

## Neighborhood Lights: Hollins Market

*April 12, 2018*



It was a weekend of bright lights in the big city as neighbors, community leaders, and local businesses participated in Light City's Neighborhood Lights, a community artist-in-residence program, across 14 neighborhoods April 6-8.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) highlighted its partnerships with its Southwest Baltimore neighbors in proudly sponsoring two Neighborhood Lights events, one in Hollins Market and the other in Pigtown/Washington Village.

The festivities, part of an evening called Neighborhood Lights X Spring Fest: Stories from SoWeBo,” kicked off in the Hollins Market parking lot April 6 around 6 p.m. Attractions included live music, dance performances, a silent disco inside Hollins Market, laser tag, a puppet show, panel discussions about arts, entrepreneurship, and community cooperative economics, art exhibitions, a spoken word performance, karaoke, a glow party featuring glow sticks and strobe lighting, food trucks, and information tables. Each shop also featured a virtual reality station where visitors learned more about Hollins Market and the history of the neighborhood.

UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, was on hand to meet community members and take in the festivities.

“We’ve had a great turnout here. It’s probably going to get bigger as it gets darker and the lights come on. It’s nice to be out together,” he said. “It’s very important for us not to be an isolated institution, sort of sitting in a neighborhood, but not being engaged in a neighborhood and not having a neighborhood invite us in. This is a chance for us to bond.”

In brief remarks on the main stage, he reminded residents of the services provided by UMB’s Community Engagement Center (CEC), located at 870 W. Baltimore St. The center provides after-school programs in science, math, and engineering, summer camps, a computer lab, fresh food markets, dance and fitness classes, and a new Police Athletic League Program. Neighborhood Lights programming in Hollins Market was put on in partnership with the Southwest Baltimore Partnership and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts.

Members of the CEC handed out glow-in-the-dark frisbees and illuminated sunglasses in keeping with the theme of Light City — “More Love. More Lights!”

Neighborhood Lights in Pigtown took place April 6-8 and featured light sculptures, discounts at local businesses, vendor tables, games, and live music. Attendees were invited to follow *SCOPE: Terra, Peri, and Kaleido*, a moving art installation of illuminated units by MANIFOLD design, as it moved along the Washington Boulevard corridor over the course of three days.