



2020 Annual Report



Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts & Entertainment District

www.blackartsdistrict.org



Who We Are

The Pennsylvania Black Arts and Entertainment District, Inc. affectionately known as the Black Arts District is a non profit organization focused on celebrating and supporting African American cultural productions.

Mission:

To continue the revitalization efforts of West Baltimore through culture, arts, and entertainment.

Vision:

The Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts & Entertainment District is THE choice destination for high-quality arts, culture, food, and entertainment in Baltimore. Our rich culture and legacy of community building and black autonomy continues through enhanced cultural production, historical preservation, and social development. Our work is centered in Love, Unity, Shared Purpose, and Respect for our People.



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings Everyone,

It is crazy to think that our first year as a nonprofit was amidst all that occurred in 2020. What a tumultuous time. Still, I am proud to say the Black Arts District fought to survive, to grow and to support Black artists, creative and cultural bearers despite it all.

During 2020 the Black Arts District held over 10 different events and activities as an effort to keep the artist community engaged and working when so many others were facing cancellations and postponements. Though we had to pivot to online platforms, we are grateful that so many of you still attended and supported our events. We also helped to provide artist specific Covid-19 relief to hundreds of creatives in Baltimore City in partnership with Baltimore Office of Promotion and Arts and the Baltimore Creatives Acceleration Network.

None of our work would be possible without the continued support of our partners, funders and most importantly community. Thank you for believing in us and for co-creating a future that is vibrant and viable not only for West Baltimore, but for Baltimore's creative community as well.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brion Gill".

"Lady" Brion Gill
Executive Director



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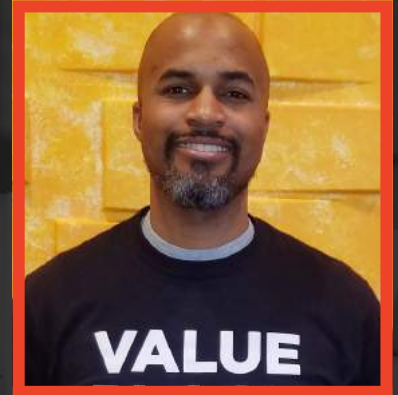
Donors



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Shvila Rasheem
PRESIDENT
CREATIVE ALLIANCE



John Harris
VICE PRESIDENT
ARCH SOCIAL CLUB



Mikkyo McDaniel
TREASURER
MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Todd Marcus
SECRETARY
INTERSECTION OF CHANGE



Dayvon Love
LEADERS OF
A BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE

Candace Chance
THE VPI FIRM:
BALTIMORE COLLABORATION LAB



Anthony Pressley
DRUID HEIGHTS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Dr. Kevin Daniels
MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
PASTOR, ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

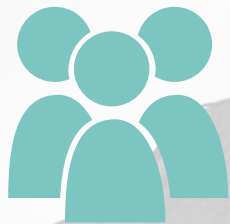


Janetta Gilmore, Ed.D
STRATEGIC HUMAN CAPITAL
CONSULTANT

Kayenecha Daugherty
CREATIVE NOMADS



Michael Cornish
DADS UNITED ORGANIZATION



STAFF MEMBERS



KENNETH MORRISON

PROGRAM MANAGER



BRION GILL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CANDACE HANDY

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

CREATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM COHORT #1

DUKE PORTER

EVENTS
COORDINATOR
INTERN



JHA'NEAL STOUTE

EVENTS
COORDINATOR
INTERN

COHORT #2



DERICK EBERT

EVENTS
COORDINATOR
INTERN



JOY BARNES

MARKETING AND
PROMOTION
INTERN



GRACE GIVENS

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
INTERN

2020 OVERVIEW



THE BLACK ARTS DISTRICT IS
OFFICIALLY ONE YEAR OLD!



BRAND
OFFICIALLY
LAUNCHES!

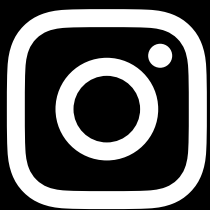
501(c)3 STATUS
GRANTED!



A TOTAL OF
\$132,900
RAISED

40+

ARTISTS
SUPPORTED



2.3K
FOLLOWERS



1.8K
FOLLOWERS

11



VIRTUAL EVENTS

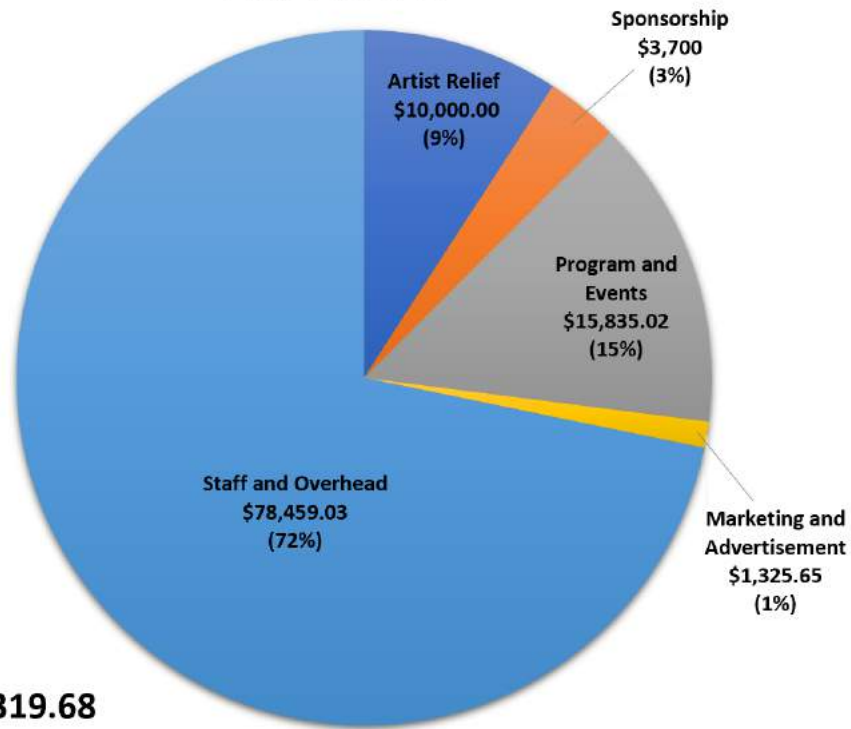


10k+

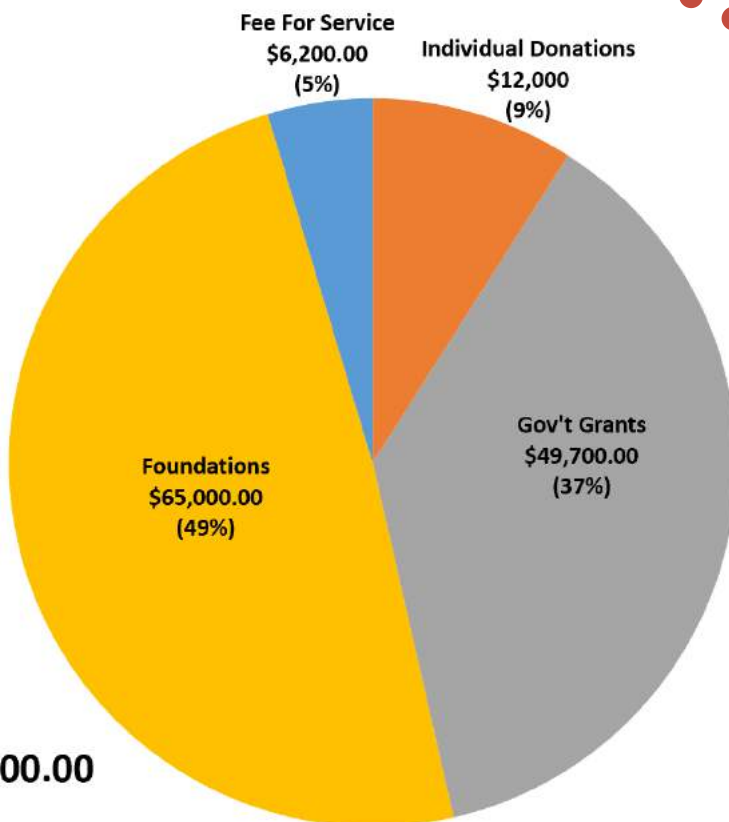
IN ARTIST
COVID
RELIEF

FINANCIALS

EXPENSES



INCOME





PROGRAM UPDATES

SHAW 15
NETHER

• E HENDRICKS

PROGRAMS UPDATES

COMING SOON...

Baltimore Black Artist Fair

SPRING 2021

Workshops

Speakers

Consultations

& More

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

CREATIVES ACROSS ALL GENRES WELCOME

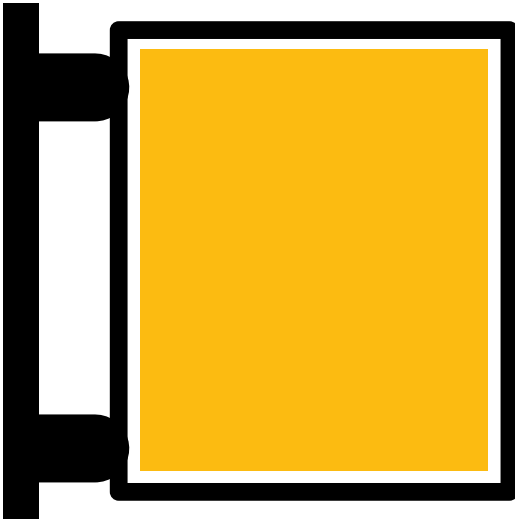
LOCATION TBD

Sponsored By **BAD**
black arts district

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 careers. Over the course of a weekend, artists will be invited to explore professional and creative workshops, consultations, panel discussions, and keynotes speakers. The fair will also highlight the work of local artists across genres. Our organization believes it is necessary to curate a space specifically for Black Creatives to combat the issues of equity around access to these types of resources and opportunities.

PROGRAMS IN THE WORKS

The following programs and projects are in the planning phase. Due to the pandemic, these programs have been put on hold. We hope that we are able to debut these programs to the community soon!



Vertical Pole Banner Program

Branding the Black Arts District will help increase awareness and outline the district's footprint. Broken or missing brackets will be replaced with dual-designed banner poles at intersections and midpoints of extended blocks. We hope by branding the district we increase community pride, attract visitorship, and shift negative perceptions. The design of these banners will be a collaboration between the community and the district.

Culture Crawl Series

The Cultural Crawl is a monthly curated art walk that increases tourism and highlights local businesses in the district footprint. This series will benefit artists, entertainers, cultural bearers, business owners and West Baltimore residents. Increased tourism and cultural activities have been proven to decrease crime and increase economic activities for residents.



HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



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On February 16, 2020 the Pennsylvania Black Arts and Entertainment District was debuted to the community during our Brand Launch. The event took place at the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center. We celebrated with the community and invited them to come learn more about the organization while enjoying skating and bowling.



- Provided over \$10,000 in emergency relief funding to creatives in response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Supported the creation of the Emergency Artist Relief Fund that provided over 300 micro-grants to creatives across Baltimore City in partnership with Baltimore Office for Promotion & the Arts and Baltimore Creative Acceleration Network
- Sponsored five Baltimore-based open mics to curate 20 in person/virtual cultural events
- Hosted two cohorts of emerging professionals in our Creative Internship Program



- Hosted the Mini May Concert Series - a 4-part virtual concert series featuring some of Baltimore's top performing artists which attracted over 5,000 viewers
- Curated 10 virtual events - these included online poetry slams, face to face competitions where two artists go head to head, and open mics to promote Baltimore's thriving cultural scene
- Hosted two city-wide art competitions that featured 60 Baltimore artists - Reflect the Times Competition and the James Baldwin Poetry Slam.

The Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts & Entertainment District has been granted 501(c)3 status!



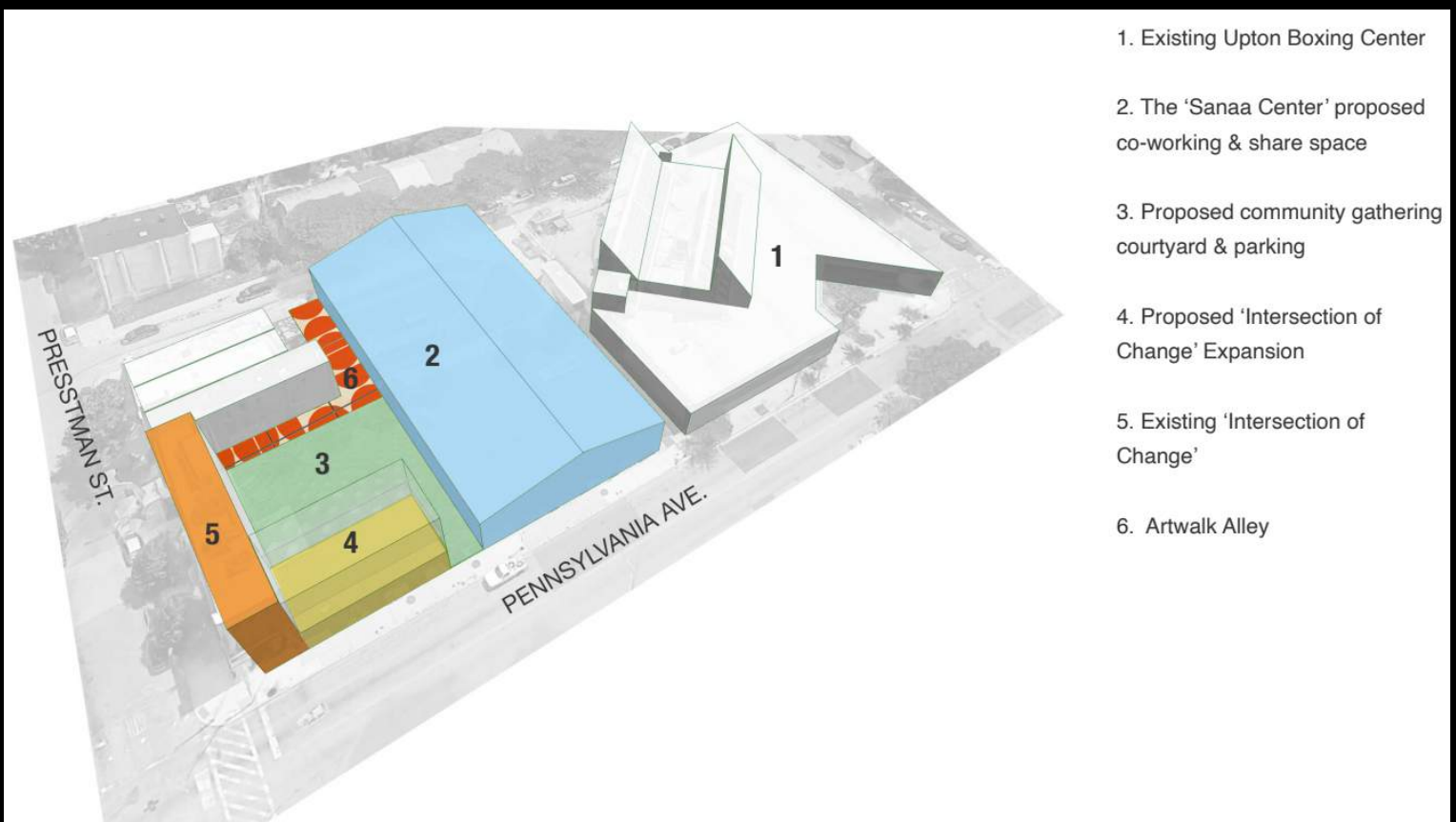
SITE

A GLANCE AHEAD THE SANAA CENTER

As a creative business incubator space, the Sanaa Center will support the Historic Pennsylvania Avenue Main Street's goals which includes: enhancing the physical appearance of the commercial district by rehabilitating historic buildings and supporting new construction, building a consensus and cooperation among many groups and individuals who have a role in the revitalization process, and marketing the traditional commercial district's assets to customers, potential investors, new businesses and visitors.

The Sanaa Center aims to fill an unmet need for Black led start-ups, creative enterprises and arts entrepreneurs on Pennsylvania Avenue. Its mixed-use approach with multiple cultural community partners will complement existing projects and embrace the goals of the Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts & Entertainment District, as well as other fellow community organizations and institutions.

The project represents a critical initiative for Pennsylvania Avenue and follows trends throughout the city and nation to develop collectively used spaces to engage start-ups, creative enterprises and arts entrepreneurs. The project will be more unique however in its emphasis as a project that is Black-led with a focus on a predominantly Black community. This aspect offers an opportunity to present a model to other communities throughout the country to counter historic modes of disinvestment in similar Black communities.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Our Executive Director, Brion Gill, has been recognized for her work with the Black Arts District. She is honored to be seen as a leader in the movement for equity in the arts and culture space in Baltimore.

the Neighborhood DesignCenter

Baltimore Community Advocate of the Year Award, 2020

This award recognizes an individual who has been a champion for their neighbors and place and demonstrated advocacy, vision, leadership, and inclusivity.

Progressive Leader of the Year in Arts and Humanities, 2020

This award is given to someone who is "supporting and recognizing agents of change in our community. Our class is deeply inspired by your work and your commitment to advocating for Maryland citizens. We believe that you embody progressive leadership, and we look forward to celebrating you for the impact that you have had within our community."



THE BLACK ARTS DISTRICT IN THE NEWS!



- 2/16/2020 "Pennsylvania Avenue becomes Baltimore's fourth Arts and Entertainment District" Fox45
- 2/21/2020 "Black Arts District launches in west Baltimore". WBALTV11
- 2/28/2020 "A new era on the Avenue". Baltimore Business Journal
- 5/18/2020 "Mini May Concert Series". Afro News

Thank you!

We know that the work we do is not possible without collaboration with community. The Black Arts District would like to give a special thank you to the members of the community that have supported us thus far. We do not take your support for granted. We are excited for what is to come and cannot wait to continue this journey with you!



black arts district



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

**ARCH
SOCIAL
CLUB**

 **intersection
of change**



DRUID HEIGHTS
Community Development Corporation

B O P A

BALTIMORE OFFICE OF
PROMOTION & THE ARTS



the **Avenue Bakery**

**PENN NORTH
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

FIGHT BLIGHT
B O M O R E



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



MARYLAND HUMANITIES

