

ARBOR REALTY TRUST INC
Form 424B2
September 26, 2013

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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)
Registration Statement No. 333-189532

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated August 5, 2013

Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. 6,000,000 Shares

Common Stock

This is a public offering of common stock of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. We are offering 6,000,000 shares of our common stock, \$0.01 par value per share. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "ABR." On September 20, 2013, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$7.25 per share.

In order to assist us in complying with federal tax laws applicable to real estate investment trusts, or REITs, our charter generally prohibits any person from beneficially or constructively owning in excess of 5.0% (by value or by number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of our outstanding shares of common stock or 5.0% by value of our aggregate outstanding shares of stock of all classes or series unless our board of directors grants the person a waiver from these charter provisions.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 18 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price	\$ 7.08	\$ 42,480,000
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$ 0.245	\$ 1,470,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$ 6.835	\$ 41,010,000

We have granted the underwriters the right to purchase up to an additional 900,000 shares of common stock within 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement at the public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares of common stock on or about September 27, 2013.

Deutsche Bank Securities

JMP Securities

The date of this Prospectus Supplement is September 24, 2013.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

You may rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by us. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different from or additional to that contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by us. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any free writing prospectus prepared by us is accurate only as of their respective dates or on the date or dates that are specified in such documents. Our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering of common stock. This prospectus supplement adds, updates and changes information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the information incorporated by reference. To the extent the information contained in this prospectus supplement differs or varies from the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference, the information in this prospectus supplement shall control.

In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless the context indicates otherwise, the words "we," "us," "our," "Arbor," "Company" and similar references mean Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including Arbor Realty Limited Partnership, our operating partnership, and Arbor Realty SR, Inc., its subsidiary, and the words "Arbor Commercial Mortgage" or "our manager" refer to Arbor Commercial Mortgage, LLC.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information contained in this prospectus supplement is not a complete description of our business or the risks associated with an investment in us. We urge you to carefully review and consider the various disclosures made by us in this prospectus supplement, including the documents incorporated by reference herein.

This prospectus supplement contains certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements relate to, among other things, the operating performance of our investments and financing needs. Forward-looking statements are generally identifiable by use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "potential," "intend," "expect," "endeavor," "seek," "anticipate," "estimate," "overestimate," "underestimate," "believe," "could," "project," "predict," "continue" or other similar words or expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on certain assumptions, discuss future expectations, describe future plans and strategies, contain projections of results of operations or of financial condition or state other forward-looking information. Our ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, our actual results and performance could differ materially from those set forth

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in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results in future periods to differ materially from forecasted results. Factors that could have a material adverse effect on our operations and future prospects include, but are not limited to:

changes in economic conditions generally and the real estate market specifically;

adverse changes in the financing markets we access affecting our ability to finance our loan and investment portfolio;

changes in interest rates;

the quality and size of the investment pipeline and the rate at which we can invest our cash;

impairments in the value of the collateral underlying our loans and investments;

changes in the markets;

legislative/regulatory changes;

completion of pending investments;

the availability and cost of capital for future investments;

competition within the finance and real estate industries; and

other risks detailed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any of these forward-looking statements, which reflect our management's views as of the date of the report containing such statements incorporated herein or as of the date of this prospectus supplement with respect to statements that are expressly stated herein. The factors noted above could cause our actual results to differ significantly from those contained in any forward-looking statement.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. We do not intend and we disclaim any duty or obligation to update or revise any industry information or forward-looking statement set forth in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein to reflect new information, future events, or otherwise, except as required by U.S. federal securities laws.

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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary description of us, our manager and our business highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein. This summary does not contain all of the information about us that you should consider before buying shares of our common stock. You should carefully read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including each of the documents incorporated herein and therein by reference, before making an investment decision.

Our Company

We are a specialized real estate finance company that invests in a diversified portfolio of structured finance assets in the multi-family and commercial real estate markets. We invest primarily in real estate-related bridge and mezzanine loans, including junior participating interests in first mortgages, preferred, and direct equity and in limited cases, discounted mortgage notes and other real estate-related assets, which we refer to collectively as structured finance investments. We also hold investments in mortgage-related securities and real property. Our principal business objective is to maximize the difference between the yield on our investments and the cost of financing these investments to generate cash available for distribution, facilitate capital appreciation and maximize total return to our stockholders.

We are organized to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. A REIT is generally not subject to federal income tax on that portion of its REIT taxable income ("Taxable Income") that is distributed to its stockholders, provided that at least 90% of Taxable Income is distributed and certain other REIT qualification requirements are met. Certain of our assets that produce non-qualifying income are held in taxable REIT subsidiaries. Unlike other subsidiaries of a REIT, the income of a taxable REIT subsidiary is subject to federal and state income taxes.

We conduct substantially all of our operations and investing activities through our operating partnership, Arbor Realty Limited Partnership, and its subsidiaries, including Arbor Realty SR, Inc., a subsidiary REIT. We serve as the general partner of our operating partnership, and currently own 100% of its partnership interests.

We are externally managed and advised by Arbor Commercial Mortgage, LLC, a national commercial real estate finance company that specializes in debt and equity financing for multi-family and commercial real estate, pursuant to the terms of a management agreement.

Recent Developments

In June 2013, our board of directors formed a Special Committee consisting of independent directors in connection with the exploration and evaluation of a potential transaction with our manager involving the acquisition of our manager's Fannie Mae, DUS, FHA and CMBS platforms, as well as the internalization of the management of our current business. Although there have been preliminary discussions between the Special Committee and representatives of our manager, we cannot provide any assurance regarding the timing, terms or form of any such transaction, including the amount or type of consideration (including the issuance of common stock) or related financing, or whether any transaction between us and our manager will occur at all. Also, in connection with evaluating a potential

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transaction with our manager, the Special Committee has engaged legal, financial and accounting advisors resulting in approximately \$1.25 million of advisory fees to date.

We are a Maryland corporation formed in June 2003. Our principal executive offices are located at 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Suite 900, Uniondale, New York 11553. Our telephone number is (516) 506-4200. Our website is located at www.arborrealtytrust.com. The information contained on or accessible through our website is not a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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THE OFFERING

Common stock we are offering	6,000,000 shares (plus up to an additional 900,000 shares that we may issue and sell upon the exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase such additional shares).
Common stock outstanding after this offering	49,136,975 shares ⁽¹⁾
Use of Proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$40,860,000 after deducting the estimated expenses of this offering payable by us. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to make investments, to repurchase or pay liabilities and for general corporate purposes.
Ownership restrictions	Our charter generally prohibits any person from beneficially or constructively owning in excess of 5.0% (by value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of our outstanding shares of common stock or 5.0% by value of our aggregate outstanding shares of stock of all classes or series, unless our board of directors grants the person a waiver from these charter provisions.
New York Stock Exchange Symbol	"ABR"
Risk Factors	Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 18 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement.

(1) Assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase up to an additional 900,000 shares of our common stock. Does not include unexercised warrants to purchase 1,000,000 shares of our common stock at a weighted average exercise price of \$4.00 per share and forfeitures of 667 shares of restricted stock in the third quarter of 2013.

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RISK FACTORS

Investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the specific risks described below and under the caption "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision. Each of the risks described could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, and could result in a complete loss of your investment. For more information, see "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference." In connection with the forward-looking statements that appear in this prospectus supplement, you should also review carefully the cautionary statements in the section of this prospectus supplement entitled "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

Risks Relating to Our Common Stock and this Offering

The price of our common stock may fluctuate and you could lose all or a significant part of your investment.

Volatility in the market price of our common stock may prevent you from being able to sell your shares at or above the price you paid. The market price of our common stock may also be influenced by many factors, some of which are beyond our control, including:

announcements by us or our competitors of significant contracts, acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments;

variations in quarterly operating results;

general economic conditions;

war, terrorist acts and epidemic disease;

future sales of our common stock or securities linked to our common stock;

investor perceptions of us and the commercial real estate industry; and

the failure of securities analysts to cover our common stock, or to the extent covered, changes in financial estimates by analysts or a downgrade of our stock or sector by analysts.

In addition, the stock market in general has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that may be unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of companies like us. These broad market and industry factors may materially reduce the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance.

Future sales of common stock by our existing stockholders may cause our stock price to fall.

The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales by our existing and future stockholders, or the perception that such sales could occur, which might also make it more difficult for us to sell equity securities at a time and price that we deem appropriate.

Our share price could decline as a result of this offering or if a large number of shares of our common stock or equity-related securities are sold in the future.

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This offering will reduce the net book value per share of our common stock and may reduce the market price of our common stock. Sales of a substantial number of shares of our

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common stock could depress the market price of our common stock and impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities. This offering and any such future sales or issuances could dilute the ownership interests of stockholders, and we cannot predict the effect that this offering or future sales or issuances of our common stock or other equity-related securities would have on the market price of our common stock nor can we predict our future needs to fund our operations or balance sheet with future equity issuances.

Because we have broad discretion in how we use the proceeds from this offering, we may use the proceeds in ways in which you disagree.

We intend to use the net proceeds to make investments, to repurchase or pay liabilities and for general corporate purposes. See "Use of Proceeds." We have not allocated specific amounts of the net proceeds from this offering for any specific purpose. Accordingly, our management will have significant flexibility in applying the net proceeds of this offering. You will be relying on the judgment of our management with regard to the use of these net proceeds, and you will not have the opportunity, as part of your investment decision, to assess whether the proceeds are being used appropriately.

It is possible that the net proceeds will be invested in a way that does not yield a favorable, or any, return for us. The failure of our management to use such funds effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flow.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds we will receive from this offering will be approximately \$40,860,000 (or \$47,011,500 in the event the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares of common stock in full), in each case, after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us. We expect to use the net proceeds to make investments relating to our business, to repurchase or pay liabilities and for general corporate purposes.

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The following table sets forth our cash and capitalization as of June 30, 2013, on an actual basis and as adjusted to give effect to our sale of common stock in this offering and the application of the estimated net proceeds as described under "Use of Proceeds." You should read this table in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

	As of June 30, 2013	
	(In thousands,	
	except share data)	
	As	
	Actual	Adjusted(1)
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 50,712	\$ 91,572
Debt:		
Debt ⁽²⁾	\$ 1,373,937	\$ 1,373,937
Stockholders' Equity:		
Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share: 100,000,000 shares authorized; 8.25% Series A cumulative redeemable preferred stock: 1,551,500 shares issued and outstanding at June 30, 2013; 7.75% Series B cumulative redeemable preferred stock: 1,260,000 shares issued and outstanding at June 30, 2013	67,655	67,655
Common stock, \$0.01 par value per share: 500,000,000 shares authorized; 45,787,742 shares issued actual; 43,136,975 shares outstanding actual; 51,787,742 shares issued as adjusted; 49,136,975 shares outstanding as adjusted	458	518
Additional paid-in capital	582,842	623,642
Treasury stock, at cost 2,650,767 shares	(17,101)	(17,101)
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	(207,260)	(207,260)
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss)	(31,305)	(31,305)
Total Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. stockholders' equity:	395,289	436,149
Noncontrolling interest in consolidated entity	1,935	1,935
Total equity	397,224	438,084
Total capitalization	\$ 1,771,161	\$ 1,812,021

(1) Assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase up to an additional 900,000 shares of our common stock. Does not include unexercised warrants to purchase 1,000,000 shares of our common stock at a weighted average exercise price of \$4.00 per share and forfeitures of 667 shares of restricted stock in the third quarter of 2013.

(2) Includes \$38,039,935 repurchase agreements, \$63,057,501 credit facilities, \$744,105,570 collateralized debt obligations, \$264,500,000 collateralized loan obligation, \$159,025,006 junior subordinated notes, \$51,457,708 notes payable and \$53,751,004 mortgage note payable real estate owned.

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Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. is acting as the sole bookrunning manager of this offering and as representative of the underwriters named below.

Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, each of the underwriters named below has severally agreed to purchase and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the number of shares of our common stock set forth opposite the underwriter's name in the following table.

Underwriters	Number of Shares
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	4,500,000
JMP Securities LLC	1,500,000
Total	6,000,000

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligation of the underwriters to purchase the shares offered hereby is subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriters will purchase all of the shares offered by this prospectus supplement, other than those covered by the option described below, if any of these shares are purchased.

We have been advised by the underwriters that the underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to dealers at a price that represents a concession not in excess of \$0.10 per share under the public offering price. If all the common stock is not sold at the public offering price, the underwriters may change the offering price and other selling terms.

We have granted to the underwriters an option to purchase, exercisable not later than 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, up to 900,000 additional shares of common stock at the public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. We will be obligated, pursuant to the option, to sell these additional shares of common stock to the underwriters to the extent the option is exercised. If any additional shares are purchased, the underwriters will offer the additional shares on the same terms as those on which the 6,000,000 shares are being offered.

The underwriting discounts and commissions per share are equal to the public offering price per share of common stock less the amount paid by the underwriters to us per share of common stock. We have agreed to pay the underwriters the following discounts and commissions, assuming either no exercise or full exercise by the underwriters of the underwriters' option described above:

	Total Fees		
	Fee per share	Without Exercise of Option	With Full Exercise of Option
Discounts and commissions paid by us	\$ 0.245	\$ 1,470,000	\$ 1,690,500

In addition, we estimate that the total expenses of this offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$150,000.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against some specified types of liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, to contribute to payments the underwriters may

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be required to make in respect of any of these liabilities and to reimburse the underwriters for certain expenses.

We have agreed that, for a period of 60 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, we will not, without the prior written consent of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of (or enter into any transaction which is designed to or might reasonably be expected to result in the disposition of), directly or indirectly, any shares of our capital stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our capital stock, file or cause to be filed a registration statement, including any amendments, with respect to the registration of our common stock or securities convertible, exercisable or exchangeable into our common stock or publicly announce an intention to effect any such transaction. Our officers and directors, our manager, and certain officers of our manager, have separately entered into similar agreements with Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. Moreover, if during the last 17 days of the 60-day restricted period referred to above we issue an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to us is announced or if prior to the expiration of the 60-day restricted period we announce that we will release earnings results during the 17-day period beginning on the last day of the 60-day period, the restrictions described in the two preceding sentences will continue to apply until the expiration of the 17-day period beginning on the date of the issuance of the earnings release or the announcement of the material news or material event, as the case may be, unless Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. waives, in writing, that extension.

The restrictions above do not apply to:

the sale of shares to the underwriters;

our issuance of common stock or granting of options to purchase common stock under our existing stock incentive plan (provided the holders of common stock or options to purchase common stock agree in writing to the restrictions described above);

the issuance by our operating partnership of units of limited partnership interest in consideration for acquisitions of assets; and

our issuance of common stock (i) upon redemption of units of limited partnership interest or upon exchange or conversion of any outstanding securities that have exchange or conversion rights or (ii) in payment of the incentive fee pursuant to our management agreement with our manager.

Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. may, in its sole discretion and at any time or from time to time, without notice, release all or any portion of the shares or other securities subject to the lock-up agreements.

The underwriters have advised us that they do not intend to confirm sales to any account over which they exercise discretionary authority.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell our shares in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, purchases to cover positions created by short sales and stabilizing transactions.

Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of shares than the underwriters are required to purchase in the offering. Covered short sales are sales made in an amount not greater than the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares. The underwriters may close out any covered short position by either exercising their option to purchase additional shares or purchasing shares in the open market. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of our shares available for purchase in the open market as

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compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through their option to purchase additional shares.

Naked short sales are any sales in excess of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market prior to the completion of the offering.

Stabilizing transactions consist of various bids for or purchases of our shares made by the underwriters in the open market prior to the completion of the offering.

Purchases to cover a short position and stabilizing transactions may have the effect of preventing or slowing a decline in the market price of our shares. Additionally, these purchases, along with the imposition of the penalty bid, may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of our shares. As a result, the price of our shares may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions may be effected on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may be made available in electronic format on Internet websites maintained by the underwriters of this offering. Other than this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, in electronic format, the information on the underwriters' websites and any information contained in any other website maintained by the underwriters is not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, or the registration statement of which the accompanying prospectus and this prospectus supplement form a part.

Potential Conflicts of Interest

In the ordinary course of business, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments. In addition, in the ordinary course of business, the underwriters or their respective affiliates have engaged and may in the future engage in various financing, commercial banking and investment banking services with, and provide financial advisory services to, us and our affiliates, for which they have received or may receive customary fees and expenses, including acting as underwriters for our securities offerings.

Selling Restrictions

No action has been taken in any jurisdiction (except in the United States) that would permit a public offering of the shares, or the possession, circulation or distribution of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any other material relating to us or the shares where action for that purpose is required. Accordingly, the shares may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, and neither this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus nor any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the shares may be distributed or published, in or from any country or jurisdiction except in compliance with any applicable rules and regulations of any such country or jurisdiction.

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The underwriters may arrange to sell the shares offered hereby in certain jurisdictions outside the United States, either directly or through affiliates, where they are permitted to do so.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a "Relevant Member State"), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the "Relevant Implementation Date"), no offer of shares may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the underwriters; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of shares shall require the Company or the underwriters to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

Each person in a Relevant Member State (other than a Relevant Member State where there is a Permitted Public Offer) who initially acquires any shares or to whom any offer is made will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that (A) it is a "qualified investor" within the meaning of the law in that Relevant Member State implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive, and (B) in the case of any shares acquired by it as a financial intermediary, as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, the shares acquired by it in the offering have not been acquired on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in any Relevant Member State other than "qualified investors" as defined in the Prospectus Directive, or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the Subscribers has been given to the offer or resale. In the case of any shares being offered to a financial intermediary as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, each such financial intermediary will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that the shares acquired by it in the offer have not been acquired on a non-discretionary basis on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in circumstances which may give rise to an offer of any shares to the public other than their offer or resale in a Relevant Member State to qualified investors as so defined or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the underwriters has been obtained to each such proposed offer or resale.

We, the underwriters and their affiliates will rely upon the truth and accuracy of the foregoing representation, acknowledgement and agreement.

This prospectus has been prepared on the basis that any offer of shares in any Relevant Member State will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of shares. Accordingly any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this prospectus may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for us or the underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer. Neither we nor the underwriters have

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authorized, nor do we authorize, the making of any offer of shares in circumstances in which an obligation arises for we or the underwriters to publish a prospectus for such offer.

For the purpose of the above provisions, the expression "an offer to the public" in relation to any shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the shares, as the same may be varied in the Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in the Relevant Member State and the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC (including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member States) and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State and the expression "2010 PD Amending Directive" means Directive 2010/73/EU.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

In addition, in the United Kingdom, this document is being distributed only to, and is directed only at, and any offer subsequently made may only be directed at persons who are "qualified investors" (as defined in the Prospectus Directive) (i) who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19 (5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the "Order") and/or (ii) who are high net worth companies (or persons to whom it may otherwise be lawfully communicated) falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). This document must not be acted on or relied on in the United Kingdom by persons who are not relevant persons. In the United Kingdom, any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is only available to, and will be engaged in with, relevant persons.

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LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York, and Venable LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Hunton & Williams LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and Subsidiaries appearing in Arbor Realty Trust, Inc.'s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2012 (including the schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and Subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated by reference herein. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). You may read and copy any reports or other information that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. You may also receive copies of these documents upon payment of a duplicating fee, by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Room. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room in Washington D.C. and other locations. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial documents retrieval services, at our website at www.arborrealtytrust.com and at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. The information on our website is not, and you should not consider the information to be, a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Our securities are listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") and all such material filed by us with the NYSE also can be inspected at the offices of the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, New York 10005.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3, of which the accompanying prospectus is a part, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to the securities. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information concerning us and our securities, reference is made to the registration statement. Statements contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other documents are not necessarily complete, and in each instance, reference is made to the copy of the contract or documents filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference.

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INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information that we file with them into this prospectus supplement. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC, including our annual, quarterly and current reports. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement, except for any information that is modified or superseded by information contained in this prospectus supplement or any other subsequently filed document. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

The following documents have been filed by us with the SEC and are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2013 and June 30, 2013;

the information specifically incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 from our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A dated April 12, 2013;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K dated January 8, 2013, January 17, 2013, January 28, 2013, February 1, 2013, March 4, 2013, March 27, 2013, May 9, 2013 and May 24, 2013; and

the description of our common stock set forth in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed on April 5, 2004, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents that we file (but not those we furnish) with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, after the date of this prospectus supplement but before the end of any offering of securities made under this prospectus supplement will also be considered to be incorporated by reference and will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus supplement and any previously filed documents.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus supplement is delivered, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of these documents incorporated herein by reference (other than exhibits to those documents, unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in such documents). Requests for documents should be directed to Arbor Realty Trust, Inc., 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Suite 900, Uniondale, New York, 11553, Attention: Secretary (telephone no.: (516) 506-4200).

PROSPECTUS

ARBOR REALTY TRUST, INC.

COMMON STOCK

PREFERRED STOCK

DEPOSITARY SHARES

DEBT SECURITIES

AND

WARRANTS

We may offer, issue and sell from time to time, together or separately, our debt securities, which may be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, shares of our preferred stock, which we may issue in one or more classes or series, depositary shares representing shares of our preferred stock, shares of our common stock, or warrants to purchase debt or equity securities, at an aggregate initial offering price which will not exceed \$500,000,000.

We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. We may describe the terms of these securities in a term sheet which will precede the prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

An investment in these securities entails certain material risks and uncertainties that should be considered. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 2 of this prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "ABR." Each prospectus supplement will indicate if the securities offered thereby will be listed on any securities exchange.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS OR THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is August 5, 2013.

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. This prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to purchase, the securities offered by such documents in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom or from whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation of an offer in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of such documents. Neither the delivery of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement nor any distribution of securities pursuant to such documents shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the information set forth in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement or in our affairs since the date of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement.

This prospectus contains, and any applicable prospectus supplement may contain, summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein and therein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to have been filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under "Where You Can Find More Information."

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") using a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$500,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer to sell securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

You should rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of the prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares and warrants that we may sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. The particular terms of any security will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

SUMMARY

The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. You should read the entire prospectus, including "Risk Factors," before making a decision to invest in our securities. In this prospectus, unless the context indicates otherwise, (a) the words "we," "us," "our," "Arbor," and similar references refer to Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including Arbor Realty Limited Partnership, our operating partnership, and Arbor Realty SR, Inc., (b) "our board of directors" refers to the board of directors of Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. and (c) the words "Arbor Commercial Mortgage," "ACM" or "our manager" refer to Arbor Commercial Mortgage, LLC.

Arbor Realty Trust, Inc.

We are a specialized real estate finance company that invests in a diversified portfolio of structured finance assets in the multi-family and commercial real estate market. We invest primarily in real estate-related bridge and mezzanine loans, including junior participating interests in first mortgages, and preferred equity and, in limited cases, discounted mortgage notes and other real estate-related assets, which we refer to collectively as structured finance investments. We also invest in mortgage-related securities and equity interests in real property. Our principal business objective is to maximize the difference between the yield on our investments and the cost of financing these investments to generate cash available for distribution, facilitate capital appreciation and maximize total return to our stockholders.

We are organized to qualify as a real estate investment trust ("REIT") for federal income tax purposes. A REIT is generally not subject to federal income tax on that portion of its REIT taxable income ("Taxable Income") that is distributed to its stockholders, provided that at least 90% of Taxable Income is distributed and certain other REIT qualification requirements are met. Certain of our assets that produce non-qualifying income are held in taxable REIT subsidiaries. Unlike other subsidiaries of a REIT, the income of a taxable REIT subsidiary is generally subject to federal income tax.

We conduct substantially all of our operations and investing activities through our operating partnership, Arbor Realty Limited Partnership, and its subsidiaries, including Arbor Realty SR, Inc., a subsidiary REIT ("SR Inc."), and its subsidiaries. We serve as the general partner of our operating partnership, and currently own 100% of its partnership interests.

We are externally managed and advised by Arbor Commercial Mortgage, LLC, a national commercial real estate finance company that specializes in debt and equity financing for multi-family and commercial real estate, pursuant to the terms of a management agreement.

We are a Maryland corporation formed in June 2003. Our principal executive offices are located at 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Suite 900, Uniondale, New York 11553. Our telephone number is (516) 506-4200. Our website is located at www.arborrealtytrust.com. The information contained on our website is not a part of this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

You should consider the specific risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, the risk factors described under the caption "Risk Factors" in any applicable prospectus supplement and any risk factors set forth in our other filings with the SEC, pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), before making an investment decision. Each of the risks described in these documents could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, and could result in a partial or complete loss of your investment. See "Where You Can Find More Information" in this prospectus. You should also carefully review the cautionary statement referred to under "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information contained in this prospectus is not a complete description of our business or the risks associated with an investment in Arbor Realty Trust, Inc. We urge you to carefully review and consider the various disclosures made by us in this prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference herein.

This prospectus contains certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements relate to, among other things, the operating performance of our investments and financing needs. Forward-looking statements are generally identifiable by use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "potential," "intend," "expect," "endeavor," "seek," "anticipate," "estimate," "overestimate," "underestimate," "believe," "could," "project," "predict," "continue" or other similar words or expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on certain assumptions, discuss future expectations, describe future plans and strategies, contain projections of results of operations or of financial condition or state other forward-looking information. Our ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. Although we believe that the expectati