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A Mother's Cry Thanksgiving event for women impacted by violence



More than 100 women impacted by violence were given all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving meal and served dinner at the 11th Annual Thanksgiving Event organized by Millie Brown, founder of A Mother's Cry on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at the Lillian Jones building at 1303 Greenmount Avenue in Baltimore City. A Mother's Cry is a local group that supports mothers who have lost children to violence. (Left to right) Millie Brown, founder, A Mother's Cry; Craig Wolf, candidate for Maryland Attorney General; Will Brown, artist; and members of the Wolf family at the event. (Story on page 10)

Courtesy Photo/A Mother's Cry

Former Baltimore Times writer reflects on what Maya Angelou taught her

By Stacy M. Brown

Kimberly Brown says she has always shared the journey of others in her reporting, whether it was an obstacle, new venture or victory. Now, the former Baltimore Times journalist has written a new book about her own journey.

While the title, “Reflections – What Ms. Angelou Taught Me” is certainly an ode to the late poet Maya Angelou, Brown also pays tribute to her parents in the opening of the book.

“To my mommy and daddy, you both have stuck by me no matter how outlandish my dreams or wild my beliefs. I love you,” Brown writes in the forward to “Reflections...”

And, while telling the stories of others has been a major part of her work as a journalist, Brown decided it’s time to tell her own story.

“Along the way I neglected to share the truth of my own path so as a way to open up about challenges which I endured, the book was written,” she said. “I am a private person who failed to



Former Baltimore Times journalist, Kimbely Brown has written a new book about her own journey. Her book, “Reflections – What Ms. Angelou Taught Me,” is an ode to the late poet Maya Angelou.
Courtesy Photo

realized that some of my adversities could possibly offer encouragement.”

In telling her story, Brown says she drew strength from Angelou, the famed poet, author and civil rights activist who died in 2014.

“What I have learned from observing Maya Angelou is that there’s strength in owning who you are and being true to self. Also, as a woman of color, we essentially hold the key to recognizing our own worth as well as hold value to who we are and what we offer into the world,” Brown said.

Growing up, Brown recalled watching the ABC Television presentation of “Roots,” the gripping true story of the enslaved ancestors of author Alex Haley. She says the book and television series also helped to shape her as a writer.

“Some people, like myself, embraced

the story and wanted to learn more, while others who still to this day, believe slavery has no connection to the mindset or behaviors we experience in our community,” Brown said. “I feel whenever we fail to acknowledge a timeframe in American history it can affect a culture moving forward.”

Brown also notes the importance of being humble.

“After going through but so many challenges along your path, if we’re not humble already, life will humble you,” she said. “I don’t understand what’s the big turn off about being humble. Although, I do understand we should definitely be compensated for our worth or involvement in work related projects.”

As far as awards and accolades, Browns says she believes just having an opportunity to keep doing what she loves and being able to reach higher goals is in itself fulfilling.

“Of course, at some point there is a desire to retire so to do so fruitfully is a reward within itself,” she said.

Brown also hopes that anyone who reads “Reflections” will understand regardless of their background or circumstance that anyone can succeed.

“There will be challenges as well as obstacles along the path, but just continue to move ahead with faith and belief in your gifts,” she said. “I want readers to feel encouraged and inspired that they can accomplish or pursue what is in their hearts to achieve despite what they may have endured in the past.”

“Reflections – What Ms. Angelou Taught Me,” is available for sale at: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/reflections-what-ms-angelou-taught-me-brown/1128969065?type=eBook>.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

The Moral Burden of Thanksgiving

By Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

In the bloody summer of 1863, the Union Army defeated General Robert E. Lee's Confederate forces at Gettysburg, a three-day battle that changed the course of the Civil War and the long journey from slavery to freedom.

Three months later, in a profound gesture of gratitude, President Abraham Lincoln officially proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November to be a national holiday, a national day of thanksgiving. The Union would hold. The people would be free.

"No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things," the proclamation read. "They are gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to

me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People."

Thanksgiving has always been about more than football and turkey. It is about justice and the creation of a more perfect union. It has always been political.

"In the true spirit of Thanksgiving, this is a time not to focus on one big meal on one big day.

This is a time to commit and work even harder to end poverty and hunger in this land of plenty."

Poverty and hunger are enemies of the union. They are homegrown terrorists, traitors to the America we can and must become. They have no place in a nation as rich, powerful and fundamentally good as ours.

In the true spirit of Thanksgiving, this is a time not to focus on one big meal on one big day. This is a time to commit and work even harder to end poverty and hunger in this land of plenty.

We have much work to do. There are nine neighborhoods in Chicago—endangered communities—where poverty is at almost 20 percent and unemployment hovers around 40 percent. That is a sin.

There are an estimated 13.1 million children—one in six—in the United States living in households where there is not enough to eat. Experts say that children who suffer from hunger in the first years of their education often lag behind their peers in school, a beginning that can haunt them for the rest of their lives.

The moral burden of Thanksgiving is not to eat turkey but to feed justice.

Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a multi-racial, multi-issue, progressive, international organization formed in December 1996 by the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. by merging of two organizations he founded Operation PUSH People United to Serve Humanity (estab. 1971) and the Rainbow Coalition (estab. 1984). The organization works to make the American Dream a reality for all citizens while advocating for peace and justice around the world. RPC is dedicated to improving the lives of all people by serving as a voice for the voiceless. Its mission is to protect, defend and gain civil rights by leveling the economic and educational playing fields while promoting peace and justice around the world.



Community Affairs

Coalition of Attorneys General Urge HHS, Department of Education to abandon efforts to adopt restrictive, discriminatory federal definition of "sex"

Baltimore— Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh joined a coalition of 20 state attorneys general urging the Trump administration to abandon efforts to adopt a definition of "sex" that would exclude transgender and gender nonconforming individuals from the protections of federal civil rights laws.

Last month, it was reported that key officials in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services were considering adopting a definition of sex as an immutable, binary biological trait determined by or before birth—and that the Department was urging other agencies, including the Department of Education, to do the same. Such a restrictive definition would effectively exclude transgender and gender nonconforming individuals from the protections of critical federal civil rights laws, including

Title IX and the nondiscrimination provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

"Transgendered and gender non-conforming members of our communities are entitled to legal protection," said Attorney General Frosh. "Our federal government should promote the values of nondiscrimination and inclusiveness, not create laws and regulations that subject people to discrimination and harassment."

In the letter to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, the attorneys general agree that, "despite clear evidence of the serious harms that discrimination continues to inflict on the transgender community, the administration seems intent not only on rolling back existing federal civil rights protections for this vulnerable population, but also denying transgender people even basic recognition."

In addition to Maryland, the letter was joined by attorneys general from California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

Criminal justice reform long overdue for black America

**By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President and CEO of the National
Newspaper Publishers Association**

As a member of the infamous Wilmington Ten case in North Carolina from 1972 to 2012, I witnessed firsthand why the criminal justice system in the United States needed to be thoroughly reformed. We had been unjustly sentenced in 1972 to a combined total of 282 years in prison for standing up for equal quality education for black students in the public school system in Wilmington, NC in 1971.

For 40 long years, until North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue signed "Pardons of Innocence" documents for each member of the Wilmington Ten, the issues of unjust and disproportionate mass incarceration, bail reform, racism in the judiciary, prosecutorial misconduct, and reentry challenges were not matters of partisanship, but were matters of fundamental civil and human rights. Thanks to the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People (NAACP), the United Church of Christ (UCC), the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARP), Amnesty International and millions of people across the U.S. and throughout the world, we finally received a modicum of justice with the Pardons of Innocence being issued on December 31, 2012.

In the wake of the recent 2018

sentenced prison population. The ACLU reports that African American men are six times more likely to be incarcerated as white men in the U.S.

According to the NAACP's Criminal Justice Fact Sheet, African American women are imprisoned at twice the rate of White women. The Federal Bureau of Prisons reported in 2018 that 38 percent of prison inmates are African American.

"For 40 long years, until North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue signed "Pardons of Innocence" documents for each member of the Wilmington Ten (including myself), the issues of unjust and disproportionate mass incarceration, bail reform, racism in the judiciary, prosecutorial misconduct, and reentry challenges were not matters of partisanship, but were matters of fundamental civil and human rights."

Midterm Elections, there now appears to be a more bipartisan interest and commitment in the achievement of significant criminal justice reform in America. Earlier this year, the House of Representatives finally passed the First Step Act with bipartisan support. The legislation establishes the initial steps for criminal justice reform at the federal level. Just last week, even President Trump announced his support of the First Step Act. However, what the U.S. Senate will do is still an open question.

The U.S. Congress should expedite passing the First Step Act as well as other criminal justice reform legislation. For black America in particular, this remains an urgent and crucial public policy objective.

Of the current 2.2 million people incarcerated in the nation's prisons and jails, a disproportionate number are African Americans and other people of color. According to a 2018 Pew Research Study, in 2016 African Americans represented 12 percent of the U.S. adult population but 33 percent of the

But we need to do more than merely stating the statistics of criminal justice that bear witness to the racial, social, and economic inequities and injustices. We need solutions. We need more research about the successful programs and projects that can prevent mass incarceration while we emphasize the urgency for criminal justice reform legislation at both the federal and state levels. We also need more effective programs for the hundreds of thousands of incarcerated people preparing to reenter society without the counterproductivity of recidivism.

I have served on panel discussions amicably with Mark Holden, general counsel of Koch Industries, who also supports the First Step Act, a bill grounded in evidence-based and data-driven practices that we know keep communities safe and provide people with the second chances they need to lead productive lives. The bill specifically provides programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison. Mark and I are

on the same page on the issues of reentry and the need to reduce systemic incarceration.

In fact, Koch Industries has been funding criminal justice reform efforts for more than a decade and was one of the first major corporations in the U.S. to "ban the box" by removing questions about criminal history on its employment applications. Other corporate leaders should also "ban the box."

Earlier this year at the NNPA's Mid-Winter Conference, we were pleased to welcome Brother Lamont Carey, a former prison inmate, noted author and founder of Contact Visits, a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization that he established to assist people preparing to reenter society from prison. It was reassuring to see how Lamont was able to break free of the stigma of incarceration and make a positive and productive contribution to help others transform their lives, families and communities.

Lastly, on the related issue of bail reform: There are nearly a half million people, most of whom are people of color, who are sitting in jail today only because they cannot afford to post a monetary bail. Google and Koch have also teamed up to raise awareness about the necessity for bail reform in America. They believe that individuals accused of a crime should not be required to provide bail unless deemed a threat to public safety or a flight risk, because freedom should not hinge on a person's financial worth.

The time is now for action, not more partisan debate. No more postponements. No more excuses. The U.S. Congress should pass the First Step Act. We want equal justice.

Criminal justice reform for black America is long overdue.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper

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Neighborhood business competition puts decision making in hands of community

By Stacy M. Brown

The Greater Remington Improvement Association (GRIA), in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and Seawall has announced the launch of the Remington Storefront Challenge (RSC)—a Shark Tank-style search for local entrepreneurs—to start temporary retail concepts in two storefronts in what organizers say is one of Baltimore's hottest neighborhoods.

Winners will receive between 12 and 24 months of free rent along with funding to help deck out their new spaces, plus technical assistance to help achieve their goals.

"We are hoping to increase the diversity of retail business owners and retail offerings in the neighborhood while creating a more walkable, inviting neighborhood," said K.C. Kelleher, a member of GRIA, an independent, resident-based neighborhood association that provides an inclusive forum for discussion of Remington community issues and facilitates resident-led initiatives. "We recognize how difficult starting a business can be, so we are hoping this incentive program creates opportunities for new businesses that otherwise may have struggled to turn a dream into a reality."

With support from sponsors, including Johns Hopkins University, Central Baltimore Partnership, Howard Bank and Younts Design, the Remington Storefront Challenge seeks businesses that are viable to Remington—specifically what the neighborhood says it needs and wants.

Applicants with young businesses and new ideas will be asked to demonstrate their experience, passion and ability to execute their business plan, including how their concept will increase foot traf-



The Remington Storefront Challenge is a Shark Tank-style search for local entrepreneurs to start temporary retail concepts in two storefronts in what organizers say is one of Baltimore's hottest neighborhoods. Online applications must be submitted by January 8, 2019. For more information, visit <http://www.griaonline.org>.

Courtesy Photo/GRIA

fic to the area, and cross pollinate with the other winner and existing businesses.

"We are looking for both the dreamers and the doers—entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs, makers and artists who will complement, not compete—with the neighborhood's existing businesses," Kelleher said. "Our goal is to find two of the most inclusive and useful concepts for the community as determined by the community."

Online applications must be submitted by January 8, 2019. The top 10 entries will be selected and on January 22, 2019 and will be invited to participate in a round of private business pitches that will be reviewed by a panel of judges made up of Remington residents, anchor institutions and local business owners.

"It's exciting to see so much activity

and so many new businesses in Remington," said Mitch Bonanno, Chief Real Estate Officer for the Johns Hopkins University. "The University has supported GRIA, Seawall, and others in making it happen, and we're honored to continue that support in the Remington Storefront Challenge. We can't wait to see what new businesses our Remington neighbors choose to occupy these two prime retail locations."

RSC provides two options for locations—300 W. 29th Street—a 1,240 square-foot space where the current structure will be renovated with a brand-new interior and façade, which officials say will create an incredible working space with curb appeal. The second option is located at 2700 Remington Avenue, Suite 100, a mixed-use building

that houses retail and wellness along with 108 residential apartments. The 900-square-foot space is fully finished with floor-to-ceiling windows.

"We have no preconceived notions of what specific businesses should go into these two spaces, but we are looking for business owners with roots in the area, a commitment to serving all members of the community, and a unique product or service that Remingtonians don't currently have access to," Kelleher said. "We are looking for businesses that give neighbors more and better retail options, and only our neighbors know what they want and need."

Community participation in the project is vital, according to Kelleher.

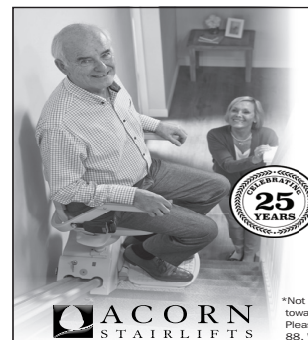
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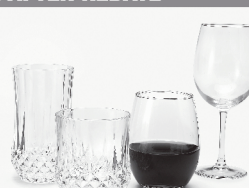
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Baltimore Times Hosts Holiday Extravaganza to Support Small Biz, Community

By Stacy M. Brown

A dollar circulates in Asian communities for one month, according to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In Jewish communities, a single dollar circulates for approximately 20 days while four quarters – or two fifty-cent pieces – remain in white communities about 17 days. By contrast, in the African-American community, a single dollar lasts about six hours, according to the NAACP. Should we not change this scenario in the black community? The Baltimore Times thinks that we should. And over decades it has continued to work to support and promote small businesses. The newspaper has consistently and repeatedly found ways to help entrepreneurs of all backgrounds make their dollar circulate within the community. “When we thrive, I believe everyone else does as well,” said Baltimore Times Publisher, Joy Bramble. To that end, the Baltimore Times and the Baltimore Times Foundation are hosting an inaugural Holiday Marketplace at the Coppin State University’s Talon Center on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018. This will be a “shopping extravaganza” which continues the theme of “Shop Small Business Saturday”—a project developed to support Baltimore’s local

artisans, small business owners and entrepreneurs. This “shopping extravaganza” will begin at 10.00 am, and last through 4.00 p.m. at Coppin.



Dee Jay Jourdan Taylor

The market offers something for everyone: one-of-a-kind specialty gift items; face painting; demonstrations on the art of gift wrapping; ideas on gifts individuals can make themselves; music; and plenty of free parking. Open to the public with free admission, the shopping extravaganza will also feature caricatures, a balloon sculpture and much more.

The event is as important for young people as anyone else, said Dr. Ronald Williams, the former Dean of the College of Business and current Lead Faculty of the Employment Certification Program at Coppin State University.

“An event like this is tremendously important. Small businesses are the economic engine of the country, so small businesses certainly have a big socio-economic impact on the community,” Williams said. “An event like this really helps the community, the city, the region and it is very important,” he said.

Mrs. Joy Bramble said that the event

is important to the Baltimore Times’ mission of supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses in the communities and showing the importance of such operations on the positive effect they have on local communities. “The Baltimore Times has always supported such community events,” Bramble said.

“We started as a small business and we know the value of the dollar and we know that it is important for entrepreneurs to set an example for young people who might one day aspire to own their small business and to be able to sustain themselves,” she said.

Professor Williams added that young people need good examples of successful business people who they can emu-

late.

“What I see is critical now is that our young people being able to earn money sooner ... entrepreneurship – the contract work or the gig economy is a way for

our young people to start earning money earlier in life,” he said.

“An example of that is that statistics tell us that in the next two years, 50 percent of the population will have an alternative stream of income.

“Our young people need the skills such as coding so that they can begin to take on work even as teenagers that will enable them to earn substantial amounts of money. If you can code at age 15, you may earn more than your parents earn,” Williams said.

There are no tickets required for event and for more details or to request a vendor application – the event is not open to food vendors due to facility restrictions – call 410-366-3900 or email btimes@btimes.com.

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A Mother's Cry Thanksgiving event for women impacted by violence

By Ursula V. Battle

Continuing the tradition of giving to mothers who have lost children to violence, A Mother's Cry recently held their 11th Annual Thanksgiving Event at the Lillian Jones building located at 1303 Greenmount Avenue in Baltimore.

More than 100 women impacted by violence were given all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving meal and served dinner. The event was organized by Millie Brown, founder of A Mother's Cry.

"More than 100 hundred women—all who have been impacted by the violence on our streets attended this event," said Brown. "Others who were in attendance came to support them. We also fed and gave food to those who needed some help for the holiday."

Craig Wolf, who ran an unsuccessful bid for Maryland Attorney General, was among those who attended the event.

"It was such a beautiful event," said Brown. "Mr. Wolf and his family were very passionate about saving lives and trying the comfort the survivors."

According to Brown, donations came from a variety of sources, including Giant Food, the Wolf family, and a donor who requested anonymity.

"In addition, Under Armour donated certificates for turkeys and groceries," said Brown. "Johns Hopkins' Catering department donated the hot food that was served, which they do each year."

Brown's son, Will Brown, is an artist, and has been giving mothers portraits of their children since she founded A Mother's Cry 11 years ago.

"They can look at those portraits, which gives them a part of their lost child," said Brown. "It goes beyond a plate of food. It means so much to the mothers after losing their child."



Artist Will Brown holding two-year-old Ta'liya Fleming, who has lost three god-brothers to gun violence. She loves Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Millie Brown holds the paintings her son created for her.

Courtesy Photo

She added, "We are looking for funding to help buy supplies to keep pace with the many portraits my son has to paint."

A Mother's Cry is a local group that supports mothers who have lost children to violence.

"I started having events," said Brown. "I would have events on Mother's Day, Christmas, Thanksgiving and other holidays to get the mothers together to let them know they are not alone. I started asking for donations to give to the mothers. I have never asked for money — only gifts, which have come in a variety of forms, including manicures, pedicures, gift cards, dinner, appliances, jewelry, flat screen televisions, and tickets to shows."

Brown, who is the recipient of numerous awards for her work with the group, said her annual Christmas event for the mothers will be held at the Under Armour House located on 1100 Fayette Street in December.

For more information about "A Mother's Cry," or to find out how you can help, call: 443-303-6289 or email: brownmillie98@gmail.com.

Lamar Jackson gives Ravens a glimpse of the future

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens traded back into the first round of the 2018 NFL Draft to select former Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson. The selection was the last first-round pick that Ravens GM Ozzie Newsome will make in his career.

Judging from what Jackson was able to do against the Cincinnati Bengals last week, Baltimore has a bright future. The NFL is moving towards a league that places more of an emphasis on scoring.

Dynamic playmakers such as Jackson are electrifying fans on game day with their highlight reel worthy performances.

Baltimore desperately needed a win last Sunday to stay on pace with the other teams fighting for the final wild card spot down the stretch. Starting quarterback Joe Flacco is sidelined due to a hip injury and wasn't able to play in week 11. Jackson made his first NFL start in place of Flacco last Sunday.

The Cincinnati Bengals have been a thorn in the Ravens' side over the years. Jackson's 150 passing yards and 117 rushing yards pushed Baltimore to a 24 - 21 win over their division rivals.

Logging 27 rushing attempts is far from the conventional way to use a quarterback. However, Jackson's ability to run the ball is rather unique. He is also a dangerous passer.

Jackson's style of play has evoked comparisons to former Atlanta Falcons and Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick. Ironically, Vick was pretty vocal about the way the Ravens used Jackson, saying it isn't likely to be repeated.

"That game plan yesterday will only exist yesterday. They'll never be able to go out and duplicate that again," Vick said on FS1 show Speak For Yourself.

"It's going to be eight-man boxes from here on out. This will give Lamar Jackson the chance to work on becoming a better passer. Next week, he'll have to go out and pass the football, then you'll be complimentary with the run game—



Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson made his first NFL start on Sunday, November 18, 2018 against the Bengals at M&T Stadium

Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

27 runs is too much. The focus has to be on getting better as a passer."

Some of the Bengals players came away pretty impressed with Jackson. His style of play puts a different form of stress on defenses.

"It's like facing two different offenses. Joe Flacco, he just stands back there and isn't very mobile but he throws the ball hard. This guy [Lamar Jackson], is very unpredictable," Bengals linebacker Von-taze Burfict said.

"It was totally different. A running quarterback who is a dual threat...pass and run. It makes you play smart. You don't know whether he's rolling or not. It's a guessing game for the most part on things like that," cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick added.

Jackson's performance prompted NFL Network Good Morning America host Peter Schrager to heap plenty of praise on Jackson.

"This is was the most amazing performance of the week. It was Tim Tebow with an even greater arm," Schrager said on the Monday show.

The future is bright for Jackson and the Ravens. Flacco's injury may allow Jackson to start a few more games in the coming weeks. It will be interesting to see how defenses adjust to Jackson's dual-threat ability and how Jackson adjusts in return.

"This guy is a great quarterback already," Head Coach John Harbaugh said. "And he's just going to get better from here on out."

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Take Me Back To Astroworld: Travis Scott Show Review

By Imani Wj Wright

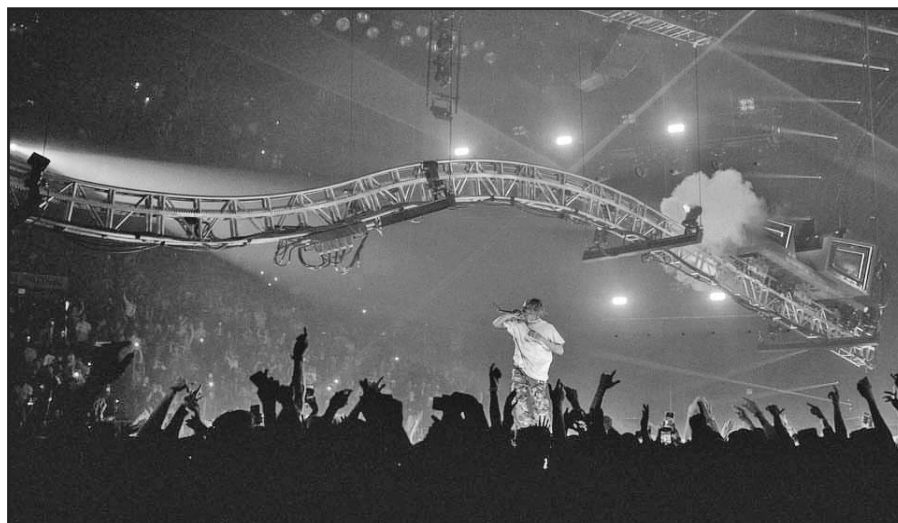
As a young kid, I was never very picky about things. Tuna sandwich for lunch? Cool. Heading to the park today? Great! We're going to Disney World? Awesome! I was pretty much a go with the flow kind of guy— easy to satisfy and hard to disappoint.

Nowadays, I wish I could say the same, but after a recent experience, I know that it isn't going to be easy.

I've been listening to Travis Scott for quite some time now. My opinions about him and his music have differed over the years, but his last two solo projects have impressed me. He has truly showed his artistic and creative abilities. His use of voice variations, vocal effects, and sudden production changes all lead to this one of a kind sound that people have grown to yearn for.

Because of these things, Travis has gained mega star status, and has consistently drawn large audiences to his live performances. Many people in my circle have attended his concerts over the years have all described them as crazy, fun and full of energy. However, that pretty much describes any situation where you would have tens of thousands of millennials in one place. Nonetheless, I decided to see for myself.

Travis Scott's Astroworld Tour kicked off right here in downtown Baltimore on November 8, 2018. One of my friends,



Travis Scott's Astroworld Tour kicked off in Baltimore City on November 8, 2018. He performed while literally going upside down riding along a coaster like track which gave the amusement park theme full effect.

Photo Credit: Ray's Corrupted Mind

Kendall, had four tickets to the show, and I was one of those of lucky four!

I didn't know how much of a ride we would be in for. As we walked into the arena there wasn't an immense amount of energy in the air. People seemed "relaxed" and ready for a good show.

The most adrenaline-rushing thing I saw on the way to my seat was a guy who almost dropped his popcorn and caught it before it hit the ground— it was quite the catch.

After a slew of popular opening acts such as: "Sheck Wes," "Trippie Redd," and "Gunna," everyone in the crowd

was ready for the main event. As soon as the lights went back down, everyone in the arena stood up and this very colorful but almost dark video with a very psychedelic feel began to play, as the audience was introduced to Astroworld. In the video, were several references to both Travis and the theme park and as everyone's attention was focused on the screen— *BANG* on an entirely different stage at the opposite side of the arena, Travis pops up out of the ground.

Ticket holders with standing room on the floor all simultaneously ran to the

other side of the arena. It was quite the spectacle.

While watching this incredibly intense performance, I noticed a large "coaster looking" object behind Travis. Before I could even blink, Travis began to walk over to it and you wouldn't believe that it was a "miniature" upside down roller coaster.

Travis started performing while literally going upside down, riding it during one of his songs. He even let a fan get on and ride it too. The amusement park theme was in full effect.

After that, Travis disappeared for just about a minute. Where did he go, we all wondered— and *BOOM* there he was on the other stage in the arena. Once again, people ran towards that side of the arena. The crowd was in a frenzy and, at this point, I officially declared this to be to be the most exciting concert I had ever attended— and still it wasn't over yet!

An even bigger roller coaster hovered over everyone, then dropped down from the ceiling and Travis strapped himself up and rode it above both stages, all while still performing!

There was never a stop in action and during the more "chill" songs a simulated skyline of Houston was shown on the circular screen going around the arena.

After all of this, all I can say is.... take me back to Astroworld!

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CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE

PROJECT #1300—Construction Management Assistance for Water Contract 1229 Rehabilitation of Vernon Pumping Station

The Baltimore City Office of Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Public Works, Office of Engineering and Construction, to certify the qualifications of engineering firms to provide Construction Management Assistance for Water Contract 1229 Rehabilitation of Vernon Pumping Station. One contract will be awarded for a period of 3 1/2 years.

The Construction Management Assistance services to be provided include, but are not limited to, assisting the City Office of Engineering and Construction with construction monitoring and inspection, preparation of daily reports, maintenance of project records and documentation, review of contractor's application for payment, attendance at progress meetings, preparation of record drawings, review of contract claims and support documents, estimating, scheduling, quality control, project engineering, constructability reviews, submittal reviews and responses, RFI reviews and responses, and other contract documents.

- Experience in the Rehabilitation and Construction of Water Facilities Treatment Plants and Pumping Stations with a 40 MGD minimum capacity.
- Experience in development and implementation of a Construction Project Management program.
- Familiarity with standard construction inspection procedures and requirement for civil, Structural, Mechanical, and Electrical disciplines, and Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA), a control system architecture that uses computers, networked data communications and graphical user interfaces for high-level process supervisory management, but uses other peripheral devices such as programmable logic controller, installation and implementation.
- Familiarity with applicable building codes and standards.
- Experience in providing field inspection staff with experience with change orders and claims analysis.
- Experience with Critical Path Method construction scheduling and Primavera version 6 scheduling software.

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- Experience with Primavera Contract Management version 14 project tracking software.
- Overall team approach to utilize, manage and coordinate assigned tasks of the Minority/Women Business Enterprises partners and to conform to City goals.

Project fees have been estimated at \$3,500,000.00 for a period of 3 1/2 years. If further information is required regarding this request, please contact Mr. Gurminder Singh at 410-396-5385.

Projects must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highways, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures". City personnel will utilize the City of Baltimore Guidelines for the Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors for this contract/project.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal for this Project, shall address a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21202, Maryland 21215 EMAIL: OBC.Consultants@baltimorecity.gov. These letters are utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners, therefore, the letter should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The letter should contain a contact person. Failure to submit a "letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Each prime consultant applying for this Project will be required to complete and submit an original Federal Form 255, along with eight (8) original copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions. The Federal Form 255 and the eight copies must be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on December 19, 2018, there are no exceptions. Submittals will not be accepted after this due date.

Prequalification Requirement

All architectural, engineering, and surveying firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project must be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline at time of submittal for this Project. Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

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Insurance Requirements

The consultant selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability, auto liability, and general liability and workers' compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

MBE/WBE Certification

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women's Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is **31%**
The WBE goal is **15%**

Both the proposed Minority and Women's Business Enterprise firms must be named and identified as an MBE or WBE within Item 6 of the Standard Form (SF) 255 in the spaces provided for identifying outside key consultants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project.

Verifying Certification

Each firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized on the project are certified by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from MWBOO. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call MWBOO at (410) 396-4355 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

Non-Affiliation

A firm submitting a proposal may not use an MBE or WBE to meet a contract goal if:

1. The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE
2. The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE
3. The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE (Article 5 subtitle 28-41).

Additional Requirements

A firm submitting as a prime consultant that

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fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; rescission of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE firms, must be shown on the page provided within the application.

Please be advised that for the purpose of reviewing price proposals and invoices, the City of Baltimore defines a principal of a firm as follows:

A principal is any individual owning 5% or more of the outstanding stock of an entity, a partner of a partnership, a 5% or more shareholder of a sub-chapter 'S' Corporation, or an individual owner.

Out-of-State Corporations must identify their corporate resident agent within the application.

Firms will not be considered for a specific project if they apply as both a sub-consultant and prime consultant.

The applications for this Project (Form 255) cannot be supplemented with any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound. Applications should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Failure to follow directions of this advertisement or the application may cause disqualification of the submittal.

Deena Joyce, Chief
Office of Boards and Commissions

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