



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE BLACK ARTS
& ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT



WHO WE ARE

The Pennsylvania Black Arts and Entertainment District, Inc., known as the Black Arts District is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in West Baltimore. It is Maryland's first A&E district uniquely dedicated to the celebration, support, and promotion of African American cultural production.

MISSION

The Black Arts District through an anti-displacement framework empowers Black creatives and continues the community-based revitalization efforts in West Baltimore through culture, arts, and entertainment.

VISION

Our vision of the Black Arts District is to be a model of Black creative autonomy.

STAY CONNECTED



www.blackartsdistrict.org



@officialblackartsdistrict



Official Black Arts District



667 . 312 . 2099



info@blackartsdistrict.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.... PG. 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF.... PG. 2

2021 OVERVIEW.... PG. 3

PROGRAM UPDATES.... PG. 4

MARQUEE EVENTS.... PG. 5

FINANCIALS.... PG. 6

SANAA CENTER PROJECT.... PG. 7

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022.... PGS. 8-9

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS.... PG. 10



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and healthy. My heart goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one due to Covid related issues and other complications. I want to also thank all of those that continue to provide essential services, relief, and other support services to help us recover during these times. Finally, I would like to thank the Black Arts District team that has been remarkably adaptive, patient, and unyielding in their work to support the needs of our new organization and the creative community.

2021 has presented a great number of challenges. It has been a year full of constant change, shifts, and pivots. Baltimore's Black creative community has been hard hit by the pandemic as gigs continue to get canceled or postponed, in-person gatherings remain on the decline, and arts and cultural consumerism is limited overall because of the reduced amount of disposable income for many patrons. Still, there were many curators, artists, and entertainers that persevered and continued to hold space for creative expression or produced virtual arts and cultural experiences.

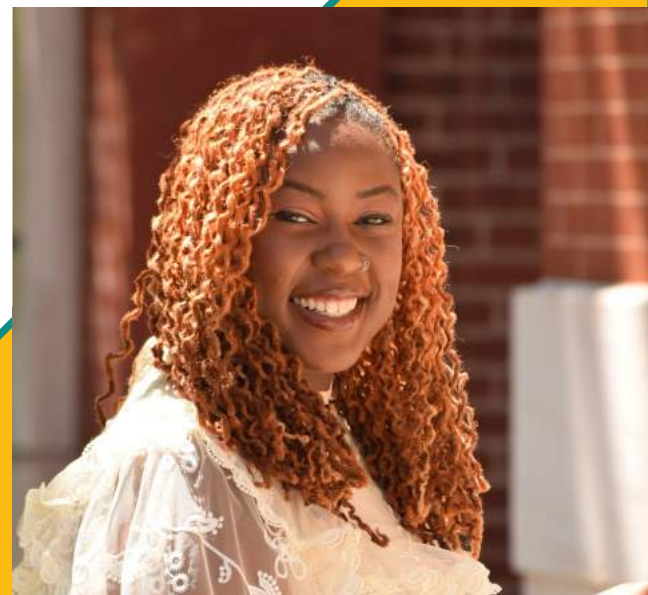
This past year was critical in concretizing the role of the Black Arts District in the greater arts and cultural ecosystem. As an institution we seek to empower Black creatives in Baltimore. Yet, the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed that our work must also be about stimulating the creative community by supporting the revival of arts, cultural and entertainment experiences to the level they once were. For us that looks like increased partnerships, sponsorships and events throughout the upcoming year. In 2021, we supported the Black creative community with over \$100,000 of funding and 2022 we want to at least double that number.

This will be a year of growth, reinvigoration and hope. Thank you for every creative, community member, stakeholder, funder and partner that has supported us thus far. We can't wait to connect this year, given that we have so much more in store.

Be well,



Lady Brion



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Shvila Rasheem, President, Mayor's Office of Employment Development

John Harris, Vice President, Arch Social Club

Todd Marcus, Treasurer, Intersection of Change

Dayvon Love, Director, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle

Candace Chance, Director, The VPI Firm: Baltimore Collaboration Lab

Anthony Pressley, Director, Druid Heights CDC

Kayenecha Daugherty, Director, Creative Nomads

Micheal Cornish, Director, Dads United Organization

Dr. Kevin Daniels, Director, Morgan State University/St. Martin's Church

We would like to thank the following former board members for their time served:

- **Janetta Gilmore**
- **Mikkyo McDaniel**

STAFF MEMBERS



Brion Gill, Executive Director

Kenneth Morrison, Program Manager

Candace Handy, Program Coordinator

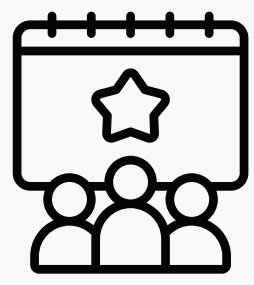
Chelsea Sherman, Administrative Assistant

Angela N. Carrol, Lead Curator

2021 OVERVIEW



200
ART KITS
GIVEN TO K-12
STUDENTS

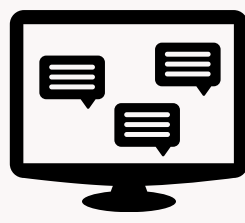


8

IN PERSON EVENTS



\$110,195
DIRECTLY TO THE POCKETS OF
BLACK CREATIVES



10

VIRTUAL EVENTS



100k+

VIRTUAL AND
IN-PERSON
REACH



15
SPONSORED
EVENTS



129
ARTISTS
CONTRACTED



\$1,498,324
TOTAL RAISED FOR THE
SANAA CENTER



\$519,272
TOTAL RAISED



PROGRAM UPDATES

CREATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Black Arts District offers paid 6-month internship opportunities for emerging professionals in Baltimore. Internships are designed to both support the development of Black creatives while helping to continue the revitalization efforts of West Baltimore through culture, arts, and entertainment. There were six interns hired to support operation and programming.

Cohort #1: Derick Ebert, Joy Barnes & Grace Givens

Cohort #2: Cydni Stewart, Ariel Balbossa & Kyron McCoy

SHA-SHONNA ROGERS

 **@SHEEGGO**

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT (HPP)

Visit the online archive: HPPARCHIVE.ORG

2021 Year In Review

- Photographer Webster Phillips was commissioned to take community portraits.
- We fostered a relationship with the I Henry Phillips Sr. archive. They donated a generous number of images from their collection for our use.
- Philip Muriel, from Nanny Jack & Company was commissioned to help identify lesser-known social clubs, businesses, and cultural venues in the district. This information led to the creation of an interactive map.
- The Historical Photography Archive, an accessible digital library featuring photographs and oral history, was launched.
- We launched the I Henry Phillips Sr. Emerging Photography Competition asking members of the community, aged 18-25, to contribute one photograph that envisioned the future of West Baltimore.
- We are working with city agencies to finalize approvals for photographic art installations and flag pole banners in the district.
- We launched a virtual talk series, called Digging in the Archives.

Coming in 2022

In 2022, we plan to curate more programming highlighting HPP including: four or more community events, a second photo competition and developing a curriculum with BCPSS for 6th - 12th grade around the archive.

**The photo featured on this page is the 2021 winner of the I Henry Phillips Sr. Emerging Photography Competition.*

MARQUEE EVENTS

BLACK ARTIST FAIR

The Black Artist Fair is an educational and interactive event designed to connect Black creatives from the Greater Baltimore Area to resources and services to further enhance their crafts and career.

Over the course of three days, hundreds of Black creatives participated in professional and creative clinics, workshops, networking opportunities, one-on-one consultations, lectures, panel discussions, and enjoyed a movie screening and live entertainment.

374 creatives attended workshops, consultations & art labs
3,000 online views of broadcasted panels
40 creatives contracted

Note: Due to Covid-19 the Black Artist Fair was moved to virtual platforms.

LEGACY FESTIVAL

Legacy Festival is a full day, outdoor art festival featuring creatives celebrating the past, present, and future of cultural expression in Baltimore City. The event features Baltimore performing artists, local vendors and a kids play area with fun activities.

This was our first major event in the district. Although 2021 Legacy Fest was rained out, we were able to support local creatives and engage with community in the district.

15 creatives contracted
20 local vendors and tabling community partners secured

BLACK PRIDE FESTIVAL

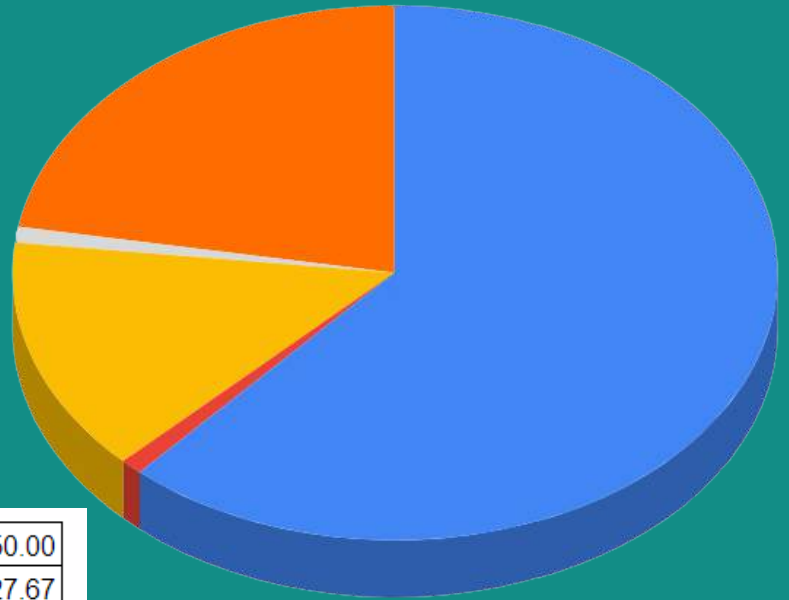
The Black Arts District was excited to be co-organizers of Baltimore Black Pride 2021. As America attempts to recover from the aftermath of a global pandemic, we recognize that members of the Black LGBTQ+ community face compiling social challenges that are exacerbated by the forced isolation and economic hardships that were brought on by the pandemic. As a result, the Black Arts District collaborated with dozens of local and national partners to create safe, celebratory spaces for the purpose of promoting: healing, joy, empowerment and equity.

1,400 attendees (in person and virtual)
48 creatives contracted



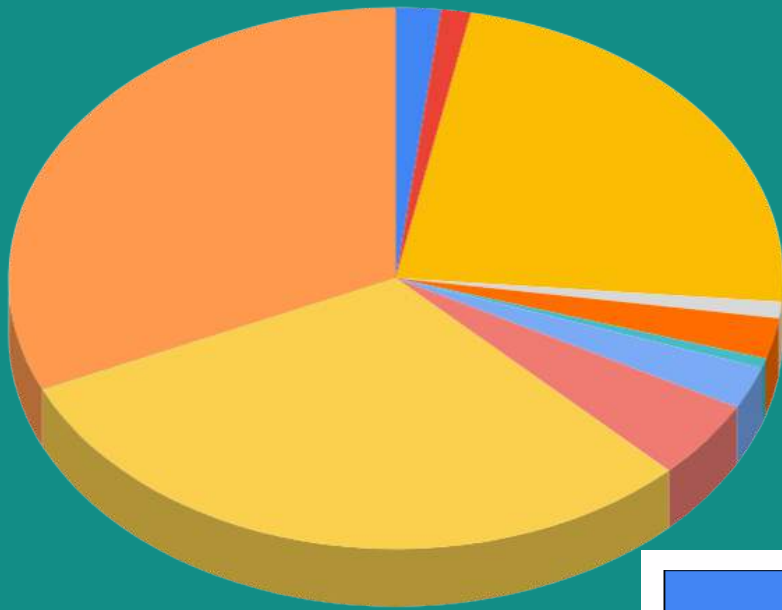
FINANCIALS

INCOME: \$519,272.67



Corporate & Foundation	\$319,950.00
Donations Directed by Individuals	\$4,927.67
Government Grants	\$73,925.00
Income (Special Events)	\$4,970.00
Sponsorship	\$115,500.00

EXPENSES: \$401,497.33



Advertising and Promotion	\$7,550.29
Capital and Depreciation	\$4,938.33
Contract and Professional fees	\$93,519.24
Conferences and Meetings	\$3,907.41
Information Technology	\$9,762.83
Insurance	\$2,308.99
Office Expenses	\$10,106.18
Occupancy	\$18,748.18
Payroll Expenses	\$123,125.71
Travel	\$58.00
Special Events	\$127,472.17

SANAA CENTER PROJECT

THE OPPORTUNITY

The project consists of a new, 3 story construction, 4,600 SF addition to the existing Harris Marcus building located at 1947 Pennsylvania Ave. Adjacent to the Harris Marcus addition, the Sanaa Center will be a newly constructed 1 story with mezzanine, 12,800 SF plus 5,000 SF of mezzanine standalone building with 9-12 potential offices and 10 potential art making spaces. This is a \$10 million development project with \$7.2 million in capital currently being raised. Project slated to be completed by 2024.

FUNDS RAISED:

Baltimore Department of Housing and Community Development - \$498,324

Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative (Delegate Haynes) - \$500,000

Maryland Historic Trust - \$100,000

Baltimore Development Corporation (CIP FY21) - \$400,000

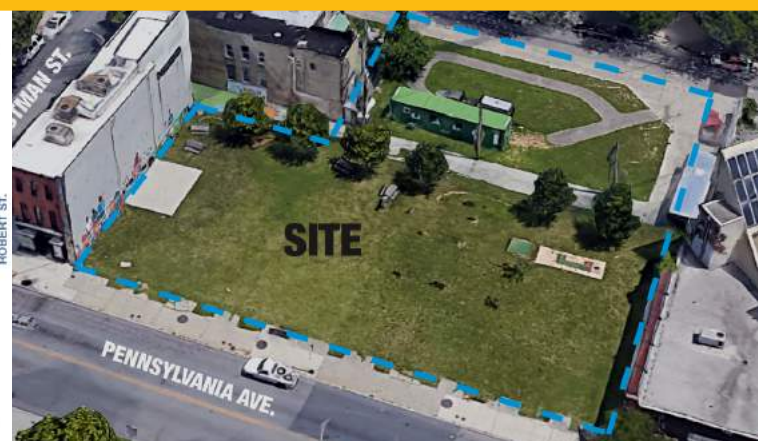
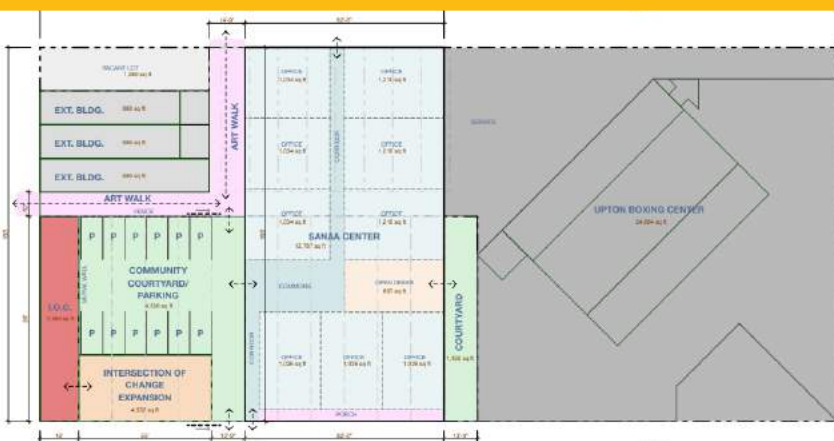
Intersection of Change (partner organization) - raised \$300,000

Total raised in 2021 - \$1,749,324

Next Phase:

We are excited to move into the predevelopment phase of the Sanaa Center Project. In 2022 we will:

- Hire a black-led development team
- Facilitate focus groups with artists, key stakeholders, and community groups on key project aspects
- Officially launch capital campaign



KEY FEATURES

7 Private Offices & Co-working Spaces

Performance Space

Art Making Studios

Creative Incubation Services

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

The Black Arts District continues to work towards the empowerment of Black creatives and strives to support the community-based revitalization of Black Arts District communities through arts, culture and entertainment. We are committed to continue to provide opportunities for Black creatives, use creative placemaking strategies to support the development of West Baltimore and move Baltimore to a more culturally equitable city.

We achieve the aforementioned goals through our four focus areas: (1) Training and development (2) Events and Activities (3) Advocacy and Education (4) Creative Placemaking.

To that end, we are excited to implement the following in accordance with our focus areas above:

2022 Strategic Plan

In 2021 we worked with a dynamic strategic planning team - Kate Scherr-Adams (KS Solutions Consulting), Saida Agostini, and Troy Burton - to facilitate a far reaching community engagement process and guide us through the creation of our first 3-5 year strategic plan. Thus, over the next few years we will be diligently working to meet the benchmarks and goals described in our strategic plan.

Sanaa Center Project

We are excited to support the community-based revitalization of the Black Arts District by completing the first ground up development on Pennsylvania Avenue in decades. We recognize that this is a heavy lift, but this new art center will serve as a model for Black creative autonomy in Baltimore and provide necessary power and ownership in the Black creative community. We are turning to our community, our partners and our supporters to help us imagine the best version of this project, how it can best serve us, and how we might collectively reach our \$10 million dollar fundraising goal.

Project RestART

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated long-standing disparities in access to capital and gainful employment for artists and creative professionals. These impacts are evidenced in the numbers of jobs lost and created in the arts sector, sales activity, ticketed admissions and attendance at arts programming. Project RestART is the Black Arts District's newest program in an attempt to restimulate the creative economy in Baltimore, with emphasis on West Baltimore by sponsoring local curators who create arts, entertainment and cultural experiences with up to \$1,000 sponsorships. Our hope is to reinvigorate the art, entertainment and cultural scene in the city.

Marquee Events

The Black Arts District is passionate about Baltimore City being a place where artists can have viable careers and are not forced to relocate to other cities to have successful careers. Thus, we will host four large scale events each year which will support/hire Black creatives across the city.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022, cont.

Calendar

The Black Arts District will launch a city-wide calendar to promote creative based events. Curators, promoters and creatives are invited to submit flyers with details and ticket links to be featured on our calendar free of charge.

Registry

The Black Arts District is launching its first artist registry – a searchable online directory of local Black performance, visual, body, literary, and culinary artists, as well as makers and cultural beares in Baltimore City. The directory provides brief descriptions of each artist and a direct contact for each registrant designed to highlight Black creatives and connect them with a wider consumer base.

Advocacy

In accordance with our strategic plan the Black Arts District is seeking to convene individuals to strategize ways to make Baltimore a more culturally equitable city. We hope to interrogate the current policies and practices, particularly in the arts sector, as a means to work toward a more culturally equitable Baltimore. We love this city and its creative community and thus, believe it is a part of our duty to invest our time and talents, collectively, to bettering the material conditions of other Black artists in the city.

BASE Network

In partnership with the Baltimore Development Corporation, the Black Arts District will work to support BIPOC businesses, especially creative enterprises, to access COVID 19 relief funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

We have so much to look forward to this year and with your continued support we know that we can bring it all to fruition. Thank you for believing in us and rolling up your sleeves because together we can.

With hopefulness,



Lady Brion
Executive Director

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We extend our deepest gratitude to all those that have supported us through grants, sponsorships and donations. We would not be able to play our role in strengthening the arts and culture ecosystem in Baltimore without you.



UP TO \$499

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Adrienne Danrich | Cynthia Miller | Kayenecha Daugherty | Reginald Ready |
| Adrienne Grant | Davonte K. Harris | Louis Carlat | Ron Hamlen |
| Allen Salyer | Eileen Gillan | Marjorie Gold | Sarah Berger |
| Amanda Adams | Harris Levy | Mia Vollkommer | Shannon Darrow |
| Anna Danz | Ian Rashkin | Micah Wood | Sheldon Caplis |
| Anson Asaka | Isadora Ferraro | Michael Cross-Barnet | Shelley Morhaim |
| Audrey Nore | James T. Feeland Jr. | Michael Pesa | Shvilla Rasheem |
| Avary Taylor | Jeanne Freelanc | Mikkyo McDaniel | Sunday Alexander |
| Bakari Jones | Jay Nwachu | Monique Cox | Tanyka Barber |
| Candace Chance | Jennifer Hogue | Oc Douglass | Tedd Wilson |
| Charles Miller | John Paquette | Pages Matam | Wendy Hauck |
| Charlotte St Pierre | Joyce Scott | Quinita Ennis | |
| Conor O'Brien | Judith Rubin | Rebecca Hazany | |
| Cristina E. Duncan Evans | Kaleb Tshamba | Rebecca Shillenn | |

\$500 - \$2,000

- Michael Duncan Erica Bolton

Thank you to all of our anonymous donors.