FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 16, 2021
Nancy Proctor
The Peale
301.642.6257
cso@thePealeCenter.org

The Peale Seeks Stories from Baltimoreans Who Protested Last Summer
New Digital Experience about Civil Rights and Social Justice to Launch Next Year

Baltimore, Maryland: The Peale, Baltimore’s home for stories and the nation’s oldest purpose-built museum, announced today that it is gathering personal stories about people’s experiences with the fight for equity and social justice around Baltimore. The museum encourages people of all ages to share their experiences for the “Proximity Project,” a collection of location-based stories about civil rights and social justice that will become part of a self-guided Baltimore walking tour, accessible to anyone with a mobile phone. “The Proximity Project creates a unique, immersive, on-demand exhibition of this historical moment for cultural tourists and locals who visit city locations where the demonstrations have happened,” said the Peale’s Chief Strategy Officer Nancy Proctor. Scott Patterson, the acclaimed musician and composer from Baltimore’s Afro House, will produce an original musical score for these stories. Participants’ narratives will also be shared on the Peale’s website and SoundCloud Channel, called “Be Here Stories.”

“The goal of the project and of the Peale’s storytelling efforts,” says Peale Chief Administrative Officer Krista Green, “is to amplify the voices of people in the real Baltimore, not necessarily the narrative that has been crafted by the media and the entertainment industry.” All stories, regardless or length or theme, will eventually be included in the Peale’s Baltimore story archive to be preserved for future generations and to help people everywhere see Baltimore in a new light. The project has been made possible through a $15,000 grant from the Baltimore National Heritage Area.

“We aren’t necessarily looking for professional storytellers, just regular people who witnessed or participated in protest-related activities—those who have been involved with the fight for social justice over time or were inspired to get involved locally after the killing of George Floyd. Every voice matters in telling this ongoing effort,” says Proctor.

The Peale has set up several ways for people to share their stories. Storytellers can call the story hotline at 1-833-TEL-STRY. They can record their audio story right on the Peale’s website at https://beherestories.thepeale.org/, or they can schedule an interview with a story ambassador for a short one-on-one talk (in-person or online) by emailing online@ThePealeCenter.org. For those who would like to record a video diary entry, storytellers should use https://bit.ly/RecordAVideo. All storytellers have the option of remaining anonymous.

According to Krista Green, the new, digital experience will be available starting next summer for free and can be accessed by anyone with a mobile phone. For more information about the Proximity Project and the Peale’s storytelling initiatives, see https://www.thepealecenter.org/proximity-project/.

About the Peale: The Peale Center for Baltimore History and Architecture is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit corporation established to restore the historic Peale Museum building as a center to celebrate the unique history of Baltimore, its people, and places. By creating a more inclusive cultural
record of the city, we aim to help people everywhere see Baltimore in a new light. For more about the Peale, visit its website.