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Eight Chefs One Step Closer to Dream Opportunity

Ballston BID and Top Chef Mike Isabella search for DC's next signature restaurant

Arlington, VA (May 1, 2014) – The Ballston Business Improvement District (BID) and Top Chef Mike Isabella, chef and owner of Graffiato, Kapnos and G Sandwich, have joined forces to find the next up-and-coming restaurateur to come to Ballston. After the immense success of the inaugural LaunchPad program, the Restaurant Challenge aims to continue showcasing Ballston as a center for creativity and discovery.

Selected from more than 25 applicants, eight **Restaurant Challenge** semi-finalists will battle it out at Taste of Arlington on May 18. Taste of Arlington attendees will vote for their favorite contestant using the BallstonConnect mobile app. Two winners will then be selected to move on to the June 4 cook-off finale in the restaurant space.

Please click on the contestant's name for a full bio and concept overview:

- **Christiana Campos**
- **Daniel Mesheske**
- **David Ivey-Soto**
- **Jacques Imperato**
- **Josh Radigan, Bryan Lopes and William Ham**
- **Kristen Robinson**
- **Victor Albisu**
- **Zena Polin and Jerry Hollinger**

"The BID is dedicated to having Ballston satisfy the DC metropolitan community's hunger for new dining experiences," says Tina Leone, CEO of the Ballston BID. "We are thrilled to work with Chef Isabella and the extraordinary group of Restaurant Challenge competitors for the second phase of the LaunchPad campaign."

The winner will receive a year of free restaurant space in Ballston, which includes a kitchen donated by Brookfield Office Properties. The space will include an 11-year lease at a base rent of \$16.00 per rentable sq. foot (NNN) starting in the second lease year (increasing by three percent annually) and an interest free loan of up to \$245,000 to the winner of the competition. This space is located on the first floor of Brookfield's 1110 North Glebe Road building known as Two Ballston Plaza. Other major sponsors include The JBG Companies and Saul Ewing, while Allender CPA will be offering free financial advising to the winner.

About the Ballston Business Improvement District

The Ballston Business Improvement District (BID) is a 25-block neighborhood of commercial and residential properties. With more than 8.3 million square feet of office space, one-million square feet of retail space and 8,000 residential units, Ballston offers a range of market-rate options. As a newly formed BID in Arlington, the mission is to make Ballston a premier business, cultural and entertainment destination. The BID's blend of urban sophistication and neighborhood charm is unique to the region, boasting top universities, Fortune 500 companies, the Washington Capitals' Kettler Capitals Iceplex practice facility and many research organizations surrounded by upscale hotels, retail, green space and restaurants – all easily accessible by metro and major thoroughfares. For more information about the Ballston BID, visit www.ballstonbid.com.