

BALTIMORE HOMECOMING
ACTIVATE

OCTOBER 19-20

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23



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MORE 20
HOMECOMING 23





LANCE REDDICK

(1962-2023) Lance Reddick will be remembered by his many fans as Cedric Daniels in *The Wire*, Charon from *John Wick*, or one of his many roles he's played on screen. To many Destiny players, he will always be Commander Zavala. In Baltimore, he will be remembered as a remarkable person – warm, caring, present, and a great friend to Baltimore City and to Baltimore Homecoming. When Lance learned of Baltimore Homecoming's mission in 2018, he stepped up to the plate to not only show up in-person for his hometown, but to lead with his actions. In 2019, he introduced himself to Ana Rodney, Founder & Executive Director of MOMCares and 2019 Homecoming Hero. Since then, he had been a champion for MOMCares by lending his platform, picking up phone calls from Ana, and contributing his time, talent, and treasure.

"We've got to make sure that Lance's legacy continues and just the spirit of humility and helpfulness and generosity continues to live in our work in honor of him" says Ana in remembrance of Lance.



PAVA LAPERE

(1997-2023) Pava was not just a visionary entrepreneur as the CEO and Co-founder of startup EcoMap Technologies; she was a fearless leader, a shining light in the Baltimore tech ecosystem and a friend to many. Her sudden departure leaves a void in the hearts of many and a devastating loss for the Baltimore community. In 2022, Pava graced the Baltimore Homecoming stage as a participant in the Crab Tank pitch competition. Her presence illuminated the room, and her incredibly thoughtful decision to remove EcoMap from the competition after having recently closed an oversubscribed fundraising round and knowing the other companies would benefit more, left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to witness it. Baltimore Homecoming celebrates Pava's remarkable legacy—one of innovation, dedication, and a profound love for our city. Her spirit will continue to inspire us all, and her memory will forever be cherished in the heart of Baltimore. "At the Crab Tank in 2022, Pava was pitching EcoMap and her presentation was so strong and so poised, I thought she's definitely winning, maybe I could get audience favorite...I went on next to pitch and I barely got through..." shares Susan Clayton, founder & owner of WhitePaws RunMitts. "I did win and the difference the money made in the growth of RunMitts has been truly overwhelming. I'm forever grateful and I will miss her deeply."

BROOKS ROBINSON

(1937-2023) Brooks Robinson will forever be etched in baseball history as a legendary figure known for his unparalleled skills on the diamond. To countless fans, he's a Baltimore Orioles icon whose name is synonymous with excellence in the game. To Baltimore Homecoming, he's a beloved son of Baltimore whose warmth and affection for the city left an indelible mark. When Hall-of-Famer Brooks Robinson joined the stage at the 2019 Baltimore Homecoming event, he did more than share stories of his illustrious baseball career alongside other MLB Hall-of-Famers. He shared his heart and his genuine love for Baltimore. Beyond his baseball prowess, Brooks Robinson will be remembered as a remarkable human being whose warmth, care, and commitment to Baltimore made him not only a sports legend but also a beloved figure in the hearts of many.



Dear Baltimore Alumni -

Welcome back to Baltimore! It's been 18 months since Homecoming Amplify took place in May of 2022, and this will be our fourth Baltimore Homecoming since we launched in 2018. As we thought about what comes after Amplify - after amplifying and growing our alumni network and after sharing the stories of Baltimoreans - we knew it was time to Activate. This means we're ready to turn inspiration into commitment and commitment into action.

Over the first couple of years, it was important for Baltimore Homecoming to expand our network, but now it is about cultivating those relationships so that our connections move beyond greetings and into the kind of relationship capital that can be transformative for our city. Building meaningful relationships takes effort and time. As a way to deepen connections and to meet Baltimoreans where they are now located, Baltimore Homecoming hosted 11 regional gatherings in 9 cities across the U.S. in 2023. We met with more than 125 Baltimore alumni and connected them with our inspiring community partners.

In 2022, 5 years after the launch of Baltimore Homecoming, we looked back. Baltimore Homecoming has built a network of over 1,000 accomplished Baltimore alumni, engaged over 675 local leaders, and sparked over 2,000 new relationships. We've infused more than \$1million into our nonprofit sector. But what's more impressive is that we've seen our community partner organizations collectively grow \$14million in budget size. The power of relationships is hard to track and measure, but we've begun to aggregate all the ways in which the Homecoming network has impacted our city through the movement of social, intellectual, and financial capital. You can learn more in our impact report at www.baltimorehomecoming.com/impact. We've just started to scratch the surface of what has been done, and what can be done.

Over the course of Baltimore Homecoming, you will meet the 2023 cohort of Homecoming Heroes - grassroots nonprofit leaders lifting our community from the ground up - and our Crab Tank Entrepreneurs - founders building businesses and creating jobs in Baltimore. Among the new faces, you'll also have the opportunity to reconnect with many of our heroes & entrepreneurs from past years as well. We encourage you to get to know them, their work, and how you can be involved. These are the people building the brighter future for Baltimore.

Baltimore Homecoming would not be possible without the continued support of so many champions. We would like to thank our lead sponsors, including Whiting-Turner, Continental Realty Corporation, T. Rowe Price, M&T Bank, BGE, and CFG Bank among many others. We would also like to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of time and mindshare from the members of our Host Committee. We would also like to thank the Baltimore Homecoming Board of Directors for their service: Rachel Bendit, Jack Bisciotti, Mike Chesser, Michael Fader, Josie Hendler, Dr. Charles Johnson-Bey, Arion Long, Anthony Moag, Chip Wendler, and Brittany Young. Finally, we would like to thank the Homecoming team, who work tirelessly to advance the mission: Matthew Reeds, Misti McKeehen, Anthony McCray, and Kate Taylor.

Baltimore Homecoming is committed to a world where Baltimore is recognized as a leading hub for social & private sector entrepreneurship and where local leaders work hand-in-hand with a global network of Baltimoreans to advance a more prosperous and just city. Join us in investing your time, talent, and treasure to make that vision a reality.

Our very best regards,

JM Schapiro
Co-Founder and Board Chair

Nate Loewentheil
Co-Founder & Board Member

Robbin Lee
Executive Director

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Take a paddle down memory lane and relive what every child in Baltimore City gets to do growing up - the Chessie Paddle boats on the Inner Harbor. Special thanks to Living Classrooms Foundation for making the boats available to Baltimore Homecoming.



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18 Crab Tank

24 Host Committee

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Pastry is evolutionary, a safe space and holds within itself, the power to help us rise to new heights!

- Amanda Mack - CEO + Owner, Crust by Mack, Baltimore Native, and Southern Living Magazine's Cook of the Year 2021



Thursday October 19th

5:00 PM Nostalgic Fun

Take the "Chessie" paddle boats for a spin on the Inner Harbor.

6:00 PM Kickoff Cocktails

Enjoy a cocktail with a side of history aboard the U.S.S. Constellation, the preserved museum ship docked at the Inner Harbor across from Pratt Street Pavilion.

Remarks by Baltimore Homecoming co-founders Nate Loewentheil & JM Schapiro.

Cannon firing at 6:50 PM

7:00 PM Opening Reception & Dinner

Taste Award-winning chef Amanda Mack's culinary creations at her new Crust by Mack location at the reimagined Pratt Street Pavilion at Harborplace. Kickoff Baltimore Homecoming by mixing and mingling with our city's movers, shakers, heroes, entrepreneurs, and hosts.

10:00 PM Afterhours at ROOST Baltimore

Continue conversations at Roost Baltimore.

SPECIAL GUESTS



GOVERNOR WES MOORE
Wes Moore is the 63rd Governor of the state of Maryland. He is Maryland's first Black Governor in the state's 246-year history, and is just the third African American elected Governor in the history

of the United States. Moore is a proud graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy and College, where he received an Associate's degree in 1998, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Afterward, he went on to earn his Bachelor's in international relations and economics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. While at Johns Hopkins, Moore interned in the office of former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke. Moore was the first Black Rhodes Scholar in the history of Johns Hopkins University. As a Rhodes Scholar, he earned a Master's in international relations from Wolfson College at Oxford. Moore and his wife Dawn Flythe Moore have two children – Mia, 12; and James, 9.



MAYOR BRANDON SCOTT
Brandon M. Scott is the 52nd Mayor of Baltimore, working to end gun violence, restore the public's trust in government and change Baltimore for the better. Scott was unanimously elected President of the

Baltimore City Council by his colleagues in May 2019. As Council President, Scott developed and released the first-ever City Council President legislative agenda, focused on building safer, stronger communities, cleaning up city government, investing in Baltimore's young people, and centering equity. Mayor Scott is a community leader, public servant, and lifelong resident of Baltimore City. A proud Baltimorean, Scott is a graduate of MERV High School and St. Mary's College of Maryland. He lives in Baltimore's Frankford neighborhood in Northeast Baltimore.

Friday October 20th

9:00 AM Friday Homecoming Program at Rye Street Market

Welcome to the Baltimore Peninsula by MaryAnne Gilmartin, MAG Partners

Homecoming Hero Awards presented by T. Rowe Price

Welcome to Baltimore by Mayor Brandon Scott

Crab Tank Pitch Competition sponsored by M&T Bank

12:30 PM Lunch and Keynote with Governor Moore

Meet, get to know, and mingle with Maryland's cabinet secretaries over lunch and hear from Governor Wes Moore.

2:30 PM Bus City Bus Tour

Join members Maryland Executive Council as well as Mayor Scott and members of his team on a tour to see recently completed and in-progress projects across the city. Space is limited. Interested in joining? Email matthew@baltimorehomecoming.com.

WANDERING SHOULD LEAD TO NEW THINGS NOT PLACES YOU ALREADY KNOW

VISIT BALTIMORE

baltimore.org

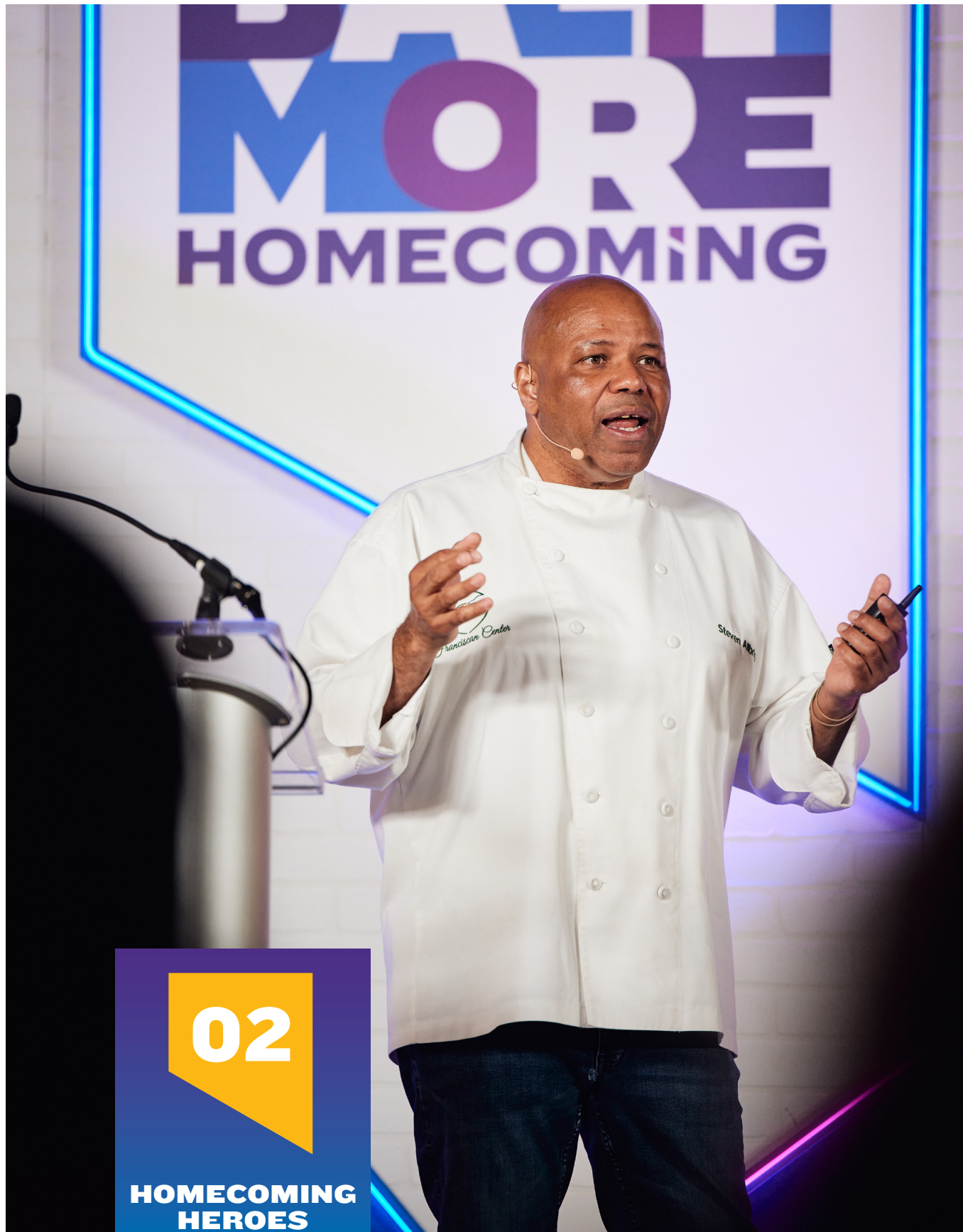
THINGS TO DO THIS WEEKEND

WELCOME WATERS



INNER HARBOR

Harborplace opened on July 2, 1980, as a centerpiece of the revival of downtown Baltimore. Founded in 1729 around this bustling port, Baltimore quickly emerged as a thriving center for trade, shipbuilding, and fishing. During the War of 1812, the sight of the American flag flying over Fort McHenry after British Naval Attacks inspired Francis Scott Key to pen "The Star-Spangled Banner." In the mid-20th century, facing economic decline, Baltimore initiated an ambitious urban renewal project to rejuvenate the Inner Harbor. This transformative effort spurred development including the Baltimore Convention Center, Harborplace, and the National Aquarium. Today, the Baltimore Inner Harbor stands as a symbol of the city's maritime heritage and is a vibrant nexus for tourism, commerce, and cultural activities.



02
HOMECOMING HEROES

About the Homecoming Hero Awards

PRESENTED BY
T.RowePrice



MEET OUR EMCEES

Noah Smock is the Executive Director of the Baltimore Toolbank and a 2022 Homecoming Hero. Learn more about Noah and his work on page 31.



Kayenecha Daugherty is a creative professional with over 20 years of experience designing entertainment + experiential events and connecting artists and brands with interested audiences. More recently, educating both professionals and youth through arts and music has evolved Kayenecha's professional passions leading her to leave her six-year position at the Grammy's to dedicate herself to further building Creative Nomads and its youth program, Where Art Starts.

In 2019 she was a Baltimore Homecoming Hero and also named to The Kennedy Center's inaugural Culture Caucus where she has provided opportunities for Baltimore-based artists to take the stage.

The Homecoming Hero Awards, sponsored by **T. Rowe Price**, recognizes the people, leaders, and doers across the city of Baltimore. Homecoming Heroes are community leaders, activists, artists, leaders of nonprofit organizations, small business owners, and innovators who have dedicated their lives to making Baltimore a better city every day. Their nominations and selections were entirely public, democratic selections - making this recognition one that bears the Homecoming name but is bestowed upon them by Baltimore itself. Heroes come from all walks of life and are bound by the tireless work they have chosen to benefit the people, families, and communities in which they are embedded.

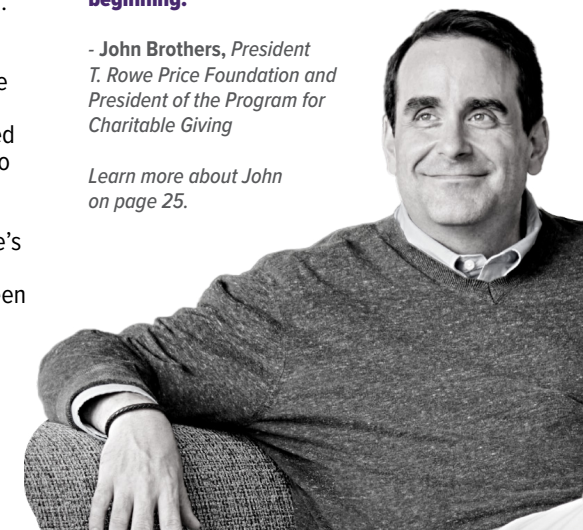
The public nomination phase launched in the spring of 2023 to identify individuals who have had a significant impact on Baltimore. Nominations were narrowed down by members of the Baltimore Homecoming host committee and community members. This diverse set of committee members represented business, nonprofit, and community leaders, including past Homecoming Hero award winners and semi-finalists. In selecting the top ten semi-finalists, the committee considered the various challenges: the nominees address; their capacity to transform the lives of individuals; and the potential of the nominee's work to create a new model for change. The five finalists were selected via a public online voting process, hosted by **The Baltimore Banner**. They have been invited to share their stories on stage.

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We are proud that Heroes has become a signature program of Baltimore Homecoming and that we have been supporters... from the very beginning.

- **John Brothers**, President
T. Rowe Price Foundation and President of the Program for Charitable Giving

Learn more about John on page 25.



2023 Winners

INVEST IN OUR
HEROES TODAY



KEVIN "OGUN" BEASLEY BEATS NOT BULLETS

Kevin Beasley has been the Director of Dream Bigger Community Institute and Beats Not Bullets since 2016. The Beats Not Bullets (BNB) program aims to increase middle & high school age students' knowledge of sound engineering and the recording industry. The Beats Not Bullets Program is officially inside Baltimore City Correctional Facilities. The first BNB Behind The Fence initiative was launched at The Metropolitan Transitional Center (MTC) as of November 2022.

www.beatsnotbullets.com



ELIJAH MILES TENDEA FAMILY

Chairman Elijah Miles is a non-profit leader, dedicated community organizer, and acclaimed public speaker in Baltimore City. Elijah was born and raised in east Baltimore in the neighborhood called down the Hill. He is a proud graduate of Morgan State University and has made two TedX talks about issues relating to Baltimore's Black community. Elijah works full time as chairman of the popular grassroots organization called Tendea Family.

www.tendeafamily.org



BRIAN PHAM BREAK A DIFFERENCE

Brian Pham grew up in both West and East Baltimore. A decade ago, he co-founded a Baltimore-based nonprofit, Break A Difference, which helps other nonprofits coordinate large-scale volunteer projects all over the world. In 2022, he launched 'From: Baltimore,' a program of Break A Difference that empowers Black and Brown youth and cultivates their engagement in social impact through volunteerism. www.breakadifference.org



NYKIDRA "NYKI" ROBINSON BLACK GIRLS VOTE

Nyki's life and work experience combined with her interest in politics to create a birthing ground for the delivery of her biggest project yet: Black Girls Vote, Inc. This non-partisan, grassroots organization focuses on encouraging and mobilizing African American women to use their collective voting power to advocate for issues that impact African American women and families. Nyki enjoys cooking, event planning, traveling, working out, listening to music, and connecting great people. Nyki is also the proud mother of her son, Nyle.

www.blackgirlsvote.com



RASHAD STATON COMMUNITY LAW IN ACTION

Rashad Staton is a proud native of Baltimore. As a former student athlete at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Rashad earned multiple championships in football, basketball, and lacrosse. Following his tenure at City Schools, Rashad was offered the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director of Community Law In Action. The Baltimore-based nonprofit further develops and positions youth and young adults to be stakeholders in decision-making opportunities and policies that directly impact youth populations across the State of Maryland. www.claiyouth.org

2023 Semi-Finalists



CHARITA COLE BROWN AUTHOR & MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Charita Cole Brown was diagnosed with a severe form of bipolar disorder while finishing her final semester as an English major at Wesleyan University. Doctors predicted she would never lead a "normal" life. Her powerful story is chronicled in her award-winning debut book, *Defying the Verdict: My Bipolar Life* (Curbside Splendor Publishing 2018). A retired educator, she is now a member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Maryland Board of Directors and is also active in the local affiliate, NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore. www.charitacolebrown.com



IYA DAMMONS BALTIMORE SAFE HAVEN

Ms. Iya Dammons is the Executive Director of Baltimore Safe Haven and a visionary activist for the LGBTQIA+ community. In 2018, she founded Baltimore Safe Haven, a nonprofit organization based on the civil rights model of "each one, teach one," and "for us, by us." Today, BSH provides dedicated LGBTQIA+ housing, workforce development, HIV testing, healthcare, legal services, and more – all from the perspective of oneness and solidarity with the community.

www.baltimoresafehaven.org



VANESSA GEFFARD PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF MARYLAND

Vanessa has been a health educator since she was 4 years old, starting her career rallying to get her dad to quit smoking. At Planned Parenthood of Maryland, she serves as the Vice President of Education and Outreach. Vanessa is the founder of VagEsteem™. Created in 2014, VagEsteem was founded as a platform for sex education for folks looking to understand and build up the "esteem" of and in their vulvas. <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-maryland>



KATIE KILBY REVEILLE GROUNDS

Katie Kilby is the founder of Reveille Grounds. She is proud to be a nonprofit grunt and individual contributor with her boots firmly planted on the ground, but Katie sees a clear model of collaboration for Baltimore, the military-connected community, social impact initiatives, and beyond. As a military brat, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, career nonprofit professional, spouse of a combat-wounded Marine, and mom of 2, she says, "...we're confidently optimistic that we've done the work, asked the right questions, sought input and perspective, and are the right people to scale The Baltimore Military Muster." www.reveillegrounds.com



FRED "BIG FRED" WATKINS LIL LAUGHS

Fred Watkins, is a comedian/actor and youth advocate. The Baltimore City native has performed throughout the country opening for some of your favorite comedians! Fred has starred on Oxygen TV's hit reality competition show "Last Squad Standing" and even took home the Grand Prize for team Baltimore! Fred is the founder of both Big Laughs Company and Lil' Laughs, an anti-bullying program which works to counteract self-esteem issues that plague students everyday and build confidence through laughter, mentorship, and restorative programs. Fred is a 20th Anniversary Fellow of Open Society Institute - Baltimore. www.lillaughs.org

WATERFRONT



BALTIMORE PENINSULA

Formerly a busy industrial workhorse from 1914, Port Covington has been reclaimed and renamed “Baltimore Peninsula” The transformation of the old defunct port into an economic engine for Baltimore City through the creation of a true live, work, play neighborhood is one of the biggest current development projects in the country. The site overlooking the Patapsco River now hosts a newly built, 235-acre community led by MAG Partners and MacFarlane Partners and featuring investments from Sagamore Ventures and the Urban Investment Group within Goldman Sachs Asset Management. Ultimately, the master-planned development will include 14 million square feet of structures, 2.5 miles of restored waterfront, and 40 acres of parks and green space. From wellness classes, waterfront events, concerts and movie nights, Baltimore Peninsula is activated throughout the year and invites all to come and enjoy the treasured spirit of Baltimore.



MORE HOMECOMING



Susan Clayton is the Founder and Owner of White Paws Run Mitts and was the 2022 Crab Tank Pitch Competition winner. Learn more about Susan on page 25.

03

CRAB TANK

About The Crab Tank Pitch Competition

PRESENTED BY

M&T Bank
Understanding what's important®

MEET OUR SPONSORS

Augie is currently the President of the Maryland Region for M&T Bank. Augie relocated to Baltimore in 2002 to help lead the integration of M&T's acquisition of Allfirst Financial. He and his family have called Baltimore home since then.



Jim Peterson is the V.P. and Small Business Ambassador, on the Multicultural Businesses Banking team for M&T Bank. Jim is a former business owner with over 25 years of business ownership, sales and entrepreneurial experience. Jim serves on the board of directors for the Empowerment Academy Charter School and Innovation Works Baltimore.

The Crab Tank Pitch Competition, sponsored by **M&T Bank**, was established to spotlight small to medium businesses, startups, and entrepreneurs in Baltimore. Five startup founders will compete for a chance to win \$25,000 in the pitch competition this year. The audience will decide a \$2,500 people's choice award.

"The five finalists selected to participate in the Crab Tank pitch competition embody the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit that Baltimore Homecoming seeks to amplify and support daily," said Matthew Reeds, Baltimore Homecoming's deputy director. "With M&T Bank's support, we're able to double down on our mission and help these businesses find success, thus mobilizing investment in our city."

"We recognize the value of investing in the growth and innovation of Baltimore's entrepreneurs," said Augie Chiasera, M&T's President of the Maryland Region. "Small businesses are essential to the foundation of our city's economy, and as a community-focused bank, it's an important part of our work to provide support and access to resources these entrepreneurs need to meet their financial and business goals."

The finalists were selected through an application process, then reviewed by Homecoming host committee members, community advisors, and previous Crab Tank participants. The Baltimore community was then asked to help us decide which companies should pitch through a public vote hosted by **The Baltimore Business Journal**.

The 2022 winner Susan Clayton, Founder of WhitePaws RunMitts, credits the competition with enabling the creation of her company's patented thumbless convertible mitten designed for outdoor sports.

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I couldn't think of a better place to grow and scale an organization than Baltimore.

- Arion Long, CEO & Founder, Femly

Learn more about Arion on page 55.



Pitching Companies

INVEST IN THESE COMPANIES TODAY



HIATUS CHEESECAKE is a wholesale cheesecake manufacturing company that works with the most premium and highest quality organic ingredients, has a nationwide deal with Kroger supermarkets, and is based out of the B-More Kitchen, a co-working kitchen space in Baltimore City.
www.hiatuscheesecake.com



KEPPEL AND KISMET based out of Open Works, seeks to be the premier manufacturing partner to creative entrepreneurs with small/micro product-based businesses, helping them gain greater access to the marketplace while creating jobs and inspiring new entrepreneurs in and around Baltimore.
www.keppelandkismet.com



NEXTSTEP ROBOTICS is revolutionizing stroke recovery by empowering survivors, therapists, and clinics with innovative, cost-effective robotic training solutions. Based out of the UM BioPark, the company has been working for over a decade to harness the power of neuroplasticity to drive lasting functional recovery, addressing foot drop and upper extremity impairments through its two products. www.nextstepprobo.com



REBOKEH was founded by Rebecca Rosenberg who was diagnosed with Oculocutaneous albinism at a young age. It is developing technology for the underserved of the underserved - people with moderate, uncorrectable vision impairments - and creating a world where everyone can Simply See.
www.rebokeh.com



TREEHOUSE JUICERY exists to provide a sustainable and accessible path to wellness for the entire family by creating healthy and delicious juice beverages that help to revitalize and renew, one bottle at a time. With a storefront on the way, the company sells its juices through subscriptions and packages.
www.treehousejuiceryonline.com

Semi-Finalists



SEW BROMO is creating access to fashion entrepreneur and technical training. Most importantly it's bringing together the various needle trade organizations to cluster together.
www.sewbromo.com



FROM BALTIMORE WITH LOVE (FBWL) is the perfect representation of the greatest city in America. As a creative agency producing positive content, specialty apparel, and experiences to engage with the community.
www.frombaltimorewithlove.com



STAYCATIONS ANONYMOUS mission is to make self-care a priority through curated local surprise getaways that put self-reflection, enjoyment and spontaneity back into life.
www.staycationsanonymous.com



VECTECH has developed an A.I. information platform for damaging insects. Our information and monitoring solutions help institutional clients save time and money over hiring full-time.
www.vectech.io



LINSHOM MEDICAL is the first to deliver an operating room quality respiratory profile to the patient bedside or home for continuous, predictive respiratory monitoring.
www.linshomforlife.com

CRAB TANK JUDGES



JEN COLLINS
PRESIDENT
PROCURE IMPACT

Learn more about Jen on page 38.



LUKE COOPER
GENERAL PARTNER & FOUNDER
LATIMER VENTRES

Luke Cooper is a multi-exited founder and M&A specialist with a JD/MBA from Syracuse and Babson. Early in his career he achieved more than a quarter of a billion dollars

of transactions as a corporate attorney at DLA Piper and in-house counsel with State Farm. He went on to build two VC-backed enterprise software companies, exiting both for 8-figure all cash deals to Fortune 300 buyers, as recently as 2020. Mr. Cooper is a product of abject poverty growing up in Bridgeport, Connecticut with a father in prison. He knows firsthand the importance of wealth creation and how to achieve it.



RUSHIKA FERNANDOPULLE
CO-FOUNDER
IORA HEALTH

Learn more about Rushika on page 39.



DAVID WARSCHAWSKI
CEO & FOUNDER
WARSCHAWSKI
MANAGING DIRECTOR & FOUNDER
W VENTURES

David founded Warschawski in 1996 to provide clients with the highest

quality of marketing communications services. Warschawski has been named "U.S. Small Agency of the Year" three years in a row and has won more than 200 industry awards. W Ventures is a one-of-a-kind accelerator that focuses on high growth potential companies based in or willing to relocate to the Baltimore/Washington region. David has been an investor in numerous deals spanning from early & mid-stage start-ups to publicly traded companies ranging from nanotechnology, cybersecurity, healthtech, to consumer products. He is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Studio Arts.

WATTE

ROYAL
OCTOBER JAZZ FEST
FEATURING CORINTHIA CROMWELL
FRI OCT 10 6 PM
AT LAURENS ST AND PENN AVE
410-669-5397



UPTON

Upton's history is a tapestry of architectural magnificence and transformation. In the 1830s, lawyer David Stewart commissioned the construction of a grand country villa designed by architect Robert Carey Long, Jr., which still stands today as the last surviving Greek Revival country house in Baltimore. Over the years the mansion changed hands, serving as a social hotspot for lavish parties, a radio station (WCAO) in 1930, and as the Baltimore Institute of Musical Arts, which provided education for African American students in the 1940s. The Baltimore City School System later occupied the building until 2006. In 2022, federal funding helped beautifully restore and transform the Upton Mansion into a community center which houses and showcases Baltimore's Afro news organization's valuable archives.



05
HOST COMMITTEE



JAMES PIPER BOND
PRESIDENT & CEO
LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION

After developing the Foundation's education programs, James became Executive Director in 1989 and was named President and CEO in 1995. He was an honoree for the 2021 Baltimore Sun Business and Civic Hall of Fame and the recipient of the 2019 Governor's Champion of Service Award. James is also the Chair of the Baltimore National Heritage Area.



JOHN BROTHERS
PRESIDENT
T. ROWE PRICE FOUNDATION

Dr. Brothers came from Quidoo, an international consulting firm he started and led for over a decade, merging the firm in 2016. Dr. Brothers served as an management and social policy professor for over a decade at NYU and Rutgers and served as a Visiting Fellow at the Hauser Center at Harvard. He is currently serving as an International Advisor to CO3, an organization serving Northern Ireland and works with the China Global Philanthropy Institute in Beijing.



SUSAN CLAYTON
OWNER & INVENTOR
WHITEPAWS RUNMITTS

Susan created patented mittens for runners like herself. Formerly a running coach aiding shelter residents, Susan invented RunMitts to address cold morning finger and thumb warmth issues. WhitePaws RunMitts, a product for outdoor enthusiasts, gained recognition as one of 2 Black Owned Outdoor Sports Gear companies in 2020. Founded in 2016 as an e-commerce venture, RunMitts now stocks REI and boutique stores nationwide.



DEBBIE DORSEY
DIRECTOR
BALTIMORE FILM OFFICE

After backpacking through Europe post-Towson University, Debbie combined her passions for travel, photography, and people in a 30-year career. She worked as a Location Manager on renowned productions like "Avalon," "Serial Mom," and "Homicide: Life on the Street," exploring Baltimore and Maryland's beauty. As Director of the Baltimore Film Office since 2007, Debbie showcases the city's charm to filmmakers. She also aids Maryland's film industry by being a founding board member of the Maryland Film Industry Coalition, collaborating with state leaders for industry improvements.



MARGARET FALZON
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
SQUADRA VENTURES

Squadra is a Baltimore-based venture fund that invests in early-stage cyber and national security companies advancing the critical edge. In her role, Margaret works with startup teams to drive operational efficiency, build with an enterprise mindset, and accelerate go-to-market strategy. Margaret has been a force in Baltimore's tech community, having helped to lead and advocate for several of the city's most influential ventures.



RODNEY FOXWORTH
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO
WORTHMORE, INC.

Rodney started Worthmore, Inc., a strategic advisory and venture development firm. He previously served as CEO of Common Future, a social enterprise that envisions an inclusive economy where all have power and ownership, regardless of race or class. Rodney is a Skoll Awardee for Social Innovation and an Inaugural Ford Global Fellow. He is a board director of Nonprofit Finance Fund, Race Forward, Rhia Ventures, RockHealth, and SOCAP Global.



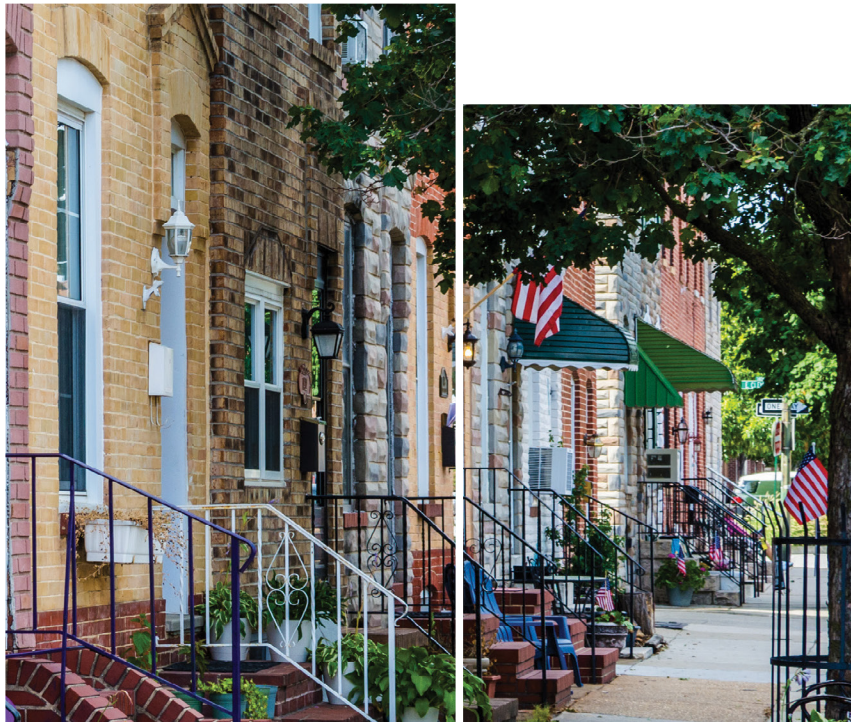
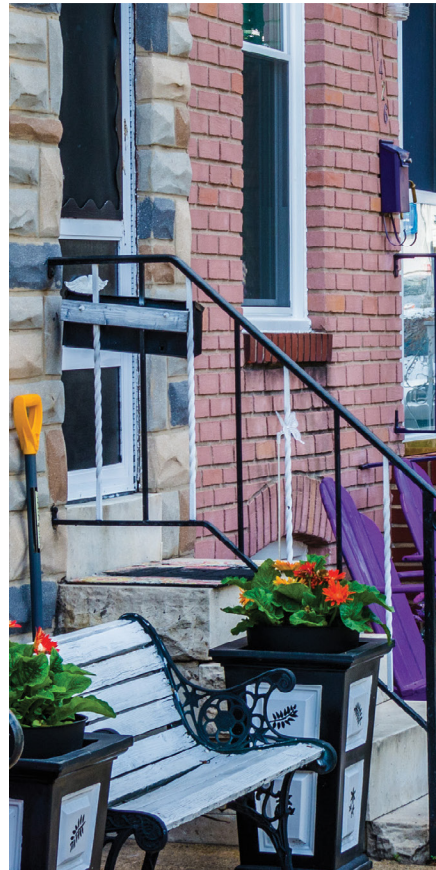
AMY BURKE FRIEDMAN
OWNER AND CEO
PROFILES

Amy brings over two decades of expertise to her role as owner and CEO of the public relations and marketing firm PROFILES. During that time, Amy has supported the work of many clients including the Greater Baltimore Committee, Waterfront Partnership, T. Rowe Price, WYPR, and the National Aquarium. Amy is a graduate of Western High School and the University of Maryland. She's a board member of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance and of The Associated's Jewish Professional Women network.



ELIZA GRAHAM
CHIEF OF STAFF
CONSCIOUS VENTURE PARTNERS

Eliza combines marketing expertise with community-building to create lasting change. From EMI Music to SHIFT Society, she empowers individuals and organizations for positive impact. With roles on nonprofit boards and 6.5 years as Chief Impact Officer at SHIFT, Eliza shaped mission-driven entrepreneurs' efforts. She fosters change within businesses and communities, reflecting her dedication to meaningful transformation.



PROUD TO BE BALTIMORE®

Our commitment to positive change is supported through sponsorships, youth programming, volunteerism, and pro bono service. We are an organization of difference-makers, focused on transforming communities.

troweprice.com/responsibility



**SETH HAMED
PRIVATE INVESTOR**

For 30 years, Seth excelled in Institutional Investment- covering analysis, portfolio management, and equity research sales. As Managing Director at Stifel and co-founder at Legg Mason's Capital Markets, he shaped the industry. Now returning to Baltimore after advising in Boston, he's a seasoned Chartered Financial Analyst and active CFA Institute and CFA Society member.



**JONATHAN HESS
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
THE WHITING-TURNER CONTRACTING COMPANY**

With a B.S. in Industrial & Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech (1992) and an MBA from Loyola (1999), Jonathan began at Whiting-Turner as a Project Engineer. He excelled in diverse projects, especially science + technology for various owners. An active Whiting-Turner Science + Technology Coordinator, he now manages operations in Maryland and Florida. Additionally, he oversees Business Development, Cost & Scheduling, and Industry Excellence groups.



**SAMUEL HOI
PRESIDENT
MARYLAND INSTITUTE COLLEGE OF ART (MICA)**

An adept leader in higher education, Sammy champions art, design education, and creative professionals for societal, economic, and cultural advancement. At MICA, he pioneered the MICROpreneurship program, introducing entrepreneurship for art and design students, a first among U.S. art schools. Before MICA, he presided over Otis College of Art and Design for 14 years, driving innovative partnerships and community engagement.



**KATHY HOLLINGER
PRESIDENT
GREATER WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP**

Formerly the President and CEO of Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington (RAMW), Kathy led the association through remarkable growth and innovation from 2012 to 2022. As RAMW's advocate, she fostered industry development, navigating legislative landscapes, providing resources, and pioneering renowned events such as the internationally acclaimed RAMMY Awards. Prior to RAMW, she founded and led strategic communications firm STORYBOARD.



**APRIL HOUSE
CREATIVE ARTS LEADER**

April holds a Communication Design degree from Atlanta College of Art. With diverse freelance design experience, she excels in project assessment and leadership. As the Baltimore Business Journal's (BBJ) Event Director for 6 years, she orchestrates events, including scripting, video editing, and voiceovers. Having garnered design awards in advertising and editorial categories, she spent 12 years as BBJ's Advertising/Editorial Designer and 3 years at Atlanta Business Chronicle. Beyond business, April is a multi-medium artist whose encaustic and acrylic abstract works have been showcased in Baltimore group shows, including Lord Baltimore Bakery until March 2023.



**BRUCE JARRELL
PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE (UMB)**

Dr. Jarrell previously served as interim president guiding the University's efforts to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Since he joined UMB in 1997, Dr. Jarrell has held numerous leadership roles including provost, chief academic and research officer, senior vice president, executive vice president, and dean of the Graduate School. He also oversaw the creation of MPowering the State, UMB's innovative and structured collaboration with the University of Maryland, College Park. In addition to being a board-certified transplant surgeon, Dr. Jarrell is an accomplished metalsmith and a member of the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland.



**JULIE KERNAN
PRESIDENT & CEO
BUSINESS VOLUNTEERS MARYLAND**

Julie leads Business Volunteers Maryland where she drives professional engagement with nonprofits, offers CSR training, and fosters community involvement. Leading the staff and Board, she shapes the long-term vision, working closely with business and nonprofit leaders. Formerly VP for Global Account Management at Prometric, she led that company's women's leadership group, connecting them with volunteering opportunities. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women (BLSYW).



Helping businesses thrive is important.

At M&T Bank, we understand that small business is the lifeblood of any thriving community. Which is why we are committed to providing our support and keeping our lending decisions local. [See what we can do for your business at your neighborhood branch or **mtb.com** today.](#)

M&T Bank is a proud supporter of Baltimore Homecoming.



JON LARIA
MANAGING PARTNER
BALLARD SPAHR'S BALTIMORE OFFICE

Jon is leading the firm's real estate practice, and a member of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Council. He handles diverse commercial real estate matters, including development, finance, acquisition, and leasing. Jon is skilled in land use and zoning law, advising on prominent Baltimore development projects. Previously, he worked with a major Baltimore developer, gaining valuable industry experience. Jon's leadership includes being the founding Chair of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission, overseeing state planning and policy progress.



TRISH MCCLEAN
CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER
VISIT BALTIMORE

With 30 years of experience in advertising and brand strategy, Trish joined Visit Baltimore, the city's destination marketing organization responsible for driving positive economic impact through the attraction of visitors, meetings, and conventions. She joined Visit Baltimore to help craft a more authentic story for our diverse city in collaboration with partners and local creatives. Trish helped to launch a brand revolution and marketing campaign that has been embraced across the city and serves as a model for destinations throughout the country.



JAMIE MCDONALD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
UPSURGE BALTIMORE

Jamie is an experienced entrepreneur, movement builder, speaker, and workshop leader. Prior to UpSurge, she advised global entrepreneurs, social innovators, and impact-focused executives. Launched in 2021, UpSurge Baltimore aims to propel the city into the top innovation tier as the country's first Equitech city. Anchored in diverse teams and perspectives, UpSurge cultivates high-impact startups for sustainable job growth, focusing on quality jobs and equitable development. The mission is to create a tech hub without negative consequences like dislocation and wealth disparity.

"We are bursting at the seams with innovation. So I encourage every person to amplify the story of this Baltimore."

- Ellington West, Co-Founder & CEO, Sonavi Labs and 2019 Crab Tank Entrepreneur.



NEIL MELTZER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH

Neil is leading LifeBridge Health's transformation into an integrated healthcare delivery system through strategic growth, acquisitions, and partnerships like Carroll Hospital and Grace Medical Center. With a focus on community-oriented care, Neil's public health background drives his leadership. He actively participates on various boards such as the Greater Baltimore Committee, Maryland Hospital Association, and Notre Dame of Maryland University. Nationally, he was appointed as the national board chair of the American Heart Association, the national healthcare workforce commission by President Obama, and recently as the national chair of Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education for CMS, showcasing his extensive influence in healthcare advisory efforts.



HELEN MONTAG
SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT
JOHNS HOPKINS TECHNOLOGY VENTURES (JHTV)

JHTV is the commercialization arm of Johns Hopkins University. In this role, Helen is responsible for strategic efforts to grow the innovation ecosystem in Baltimore. She spent 12 years on the board (the last two as president) of Samuel Ready Scholarships, a Baltimore based non-profit which provides full tuition for girls from disadvantaged backgrounds at Baltimore area private schools.



JASON MURPHY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MURPHY ENTERPRISES

Jason oversees the Baltimore-based company driving community impact, workforce development, inclusion, and sustainability. The company encompasses businesses in construction, logistics, transportation, technology, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultation. Raised in Baltimore, Jason had a renowned football career at Edmondson High School, followed by an NFL journey with the Seattle Seahawks, Tennessee Titans, and Baltimore Ravens. After retiring, he's successfully ventured into business, focusing on economic equity and hiring practices for marginalized citizens. Recognized by Baltimore's Equity and Civil Rights office and a Baltimore Business Journal 40 Under 40 awardee in 2021, he's a standout in both sports and business.

Powering a Strong Baltimore

Thank you Baltimore Homecoming for bringing Baltimoreans together to spark new collaborations and drive new investments in Baltimore's future.



**OLACHI OPARA
PARTNER, PORTFOLIO MANAGER
BROWN ADVISORY**

Olachi works with the portfolio management team to help manage the balanced accounts of their private clients. She joined Brown Advisory in 2007 from T. Rowe Price where she

served as a retail specialist. She is a board Member of Invest In Girls, Maryland SPCA, One Love Foundation, Board Member, and Signal 13 Foundation.



**KEVIN PEARSON
VICE CHAIRMAN
M&T BANK**

Kevin oversees Commercial, Credit, Technology, and Banking Operations Divisions with M&T Bank. He is part of the Management Committee, New York City / Long Island Directors Advisory

Council, and more. As trustee of M&T Real Estate and chairman of M&T Realty Capital, he's deeply involved. With a career dating back to 1989, Pearson held roles such as Regional President and NYC Metro-Area Executive. He joined the Management Committee in 2002, becoming Vice Chairman in 2014. His multifaceted roles contribute to M&T Bank's strategic operations and growth.



**DEBBIE PHELPS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

Debbie is an innovative leader and master teacher with 40+ years of experience. The dedicated mother of three and grandmother of six is also a

sought- after motivational speaker and author. Beginning as a teacher in 1974, she rose through roles as team leader and department chair, which prepared her for success in administration. With achievements like a food science lab and award-winning curriculum, she's been part of launching two middle schools. Honored with titles like Teacher of the Year Finalist and Maryland Family & Consumer Science Teacher of the Year, her commitment to education shines. She also received the Paul Harris Fellow Award from Hunt Valley Rotary Club for her contributions.

"There's so many assets in Baltimore that you could make investments in. A good investment would lead to kids, communities, families, having opportunity here."

- Dan Porterfield - CEO, The Aspen Institute and Baltimore Alum.



**JOHN RACANELLI
PRESIDENT AND CEO
NATIONAL AQUARIUM**

John leads a diverse and talented team of employees and volunteers in pursuing the Aquarium's mission to inspire conservation of the world's aquatic treasures and in welcoming

11 million guests annually. John also spent 16 years in leadership positions at other U.S. aquariums. John was the first CEO of the Florida Aquarium in Tampa, where he built the facility, team and vision for Tampa Bay's leading cultural attraction. He joined the world-renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium one year prior to its opening, and served for nine years on its leadership team as VP of marketing and development. While in college, John began his career as a diver and aquarist - experiences that he credits with giving him great appreciation for the work of everyone on the Aquarium team.



**MARY ANN SCULLY
DEAN
SELLINGER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND
MANAGEMENT AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
MARYLAND**

Mary Ann serves as the Dean of the Sellinger School of Business & Management at Loyola University

and is active in board leadership with the Enoch Pratt Library, Mount St. Joseph High School District, and Capital Bank. Mary Ann was the co-founder, former CEO, and Chairperson of the Board of Howard Bank, growing its size to \$2B until its merger with FNB of Pennsylvania in 2022. A seasoned entrepreneur and community leader, she has committed her efforts to growing the impact of Baltimore City companies.



**NOAH SMOCK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BALTIMORE COMMUNITY TOOLBANK**

Noah leads efforts to provide community organizations with access to tools, equipment, and expertise to strengthen neighborhoods. He is an active board member of the South

Baltimore Gateway Partnership, focusing on sustainability and community development. His dedication to community development has earned him recognition as a Birdland Community Hero by the Baltimore Orioles (2019) and a Homecoming Hero (2022).

CHANGING THE WORLD BEGINS AT HOME

We welcome you home to our vibrant community. We celebrate all the innovators, thinkers and doers of Baltimore's past, present and future.

And we're proud to CARE BRAVELY for the people of Baltimore every day.



LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH
CARE BRAVELY



ERIC SOMERVILLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
VENTURE FOR AMERICA

Eric leads Venture for America, an organization that supports the growth of diverse ecosystems across American cities by developing entrepreneurial talent and providing access through programs, networks, and resources. Eric was previously VP of Corporate & Civic Engagement at The Y in Central Maryland. He led civic and corporate initiatives strengthening community connections and impacting positive change. He lives in Baltimore with his wife Nelle and serves as a Samaritan Community board member.



LATOYA STATEN
DIRECTOR OF IMPACT
FEARLESS

LaToya serves as the Director of Impact with Fearless. With her expertise and leadership, LaToya guides Fearless in utilizing its business to make a positive difference in the world. She collaborates with all departments within the organization to identify and implement impactful initiatives that benefit our communities, customers, and team members.



TANYA TERRELL
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
COMMUNITY IMPACT
BGE

Tanya oversees workforce development and corporate relations in central Maryland to enhance impact in underserved communities. Tanya establishes partnerships with community organizations, colleges, and anchor institutions, aligning BGE's community strategy with needs through data analytics. She leads Corporate Community Impact with a focus on enduring programs, including strategic giving, workforce development, and strategy management. With a background in nonprofits and education, Tanya brings expertise from roles at The Leadership, South Baltimore Learning Center, and Associated Black Charities, emphasizing workforce development.



"I think that Baltimore is so well positioned. We have amazing higher education here... arts and cultural programs. Baltimore could be really the entrepreneurial hub of the east coast."

- Adena T. Friedman - CEO, Nasdaq



CHRISSY THORNTON
PRESIDENT & CEO
ASSOCIATED BLACK CHARITIES

A native New Yorker, Chrissy is a dynamic, creative, and outgoing executive known for her professionalism and diverse expertise. She possesses a unique blend of technical, managerial, and communication skills, combined with excellent organizational and team-building abilities. With a twenty-year background in successful fundraising, donor relations, and event management, Chrissy has demonstrated her expertise in organizational diagnosis, staff development, and innovative engagement activities.



ALEX TRIANTIS
DEAN
JOHNS HOPKINS CAREY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Alex is the third dean of the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. He is an esteemed leader in corporate financial strategy and valuation, known for his personable and pragmatic approach to consensus-building around strategic visions. Prior to this role, he served as dean at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland from 2013 to 2019.



DORIAN WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FAMILY SURVIVOR NETWORK

A lifelong resident deeply connected to his community, Dorian is dedicated to reforming the systems that impact daily life while addressing systemic injustices through innovative solutions. Recognized as a 2022 Baltimore Homecoming Hero, Dorian's roots in Baltimore's public schools and universities have fueled his commitment to the city's well-being.



NICHOLE BACCALA WARD
PRESIDENT
TBC

Nichole has more than 22 years of global marketing and leadership expertise, 20 of which have been devoted to TBC, where she has risen from new business coordinator at the age of 23 to her current role as president. Recognized as one of The Baltimore Sun's "25 Women to Watch" in 2018, The Daily Record's "Leading Women" in 2016 and the Baltimore Business Journal's "40 Under 40" in 2014, Nichole's innovation in advertising, dedication to her community, and strong leadership continue to cement TBC's position as a trusted expert in the industry.



ATIYA WELLS
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BACKYARD BASECAMP, INC.

Atiya founded and oversees Backyard Basecamp, Inc. – a nonprofit with a mission to (re)connect Black, Indigenous, and People of Color to land and nature. By diving into research and history, Atiya learned that historical trauma is a key player in the lack of diversity in environmental programming. She has since dedicated her time to (re) introducing her community to nature by starting in their own backyards and eventually embarking on a journey into the many green spaces across Baltimore.



ELLINGTON WEST
CO-FOUNDER & CEO
SONAVI LABS

Ellington founded Sonavi Labs, a medical device and software company. Their groundbreaking product, Feelix, is an intelligent stethoscope integrated with an AI-powered platform, capable of identifying and tracking respiratory abnormalities with the accuracy of a trained physician through advanced machine learning. She is a champion of diversity, notably being one of the few Black women to secure over \$1M in funding for her venture. Her commitment extends to promoting women in leadership roles and fostering diversity in healthcare and venture capital.



That's the thing that I really love about Baltimore is our grit, our innovation, and our drive. So let's show the world how dope we are and let's do some work.

- Chris Wilson - Artist, Author, & Social Entrepreneur and 2022 Baltimore Homecoming Co-Chair

Learn more about Chris on page 49.



WATTE



GREENMOUNT WEST

Greenmount West, a historic Baltimore neighborhood, was established in the 19th century as a residential area for workers in nearby factories. Over time it has transformed into a vibrant hub for arts and culture. The emergence of the Station North Arts and Entertainment District has made Greenmount West a center for creativity and a lively arts scene. It boasts galleries, theaters, and studios that attract artists and creative professionals. Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) is integral to the neighborhood's cultural and educational fabric. The Lebow Building's reinvention as the Baltimore Design School in 2013 stands as a testament to historic preservation and state and federal tax credits. Additionally, the historic 1600 Guilford Ave. building has continued its educational legacy as home to the Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School, serving Baltimore City's children. The building also gained fame as the location for the fictional Edward J. Tilghman Middle School in HBO's "The Wire." The proximity to Penn Station's regional and commuter rail services has made the area a transportation hub.

Historic photo - Kevin Mueller



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ALUMNI GUESTS



RACHEL BENDIT
BOARD MEMBER
BALTIMORE HOMECOMING

Learn more about Rachel on page 53.

Currently based: Ann Arbor, MI
Baltimore Alma Mater: Park School



VINCENT BETTER
VICE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY CITY DISTRICT

Vincent serves as UCD's Vice President, Strategic Advancement. He has 20+ years of experience in digital media consulting, business strategy, organizational leadership, and team building & development. Vincent earned his undergrad and an MBA in IT Management from Temple University's Fox School of Business. He is a volunteer with ManUp Philadelphia, an officer with a black-owned investment club, and on the advisory board for Temple's MS in Digital Marketing Program. Vincent remains connected to his hometown of Baltimore, and is a #GirlDad to his only child, Gabrielle, and an avid cyclist.

Currently based: Philadelphia, PA
Baltimore Alma Mater: Park School



TERRI BOWLES
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
THE NEW SCHOOL & IONA UNIVERSITY

Terri Prettyman Bowles is an Adjunct Professor of Media and Communication at The New School in NYC and at Iona University in New Rochelle, NY. Terri is the Special Advisor to the Provost at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx. Terri co-founded Daughters of Eve Media, which curates film screenings and panels at the American Black Film Festival. She serves as an arts consultant for Mosaic Genius, an incubator of Black wealth and entrepreneurship. Terri is an investor and co-producer in Broadway productions and is a board member on several New York-area educational and arts organizations.

Currently based: New Rochelle, NY
Baltimore Alma Maters: Roland Park Middle School; Western High School



KISHA BROWN
FOUNDER & CEO
JUSTIS CONNECTION

Kisha A. Brown, Esq., is the Founder & CEO of legal tech startup Justis Connection, an online marketplace dedicated to the Black experience in the law. She is passionate

about bringing diverse perspectives to legal tech and democratizing access to the law. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the Baltimore City Civil Rights Office and Director of Legislative Affairs and head of the Civil Rights Division for the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, and held positions at the GBC and Baltimore Legal Aid Bureau. She attended Wellesley College and Georgetown University Law Center.

Currently based: College Park, MD
Connection to Baltimore: Worked in Baltimore 2005-2018



JOSH CHARLES
ACTOR

Josh is an Emmy®, Golden Globe®, SAG award-nominated film, television, and stage actor. Recently filming the FX limited series "The Veil" with Elizabeth Moss and HBO's "We Own the City". He starred in THE GOOD

WIFE, and received two Emmy nominations and a Golden Globe nomination. Josh's first feature film role was John Waters' 1986 film HAIRSPRAY. Upcoming he can be seen in MEMORY and MOTHERS INSTINCT. Recent Broadway credits include STRAIGHT WHITE MEN, and THE ANTIPODES. Josh is an avid sports fan, especially for the Ravens & Orioles.

Currently Based: New York City
Baltimore Alma Mater: Baltimore School for The Arts



KEEFE CLEMONS
TECHNOLOGY MEDIA &
TELECOM ATTORNEY
(CIPP/US)

Keefe is an experienced Technology, Media & Telecommunications Attorney. He previously served as a regional Vice President and General Counsel

for Verizon Communications Inc., with responsibility for legal and regulatory issues in the East Region.. Before joining Verizon, Mr. Clemons was a litigation attorney at Goodwin Procter LLP and Hogan Lovells LLP. He received his law degree from Harvard Law School, holds a Master's degree from Oxford University in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, and has a Bachelor's degree in Urban Affairs from Princeton University. He grew up in the neighborhood of Sandtown-Winchester.

Currently based: Boston, MA
Baltimore Alma Mater: Gilman School



**JENNIFER COLLINS
PRESIDENT
PROCURE IMPACT**

Jen is a purpose-driven leader who has created a platform for success across a wide range of focus areas including real estate, hospitality, social impact, education, humanitarian causes,

and wellness. Procure Impact is a B2B marketplace that connects employment social enterprises with corporate buyers - giving corporations a tangible and measurable way to achieve their ESG and supplier diversity goals by shifting their purchasing power to products produced by impact-driven enterprises. Jen is a graduate of St. Paul's School for Girls and Cornell University, where she was a member of the Women's Varsity Basketball team.

Currently based: Chevy Chase, MD
Baltimore Alma Mater: St. Paul's School



**TIM CONNELLY
PRESIDENT
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES**

Currently based: Minneapolis, MN
Baltimore Alma Mater: Towson Catholic



**LIRIS CROSSE
MODEL / ACTRESS**

Liris, dubbed "The Body" & "The Naomi Campbell Of Plus" by the Daily Mail UK, is a model/actress & pioneer in the fashion industry for full-figured & Black women. Featured in American Vogue, Essence, British Cosmopolitan, and

Marie Claire, she has been named to the Huffington Post "Top Ten Most Popular Plus Models" and Dose.com "Top 20 Models Destroying Traditional Beauty Standards." Liris was the first Black plus size model to walk in a Project Runway finale (season 14) and was part of the first plus models in weekly designer challenge (season 16). Recently she walked in NYFW, garnering great visibility for the plus-size market.

Currently based: New York City, NY
Baltimore Alma Mater: Randallstown High



**EMILY DABISH YAHKIND
FOUNDER
SOLSUMMIT**

Lisi Bailliere Dean is Senior Vice President and Private Emily is the Founder (or Chief Wine Lady) of SolSummit, a premium and certified sustainable canned wine company,

who partners with family vineyards to support sustainable business and agricultural practices. She serves as the Michigan Advisor for CIV:LAB - an NYC-based nonprofit. Previous roles include policy work with the Detroit City Council and Michigan Governor Snyder. Emily is a graduate of the University of Michigan & Johns Hopkins University and is a member of the JHU Alumni Council. She serves as a Planning Commissioner and volunteers for various charitable groups.

Currently based: Ann Arbor, MI
Baltimore Alma Mater: Johns Hopkins University



**MIKE DEPEW
HEAD OF CLIENT & PARTNERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
MONKEYPOD**

Mike Depew is Head of Client and Partnership Development at MonkeyPod. He works with organizations to leverage their people,

technology, and data in order to generate greater impact in the world. Mike is a seasoned mentor and educator and is passionate about supporting underserved communities. He earned his MBA and BS in economics and political science, from Towson University. Mike serves on the board of directors for the Children's Mental Health Resource Center.

Currently based: Seattle, WA
Baltimore Alma Mater: Loch Raven High School & Towson University



**THOMASENIA DUNCAN
PANEL EXECUTIVE
U.S. JUDICIAL PANEL ON
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION**

Tommie leads the legal, administrative, and operational staff that support the MDL Panel (which consists of seven federal judges who are appointed to serve on the Panel by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court). Previously, she served as General Counsel to the Federal Election Commission, The Alliance for Youth, and the Corporation for National & Community Service. She has served on Boards including DC Rape Crisis Center, Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School, and Washington Area Women's Foundation. Tommie is a graduate of Brown University and UPenn Law School.

Currently based: Washington, DC
Baltimore Alma Mater: Roland Park Country School



**BETSY FADER
PHILANTHROPY CONSULTANT
THE HO FAMILY FOUNDATION
AND THE CAMEL HILL FUND**

Betsy has spent her career in the nonprofit sector, first as a 20-something executive director of a national nonprofit exploring issues at the

junction of science, technology, and society, before transitioning to the giving side of the grant-making desk. Betsy moved to NYC to help establish the Doris Duke Foundation and then worked with two other large philanthropies in a variety of strategic and leadership roles. She now consults with foundations providing strategic planning, operational, and grant-making assistance.

Currently based: New York City, NY
Baltimore Alma Mater: Friends School



**DR. RUSHIKA FERNANDOPULLE
CO-FOUNDER
IORA HEALTH**

Rushika is a practicing physician who was co-founder and CEO of Iora Health. Prior to this, he was the first Executive Director of the Harvard Interfaculty Program for Health Systems

Improvement, and Managing Director of the Clinical Initiatives Center at the Advisory Board Company. He serves on the staff at the Massachusetts General Hospital, on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, and on the board of Families USA. He earned his A.B., M.D., and M.P.P. from Harvard University, and completed his clinical training at the University of Pennsylvania and MGH.

Currently based: Cambridge, MA
Baltimore Alma Mater: Gilman School



**TODD FOREMAN
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
USC MARSHALL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

Todd is a native of Baltimore and a proud graduate of Pikesville High School. Todd co-owned and served as CEO of UCG, based in Gaithersburg, MD, making an impact on the Maryland

economy. Todd also co-owned the NBA's Atlanta Hawks and Philips Arena until 2015. Todd is an investor and an Adjunct Professor at USC Marshall School of Business.

Currently based: Potomac, MD
Baltimore Alma Mater: Pikesville High School



**DEANA FRANK
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
REDF**

As Director of Development, Deana leads the team that manages revenue generation from individual donors and institutional funders at REDF. Previously, she led the Elijah Cummings

Youth Program and managed a scholarship program for first-generation college students. Deana holds degrees from Boston University, Georgetown University and University of Pennsylvania. She is a board member of Samuel Ready Scholarships, Inc., an organization that provides academically promising young women financial aid to attend Baltimore-area independent high schools.

Currently based: Philadelphia, PA
Baltimore Alma Mater: Friends School



**DAVID GILDEA
FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER
SMITH, GILDEA & SCHMIDT**

David is the Founder and Managing Partner of the firm and practices in the area of real estate development, land use, zoning, and real estate transactions. David has represented

entities ranging from large federal agencies to NYSE-traded homebuilders and REITs to local land developers and retailers in obtaining development and entitlement approvals. He has been involved in many large-scale projects in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and is knowledgeable about the Growth Allocation process and obtaining approvals in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.

Currently based: Palm Springs, FL / Stevenson, MD
Baltimore Alma Mater: St. Paul's School for Boys; University of Baltimore School of Law



**ROBERT GOLDSTEIN
MANAGING DIRECTOR & VICE
CHAIRMAN FIG NORTH AMERICA
CITIGROUP**

Robert has four decades of experience in the banking industry, and currently serves as Managing Director and Vice Chairman of FIG North America,

Citigroup. He is a graduate of the University of Baltimore's MBA program, and currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center.

Currently based: New York City, NY
Baltimore Alma Mater: University of Baltimore



CONTINENTAL
REALTY
CORPORATION

CRC congratulates our CEO, J.M. Schapiro
for the co-founding of

BALTIMORE HOMECOMING

#BMOREHOME



Headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland and founded in 1960, Continental Realty Corporation is a full-service commercial real estate and investment company focused on acquiring and operating retail and multifamily properties. The privately held firm owns and manages a diversified portfolio of retail centers consisting of nearly eight million square feet of commercial space and over 9,000 apartment homes across 10 states, with a portfolio value exceeding \$3.6 billion. For additional information, visit www.crcrealty.com.



**JUDGE LYDIA KAY GRIGGSBY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

Judge Lydia Kay Griggsby was sworn in as a United States District Judge on July 23, 2021. She was nominated by President Biden on March 30, 2021, and confirmed by the Senate on June 16, 2021. Prior to her confirmation, Judge

Griggsby served as a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims since her appointment by President Barack Obama on December 5, 2014.

Currently based: Washington, DC
Baltimore Alma Mater: Park School



**BORIS M. GUTIN
CO-MANAGING PARTNER
GCP CAPITAL PARTNERS**

Boris M. Gutin was born and raised in the Baltimore/Randallstown area. Boris is a proud 1996 graduate of Johns Hopkins University and currently serves as Co-Managing Partner of GCP Capital,

where he has been since 2003. GCP Capital Partners is focused on middle market and growth equity in private cos in financials, fintech/payments, and other tech-enabled business services. Boris has remained committed to and invested in Baltimore. He served as a board member of First Mariner Bank (later acquired by Howard Bank).

Currently based: New York City, NY
Baltimore Alma Mater: Randallstown HS; Johns Hopkins University



**ANGELA HARRIS
EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DANCE CANVAS, INC.**

Angela is the Executive Artistic Director of Dance Canvas, a career development organization for choreographers and youth in Atlanta, GA. Angela attended City College of New York while training

at Dance Theatre of Harlem and Steps on Broadway. Choreographic credits include Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Song & Dance', for which she won the 2022 Suzi Bass award. She has created for Usher's New Look Foundation and Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation. She serves on the Atlanta Mayor's Arts Advisory Council and is on faculty at Emory University, Spelman College, and Dekalb School for the Arts.

Currently based: Lithonia, GA
Baltimore Alma Mater: The Baltimore School for the Arts; Bryn Mawr School



**ELIZABETH HOLDER
FILMMAKER**

Elizabeth is an award-winning filmmaker and storyteller with a diverse portfolio. Her experience spans from directing the heartwarming children's show "Blue's Clues" to crafting deeply impactful documentaries including "I Want So

Much to Live," which won the Bronze Anvil Award from PRSA for its groundbreaking focus on targeted therapy for breast cancer. With additional notable works like "Weekend Getaway," "Risk/Reward," and the IDA Award-nominated series "The Hill," Elizabeth has solidified her reputation as a multifaceted talent in both direction and production.

Currently based: New York City, NY
Baltimore Alma Mater: Friends; Bryn Mawr; Baltimore School for Arts



**JUSTINE HONG
GENERAL MANAGER
TITAN AVIATION US**

Justine is a General Manager at Titan Aviation US, a worldwide aircraft services provider offering customized aircraft management, aircraft sales, private jet charter, and continuing

airworthiness management organization (CAMO) services. She previously held a career working at creative branding agencies and public relations before entering aviation. Justine attended The Bryn Mawr School and would regularly visit her father who worked at MedStar Harbor for more than 10 years. She loves to golf on the weekends and currently lives in Northern Virginia.

Currently based: McLean, VA
Baltimore Alma Mater: Bryn Mawr



**JENNIFER HRABOWSKI
ADMINISTRATOR
CLINIC OPERATIONS -
EMORY HEALTHCARE**

Jennifer is an experienced healthcare leader with a 25-year journey to her current position at Emory Healthcare in Atlanta. Her educational foundation

includes degrees from the University of Maryland, Baltimore and Johns Hopkins University. She actively engages Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Ivy Community Foundation, United Way, Junior League, Leadership Perimeter, and many more. Jennifer's contributions have earned accolades such as recognition from Diversity MBA Magazine (Top 100 Under 50 Leaders), Atlanta Business League (100 Women of Influence), and Maryland Daily Record (Top 100 Women).

Currently based: Roswell, GA
Baltimore Alma Mater: UMBC; University of Maryland Baltimore; Johns Hopkins University



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MICHAEL KELLY
ACTOR

With an expansive list of film and television credits spanning more than 20 years, Michael Kelly is known best for his Emmy-nominated role as “Doug Stamper” in “House of Cards.” Michael called Baltimore home during the six seasons of filming the series and has been an advocate since. His recent credits include “Tom Clancy’s Jack Ryan,” “Special OPS: Lioness,” “The Penguin,” “All Square,” and many other top-tier productions. Michael has performed in such plays as Arthur Penn’s production of “Major Crimes” and Theatre Studio’s “Miss Julie” as well as in a production of “In Search of Strindberg”.

Currently based: New York City, NY

Connection to Baltimore: Self-Proclaimed lover of Baltimore



HILARY PHELPS
FOUNDER
HILARY PHELPS CREATIVE

Hilary is the founder of Hilary Phelps Creative. This creative content, public relations, and digital marketing firm focuses on digital, print, social, and television content creation; media management; integrated marketing; brand narrative development; event planning; and strategic partnerships across a range of industries with an emphasis on fashion, fitness, wellness, health, and start-ups. Hilary is a graduate of the University of Richmond, where she was a four-year scholarship swimmer and served as a student leader on the university’s volunteer action committee.

Currently based: Washington, DC

Connection to Baltimore: Born and raised in Towson, MD



CHIP LINEHAN
CO-CEO & CO-FOUNDER
BUILDING 21

Chip serves as Co-CEO of Building 21, a non-profit that partners with communities, families, students, educators, and school districts to reimagine schooling. The organization supports over 50 schools and districts, serving more than 15,000 students. Previously, Chip spent 20 years at NEA, the largest venture capital firm in the world, where he headed up their Healthcare Investing Practice. In 1997, Chip co-founded The SMART Program, which provides children in San Francisco with educational opportunities. Chip holds a bachelor’s degree in Government and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Harvard.

Currently based: Philadelphia, PA

Baltimore Alma Mater: Gilman School



NATHANIEL MARGOLIES
PRIVATE WEALTH ADVISOR
GOLDMAN SACHS

Nathaniel is a Private Wealth Advisor at Goldman Sachs, where he advises individuals, family groups, and non-profit organizations. Nathaniel attended Washington University in St. Louis obtaining degrees in Chemistry and Economics and a minor in Music. Nathaniel began his career at Epic Systems in Madison, WI before returning to school for an MBA at the University of North Carolina’s Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Currently based: Philadelphia, PA

Baltimore Alma Mater: McDonogh School



PAUL PEOU
CONSULTANT
PAUL PEOU LLC

Paul supports clients of various sizes in the defense, government, and intelligence community. He has focused on supporting a variety of businesses grow through strategic acquisitions on the buy-side as well as sell-side M&A management including capital and corporate structuring, corporate divestitures/restructurings, employee equity plans, and exit strategy planning. Paul is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a varsity athlete as a coxswain for UPenn’s Heavyweight rowing team. He continues to be involved in rowing and is a member of the Potomac Boat Club.

Currently based: Alexandria, VA

Connection to Baltimore: Paul worked with clients in Baltimore.



TRAY MCCURDY
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
1SHARPE CAPITAL

Tray focuses on Business Development and ESG for Bay Area-based real estate and venture capital investment manager, 1Sharpe Capital. Prior to 1Sharpe Tray worked at startups (LendingHome) and asset management firms (Pantheon, Deutsche Bank). After growing up in Baltimore, Tray graduated from UMD at College Park.

Currently based: Washington, DC

Baltimore Alma Mater: Saint Paul’s School



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PHIL MCINTYRE ACCOUNT DIRECTOR REALCLEARPOLITICS

Phil joined the BETEGY Senior team as Executive VP for North American Sales in 2023. As an entrepreneur with demonstrated success in both planning and scaling global go-to-market product offerings, Phil has dedicated himself to Customer Acquisition/Retention, Sales, Partnerships, and Strategy. Phil works as an Account Director in New York with RealClearPolitics. Previously, Phil held Chief Executive ownership roles at The Brand Gallery, PGM Artists, Standard Directors, and Click 3X.

Currently based: NYC, NY & Greenwich, CT
Baltimore Alma Mater: Friends School



ESTHER PEARLSTONE PRESIDENT ESP PRODUCTIONS

Currently Based: Aspen, CO
Connection to Baltimore: Former resident, civic leader, & philanthropist



LUKE POLCYN SENIOR EXECUTIVE DEV. & ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION CITY OF DETROIT (MAYOR'S OFFICE)

Luke is the Senior Executive for Development & Economic Transformation with the City of Detroit Mayor's Office. He leads the design and delivery of some of Detroit's highest-impact public-private partnerships and developments. Luke spent three meaningful years in Baltimore as an associate attorney at Venable LLP. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Georgetown Law.

Currently based: Detroit, MI
Connection to Baltimore: Baltimore resident 2012-2015; Associate at Venable LLP, Baltimore Office



JOHN POLLARD ART DIRECTOR / SCENIC DESIGNER UNION DESIGNER

John has worked on over 100 combined Film, TV, and Theatrical productions. His recent credits include Assistant Art Direction for "Only Murders In The Building", "Dead Ringers", and "Extrapolations". He has been nominated for three Art Directors Guild Awards as a member of the Art Departments for "American Gangster," "Wolf Of Wall Street," and the pilot for the series "Pan Am." John is a graduate of Purchase College and a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

Currently based: Ridgefield, CT
Baltimore Alma Mater: Friends School



MICHELE PRETTYMAN PROFESSOR FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Dr. Prettyman is a media consultant, writer, storyteller, and scholar whose research explores Black experimental modes of filmmaking and spirituality. She co-founded Daughters of Eve Media and was named Artistic Director of the Tubman African American Museum's inaugural film festival and appears in the documentary film "Oscar Micheaux: The Superhero of Black Filmmaking". She is currently developing a film project set in Baltimore titled "Lucy and the Fabulous Freemans".

Currently based: New Rochelle, NY
Baltimore Alma Mater: Western High School



BRIAN RAZZAQUE FOUNDER SOCIALTOASTER

Brian Razzaque is the founder of SocialToaster and inventor of the SocialToaster marketing platform. He is a serial entrepreneur who focuses on technology and real estate, and is an expert in social and digital marketing.

Currently based: Detroit, MI
Baltimore Alma Mater: Johns Hopkins University



ANDREW SACHS PRESIDENT GATEWAY PARKING SERVICES

Andrew Sachs is a successful entrepreneur, commercial real estate professional, and venture capital investor with a unique background in the parking industry and digital media. He followed a girl (whom he married) to Los Angeles many years ago and remains deeply connected to his Baltimore roots.

Currently based: Los Angeles, CA
Baltimore Alma Mater: Park School



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DUG SONG CO-FOUNDER OF THE SONG FOUNDATION AND FORMER CO-FOUNDER & CEO OF DUO SECURITY

Dug is co-founder of the Song Foundation, and former co-founder & CEO of Duo Security, Michigan's first tech unicorn and multibillion-dollar venture-backed acquisition. Dug is a champion for growing community wealth - economic, social, cultural, and environmental - to build a more just and inclusive future for all. In 2020, Dug and his wife started the Song Foundation to invest in the innovative people and organizations improving the quality of life for all in Southeast Michigan. Song also serves on the executive board of Wallace House, and on the advisory board of Venture for America in Detroit.

Currently based: Ann Arbor, MI
Connection to Baltimore: Born & Raised



SHANNA TELLERMAN CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER LENNAR, INC

Shanna is the Chief Product Officer for Lennar, Inc. She was previously the Founder/CEO of Mody which merged into Lennar in 2023. Mody creates tools and technology solutions to enable 3D design. Before Mody, Shanna was a partner at Google Ventures and founded Sim Ops Studios (Wild Pockets). Shanna holds a BFA and a Master's Degree in Entertainment Technology from Carnegie Mellon University. In 2009 she was named one of BusinessWeek's best young entrepreneurs, and in 2012 she was featured in "Creating Innovators" by Harvard education expert Tony Wagner.

Currently based: San Geronimo, CA
Baltimore Alma Mater: Friends School



CARL TURNIPSEED RETIRED EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Carl is retired Executive Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York where he served on its executive committee. At the NY Fed, Carl led financial and treasury services, human resources, and the Buffalo Branch, among other areas. He has served on numerous boards connected with international trade, economic development, and higher education. He is a member of Morgan State University's Board of Regents and a proud veteran. He received his BS degree from Morgan State, MBA from NYU Stern School, and holds degrees at Columbia University and Harvard Business School.

Currently based: New York City, NY
Baltimore Alma Meters: Dunbar High School; Morgan State College



JOYCE TURNIPSEED CONSULTANT

Joyce received her BA Degree from Morgan State University and MBA from NYU Stern School. She honed her financial expertise while working at Moody's and is committed to providing transformational programs that impact local, domestic, and global communities. She formerly served as Director, National Programs for The Links, and incorporated an international, not-for-profit corporation consisting of over 17,000 professional African-American women. A recipient of numerous awards for her leadership and service, Joyce currently serves as Vice Chair of the James H. Gilliam College of Liberal Arts Dean Advisory Board.

Currently based: New York City, NY
Baltimore Alma Meters: Dunbar High School; Morgan State College



HUA C. WANG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM), NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL

Hua is the Executive Director at the Global Innovation Forum and amplifies the voices of small businesses in public policy discussions. She previously founded a cancer telemedicine company and led a top technology accelerator in Alabama. Under her leadership, its 15 startups collectively raised \$20 million in funding and generated \$11 million in revenue. Prior to entrepreneurship, Hua worked as a private equity attorney at Proskauer, as in-house counsel at Cisco Systems, and as a global scholar at the Kauffman Foundation. She is a graduate of Duke University and Northwestern University School of Law.

Currently based: Alexandria, VA
Connection to Baltimore: Hua lived and launched a telehealth company in Baltimore.



GREGORY WHITE PRESIDENT & CEO LEARN CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK

Gregory was a Founding Board Member of LEARN Charter School Network before becoming LEARN's CEO 16 years ago. He led the growth of LEARN from one neighborhood school to a national network of 11 high performing schools. Prior to LEARN, Greg launched his business career at The Rouse Company and worked for 15 years in private equity, investment banking, and commercial banking. He recently served for 13 years as a board member of a \$100 billion wholesale bank.

Currently based: Chicago, IL
Baltimore Alma Mater: The Park School of Baltimore



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ARLENE WILLIAMS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER & SVP OF SPECIAL INITIATIVES AT THE POLICY ACADEMIES

Arlene is the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Special Initiatives at The Policy Academies, an organization founded to build the pipeline of underrepresented students in the field of public policy research and analysis. In this role, Arlene works closely with the CEO, oversees operations, and supports programs and activities to increase students' access to opportunities in university settings and the think-tank ecosystem.

Currently based: Washington, DC
Baltimore Alma Mater: Western High School



PHILIP WISER CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER AND HEAD OPERATIONS PARAMOUNT GLOBAL

Phil is the Chief Technology Officer and Head of Operations at Paramount, a leading global media company including WJZ, and CBS Baltimore.

A Silicon Valley innovator, Phil revolutionized the online digital music and streaming TV markets as founder of his companies, Liquid Audio and Sezmi, and forged the deal that launched Apple iTunes. Beyond his tech prowess, he remains an active musician in the Baltimore area rock band from his youth, Child's Play.

Currently based: Bronxville, NY
Baltimore Alma Mater: Eastern Vocational Technical



RODNEY WILLIAMS PRESIDENT/ CO-FOUNDER SOLO FUNDS

Rodney Co-founded the largest community finance platform in the US. As the US's only Black-led Certified B Corp fintech, SoLo works to build a community that enables financial autonomy for all. Prior to SoLo, Rodney founded LISNR and led the company to over \$40M in funding, and numerous awards and partnerships. He has been recognized as Ad Age's 40 Under 40; Cannes Gold Lion Award; and named on CNBC Disruptor 50 List multiple times. Rodney is a graduate of WVU and Howard University. He is a member of the 2019 Class of Henry Crown Fellows within the Aspen Global Leadership Network at the Aspen Institute.

Currently based: Los Angeles, CA
Baltimore Alma Mater: Calvert Hall



CHRIS WILSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS WILSON FOUNDATION

Chris splits his time between Baltimore and New York City and works as a visual artist and a social justice advocate. Through his work, he investigates societal injustices, human relationships, and public policies. His artwork is collected and displayed internationally. He is also the founder of the Chris Wilson Foundation, which supports social entrepreneurs and prison education, including reentry and financial literacy for returning citizens, as well as art-related programs.

Currently based: New York City & Baltimore
Baltimore Alma Mater: University of Baltimore



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- Dug Song, who has invested \$1M in Latimer Ventures since last Baltimore Homecoming.

Learn more about Dug on page 47.



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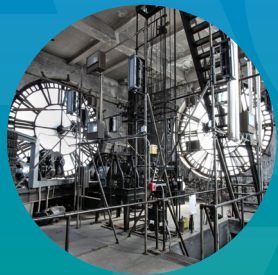
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BROMO ARTS DISTRICT

The Bromo Arts District, originally known as the Bromo-Seltzer Arts District, draws its name from the iconic Bromo-Seltzer Tower, a testament to early 20th-century Baltimore architecture that was once the city's tallest building. Its roots date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries when the district thrived as a bustling center of manufacturing and commerce. In the early 2000s, the Bromo-Seltzer Arts Tower underwent a transformation, becoming artist studios and apartments that would later serve as a focal point for Baltimore's burgeoning arts community. Today, the Bromo Arts District is home to a variety of cultural institutions, galleries, theaters, and performance spaces, including the Maryland Art Place (MAP), the Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center, and the Hutzler Brothers Palace Building, housing artist studios.





Homecoming Board of Directors



NATE LOEWENTHEIL
CO-FOUNDER
BALTIMORE HOME COMING
FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER
COMMONWEAL VENTURES

Nate Loewentheil is an investor, social entrepreneur, and policy expert. He is the founder of Commonweal Ventures and an adjunct Professor at Yale University, where he teaches a course on Technology and the American City. Nate's background includes serving in the Obama White House, founding social enterprises like Baltimore Homecoming and the Millennial Action Project, and contributing to major publications. His extensive experience spans investment, education, policy advising, and entrepreneurship.



JACK BISCIOTTI
POINTFIELD PARTNERS

Jack Bisciotti earned his degree in Sports & Entertainment Management from the University of South Carolina in 2011. At Point Field Partners, the family office of Steve Bisciotti, he manages external investments in private equity and the Steve & Renee Bisciotti Foundation. Prior to this role, Jack served as VP of Sales at Gotugo for 5 years. He also gained experience in Under Armour's sports marketing and worked as a scout for the Baltimore Ravens. Raised in Severna Park, Maryland, Jack attended Severn School and now resides with his wife Arabella, son James, and German shepherds William and Marsha.



JM SCHAPIRO
CO-FOUNDER
BALTIMORE HOME COMING
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CONTINENTAL REALTY CORPORATION

J.M. Schapiro is the head of Continental Realty, a Baltimore-based real estate investment and management firm founded in 1960. Their portfolio includes retail shopping centers with 4 million sq ft and apartment communities with over 10,000 homes across the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast. J.M. holds degrees from Bucknell University and Johns Hopkins University, and is involved with organizations like Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and The Associated Jewish Charities. He's been recognized with awards like the Julius Rosenberg and Harry Greenstein Awards and as a regional winner in the 2014 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards.



MICHAEL CHESSER
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
GREAT PLAINS ENERGY

Michael Chesser joined Great Plains Energy in 2003 and retired as CEO in 2012. Chesser's distinguished career in the utility industry began at BGE. He held leadership positions at Atlantic Energy, Inc., Itron, Inc., GPU Energy, and United Water serving as Chairman and CEO at various points. Chesser holds a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech, an MBA in Finance from Loyola College, and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University. He is actively involved in various committees and organizations focused on education, economic development, and energy technologies.



RACHEL BENDIT

Rachel Bendit resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan, along with her family. She holds the position of Chair of the Board at the University Musical Society and is an active member of the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Previously, she was associated with Zingerman's Community of Businesses. Her commitment to community extends to her roles on boards such as the Jewish Women's Archive, Jewish Funders Network, and the Dispute Resolution Center. Rachel earned degrees from the University of Michigan (BA), Loyola University Maryland (MEd), and Yeshiva University (JD).



MICHAEL FADER
PRESIDENT
MILEONE HOLDINGS

Michael Fader oversees MileOne Autogroup's automotive retail sales and service stores across the mid-Atlantic. His role involves business development, corporate strategy, and identifying opportunities for growth and partnerships. He graduated from Yale College with a degree in Economics, followed by summa cum laude graduation from Georgetown University Law Center. Michael is also involved in his community, serving on the Board of Trustees of McDonogh School and participating in Baltimore Philanthropy Tank. He resides in Baltimore City with his wife and their puppy.

06
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JOSEPHA HENDLER BOARD MEMBER

Josepha Hendler lives in Baltimore, Maryland where she serves on the board of Meyerhoff Charitable Funds, Parks and People Foundation, and Ladders to Leaders. She works with Seed and Series A companies and was on the founding team of Obran and Glo. Josepha is a graduate of Park School and Tulane University of New Orleans.



DR. CHARLES JOHNSON-BEY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON

Dr. Johnson-Bey is a distinguished leader known for his global innovation expertise in changing markets and technology landscapes. With a strong background in technology, strategy, and business, he excels in creating and capturing value while driving change. As a leader at Booz Allen, he designs and implements forward-looking technology strategies. With over 25 years of engineering experience in areas like Information Warfare and Cyber Resilience, Dr. Johnson-Bey holds degrees from renowned institutions such as Johns Hopkins University and the University of Delaware. He resides in Perry Hall, MD, with his family.



ARION LONG FOUNDER & CEO FEMLY

Arion Long is the visionary behind Femly, an innovative feminine care company focused on producing eco-friendly products. Her mission is to empower women and raise awareness about harmful ingredients in traditional feminine care items. Arion's journey began with a cervical tumor diagnosis at 26, leading her to uncover chemicals linked to health issues in common feminine products. This inspired her to launch Femly in 2016, providing organic alternatives. Arion's efforts have gained national and international recognition for her commitment to improving feminine care and health education. Through strategies like a subscription model, Femly is transforming the industry. With ties to Morgan State University and the University of Baltimore, Arion is dedicated to her business and her city.



ANTHONY MOAG CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER THE WHITING-TURNER CONTRACTING COMPANY

At Whiting-Turner, Anthony Moag oversees operations and finance. He joined in 1982 after earning a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. With leadership roles across regions, he's been engaged in education and community service, chairing boards like Cristo Rey Jesuit School and Loyola University of Maryland's Business School. Mr. Moag resides in Ruxton, MD, with his wife and four adult children.



CHIP WENDLER FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AT T. ROWE PRICE

Chip Wendler retired from T. Rowe Price where he specialized in Strategic Distribution Initiatives. With over 37 years at the company, he holds a wealth of experience in institutional investing. Based in the Greater Baltimore area for more than five decades, Chip has volunteered with the United Way and Habitat for Humanity. He's an active board member of OSI-Baltimore, the Moose Pond Association, and the Center for Urban Families. Chip holds an economics degree from Duke University, an MBA (with honors) from Loyola University's Sellinger School, and is a Chartered Financial Analyst with multiple FINRA licenses.



BRITTANY YOUNG FOUNDER & CEO B-360

Brittany, a Baltimore native, embraces a multifaceted career encompassing nuclear plant programming, medical device development, and satellite exploration planning. However, her true passion lies in STEM education and community service. Empowered to foster diversity in STEM fields and challenge negative narratives, Brittany collaborates with Baltimore City Community College and NASA to provide scholarships and internships to African-Americans pursuing STEM careers. She founded B-360, employing dirt bike culture to combat poverty and prison pipelines through STEM education and engagement. Recognized with awards, including Baltimore Homecoming Hero, Brittany's impactful work has drawn national media attention and positively impacted numerous students.

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Homecoming Team



ROBBIN LEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robbin has an extensive background in event production, having organized numerous events for nonprofit organizations in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., such as Maryland Art Place, The Phillips Collection, and Capitol Riverfront BID. Her expertise also includes directing Emporium, a renowned food event recognized as DC and Baltimore's best in 2014 and 2015. Joining the inaugural team of Baltimore Homecoming in 2017, Robbin assumed the role of executive director in 2020. Since then, she was named Baltimore Business Journal 40 under 40 in 2022, The Baltimore's Sun 25 Women to Watch in 2021, and The Daily Record Leading Women in 2021. She contributes to various boards, including the UMBC Alumni Association and Business Volunteers of Maryland, and played a pivotal role in establishing the Baltimore Chapter of the National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP).



MISTI MCKEEHEN
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Dr. Misti McKeen serves as the Engagement Officer for Baltimore Homecoming. She brings her experience in nonprofit management and higher education, combined with a strong passion for civic engagement to the connection with Baltimore Alumni. Having moved to the city in 2018, she has been proud to become a volunteer with organizations like the The Book Thing, Baltimore Votes, and Live Baltimore. Misti consults with organizations looking for program development and evaluation and supports coaching clients through transition moments in life. With a background in leadership development through programs like Coro Center for Civic Leadership and Public Allies, Misti has led civic engagement efforts at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Pittsburgh.



MATTHEW REEDS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Matthew, a dedicated Baltimore resident, holds degrees from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Morgan State University, and an MBA from the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Public Policy from UMBC. Matthew currently serves on the board of Disability Rights of Maryland. His contributions in philanthropy, business, and community service have earned him recognition such as HBCU Buzz's Top 30 under 30 and the Baltimore Business Journal's Person on the Move. In 2019, he founded the Reeds Fund, a Baltimore-based nonprofit supporting families dealing with autism or sarcoidosis diagnoses, offering scholarships, volunteer consultations, and community events benefiting numerous residents.



ANTHONY MCCRAY
COMMUNICATIONS & EVENT FELLOW

Anthony is currently a full time entrepreneur as a photographer & a graduate from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Anthony has been focused on perfecting his creative craft & developing his professional skill set. Anthony is a Baltimore native and wants to make a change throughout Baltimore City.

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As a proud Baltimorean, Baltimore Homecoming's mission is extremely phenomenal. It inspired me to want to join the team to help mobilize Baltimoreans for the good of our beloved city.

- Matthew Reeds, Deputy Director, Baltimore Homecoming



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Jamie McDonald - CEO, UpSurge Baltimore
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Helen Montag - Senior Director for Ecosystem Development, Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures (JHTV)
Jason Murphy - CEO, Murphy Enterprises
Olachi Opara - Not provided
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Dorian Walker - Executive Director, Family Survivor Network
Nichole Baccala Ward - President, TBC
Atiya Wells - Founder and Executive Director, Backyard Basecamp, Inc.
Ellington West - Co-Founder and CEO, Sonavi Labs

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Julie Cox - VP & Chief Development Officer LifeBridge Health
Liz Fitzsimmons - Managing Director Maryland Department of Commerce
Jill Green - Associate Dean Johns Hopkins Carey Business School
Carrie Kolasky - Chief Growth Officer Greater Washington Partnership
Jon Kusckar - Advisor to the President University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)
Shevelle Montgomery - Associated Black Charities
Anna Smith - Group Vice President M&T Bank

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Dorian Walker - Executive Director, Family Survivor Network
Ana Rodney - Founder & Executive Director of MOMCares
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Talib Horne - Director, Baltimore Civic Site at Annie E. Casey Foundation
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Ellington West - Co-Founder and CEO, Sonavi Labs
Helen Montag - Senior Director for Ecosystem Development, Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures (JHTV)
Jack Bisciotti - Point Field Partners
Jonathan Hess - SVP, Whiting-Turner
James Peterson - VP, Small Business Ambassador, M&T Bank
Kory Bailey - Chief Ecosystem Relationship Officer, UpSurge Baltimore
Margaret Roth Falzon - COO, Squadra Ventures
Mustafa Al-Adhami - Chief Executive Officer at Astek Diagnostics
Rhonda Pringle - Market President, Baltimore Business Journal
Shantell Roberts - Founder & Executive Director, Touching Young Lives,
Susan Clayton - Owner & Inventor, WhitePaws RunMitts
Tim Lewis - Sr. Commercial Real Estate Relationship Mgr., M&T Bank
Wendy Bolger - Founding Director, Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Loyola University Maryland
Naomi Winston - Program Analyst, UpSurge Baltimore
Justin Shaw - Entrepreneur and Economic Development Strategist
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