# REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM OF MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

#### MEDIA CONTACT:

Crystal Turner | Director of Communications & External Relations E: <a href="mailto:crystal.turner@lewismuseum.org">crystal.turner@lewismuseum.org</a> | P: (443) 963-5429 830 E. Pratt St. | Baltimore, MD 21202

www.lewismuseum.org

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Baltimore's Lewis Museum Kicks Off 20th Anniversary Celebration with Landmark Exhibit Honoring Wall Street Legend Reginald F. Lewis Opening February 8

Baltimore, Maryland — January 17, 2025 — In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture is proud to announce its new exhibition, TITAN: The Legacy of Reginald F. Lewis, opening on February 8th, 2025. The exhibit, which honors the museum's namesake, is presented by Grain Management and IMB Partners, sponsored by Neutron Engineering, and supported by Daniel L. Black; and will debut with a special Free Community Day on Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 PM. The exhibition will be held at the museum, located at 830 E. Pratt Street in Baltimore, and will remain on view through April 2026.

Reginald F. Lewis, a Baltimore native, was a trailblazing entrepreneur, a legendary Wall Street financier, a generous philanthropist, and a family man. Known as the "Jackie Robinson" of Wall Street, Lewis made history as the first African American to close a billion-dollar leveraged buyout and to run the largest Black-owned U.S. company at the time, TLC Beatrice International. As an iconic dealmaker and businessman, Lewis broke racial barriers and paved the way for many who came after him. A graduate of Virginia State University, an HBCU, and Harvard Law School, he was also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. His memoir, *Why should white guys have all the fun? How Reginald Lewis Created a Billion-Dollar Business Empire*, co-written with Blair S. Walker, offers an unflinching account of his remarkable rise and serves as a roadmap for breaking barriers and building wealth.

"TITAN is more than an exhibition—it is a celebration of Reginald F. Lewis's groundbreaking legacy and a testament to the power of vision, determination, tenacity, and community. As we mark our 20th anniversary, it is fitting to honor the man whose name our museum proudly bears. We are excited to share his remarkable story with our visitors, especially here in his hometown of Baltimore, where his journey began. This exhibit embodies our mission to inspire and educate, and we are grateful to the Lewis family for their partnership in bringing this extraordinary tribute to life," said Terri Freeman, President of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum.

#### PAGE2

### Baltimore's Lewis Museum Kicks Off 20th Anniversary Celebration with Landmark Exhibit Honoring Wall Street Legend Reginald F. Lewis Opening February 8

The TITAN exhibit takes visitors on an immersive journey through Lewis's inspiring life—from his upbringing in Baltimore to his groundbreaking success in global finance. The exhibition features personal artifacts, rare photographs, and intimate stories that illuminate Lewis's resilience, strategic brilliance, and legacy as a pioneer in business and social justice.

The Lewis family has worked closely with the museum to bring this exhibition to life, ensuring an authentic and heartfelt portrayal of his contributions and values. With their blessing, TITAN pays tribute not only to his monumental achievements but also to the enduring impact of his family, who continue to carry forward his legacy of excellence and empowerment. "On behalf of the entire Lewis family, I am deeply honored by this beautiful tribute to my late husband, Reginald. TITAN not only celebrates his accomplishments but also uplifts the values he held dear—excellence, perseverance, and giving back to the community. We are grateful to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum for their dedication to preserving his legacy and to the people of Maryland for embracing his story and making this exhibit possible in the city that shaped him. Reginald's journey began here, and it is incredibly moving to see his life's work continue to inspire others," said Mrs. Loida Nicolas Lewis.

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum was initially funded by a public/private partnership between the State of Maryland, a \$5 million lead gift from the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, and other private funding partners. As the museum marks two decades of amplifying African American history and culture in Maryland, TITAN stands as a testament to the enduring influence of a man who redefined success and possibility for generations to come.

For more information, visit www.lewismuseum.org, follow the @lewismuseum on social media: Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and LinkedIn, or contact Crystal Turner | Director of Communications & External Relations at crystal.turner@lewismuseum.org.

#### ###

#### **About the Reginald F. Lewis Museum**

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture documents, interprets, and preserves the complex experiences, contributions, and culture of Black people in Maryland. The museum serves as a catalyst for sustained change by providing programs, exhibitions, and bold conversations that educate and challenge.