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March 26, 2018

Dear LAI Member:

We are 30 days until the Baltimore Land Economics Weekend! According to Sheila Hamilton’s tracking sheet our Baltimore LEW now has **90 Full LEW attendees** already registered/expected from **20** of LAI's 26 chapters:

Aloha Hawaii (4)	London (3)	Sacramento (3)
Austin (2)	Los Angeles (8)	San Diego (5)
Baltimore (20)	Memphis (1)	Simcoe Toronto (11)
Boston (2)	Minnesota (1)	UAE (1)
Ely Chicago (16)	Orange County (2)	Vancouver (5)
George Washington (1)	Philadelphia (1)	Zia New Mexico (1)
Golden Gate (1)	Phoenix (2)	

And, these spots are filled:

16 of 16 for Peabody Library and Walters Art Museum Tours on Thursday (\$20 pp)
56 of 63 for the Friday Dine Arounds (pay own dinner)
50 of 65 - *more seats added* - for Janet Marie Smith talk on Sunday morning (free)
48 of 50 for baseball game tickets on Sunday at 1:05 p.m. in Section 62 (\$34 pp)

More are welcomed! Time to sign up for April 26 – 28, 2018!

It is my understanding that typically many LEW attendees - **you?** - sign up at the last minute, but if you would, please take a moment to sign up this week. We must decide if we have enough attendees to fill an additional 38-seat bus and arrange for additional tour guides and materials. Plus provide the catering firms our meal counts. I ask that you keep in mind that we are an un-staffed chapter that relies on its volunteers (with busy lives like yours!) to make this LEW happen.

We sincerely welcome you and we will do all we can to help you enjoy your time here in Baltimore. In addition to all our chapter presidents and LAI and LEF leadership who will be here, the Baltimore LEW is great for all chapter members and non-members to participate. Please call or email me with any questions, I am happy to help you plan your visit. We are crafting a busy, engaging, and informative weekend! **Here is the most recent program schedule and the bios of our speakers and tour guides.**

Thanks to a handful of our LAI members – Jim Leanos, Rachel Edds, Ruth Louie, Dan Pontious, and Geof Washington – they have written “Baltimore: A Preview”

that we think you will enjoy. You will have a hard-copy version of it in your welcome bag in Baltimore but as the title states, here it is, a **preview**.

And for those of you who are curious, below is a piece about Baltimore writers, which is pretty good. The partial list quoted by the author includes: "*Frederick Douglas, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Zora Neale Hurston, H. L. Mencken, Edna St. Vincent Millay, John Dos Passos, Edgar Allan Poe, and Gertrude Stein all lived and wrote in Maryland, mostly in Baltimore, as do current literary powerhouses John Barth, Madison Smartt Bell, Stephen Dixon, Laura Lippman, Alice McDermott, and Anne Tyler. This proudly blue collar, Orioles-baseball-loving, beer-drinking, chip-on-our-shoulder wharf by the bay harbors an impressive list of writers from the past.*"

<https://www.pw.org/content/baltimore>

See you soon!

Best regards,

Susannah Bergmann
Chair of LEW Committee