated, opened in 1946 and closed in 1992.

The 12,000 square foot site, consisting of five commercial properties at the northeast corner of the Pennsylvania Avenue/Bloom Street intersection, is part of the Druid Heights Urban Renewal Plan. After a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, BDC entered into an Exclusive Negotiating Privilege (ENP) with the Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) and is negotiating the terms of a Land Disposition Agreement (LDA) for the sale of the property. DHCDC has created Sphinx Club Complex, LLC, a for-profit, wholly-owned subsidiary, to manage the project.

The redevelopment proposal calls for a \$4.1 million, 18,650 square foot mixed-use project consisting of a three-story B.A.L.L. (Black Athletes and Lost Legends) House Museum, which would contain displays about Negro League teams (that played before Major League Baseball admitted African American players). The museum would be connected to the Negro League Café at the Sphinx Club, a sports bar, restaurant and performance venue created inside the former Sphinx Club building. Additional elements of the project would be incubator office space 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 the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Bloom Street.