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Special thank you to former board members who went above and beyond their duties while they served:

Ashley Short  
Brett Knoll  
Kathy Epstein  
Phil Spevack
Dear Friends,

Turning fifty has meant an opportunity to look back at how far Baltimore has come since our founding in 1969. Our first charge as a community-based nonprofit was to address the neighborhood conditions surrounding Loyola and Johns Hopkins University’s Homewood campus by organizing residents to define and implement a coordinated vision. Fresh victories and agonizing losses in the Civil Rights movement shaped our first strategies, which focused on interracial cooperation around a set of issues faced by everyone who lived in Greater Homewood. In many ways, progress has not been fast enough. Baltimore still struggles with a particularly acute legacy of racism, and broad-based economic prosperity continues to be elusive. ZIP Code is still a bigger factor than genetic code in determining life outcomes. And yet, throughout this past year when Baltimore was in the news, the tenacious commitment of everyday residents to making life better here shone through.

No nonprofit makes it to fifty without the support of its community. Thank you for sticking with us through good times and bad. They say that the only constant is change, and that is certainly the case for a multifaceted organization like Strong City. This year saw the wind-down of our long-standing AmeriCorps VISTA program, and the launch of our former fiscally sponsored project Baltimore Corps as an independent nonprofit. Through name changes and new areas of focus, we have always upheld the value that the people closest to the work should ultimately be able to carry it out on their own.

We are also about to kick off an exciting new journey, which you will read about more in later pages. Moving to the Hoen Lithograph Building offers the chance to eventually own our own world-class space, tailor made for our work. By sharing space with like-minded nonprofits, we are forming the backbone of the Center for Neighborhood Innovation. We look forward to helping the Collington Square community build on existing assets to achieve their vision of a peaceful, prosperous neighborhood.

Do you believe, as I do, that Baltimore needs the bold ideas of grassroots leaders, backed by experienced nonprofit and community development professionals? If so, I invite you to invest in Strong City, whether financially or through other efforts. Everything that we have accomplished in our 50 years has been by collective impact. There is a role for all of us in facing Baltimore’s toughest challenges and building on its substantial assets. Supporting Strong City means that your impact is magnified by empowering neighbors and social entrepreneurs across the region.

Sincerely,

Karen D. Stokes
CEO

Georgia E. Smith
Board Chair
Community Schools

Strong schools are crucial to building vibrant neighborhoods. They are a driver of housing values, a place where parents and neighbors get to know each other, and a community asset that plays a variety of roles beyond just education. Strong City’s Community School programs at Guilford Elementary/Middle School, Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle School, and Govans Elementary leverage partnerships with neighborhood programs and resources. We provide enrichment activities like student government or after-school sports, as well as more basic needs such as food pantries or safe after-school spaces. What sets us apart from typical community schools is our longstanding partnerships with local higher education institutions, including Johns Hopkins University, Goucher College, Loyola University Maryland, and Morgan State University.
The Adult Learning Center turned 30 this year! We are one of just three community-based, learner-tailored Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English Language Acquisition (ELA) programs in Baltimore, and serve nearly 600 learners per year. This year, the Adult Learning Center trained and retained 111 volunteers, contributing 2,563 hours of volunteer service. Currently, there are 64 active tutor pairs. We recently expanded our GED intensive offerings and helped 16 students pass the GED.

The ALC will be moving to the Hoen Lithograph Building in East Baltimore where it will be able to operate larger class sizes, opening up space for all prospective learners currently on the waiting list. The space is also significantly higher quality, featuring abundant natural light, appealing gathering spaces, 21st century technology and wheelchair accessibility. We look forward to partnering with the workforce programs at the Hoen Building to offer a complete continuum of education needed for a living wage job in the construction trades. We also look forward to serving the estimated 4,000 residents of the immediate neighborhood who need adult education services.
Since 2013, Strong City Baltimore has operated the 29th Street Community Center as a safe and vibrant community space for high-quality, low-cost programming. Formerly the Barclay Recreation Center, it was closed by the City in 2011. Strong City renovated the building, incorporating local art. Most programming is community led, and ranges from fitness classes to restorative practice workshops, serving more than 400 adults and children every week.

Thanks to funding from the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, in 2018 the 29th Street Community Center added an after-school program. Eight young people were hired through YouthWorks to staff the program. In addition to working with students, they participated in financial literacy and college and career readiness workshops, solicited sponsorships from local businesses, spoke on the radio, and planned an anti-violence initiative for youth in the community. Programming is provided in partnership with the Baltimore Wisdom Project, whose curriculum revolves around restorative justice, mindfulness, arts integration, and conflict resolution. I Am Peace, the youth anti-violence initiative, featured over 70 youth participating in peacebuilding activities with their peers and a candlelight vigil for victims of gun violence.

“A time I knew I was making a difference in a student’s life is when one of them said ‘Mr. Jared you are a cool teacher, you are like a big brother I never had.’”
- Jared Lewis, 19

“I like working with students because I can teach them how my teacher taught me, motivate them, and to be there for them.”
- Bryant Hall, 19

“The middle school girls that I work with feel like they can tell me things that they probably wouldn’t have the confidence telling others.”
- Marie Brooks, 21
Club at Collington Square

The Club at Collington Square is a beloved community-led afterschool program that is up the street from Strong City’s new home at the Hoen Lithograph Building. It serves 112 Collington School scholars in grades 3-8. The Club is seen by students, teachers, and parents as an oasis in a neighborhood challenged by poverty and violence. The Club also prepares the adults in these children’s lives, including their teachers and school social workers, to address the chronic trauma experienced by these kids and their families.

By working with the same scholars for seven years, The Club has seen them grow from being angry, often suspended, and failing academically, to leaders and students that are able to reach their dreams. This year, the scholars entering high school all scored well enough to be admitted to the first tier of competitive high schools. In contrast, only 2% of their peers at Collington School are testing at grade level.

In 2017, the previous nonprofit operator was looking for a new manager and Strong City was looking for a way to demonstrate our commitment to the community, and so a match was made! Through rigorous fund-raising efforts, we took the program from a $300,000/year deficit to a nearly balanced budget, expanded services, aligned programming with partners, and made big plans for the future.
Neighborhood Programs

Strong City uses professional community organizers to connect residents and inspire people to action. We go door-to-door to meet neighbors and build relationships. Through our block ambassador trainings, communities develop strong block networks and increase the capacity of their community associations. We also connect the neighborhood to larger efforts and institutions, such as schools, elected officials, umbrella organizations, universities, and citywide advocacy groups. We currently work in the neighborhoods of Barclay, the Waverlies, Charles Village, Remington, Ednor Gardens, the York Road Corridor, and Collington Square in East Baltimore.

The Baltimore Good Neighbors Coalition, in which Strong City is an active member, was instrumental in meaningful legislative action that closed the loopholes that allow problematic liquor stores to continue to operate. Community organizing also led to the closure of a problematic liquor store in Waverly and a Memorandum of Understanding with another liquor outlet owner.

Strong City was a pioneer of focused advocacy tactics in the fight against vacant properties. This means that we work with residents to identify and prioritize problem properties, coordinate with the City to require property owners to address housing code violations, and market development opportunities to those who will be good stewards. In FY19, Strong City helped bring over $7.75 million in investment to the Baltimore housing market by putting 122 properties back on the path to occupancy. We have identified the majority of abandoned buildings in our focus areas and will start concentrating on more recently vacated homes before their condition becomes worse.

Strong City partners with the Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. to help strong but undervalued Baltimore neighborhoods increase home values, market their communities, encourage high-quality property improvements, and forge strong relationships among neighbors. In addition to organizing neighbors, we manage community improvement grants from HNI on behalf of communities. One example of this is the recently completed Greenmount Rec Center Spruce-Up (pictured), where artist Andy Dahl and developer Telesis worked with the community to transform the facade and grounds of this vital community resource.
Strong City Baltimore’s AmeriCorps VISTA program closed in July 2019. AmeriCorps VISTA projects are contingent on the availability and allocation of federal funds. Following a significant decrease in funding available from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), Strong City was unable to sustain the program. Our VISTA members completed their year of service under another Maryland sponsor.

VISTA has been a part of Strong City almost since our beginning. We hosted our first VISTA service members in 1973. One of our first projects was to help desegregate schools in Charles Village. In 2013, we became an intermediary, providing administrative and capacity building support to a cohort of VISTA volunteers at a variety of community-based Baltimore nonprofits.

Members serving our “Healthy Futures projects” worked on a variety of healthy food access projects including addressing food deserts with the city’s Baltimarket program and connecting residents with nutritional food and recipes at The Baltimore Station. Strong City VISTA members also worked with the YES Drop-In Center, a fiscally sponsored project of Strong City, by expanding and supporting its volunteer base, facilitating sustained partnerships in the community, and developing resources that bolstered its capacity to serve more youth.

Over the years, hundreds of Strong City VISTA members have spent a year in service building the capacity of organizations to fight poverty. They have served thousands of low-income youth in Baltimore City and beyond, and leveraged tens of thousands of volunteer hours.

Strong City is proud to have been an intermediary sponsor of the AmeriCorps VISTA program and contributor to its core values of anti-poverty, community empowerment, capacity building, and sustainability.
Fiscal sponsorship is a sustainable and cost-effective method of advancing social good through shared services.

Social entrepreneurs can focus on fulfilling their mission, knowing that they are supported by effective systems and knowledgeable people.

Organizations that use Strong City as their fiscal sponsor are supported by a team of experts in all areas of nonprofit management. Strong City practices comprehensive fiscal sponsorship, meaning we assume full legal and financial responsibility for the activities of our fiscally sponsored projects. Strong City works with projects that align with our mission: to build and strengthen neighborhoods and people.

Fiscal sponsorship is the most economical way to do nonprofit work because it utilizes economies of scale. This means many projects share the cost of professional accounting, legal, HR, and insurance required for every organization. Fiscal sponsorship can address donors’ concerns about overhead costs, ensuring the most possible money goes to community impact. Last year, Strong City saved Baltimore’s nonprofit sector nearly $2 million compared to independent operations.
Impact of our Fiscal Sponsorship Services

112  Projects sponsored

$14.2 million  Assets managed

105  People employed

11  Years Strong City has provided fiscal sponsorship

$6.3 million  Government grants and contracts managed

5,400  Donations processed from 44 states

6,500  Hours of technical assistance provided

$2 million  Estimated savings for the nonprofit sector in operational costs

Our Operational Philosophy

We see the three principles—partnership, capacity building, and legal guardianship—as the core roles of a fiscal sponsor. Ideally, they are in balance and we are empowering initiatives with the resources and knowledge they need to be successful. We are committed to walking the line between fiscal policy and flexible community responsiveness.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project or Client</th>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Lead</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abell Improvement Association</td>
<td>Improving the physical condition of the Abell neighborhood, building on and fostering a sense of neighborhood pride, keeping the neighborhood connected and well-informed, ensuring a positive presence and maintaining safety, and improving the education of neighborhood children through partnership with the Barclay School.</td>
<td>Joel Urbanowicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACME Corporation</td>
<td>A Baltimore-based theater that brings together the professional, educational, and DIY communities to create work that highlights risk taking, presence, dynamic representation, and experiences that cannot be replicated on a screen.</td>
<td>Stephen Nunns</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Clear Education Services</td>
<td>Training emergency personnel, police, and judiciary staff (such as judges, bailiffs, etc.) to recognize and effectively respond to people with autism.</td>
<td>Lisa Wiederlight</td>
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<td>Anthony’s Way</td>
<td>To provide access to treatment and a road to recovery to anyone suffering from the disease of addiction.</td>
<td>Gina DeMaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Power</td>
<td>Engaging kids in art making activities to introduce creativity as a marketable skill related to entrepreneurship and self-expression.</td>
<td>Wendy Blackwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts + Parks</td>
<td>Arts + Parks is committed to using public street art projects and intentional landscaping to bring back meaning, pride, and beauty to forgotten spaces and struggling communities.</td>
<td>Elise Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZIZA/PE&amp;CE</td>
<td>Committed to unordinary programming for extraordinary results in the arenas of developing youth socially, culturally, emotionally, and to improve life and critical thinking skills.</td>
<td>Saran Fossett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore Good Neighbors Coalition</td>
<td>Advocating for alcohol policies in Baltimore City and statewide with local implications that will protect the public’s health, safety and quality of life.</td>
<td>Barbara Valeri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore Beach Charity Challenge</td>
<td>The Baltimore Beach Charity Challenge is an annual beach volleyball tournament sponsored by Baltimore Beach that challenges teams to raise funds for the sponsoring charity that is important to them. The tournament has been in existence since 2014, and each year we select charities that are meaningful to the community of Baltimore, as well as to our players.</td>
<td>Josh Brusca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore Chesapeake Rugby Founda</td>
<td>To further the participation in, support of, and foster a love for the game of rugby in the Baltimore metro area.</td>
<td>Seth Bloom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore Education Coalition</td>
<td>A partnership of more than 20 schools, organizations and religious institutions united by a mission and vision for public education in Baltimore City.</td>
<td>Carol Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore Power Group</td>
<td>A gathering place for women in the real estate profession to exchange ideas and network, while raising funds to support initiatives throughout the state of Maryland.</td>
<td>Stacy Berman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore Rhythm Festival</td>
<td>Each year, the Baltimore Rhythm Festival brings together world renowned artists and local talent in a celebration of music, voice, and dance.</td>
<td>Rory Turner</td>
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<td>Baltimore Trash Talk</td>
<td>Works to eliminate trash in the streets of Baltimore through facilitating conversations regarding litter, while also teaming with initiatives and organizations to fight trash, raise awareness of pollution, and sponsor events.</td>
<td>Bridget Parlato</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore Video Collective</td>
<td>Providing access to a wide variety of films for the Charles Village community.</td>
<td>Dave Barresi and Eric Hatch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beautiful Butterflies Inc.</td>
<td>Empowers girls to be confident, socially poised, and ambitious by engaging them in their communities, building their self-esteem, imparting social etiquette skills, increasing literacy, and encouraging sisterhood.</td>
<td>Alicia Joynes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavior Hub</td>
<td>The Behavior Hub works to promote mental, emotional and physical growth through collaborative problem solving that elevates the way individuals connect with and lead children.</td>
<td>Lauren Spigelmyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly Hills Improvement Association</td>
<td>Preserves and improves the quality of life for residents and community members of the Beverly Hills neighborhood.</td>
<td>Mary Buedel and Phillip Harris</td>
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<td>Black Fathers Foundation</td>
<td>The Black Fathers Foundation’s mission is to give black men raising or fighting to raise children an opportunity to be heard in their own voices, in order to shatter the stereotypes around who they are as fathers.</td>
<td>Matt Prestbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Girls Cook</td>
<td>Teaches inner-city teen girls the importance of food preparation, cooking, food hygiene, and healthy eating.</td>
<td>Nichole Mooney</td>
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<td>BLISS Meadows</td>
<td>BLISS Meadows is a 10-acre land reclamation project geared toward food justice and creating equitable access to green space in northeast Baltimore City.</td>
<td>Atyia Wells</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMOG Community Fund</td>
<td>Supports the efforts of residents and organizations to improve the Barclay, Old Goucher, and Midway neighborhoods.</td>
<td>Jean Yahuda and Thornette Leacock</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMORE Abroad</td>
<td>Works within Baltimore and the state of Maryland to increase access to study abroad for local students and engage professionals, students, &amp; alumni towards the holistic advancement of the field of education abroad.</td>
<td>Angie Shaeffer</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMORE4Kidz</td>
<td>Bmore4Kidz is a community of members who are dedicated to providing the children and youth of East Baltimore a safe place to make and create their ideas into tangible ventures.</td>
<td>May Mendoza</td>
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<td>BOMA Leap Fund</td>
<td>Raises funds in support of schools and literacy initiatives, including facility work.</td>
<td>Kim Hogan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books to the Rescue!</td>
<td>Placing fun and educational books and toys in police cruisers and other emergency vehicles. Officers will use these books and toys to give to children in crisis.</td>
<td>Marcela Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulldog Basketball School</td>
<td>Advance the lives of boys and girls from the Barclay School community using basketball and academics.</td>
<td>Pablo Koropecky</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Peaceful Means</td>
<td>Interrupt physical and structural violence by empowering youth through peace education, advocacy, and employment.</td>
<td>Nawal Rajeh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Black Equity Baltimore</td>
<td>Cultivating community, health and wellness in the Black LGBTQ community in Baltimore.</td>
<td>Durryle Brooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Funding Project</td>
<td>The Children’s Funding Project aims to close equity and opportunity gaps for children and youth by helping communities employ innovative strategies to effectively leverage existing funding and generate new revenue.</td>
<td>Elizabeth Gaines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comm+University</td>
<td>A community service focused campaign that seeks to decrease the gap between college campuses and the communities they serve through college student and community youth engagement with one another through dialogue.</td>
<td>Jacki Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commodore to College</td>
<td>To do everything in our power to equip our students with the skills, experiences, and the mindset to make good choices in life.</td>
<td>Marc Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Advocates 4 You</td>
<td>A network of parents, professionals, and community advocates working together to provide person-centered support to persons with disabilities. We provide special education training, support brokerage, and transition- al youth planning services.</td>
<td>Eva Queen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ConnectED</td>
<td>Fostering connection and life-learning for students and their senior citizen friends through ongoing multi-generational programming.</td>
<td>Chana and Uri Feldman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance &amp; Bmore</td>
<td>Strengths communities by helping people of all ages and stages of life experience the benefits of movement and music together.</td>
<td>Cjay Phillips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dew More Baltimore</td>
<td>Foster civic engagement with historically marginalized people through innovative, arts-focused programming, and community organizing.</td>
<td>Olu Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Baltimore Truth and Reconciliation</td>
<td>Supporting residents and communities who were displaced or impacted by the EBDI/Hopkins Urban Renewal Project in promoting positive community programming and neighborhood connections.</td>
<td>Nia Redmond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonson Village Farmers Market</td>
<td>A community venture dedicated to feeding and nourishing Southwest Baltimore neighborhoods.</td>
<td>Jill Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ednor Gardens Lakeside Community Association</td>
<td>Preserves and improves the quality of life for residents and community members of the Ednor Gardens/Lakeside neighborhoods.</td>
<td>Shane Bryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensemble 4-33</td>
<td>Presents excellent, innovative performances of experimental and avant-garde music from mid-century to present.</td>
<td>Rebecca Smithorn</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLY (Fearlessly Loving Yourself)</td>
<td>The mission of Fearlessly Loving Yourself (FLY) Baltimore is to provide a safe space that inspires confidence and personal advancement through mentoring and building opportunities for success.</td>
<td>Kim Sauer and Rosheda Harrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORCE</td>
<td>A creative activist collaboration to upset the culture of rape and promote a counter culture based on consent. FORCE is the organization behind the Monument Quilt.</td>
<td>Hannah Brancato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Arlington Judy Center</td>
<td>Supporting the work of the Arlington Elementary Judy Center.</td>
<td>Tonya Butler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Arundel Judy Center</td>
<td>Supporting the work of the Arundel Elementary Judy Center.</td>
<td>Betty Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Cecil Elementary</td>
<td>The mission of Friends of Cecil Elementary is to support the education and well-being of Cecil Elementary students, families and the surrounding community.</td>
<td>Jacob Weinfeld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Eutaw-Marshburn</td>
<td>Enhances the lives of students by facilitating academic excellence, fostering social competence, and cultivating cultural awareness.</td>
<td>Tiffany Cole and Chrystie Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Eutaw-Marshburn Judy Center</td>
<td>Supporting the work of the Eutaw-Marshburn Judy Center.</td>
<td>Hannah Pugh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Harford Heights Judy Center</td>
<td>Supporting the work of the Harford Heights Elementary Judy Center.</td>
<td>Kim Crew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty Village Project</td>
<td>Embracing the development of the whole child by building capacity of our families and engaging the community to wrap-around each child in a deep and meaningful manner.</td>
<td>Kim Trueheart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Stony Run</td>
<td>Working to improve the health of the Stony Run stream valley and enhance the quality of the life in the surrounding communities.</td>
<td>Amy Tohnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Curtis Bay Judy Center</td>
<td>Supporting the work of the Curtis Bay Judy Center.</td>
<td>Shalonda Howze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Playground</td>
<td>Supports the continuing community effort in support of the community-built playground at Stadium Place which was burned in 2008.</td>
<td>Debra Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GiveFit</td>
<td>Provides access to group fitness for those who can’t afford gym or studio memberships.</td>
<td>Jake Tunney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Blacks in Wax Museum</td>
<td>America’s first wax museum of African American history and culture features more than 150 life-size and lifelike wax figures.</td>
<td>Dr. Joann Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.O.P.E. Baltimore</td>
<td>Led by those with experience overcoming the challenges of returning to society after incarceration, H.O.P.E. empowers men and women to make this transition successfully and permanently.</td>
<td>Antoin Quarles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harwood Community Association</td>
<td>Supports the efforts of residents and local businesses and organizations to improve the Harwood neighborhood.</td>
<td>Miller Roberts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Ground Harm Reduction</td>
<td>Addressing the specific knowledge gap and increasing the ability of harm reductionists, syringe service programs, community-based naloxone distribution programs, drug users’ unions, and communities of people who use drugs and/or engage in sex work to prepare for, respond to, and recover after disasters.</td>
<td>Christine Rodriguez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homebound’s Loads of Love</td>
<td>Provides accessible laundromat services for those who are homeless in West Baltimore.</td>
<td>Shannon Epps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ignite Baltimore</td>
<td>Hosts ticketed networking events, the proceeds from which produce a pool of funds to be used as awards to support new, innovative, feasible ideas to make Baltimore a better place.</td>
<td>Melissa Macchia-velli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact Hub</td>
<td>A co-working space that brings together a community of entrepreneurs, activists, creatives, and professionals to take collaborative action and drive positive change in Baltimore and beyond.</td>
<td>Michelle Geiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving Education</td>
<td>Improving educational systems by harnessing the creative power of individuals to develop, test, and implement innovative and efficient solutions to complex problems.</td>
<td>Jarrod Bolte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Warehouse Productions</td>
<td>Intellectual Warehouse Productions is a Baltimore-based not-for-profit enterprise that develops and produces a variety of new arts and culture projects and initiatives designed to engage citizens of all ages in meaningful conversations, using the arts and humanities as a platform to explore our world together.</td>
<td>Amy Bernstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Stacks</td>
<td>In the Stacks brings engaging, collaborative, and accessible performing arts programs to historic and unique venues in Baltimore City.</td>
<td>Sam Bessen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jump for Joy</td>
<td>Blends the fun and excitement of jump rope with the power of community caring to nurture fitness, goal setting, positivity, and connectedness in Baltimore City youth.</td>
<td>Kim Landes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice Codes</td>
<td>Improving the use and understanding of technology in the criminal justice system.</td>
<td>Jason Tashea</td>
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<td>Kindred Community Healing</td>
<td>The aim of Kindred Community Healing is to address the mental and emotional well-being of activists and change-makers of color through the facilitation of community based healing spaces that teach Mind-Body Medicine skills.</td>
<td>NaShey Ingram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeland Community Association Partnership</td>
<td>Promoting the education of residents and partnership of schools, businesses and churches in the area of crime prevention and quality of life and to assist in the safeguarding of the community, its residents and their properties through voluntary activities including public information problem solving and addressing community problems and concerns.</td>
<td>Veronica Purcell and Pam Oliver</td>
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<tr>
<td>LeadersLink</td>
<td>Harnesses and shares elected officials’ disaster lessons learned to help other communities better prevent, prepare for and recover from similar crises.</td>
<td>Kathleen Koch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levantar</td>
<td>Provides funding for veteran, re-entry, homeless, and other at-risk populations for workforce development opportunities.</td>
<td>Tarsha Weary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Foundation</td>
<td>Dedicated to encouraging education, fostering research and providing a support network for those impacted by Loeys-Dietz Syndrome.</td>
<td>Gretchen Mac carrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Health and Wellness</td>
<td>Empower seniors, veterans, and adults with special needs within the Baltimore Metropolitan area by providing alternative therapies that engage and assist these individuals to achieve greater independence by overcoming physical and emotional limitations.</td>
<td>Paul Alvaran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Justice Project</td>
<td>A city and statewide, nonpartisan organization dedicated to uplifting, educating, and advocating for the most marginalized systems-involved women and girls.</td>
<td>Monica Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Trans Resilience Conference</td>
<td>The Maryland Trans Resilience Conference aims to build solidarity among transgender communities in Maryland and to offer opportunities for connections and capacity-building for trans people.</td>
<td>Lee Binder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medfield Community Association</td>
<td>A volunteer group that empowers the Medfield Heights community to improve our quality of life through communication, engagement, participation, and advocacy.</td>
<td>Gary Sever and Randy Dalmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medfield Heights Elementary School PTO</td>
<td>Supports the school community of students, families, and teachers by fundraising to provide classroom technology equipment and enrichment programming.</td>
<td>Desiree Cleaves and Erin Bolton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mile 22 Civic Labs/ Baltimore Votes</td>
<td>Baltimore Votes is a values-based coalition working to engage every Baltimore institution in the process of improving voter participation. It is run as a program of Mile 22 Civic Labs.</td>
<td>Sam Novey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOMCares</td>
<td>Serving low-income, single women of color, with a NICU experience in Baltimore City.</td>
<td>Ana Rodney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moravia Judy Center</td>
<td>Provide services to children and families to prepare them to be fully ready for school.</td>
<td>Michelle Matthews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving History</td>
<td>Moving History heals injured identities, creates healthy culture, and fosters strong community by introducing students citywide to curriculum which centers African American contributions through dance.</td>
<td>Breai Mason-Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nation of Makers</td>
<td>Dedicated to helping makers by supporting maker organizations; through advocacy, the sharing of resources, and the building of community within the maker movement and beyond.</td>
<td>Dorothy Jones-Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project or Client</td>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>Lead</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEWfit Kids</td>
<td>Offers quality, consistent wellness and athletic programming year-round to inspire the holistic shift of a generation and create healthy kids.</td>
<td>Kevin Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern District Community Council</td>
<td>A community partnership fundraising effort to support physical and programmatic improvements offered through the Northern District Police Department.</td>
<td>Chris Forrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Joyful Noise</td>
<td>Our Joyful Noise Baltimore serves the essential human need for beauty and connection with art through free classical and jazz musical performances of the highest professional quality for people in institutional settings.</td>
<td>Maria Lambros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Fresh</td>
<td>Strives to use sports as a catalyst to empower young community leaders and promote environmental awareness.</td>
<td>Derek Battle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection of Kings</td>
<td>Supporting the healthy development of African-American boys by using media to help them explore their identities, connect with positive role models, and build awareness on issues impacting Black males.</td>
<td>Robert Holmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RnD Associates</td>
<td>To provide training, technical assistance, coaching, mentoring, networking and conferences to build the capacity of youth service agencies to deliver quality programming that results in positive youth outcomes. RnD also conducts leadership training, leadership retreats and facilitates corporate/public partnerships for community development.</td>
<td>Rebhka Atnafou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sistahs’Sweets</td>
<td>Addressing the community problems of childhood diabetes, obesity, and other health-related issues due to poor dieting.</td>
<td>Erin and Lena Bowman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sisters Saving the City</td>
<td>Empowering urban youth to become positive and productive members of their community and to realize and step into their greatness.</td>
<td>Kathryn Cooper-Nicholas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Developers Collective</td>
<td>Works to engage and support small, independent developers in the Baltimore area by providing a coordinated voice so the impact of their efforts can be quantified and represented within the larger community development framework.</td>
<td>Alicia Corson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEAM While Sewing</td>
<td>STEAM While Sewing aims to introduce youth to the process of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) and create the spirit of entrepreneurship through the art of sewing.</td>
<td>Dawn Kennedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step Up Maryland</td>
<td>Step Up MD inspires ordinary people to get engaged in the public debate about government, policy and our political process.</td>
<td>Charly Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take the Lead Baltimore (The Charin Foundation)</td>
<td>Take the Lead Baltimore intends to provide Pre-K through 12th grade Baltimore City Public School students with academic and community leadership development programs through project-based learning.</td>
<td>Meizona Willis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Baldwin Prize</td>
<td>Using the craft of writing to put people in touch with their humanity—and each other.</td>
<td>Lionel Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Be.org</td>
<td>Encouraging and nurturing youth to live above their socially-imposed limitations; to develop their character, talents, and leadership skills, allowing them to go beyond a dream and achieve remarkable excellence.</td>
<td>Tonee Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Board Room</td>
<td>Engaging young people of color through the game of chess. Defining purpose and strengthening values, self esteem and integrity one pawn at a time.</td>
<td>Kim Hicks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Chinatown Collective</td>
<td>Amplifying the voices and experiences of Baltimore-based Asian American Pacific Islander artists, entrepreneurs, and creatives.</td>
<td>Stephanie Hsu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project or Client</td>
<td>Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Educate One Project</td>
<td>Provides financial support guidance to increase the opportunity for inner-city college bound and college attending youth to get on and remain on a pathway to success.</td>
<td>Kevin Shird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sebass Foundation</td>
<td>Promoting safety, helping reduce racial and economic inequities, and fostering a positive sense of community throughout the city of Baltimore. In memory of Sebastian Tucker Richard Dvorak.</td>
<td>Lisa Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upendo Movement</td>
<td>Seeks to support families holistically by assessing, addressing and eliminating barriers that lead to successful family development and transition to adulthood for youth.</td>
<td>Marvina Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanscapes</td>
<td>To restore and uplift the environment in neighborhoods that have been distressed by derelict and blighted conditions.</td>
<td>Cory Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Parents</td>
<td>Support partner fundraising efforts and school-supportive activities at the Barclay School and Margret Brent Elementary/Middle School.</td>
<td>Debra Matthews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk of Faith</td>
<td>Supporting the execution of an annual event in the memory of Zakary DeGross, and donating the proceeds to support the JHU Hospital Pediatric Oncology Unit.</td>
<td>Lesli DeGross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WeGo Foundation</td>
<td>Creates opportunities for enrichment, enjoyment, and communication to our clients, through the implementation of telepresence technology and programming in order to promote innovation for new and profound avenues of human connection.</td>
<td>Galen Shi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Tipper Thomas Foundation</td>
<td>An advocacy program that promotes and facilitates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, philanthropic endeavors, and humanitarian initiatives to promote community empowerment and prevent social decay.</td>
<td>William Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Park Improvement Association</td>
<td>Improving the Wilson Park neighborhood for the next generation of residents and visitors.</td>
<td>Alfred Wainwright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston-Govans Improvement Association</td>
<td>Building cohesion among residents; makes the neighborhood safe and environmentally-friendly; and provides opportunities for youth to protect investment in community.</td>
<td>Ina Parker and Margaret Baldridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women With CLASS</td>
<td>Develop and instill self-worth, self-respect, and self-empowerment while improving the self-image among young women through active participation workshops.</td>
<td>Katia Fortune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Womxn of Color Weekend</td>
<td>Womxn of Color Weekend is a four-day Pride designed to elevate, strengthen, educate and celebrate LGBTQIA womxn of color, non-binary and gender-fluid people of color and allies.</td>
<td>Jha Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Empowered Society (YES)</td>
<td>Baltimore City’s first and only drop-in center for youth experiencing homeless youth.</td>
<td>Blair Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Road Partnership</td>
<td>Promoting the vitality of the York Road community as a desirable urban environment in which to live, shop, work, and worship.</td>
<td>Curt Schwartz and Donna Blackwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Kings Leadership Academy</td>
<td>Serving Black male middle school students and illuminates their full potential by providing unique learning opportunities beyond the classroom.</td>
<td>Ciera Daniel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Spotlight

BALTIMORE CORPS: LOOKING BACK ON AN EXTRAORDINARY PARTNERSHIP

In just six years, Baltimore Corps has established itself as a powerful force for social change in Baltimore. They focus on leadership and talent development, especially for communities of color. Strong City has been Baltimore Corps’ fiscal sponsor since it was just an idea in the heads of co-founders Fagan Harris and Wes Moore. After six years, thousands of meetings and phone calls, hundreds of grants and contracts, countless emails, and a few late-night beers, Baltimore Corps launched as an independent organization in July of 2019.

From the very start, this relationship went beyond providing typical fiscal sponsorship services. Strong City helped Baltimore Corps launch its first cohort of Fellows within six months of forming; offered strategic program development assistance along with our standard fiscal sponsorship services; and provided innovative infrastructure support, especially around hiring.

The city government wanted Baltimore Corps Fellows to fill key roles at the Health Department and other municipal agencies, but hiring was frozen. Instead, Strong City became the Fellows’ official employer. City Fellows supported evidence-based budgeting efforts, modernized branding, acted as key strategic advisors to nationally recognized executives, and implemented data-driven approaches that better met needs on the ground.

The Fellows program has recruited and developed over 100 leaders in dozens of organizations, growing from nine graduates in Cohort 1 to 40 in Cohort 4.

“The services Strong City provided to Baltimore Corps during its startup phase were critical to our success. With them focused on the operational details like payroll, benefits, general human resource and financial management, our staff could be laser-focused on the core mission,” said Baltimore Corps Board Vice Chair Charlene Moore Hayes.

“The story of Baltimore Corps’ beginning really shows the best and highest function of fiscal sponsorship,” said Tyson W. Garith, Strong City’s Director of Operations and architect of the fiscal sponsorship program. “It is so important for established organizations, like Strong City, to ask themselves, ‘how can we do the most good?’ It may be that the most good is done by stepping out of the spotlight and supporting new and dynamic leaders using the knowledge and experience we have gained over 50 years.”
50 Years Strong

Strong City has been working to strengthen neighborhoods and people for 50 years! We are celebrating all year long with events that reflect where we have been and where we are going! Clockwise from top right: Guests dancing at Get On Up!, choirs from The Churches on Charles sing at Strong Voices, Strong City, panelists speak on neighborhood investment and disinvestment at Brilliant Baltimore, mingling at Get On Up! in The Hoen Lithograph Building, authentic outfits in the photobooth at Get On Up!
We are moving! After 50 years in North Central Baltimore, we will be consolidating operations at the Hoen Lithograph Building in Collington Square. We were the key nonprofit partner that allowed the developer to utilize various federal and state tax credit programs. The renovation of this historic factory, which has been vacant for over 35 years, features “green” building techniques, space designed for community connection, and 21st century classroom features for the Adult Learning Center.

The surrounding area has limited community amenities and a high vacancy rate. However, proximity to the employment base at Johns Hopkins Medical Campus is a strong asset on which to build. Replicating our successful track record of seeding community-driven revitalization in Central Baltimore, Strong City will support resident organizing and community planning, preserve and promote homeownership, connect residents to jobs, and grow the capacity of existing community assets. Strong City has spent the last two years building relationships with community residents that will support future collaboration.

At the Hoen Building, Strong City will be the lead anchor tenant of the Center for Neighborhood Innovation (CNI): a new model for neighborhood transformation. We intend for this center to bring together a critical mass of social entrepreneurs,
nonprofits, service providers, and researchers committed to solving issues facing our most distressed neighborhoods and provide them with the support needed to create positive community change.

We are excited to be sharing space at the Hoen with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and City Life Community Builders around a workforce development pipeline. ABC will be consolidating and expanding their building trade apprenticeship programs at the Hoen which are currently scattered all across the suburbs. Strong City’s Adult Learning Center will expand our GED intensive programs to prepare learners for job training opportunities through our CNI partners, as well as employment at neighborhood anchors like Johns Hopkins Medical Campus.

Strong City Baltimore is moving to a location where every aspect of our operation will make an impact: from mission-based components of where we implement our programs as well as host meetings and community gatherings, to everyday details such as where we go out to lunch and shop. We are eager to make an impact that will have both depth and breadth in transforming one of Baltimore’s most distressed communities while providing a top-quality teaching and work environment.

We are also excited to be putting Strong City Baltimore on a path to long-term financial stability. We have an option to purchase the building at the end of the seven-year tax credit period. Keep an eye out for our upcoming capital campaign to find out how you can support our work permanently!
Volunteer Spotlight

LIZ HOEY

Liz was Strong City Baltimore’s intern while getting her Masters in Social Work from the University of Maryland School of Social Work. After her internship, where she led the organizing of the 2018 Neighborhood Institute, she continued helping Strong City as a core member of the planning and logistics team for Get On Up!, our 50th anniversary celebration. In addition to her fantastic note-taking at meetings, she was our event stage manager, trouble shooting technical issues and being the liaison with performers from our fiscally sponsored projects. “I still use the insights I learned about planning an event in my work,” says Liz. “It needs to be all hands on deck.”

Liz is currently a Program Specialist at the Institute for Innovation and Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work.
Thank You to Our Supporters Over the Years

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Anne I. Dugan
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Barbara Shapiro
Barbara Voss and Charlie Noell
Bart B. Harvey III and Janet Marie Smith
Bess Carlton Keller and Michael Terrin
Beth and Mark Felder
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Samuel Peters
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Sandra Sparks
Sarah Landon and George Nilson
Stephen Goodman and Annie Chau
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The Lois and Irving Blum Foundation
Tobey Roland
Todd Caner
Todd Elliott
William P. Miller & Janet Neer
Winston & Marilyn Tabb
Zita Nunes

**Organizations**  
(Over $5,000)
Abell Foundation
Alvin & Fanny B. Thalheimer
Foundation
American Communities Trust
Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development
Baltimore City Public School System
Baltimore Community Foundation
Baltimore Reads, Inc
Bank Of America Charitable
Foundation
Brewers Association Of Maryland
Bunting Family Foundation
Campbell Foundation
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
Carroll Motor Fuels

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Fund For Educational Excellence
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Foundation
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PD Inc.
PNC Bank
PNC Foundation
Presbytery Of Baltimore
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St. John's Episcopal Church
T. Rowe Price
T. Rowe Price Foundation
Telesis
Thomas Wilson Sanitarium For Children Of Baltimore City
United Way Of Central Maryland
University Baptist Church
UPD Consulting
Venable Foundation
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Thank you to all of our supporters that have given at levels not listed here.
Without you we could not do our work!
## Our Staff

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  Payroll & Human Resources Associate
- **Sassche’ Corbin**  
  Accounts Payable and Contracts Admin
- **Josh Clement**  
  Development Consultant
- **Mike Cross-Barnet**  
  Communications and Special Projects Coordinator
- **Reginald Davis**  
  Chief of Staff
- **Karen DeCamp**  
  Senior Portfolio Manager & Director of Community Programs
- **Kahlilah Elie**  
  Database Administrator
- **Todd Elliott**  
  Budget Manager
- **Tyson W. Garith**  
  Director of Operations
- **Dana Hayes**  
  Bookkeeper
- **Lynette Hodge**  
  Portfolio Manager
- **Gui Mimoun**  
  Special Assistant to Project Services
- **Tinishia Montague**  
  Accounts Payable Manager
- **Nichole Mooney**  
  Portfolio Manager
- **Dana Murphy**  
  Project & Events Manager
- **Kenya Pope**  
  Initiative Bookkeeper
- **Markus Saelzer**  
  IT Administrator
- **Samantha Solomon**  
  Communications Manager
- **Karen D. Stokes**  
  Chief Executive Officer
- **Dannielle Sturgeon**  
  Development Specialist
- **Richard Williams**  
  Accounts Receivable Specialist
- **Eva Wingren**  
  Development Associate

### Community Schools and Neighborhood Programs
- **Rev. Eric P. Lee**  
  Director of Neighborhood Programs
- **Peter Duvall**  
  Community Revitalization Coordinator
- **Sabrinia Gay**  
  Margaret Brent Community School Coordinator
- **Sandi McFadden**  
  Govans Community School Coordinator
- **Rachel Shane**  
  Code Enforcement Assistant

### 29th Street Community Center
- **Gechell Burnside**  
  Assistant Program Manager
- **Minju Zukowski**  
  Director

### Adult Learning Center
- **Karolina Belen**  
  ELA Instructional Specialist
- **Georgina Blackwell**  
  Intake and Assessment Specialist
- **Sherry DeFrancisci**  
  Assistant Director
- **Joanne Baille Egan**  
  Management Information Systems Specialist
- **Thomas Frey**  
  Tutor Instructional Specialist

### The Club at Collington Square
- **Vince Cole**  
  Chef
- **Vanessa Williams**  
  Program Director