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* * *PHOTO OPPORTUNITY* * *

BALTIMORE SUMMER RESTAURANT WEEK KICKOFF EVENT

WHAT: Before Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week begins, some of the region's most popular restaurants will serve up a dining specials to the public during a lunchtime cookoff.

At "The First Course – Appetizer Challenge" restaurants will duke it out to determine who creates the best appetizers in town, and the public be able to vote for their favorites as they enjoy free samples from the restaurant challengers.

Awards will be given out based on public's choice, judges' choice, and best use of locally-sourced ingredients.

More than 750 people attended last year's Summer Restaurant Week kickoff event.

WHEN: Thursday, August 12 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

WHO: "The First Course – Appetizer Challenge" is presented by Visit Baltimore, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, and Harborplace and The Gallery. Summer Restaurant Week is presented by Visit Baltimore and Downtown Partnership of Baltimore.

WHERE: Inner Harbor Amphitheater

INFORMATION: Additional information on Baltimore Restaurant Week will be posted online at www.baltimorerestaurantweek.com.

Visit Baltimore is the official sales and marketing organization for Baltimore that generates economic benefits for stakeholders through the attraction of convention, group and leisure visitors. For more information, please visit www.baltimore.org.

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore is a non-profit corporation creating a more vibrant Downtown community for businesses, property owners, residents, and employees. Downtown Partnership initiatives increase investment, retain business, solve transportation challenges, improve parks and greenspace, and create workforce development opportunities. For more than 25 years, these programs have been good for Downtown and good for Baltimore. Visit www.GoDowntownBaltimore.com to learn more.

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