

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TWO ASSOCIATED AGENCIES NAMED MOST INNOVATIVE IN THE COUNTRY**

### *Slingshot Guide Highlights the Best In Jewish Nonprofit World*

**Baltimore, MD** – Two Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore programs and agencies – the JCC’s Charm City Tribe and Pearlstone Center – have been named as North America’s top 50 innovative Jewish organizations in the 11th annual Slingshot Guide released today. The 2016 Slingshot Guide, the foremost comprehensive resource into today’s most significant organizations, projects and programs of the North American Jewish community, was released today.

Charm City Tribe and the Pearlstone Center were selected from among hundreds of finalists reviewed by 93 professionals with expertise in grant-making and Jewish communal life. The organizations included in the Guide are driving the future of Jewish life and engagement by motivating new audiences to participate in their work and responding to the needs of individuals and communities as never before.

Charm City Tribe is a community effort for 20/30's living in downtown Baltimore looking to tap into Jewish culture and tradition in creative and meaningful ways. The Guide described Charm City Tribe as an innovative and engaging community “providing 20s and 30s young adults living in downtown Baltimore with new, creative ways of tapping into Jewish tradition and culture.”

Pearlstone Center, which was named for the fifth year in a row, was selected for this list because of its unique approach to outdoor environmental education through its community-oriented farm.

“The Associated and its agencies are always looking for innovative ways to engage Baltimore’s Jewish community, and we are thrilled to be recognized for our groundbreaking work. We know that these efforts will ensure that our community continues to remain relevant and thrive,” says Marc B. Terrill, president of The Associated.

“Slingshot’s work is to help Jews find, fund, and connect to meaningful, exciting experiences in Jewish life. After 11 years, the book remains relevant because it continues to highlight organizations doing exceptional work, serving as the trailblazers for what is possible and inspiring in all of us,” said Stefanie Rhodes, executive director of Slingshot

Slingshot board chair Sarah Reuven concurred: “Innovation is a critical component of today’s Jewish community, and Slingshot is highlighting the work of organizations that strengthen Jewish life by making it more relevant to our generation. We are inspired by projects that help people connect with the Jewish community in ways that feel both fresh and honor our traditions.”

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The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore strengthens and nurtures Jewish life by engaging and supporting community partners in Greater Baltimore, Israel and around the world.