Mayor Brandon M. Scott and the Baltimore Public Markets Corporation announced the allocation of $4.9 million of Baltimore City’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to complete the redevelopment of Lexington Market, for the 45+ diverse merchants who will call the new market home. The new merchant mix will increase minority-owned businesses to 46% and women-owned businesses to 50%. The market’s redevelopment got underway in early 2020, and construction of its new 60,000 square-foot market building and adjoining Lexington Street Plaza marks a new era for the nearly 240-year-old institution.

Construction for the new and improved Lexington Market was halted due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As the market prepared to continue with reopening plans, the cost of materials and labor dramatically increased. Without additional financial resources, these costs would be passed down to vendors—impacting minority vendor participation in the market.

ARPA funding will be used to support recovery and enhance resiliency for legacy and new vendors at Lexington Market and the surrounding community. Baltimore’s small businesses have been resilient in enduring the challenges caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, including supply chain shortages and increased costs of operation. Local businesses and food systems are vital to the health of Baltimore City. Lexington Market is uniquely positioned to improve food access to communities that do not have routine access to fresh, affordable foods—a challenge further exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

- **$4.9 million** to support stall build out for small businesses
- **46%** minority-owned vendors
- **50%** women-owned vendors

**SUMMARY:**

Mayor Scott allocates $4.9 million to support Lexington Market’s new and legacy tenants, expanding opportunities for minority-owned and women-owned businesses.