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# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

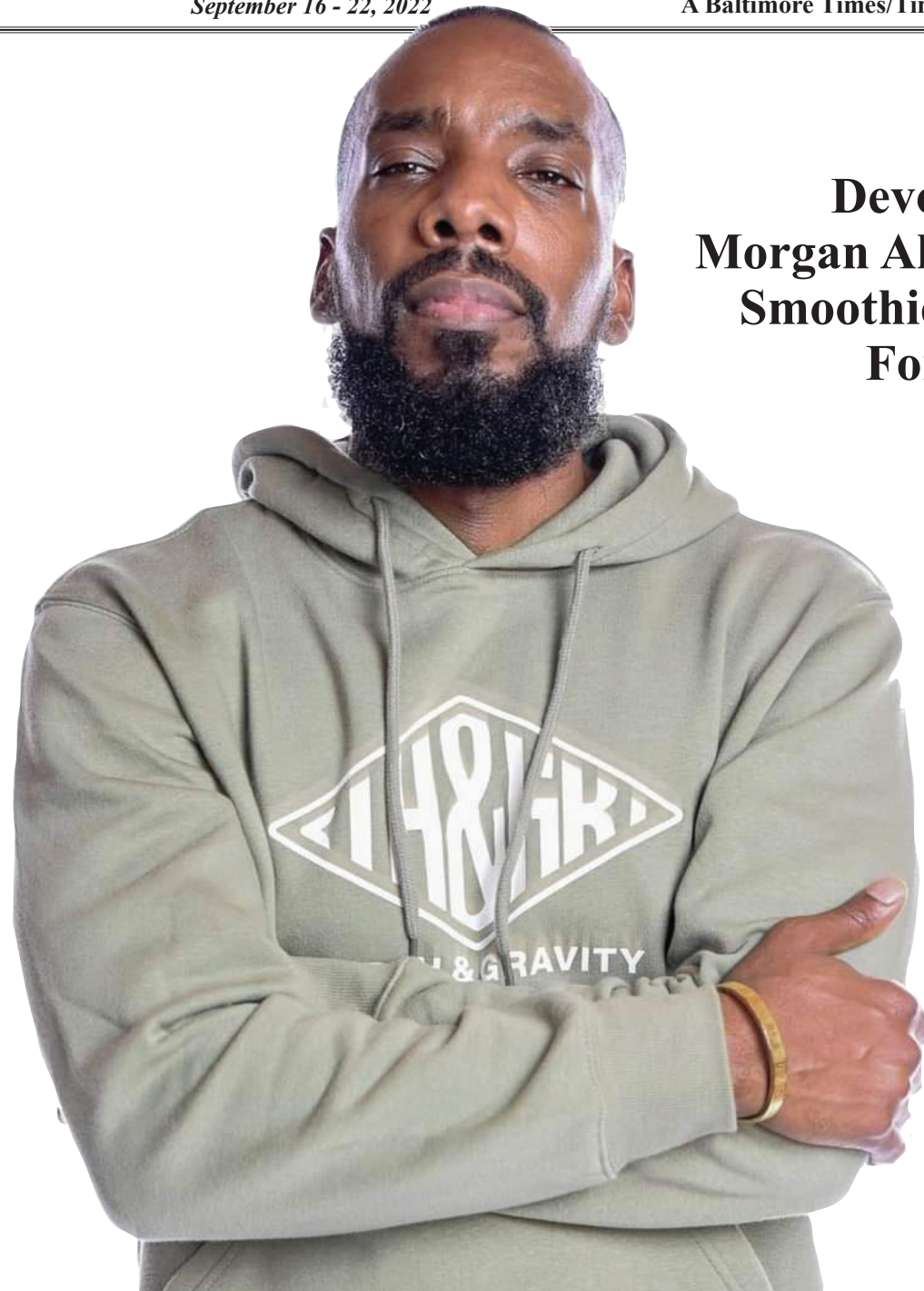
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**Devoted Educator,  
Morgan Alumnus, Starts  
Smoothie Stores, Hires  
Former Students**



*Victorious Hall, teacher training consultant and former vice principal, is the owner of two smoothie shops called Spizzy in Prince George's County, Maryland. Hall hires students he mentors while giving them exposure to entrepreneurship. He also provides healthy smoothie options in the community.*

Photo credit: Victorious Hall (See more on page 11)

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# BWI Airport Networking Event Offers Information, Airport Contracting Opportunities for Minority Businesses

By Andrea Blackstone

More than 20 years ago, Ricky Smith, Sr.—BWI Airport’s former head of the airport’s minority business development program—teamed up with an event planning consultant named Carla Nelson (Chambers). The collaboration led to the creation of the concept for the annual Synergy BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport business networking event. It grew into a successful resource for minority businesses.

Smith, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer, BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration (MDOT MAA), explained that when government agencies typically hold an outreach event, state agency exhibitors

place business owners in an interest file while waiting for procurement opportunities to arise. When they do, information is sent to individuals who are on mailout lists.

“That doesn’t do a lot for a small, minority-owned firm that’s trying to get business in the short term,” Smith said.

Conversely, the Synergy BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport event offers proactive options. It “provides a venue for small, local and minority businesses to acquire procurement information, with the goal of increasing their participation in the airport’s many contracting opportunities,” according to a press release.

BWI Airport will host its annual Synergy business networking event on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. It will be held at Live! Casino and Hotel

Maryland, located at 7002 Arundel Mills Circle in Hanover, Maryland from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Smith explained that the free Synergy event differs from typical outreach events. It offers a more immediate return on investment.

“Synergy is a collaboration between the Maryland Aviation Administration and our tenant and business partners at the airport,” Smith said. “Instead of having state agencies exhibit, we have our business partners exhibit.”

He specifically mentioned that food and retail partners, professional services partners, and airline partners are included.

“The importance there is that they can actually negotiate opportunities on the spot,” Smith said. “A private business has the flexibility to negotiate opportunities, and in some cases, negotiate contracts on the spot. And so, the small minority owned firm doesn’t have to wait for a long period of time. That’s the genesis behind Synergy.”

Smith also mentioned that BWI Airport has a \$1.6 billion capital program over the next six years. The operating budget is almost \$300 million a year.

“That’s a lot of money being spent, and so that presents opportunities for minority-owned firms. And then our airport partners are also spending money,” Smith said, mentioning that it is hard to list all the categories.



**Ricky Smith, Sr.**  
executive director/chief executive officer, BWI Airport.  
Photo credit: Maryland Aviation Administration

“The airport is like a little city. We spend money on almost everything from construction to public safety units. We have our own fire department, police force, cleaning services, planning and engineering services.”

Additionally, the airport partners spend “enormous amounts of money on goods and services,” according to Smith.

Attendees can learn about business opportunities at BWI Airport and Martin State Airports. Networking; information about how to submit a winning government bid; a session about growing your business during and after COVID; a chance to hear leadership presentations; a speed lending opportunity; learning about

continued on page 6



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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## A Win Railroad Workers, A Reality Check for America

President Joe Biden said that a tentative railway labor agreement was reached on behalf of rail workers, averting a railroad worker strike before Friday's deadline. These essential workers should be appreciated without the threat of disrupting the American economy. Shipments of goods like dangerous chemicals; UPS packages; bananas; grain exports; car parts; fuel; and lumber are just some items that are moved by train. Ridership of passenger and commuter rail services is beginning to make a comeback amid the pandemic, too.

The benefits of using railroads are far reaching, but railroad workers are often forgotten blue collar workers who are overworked and underpaid. They simply wanted paid time off; a raise; maintenance of healthcare coverage; sick days; staffing issues addressed; and safer working conditions. America was sent a wake-up call. The country still needs to utilize ships, trucks, planes, and trains to transport cargo. Delivering items by drone compliments of Amazon cannot fulfill all our needs.

The conductors' and engineers' roles at railroads are closer to becoming obsolete because "positive train control" which is a form of autopilot for trains, has been adopted by some railroad companies, according to Charles Stallworth. He is a railroad worker who published an opinion piece in Newsweek. America has disrespected railroad workers, treating them like their daily work contributions don't matter. They are the backbone of a critical industry.

"Newly released Association of American Railroads (AAR) report found that a nationwide rail service interruption would dramatically impact economic output and could cost more than \$2 billion per day of a shutdown," according to a press release.

The sting of potential rail service interruptions turned heads because the strike could have potentially impacted the economy, not because America cares so much about the welfare of railway workers. Congress could intervene because "the federal statute — the Railway Labor Act (RLA) — governs the bargaining process between the rail industry and its 115,000 unionized employees, encouraging parties to settle disputes without disruption to national rail service," per information provided online by AAR.

The National Labor Railway Conference issued a press release on September 11, 2022. A portion of the nation's freight railroads had reached tentative agreements by then, but there was still more work to do. The union's proposal for sick time policies was rejected.

"The primary resistance comes from Union Pacific and BNSF because of the attendance policies they have adopted which have treated workers so poorly," Dennis Pierce, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, Pierce said to CNBC.

If a crash happens, people will point fingers at railroad workers. How long can skeleton crews hold down little time off and working longer hours, because of minimal staff? America never should have expected railroad workers to back down. Union negotiators and companies never should have needed to negotiate basic human dignities. Continue to put some respect on railroad workers long-term. We could not have made it this far through the pandemic without them.

DON'T ARM  
TEACHERS  
WITH GUNS ...



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## Community Affairs

### Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Mails Free Books to Kids

Good reading habits start young. American singer-songwriter Dolly Parton launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to inspire a love of reading in children. The book gifting program mails "free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income," according to the Imagination Library's website. After the launch in 1995, books were initially distributed in Sevier County, Tennessee where Parton was reared. The book gifting organization now provides books in Australia; Canada; Republic Of Ireland; United Kingdom; and the United States Of America.

"Each month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails a high quality, age appropriate book to all registered children, addressed to them, at no cost to the child's family," per information provided on the Imagination Library's website. The project has gifted a total of 188,754,464 free books as of August 2022.

Inspiration and imagination are com-

mon themes presented in featured books that are published by Penguin Random House. The Imagination Library teams up with local partners and affiliates who desire to help bring the program to places across the globe.

Through a collaboration with American Printing House, an expanding selection of titles are available as free downloadable children's audio books, and even in print/braille for blind and visually impaired youth.

"These will be offered free-of-charge to eligible families and may be purchased at a low cost by all others," according to provided details available online.

Parton's creation of Imagination Library was as a tribute to her father. On Imagination Library's website, Parton mentioned that she felt that her daddy's "inability to read probably kept him from fulfilling all of his dreams," although Parton described him as one of the smartest men she had ever known.

Check program availability for your area by visiting <https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/>. Learn more about the braille program via <https://www.aph.org/imagination-library-collaboration/>.

## Fighting an Unjust System,

# The Bail Project Helps People Get out of Jail and Reunite Families

By Stacy Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

As public support for criminal justice reform continues to build — and as the pandemic raises the stakes higher — advocates remain vigilant that it's more important than ever that the facts are straight, and everyone understands the bigger picture.

“The U.S. doesn't have one ‘criminal justice system;’ instead, we have thousands of federal, state, local, and tribal systems,” Wendy Sawyer and Peter Wagner found in a study released by the nonprofit Prison Policy Initiative.

“Together, these systems hold almost 2 million people in 1,566 state prisons, 102 federal prisons, 2,850 local jails, 1,510 juvenile correctional facilities, 186 immigration detention facilities, and 82 Indian country jails, as well as in military prisons, civil commitment centers,



Courtesy Photo: NNPA

state psychiatric hospitals, and prisons in the U.S. territories,” the study authors discovered.

With hundreds of thousands of individuals locked up in jails almost daily, many find it challenging to pay bail.

Recognizing America's ongoing mass incarceration problem and the difficulties families have in bailing out their loved ones, a new organization began in 2018 to offer some relief.

The Bail Project, a nationwide charitable fund for pretrial defendants, started with a vision of combating mass incarceration by disrupting the money bail system.

Adrienne Johnson, the regional director for The Bail Project, told NNPA's Let It Be Known that the organization seeks to accomplish its mission one person at a time.

“We have a mission of doing exactly what we hope our criminal system would do: protect the presumption of innocence, reunite families, and challenge a system that we know can criminalize

poverty,” Johnson stated.

“Our mission is to end cash bail and create a more just, equitable, and humane pretrial system,” she insisted.

Johnson said The Bronx Freedom Fund, at the time a new revolving bail fund that launched in New York, planted the seed for The Bail Project more than a decade ago.

“Because bail is returned at the end of a case, we can build a sustainable revolving fund where philanthropic dollars can be used several times per year, maximizing the impact of every contribution,” Johnson stated.

In addition to posting bail at no cost to the person or their family, The Bail Project works to connect its clients to social services and community resources based on an individual's identified needs, including substance use treatment, mental health support, stable housing, and employment.

Johnson noted that officials created cash bail to incentivize people to return to court.

Instead, she said, judges routinely set cash bail well beyond most people's ability to afford it, resulting in thousands of legally innocent people incarcerated while they await court dates.

According to The Bail Project, Black Americans are disproportionately impacted by cash bail, and of all Black Americans in jail in the U.S., nearly half are from southern prisons.

“There is no way to do the work of advancing pretrial reform without addressing the harmful effects of cash bail in the South,” said Robin Steinberg, Founder, and CEO of The Bail Project.

“Cash bail fuels racial and economic disparities in our legal system, and we look forward to supporting the community in Greenville as we work to eliminate cash bail and put ourselves out of business.”

Since its launch, The Bail Project has stationed teams in more than 25 cities, posting bail for more than 18,000 people nationwide.

Johnson said the organization uses its national revolving bail fund, powered by individual donations, to pay bail.

The Bail Project has spent over \$47 million on bail.

“When we post bail for a person, we post the full cash amount at court,” Johnson stated.

“Upon resolution of the case, the money returns to whoever posted. So, if I posted \$5,000 to bail someone out, we then help the person get back to court and resolve the case,” she continued.

“The money then comes back to us, and we can use that money to help someone else. So, we recycle that.”

Johnson said eliminating cash bail and the need for bail funds remains the goal. “It's the just thing to do. It restores the presumption of innocence, and it restores families,” Johnson asserted.

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## Ravens Must Overcome Injuries in Week Two



*Kyle Fuller*

Photo credit: Joey Pulone/BaltimoreRavens.com

By Tyler Hamilton

It's always good to secure a win. However, the Baltimore Ravens' 24-9 win over the New York Jets last Sunday came at a cost.

Two Ravens players suffered significant injuries that will likely keep them out for the rest of the season. Left tackle Ja'Wuan James ruptured his Achilles and nickel cornerback Kyle Fuller tore his ACL.

"One of those things. Just a crazy circumstance on the AstroTurf — got pushed off and just landed the wrong way in the turf and the turf doesn't usually give as much as grass," Harbaugh said of Fuller's injury.

Fuller, a Baltimore native, signed a one-year deal with the Ravens in March. He started the game for the Ravens in place of cornerback Marcus Peters who is recovering from a knee injury himself.

Although Fuller's injury will keep him out for the rest of the year, Harbaugh gave an indication that the Ravens would like to have the veteran defensive back return next season.

"He just liked everything about what we were doing, and he fit in so well, was playing good ball in the game, and really all camp," Harbaugh

said. "Such a serious guy, so determined. He'll come back stronger than ever."

Reserve defensive back Brandon Stephens came in to relieve Fuller after the injury. But Stephens saw his share of snaps prior to the injury as well. In total, Stephens played 58 snaps against New York.

Harbaugh wouldn't say how far along Peters is or whether or not he'll be ready to play on Sunday against the New England Patriots. If Peters isn't able to go, Stephens would likely get the start. But don't forget about rookies Jalyn Armour-Davis and Pepe Williams.

As for James, like Fuller, he was playing in place of a regular starter who's working his way back from an injury. All-Pro left tackle Ronnie Stanley had an ankle surgery last year and hasn't played in a game in over 12 months.

Stanley was limited in practice last week and ruled out for the game against New York. But Stanley reportedly moved around well on the repaired ankle during individual drills at practice. His status for week two is yet to be determined.

James moved from right tackle to left tackle during training camp. That

drew praise from the head coach.

"Ja'Wuan has really made a commitment to changing sides over there, and he's practiced really well," Harbaugh said last Friday.

Veteran offensive lineman Morgan Moses signed a three-year deal worth \$15 million during the offseason. Moses started at right tackle last week. He'll get the start there again which offers some stability on the right side.

However, if Stanley is unable to suit up, the Ravens don't have many options on the roster. Rookie offensive lineman Daniel Faalele is an option, but he's more of a right tackle. They may have to bring in someone at the very least for depth.

"Yes, I think that's something that's in conversation right now," Harbaugh said when asked about adding a veteran. "We'll just kind of see where we're at with all the moving parts there. There's a lot of moving parts that go with that. Where we're at with our team, what's out there, those kinds of things. So, we'll continue to talk about those things."

Losing Fuller and James will cost the Ravens. But if help is on the way in Peters and Stanley, those losses could be minimized.

## BWI Airport Networking Event Offers Information, Contracting Opportunities

MBE/ DBE/ACDBE certification; and other featured periods will be available.

Smith and others will provide remarks. A portion of highlights include the opportunity to learn about upcoming opportunities at BWI Airport. Jason Green is the co-founder of SkillSmart. Smith added that he is a local author, researcher, and former member of President Barack Obama's administration who will provide a keynote address at the free Synergy event.

Smith reminded that the airport is a mysterious place to many people who do not think about business at an airport. Synergy breaks down the mystique. According to Smith, BWI Airport is rebounding since the pandemic began quicker than anticipated. Surpassing pre-pandemic travel levels are expected to be reached later this year or early next year. Peak travel periods surpassing 2019 levels have been reached several times.

When millions of people pass through the airport on a regular basis, passengers spend money on food and in gift shops. The airport needs to ensure that services are available to them.

These are some of the reasons why having an opportunity to network with exhibitors and meet other individuals could be impactful to attendees.

"You never know who might be a good business partner for you, so the networking opportunity is always a hit," Smith said.

Registration is strongly encouraged. More information about the Synergy BWI 2022 Conference is available via [synergybwi.com](http://synergybwi.com).

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# Ursula V. Battle's "Serenity House: From Addiction to Deliverance"

## Stage Play Looks at Opioid Epidemic/Catalyst For New Best-Selling Book Tour Includes September 25th Dinner Theater Performance in Sykesville, Md.

**Baltimore**—By popular demand, the highly-acclaimed stage play, Ursula V. Battle's "Serenity House: From Addiction to Deliverance" returns for several encore performances in Baltimore and surrounding areas including an upcoming Dinner Theater Performance at The Winfield Community Fire Department Hall, 1320 W. Old Liberty Road, Sykesville, Maryland on Sunday, September 25, 2022. Entitled, "Sunday Supper & A Show," the piece is being presented by Alex and Tierra Dorsey, and will feature a catered menu prepared by Southern Blues.

The presentation is part of a tour that includes shows at Restoration Temple Apostolic Center as part of The Bennett Donnell Memorial Weekend (October 15-16, 2022), Dinner Theater performances at The Forest Park Senior Center (Sat., November 19, 2022), and The Chesapeake Arts Center (February 2023).

Written by Baltimore playwright and journalist Ursula V. Battle, the show is coming off huge performances earlier this year in Virginia and Baltimore. The shows were met with standing ovations and requests to bring the production to other areas.

Directed by Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, the stage play takes a riveting and thought-provoking look at the opioid epidemic which has worsened since the COVID pandemic. The production features national recording artist, Randy "Fruity" Roberts of The Choir Boyz, internationally-renowned gospel female trio "SERENITY," and songstress powerhouse Charisse-Caldwell-Bowen.

The piece is written by playwright Battle, who is a writer for The Baltimore Times, and directed by Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, Health



*Director Dr. Gregory Branch and Playwright Ursula V. Battle. Courtesy Photos*

Officer for Baltimore County. Dr. Branch's interest in medicine dates back to his childhood, seeing a former neighbor struggle with addiction, who ultimately succumbs to an overdose.

The production speaks to addiction across multiple platforms, including eating disorders and prescription drug abuse. "Serenity House: From Addiction to Deliverance" also touches on domestic violence, incest, and child sex trafficking.

Randy "Fruity" Roberts, a real-life former drug dealer who turned his life around, portrays "James Franklin" in the production, and performs "Watch Me Work" from his hit CD "This Is My Story, This is My Song," featuring "Kingdom." SERENITY, Caldwell-Bowen, and Jefferson perform several gospel favorites throughout the production. Renowned musician

Howard "Buddy" Lakins, Jr. is the musical director for the powerful show, which also includes original music composed by the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University student Allen Branch.

The production's storyline centers around the journey six men and women (who are three months in recovery) take after arriving at the imaginary United in Victory Tabernacle on the Hill Freewill Catholic Baptist and Episcopal Church of God in Christ's newly opened "Serenity House."

Through ministry, music, an unforgettable story, and dance, the production takes a heart-wrenching, yet heart-warming look at the devastating impact that addiction has on society – particularly on families that in some cases, spans generations.

The production also highlights the supernatural power of God to help us overcome, and the transformative power of forgiveness.

The production is also the impetus for playwright Battle's new novel, "Serenity House: From Addiction to Deliverance," which is also drawing rave reviews, and features her original poem, "I Rose Above It All." The book's foreword is written by Dr. Branch.

The performances are dedicated to the late poet, Maya Angelou and "Cynthia," a woman who overdosed in front of the building where auditions for the production were held, but was revived by the NARCAN nasal spray.

Ursula V. Battle's "Serenity House" is rated PG-13 due to some strong content and profanity.

For additional information including show times, or to purchase tickets for an upcoming performance, call (443) 531-4787 or visit [www.battlestageplays.com](http://www.battlestageplays.com).



**Songstress extraordinaire Charisse Caldwell-Bowen returns as "Mama Jackson."**



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# Morgan State hosts 9th annual STEM Day Extravaganza after 3-year hiatus

By Demetrius Dillard

Black Americans are grossly underrepresented in STEM fields, making up less than 10 percent of the professionals employed in those areas.

Morgan State University professor Jonathan Wilson is one of the many academic leaders advocating to reverse that trend. He leads the Baltimore MUREP Aerospace Academy (BMAA) and is one of the key coordinators of the yearly STEM Day Extravaganza, which is a highly anticipated event for local students, educators, community members and organizations.

One of the primary focuses and goals of the extravaganza is to encourage young people — minorities in particular — to consider pursuing STEM-related professions.

“The high demand for minorities in STEM has always been there and it’s still here,” said Wilson, an associate professor of biology at Morgan State.

“In terms of the dearth of the need for minority representation, we need that more than ever. That’s why we



**Luciana Roman and Daniella Roman exploring brain structure with Samantha White, Ph.D. from the NIH, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke during the 9th STEM Day Extravaganza held at Morgan State University. Photos by Chantel Ashley**

were really anxious and happy to put the ninth STEM Extravaganza back in place in person. I’m so glad we did it.”

The ninth annual STEM Day Extravaganza at Morgan State’s Hill Field House was particularly special because it was the first one held since 2019. The events in 2020 and 2021 weren’t held in person due to concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizers expected around 500 students, composed of local elementary, middle and high schoolers, along with about 50 exhibitors to attend. The five-hour event was on Sept. 10 and, per usual, attracted a large crowd of inquisitive youngsters ready to learn, interact, explore and have all-round fun.

Seven new exhibitors were at STEM Day Extravaganza, according to Wilson. FLIG Flight School, one of the new exhibits, was founded by Deandre Daniels and conveyed the importance of drones in modern technology. Daniels’ table was among the more frequented exhibits by visitors.

“We understand the drone industry is going to be a trillion-dollar industry within the next eight years, so we know the youth will be the working force in the next eight years and we want to get them prepared so they can be in this industry,” said Daniels, whose organization also has a youth robotics and STEM program.

“The engagement has been great. All of the kids love the drones, like they’re super excited.”

Daniels, a nearby resident of Morgan State, was driving in the campus vicinity one day, saw the STEM Day Extravaganza sign and was interested in participating. He subsequently reached out to Wilson, and the rest is history. Engaging Black youth plays a significant role in Daniels’ work.

“There is a void. We are not in this industry. This is a white



**(From left) Morgan State Provost Dr. Hongtao Yu, Carmen Holmes and BMAA Director Dr. Jonathan Wilson pose with a proclamation from the mayor of Baltimore City.**

male-dominated industry,” he said. “We need to get the Black youth involved... [The drone] is an industry that’s starting from the ground up that we can in now.”

Other organizations and agencies who set up exhibits at the event for the first time this year included the American Nuclear Society, GESTAR, NASA Heliophysics, NASA Hubble Space Telescope and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Among the most popular exhibits for visitors appeared to be the STAR Lab Planetarium, ‘Lobeoratorium,’ BMAA Stomp Rockets and MSU GESTAR and Physics. Nonetheless, most of the exhibitors found innovative ways to create hands-on, minds-on, informative STEM activities for youth, sustaining their interest and participation.

Caresa Lee came to MSU’s STEM Day along with her two sons, one a fourth grader and one a second grader. This is their second time attending the extravaganza, she said, adding that she plans to re-enroll her boys in the BMAA program.

“It’s great that everything is getting back together, and just seeing they’re interested in science and what part of science they’re interested in,” Lee said.

Yashika Rayeekanti, a seventh grader who is home schooled, came along with her father and siblings. She took particular interest in the astronomy display, Hubble Space Telescope, James Webb Telescope, American Nuclear Society and zebra fish exhibits.

“Yes, I have enjoyed myself,” Yashika said, adding that she was interested in entering the information technology field as a JavaScript developer. “I also liked the activities that were provided, like building a satellite and other things.”

The STEM Day Extravaganza also aims to provide parents with educational techniques and materials to keep their children interested in academics, specifically the STEM field. Activities included a range of STEM-related disciplines, including astronomy, model airplane building and flying, life science activities, engineering design and construction, math and science games, rocketry, robotics and various NASA educational activities.

While most of the attendees were either in middle or elementary school, a good deal of high school-aged children were present as well.

Derrel Davis, a freshman at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, learned quite a bit at STEM Day. The 14-year-old said he is interested in architecture and discussed his fascination with the MSU Climate Science Program and FLIG Flight School exhibit.

“I brought him here because... I just want to keep him exposed to career options and what not,” said his mother, Lessie Davis.

Wilson said he was happy with the event’s turnout.

“I hope I am able to continue to encourage the students and children to think of doing STEM,” Wilson said. “Minority students need to take advantage of all those opportunities.”

# Devoted Educator, Morgan Alumnus, Starts Smoothie Stores, Hires Former Students

By Andrea Blackstone

Victorious Hall, a resident of Prince George's County, recalls taking trips to smoothie shops while cruising outdoors on his bike. His routine became stopping to purchase them during biking excursions. After discovering that unhealthy ingredients were contained in smoothies formulated by some leading chains, the innovator and hip hop fan began exploring the idea of opening his own smoothie store with healthy options. He played around with words and sounds. The line, "Spizzy is the spot" stuck in his head.

Spizzy became a spot featuring whole fruit smoothies minus syrup. As soon as Hall opened the first store in Camp Springs in 2020, the pandemic happened. He did not give up on taking an entrepreneurial leap or celebrating positivity.

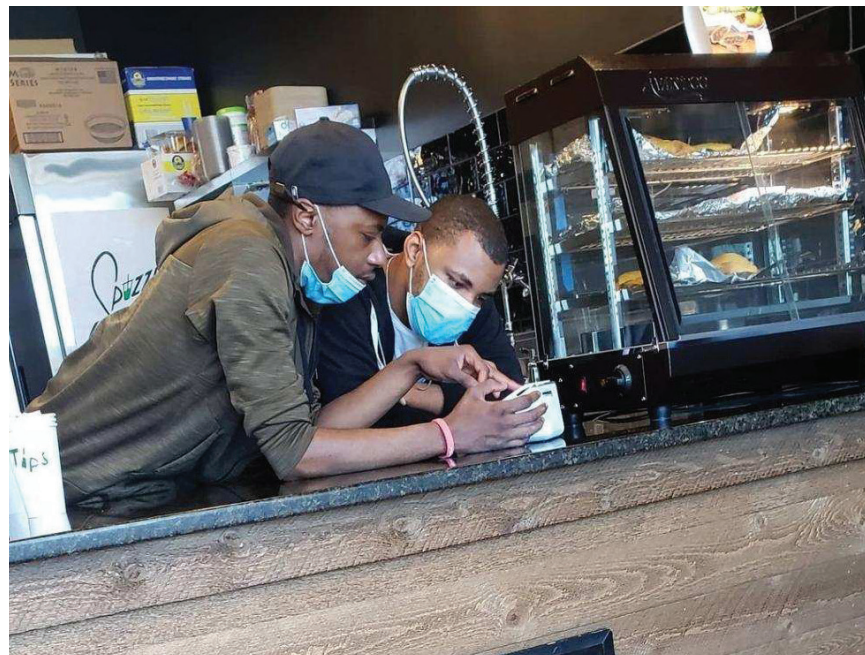
"All of our smoothies are named after cities in Prince George's County," Hall said.

One store is located at 5830 Allentown Way in Camp Springs, Maryland. The second Spizzy shop can be found at 15902 D Crain Highway in Brandywine. Hall wanted to include youth on his journey, too.

"I have been an educator, teacher, and assistant principal for 20 years. So, my goal was to use my experiences in education," Hall said. "The goal was to continue to provide mentorship for young people through entrepreneurial endeavors while simultaneously providing a healthy option for my community."

The bulk of Hall's career was spent working at Oxon Hill Middle School. Mentoring was Hall's college job in Baltimore City. Initially, he was studying business management at Morgan State University.

"I realized how much I enjoyed mentoring and being a teacher's assistant in Baltimore City, so I decided to change my major to be a



*Isaiah "Zay" Womack shows his brother, Jacob McGougan how to work the cash register on his first day employed at Spizzy.*

Photo credit: Victorious Hall

history major," Hall said.

Hall currently works as a consultant training teachers in schools across the nation. Spizzy has become his real-life classroom. Hall—who is always looking for financial assistance—self-funded Spizzy stores. He gives former students chances to become employed and explore future goals. Approximately six of his mentees have worked with him, although Hall has touched the lives of thousands of youth.

"So, the goal is ownership for the young people. I want them to be franchise owners. Opportunities are often shut off to young people who may emerge from difficult environments. Opening a storefront can be a huge financial obligation that many from adverse environments may not have access to. My hope is to help ease that burden for them as they continue to push the brand," Hall said. "For me this is an opportunity to not only mentor them, and give them job readiness skills, but it's also this idea

of having them own something but also understanding the business and owning the business."

A developmental experience that he has provided for Spizzy employees has included participating in an expense paid staff retreat to Jamaica. They are also paid a "substantial amount of money," according to Hall.

"None of them make minimum wage," he said.

Jacob McGougan, 22, met Hall at Oxon Hill Middle School. They stayed connected over the years. McGougan works at the Camp Springs Spizzy location. He runs the store and feels good about staying in touch with Hall while participating in building something positive. While attending Friendly High School, a knee injury ended McGougan's college football scouting hopes. He was being considered for scholarships until then. McGougan said that he now hopes that Spizzy can ultimately take care of the Spizzy team and their families.

"I feel that the teachers and administrators are the most important people in today's kid's lives because those are the ones kids come to and learn from," McGougan said.

Javion Hall also met Hall at Oxon Hill Middle School. Writing songs and performing music are personal interests. He works at both Spizzy locations as a manager. Keeping in touch with Victorious has been a blessing to him. Javion mentioned that he has experienced personal growth. He recognizes the importance of having access to educators like Victorious.

"I think that's very important because at the end of the day, the kids are the future. So, whatever you put into them now, that kind of determines what the future will look like," he said.

Victorious is impacting lives.

"It's much bigger than just selling smoothies for me, so I'm always just trying to figure out ways that people can find out about my store, find out what I'm doing, and help whatever way they can," Victorious said.

Visit <https://drinkspizzy.com> to learn more about Spizzy.



*Organic tea and smoothies sold at Spizzy.*  
Photo credit: Victorious Hall

# Rambling Rose

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT IS JUMPING UP  
AND DOWN AND DANCING LIKE JAMES  
BROWN IN BALTIMORE**



**Rosa Pryor Trusty**



**Walter Carr, Baltimore's own cartoonist will be signing new book called "JUST US" while vacationing at Martha's Vineyard.**

Hello, My Dear Friends,

I hope that you and your family are doing well. I'll try to keep a smile on your face by giving you something to do and have a lot of fun, too. If you like live entertainment, then I've got your back. Just catch a ride in my "Rose Mobile" this weekend and I promise that you'll go home with a smile on your face and a dance in your feet. Check this out!

My friend and journalist Ursula Battle, who is also a playwright is having a play and dinner on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 1 p.m. at the Windfield Community Fire Department Hall, located at 1320 West Old Liberty Road in Sykesville, Maryland. For more information, call 443-531-4787.

Baltimore's own comedians are hosting a free comedy show at Who Know'z Restaurant & Lounge located at 2101 Maryland Avenue in Baltimore on Friday, September 16, 2022 from 6-10 p.m. The show is hosted by Rickey Shackelford, Howard G and others. For more information, call 443-571-0736.

That's not all. The "Rose Mobile" is rolling out to a free family event featuring world-renowned recording artists The Whispers, plus our own Rev. Lee Michaels from Heaven 600 Radio Station. A DJ tent party; historical village; gospel stage; health and wellness pavilion; and so much more will take place at the Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival. Come join the fun on Saturday, September 17, 2022, from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. located at the Patriot Plaza, 401 Bosley Avenue, in Towson, Maryland. Honey child, I promise that you will

have a damn good ball there! We'll be hanging out at the festival until about 4 p.m., but we must leave to shower and change so we can also attend the Virgo Explosion show and party. Head over to the Forest Park Senior Citizen Center on Liberty Heights Avenue to join me. It starts at 5 p.m. Enjoy catered food, BYOB and free wine and beer, dancing, and live entertainment. Are you having fun yet?

If that doesn't wet your lips and isn't your thing, then check out some jazz presented by the Contemporary Arts Inc. A Jazz Fest will be held at Foundry Row, located at 10100 Reisterstown Road in Owings Mills, Maryland, on September 17, 2022 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Come hear solo guitarist Fred Moss; The Joe Falero Latin Jazz Band; The New Generation (who are my children from the Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund); and Ebban and Ephraim Dorsey with special guest, saxophonist, Carl Grubbs.

Oh, my goodness! Girlfriend, look what I have for you. Check this out! An end of summer old skool concert will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at 6 p.m. until midnight at the Chesapeake Arts Center. It's located at 194 Hammond Lane and Ritchie Hwy in Brooklyn Park, Maryland. Harold Melvin's Blue Notes featuring Donnell Gillespie will be singing all their hits. The Ebonys; Main Ingredients Review; J'KAR; and Roger Chapman, former singer with the Damon Harris Temptation and Kevin Lankford Band, will also perform. I know this event will be a sell out! For more information, you can call 443-857-2771.



**Regina Jackson and the Virgo Explosion will perform live at the Forest Park Senior Citizen Center, located at 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue on September 17, 2022, from 5-9 p.m. For more information, call Gina at 443-220-9880.**

If you aren't having fun by now, then you must get out of my "Rose Mobile" because we're moving on! We are jumping up and down doing the "James Brown." Now my friends, I've got to go. I'm parking the "Rose Mobile" until the next time, but remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



**The New Generation featuring Ebban & Ephraim Dorsey, with special guest Carl Grubbs, will be performing at Foundry Row Jazz Fest on Saturday, September 17 from 11 am.- 3 p.m. at 10100 Reisterstown Road in Owings Mills, Maryland.**



**The Whispers will headline the Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival at the Patriot Plaza in Towson, Maryland. A gospel stage play will be featured by Rev. Lee Michaels. "Amazin' Grace," an international recording artist, will also appear at the festival on September 17, 2022 from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

## Legal Notice

**CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION  
CITY OF BALTIMORE  
OFFICE OF BOARDS  
AND COMMISSIONS  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
PROJECT #1366R – ON CALL  
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN  
SERVICES**

The Baltimore City Office of Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of General Services, Major Project Division, to certify the qualifications of architectural firms to provide on call architectural design services on renovation, repair, and construction projects for various City agencies. Up to five (5) contracts will be awarded for a period of four (4) years each.

The services to be provided may include, but are not limited to assisting the City Major Projects Division with studies, designs for repairs, renovations, and upgrades to a variety of City owned or maintained structures, bid analysis, post award services, 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 supports, estimating, scheduling, project engineering, constructability reviews, submittal reviews and responses, RFI reviews and responses, and construction contract administrative support.

The needs of the Department of General Services Major Projects Division vary widely as projects are identified. Consultants should be capable of providing design services which may include expertise in the following areas;

- Familiarity with current applicable codes, standards, and Baltimore City Green Building Code
- Knowledge of local, state, and federal historic preservation policy and procedure, especially The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Property
- Experience with change orders and claims analysis
- Environmental engineering services, sampling and testing for hazardous material
- Cost estimation services
- Quality control services
- Mechanical engineering services
- Electrical engineering services
- Civil/Structural engineering services
- Project management services
- Commercial high rise building (five (5)

## Legal Notice

stories or more) expertise  
Elevator design services  
Experience with Critical Path Method construction scheduling  
Overall team approach with Minority/Women Business Enterprises  
Experience with Oracle Unifier software

Consultant's team will provide architectural staff with the following capabilities;

Personnel with skills equivalent to an Architect, including a professional degree in architecture or a State license to practice architecture.

Personnel with skills equivalent to a Preservation Architect, including a professional degree in architecture or a State license to practice architecture, plus one of the following: 1) At least one year of graduate study in architectural preservation, American architectural history, preservation planning, or closely related field; or 2) At least one year of full-time professional experience on historic preservation projects. Such graduate study or experience shall include detailed investigations of historic structures, preparation of historic structures research reports, and preparation of plans and specifications for preservation projects.

Personnel with skills equivalent to a Contract Administrator II, including a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and three (3) years of experience in contract administration work, project management, or project coordination.

Personnel with skills equivalent to a Construction Claim Analyst, including a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering or a related field, and seven (7) years' experience in construction claim or risk analysis work. Registrations/Certifications preferred: PSP from AACEI or a PMI-SP.

Personnel with skills equivalent to a CPM Scheduler, including a college degree and at least five (5) years' experience in construction or construction management, and a minimum of 1 year in analyzing schedules. Three (3) years' experience in construction scheduling software using current industry standard. Proficient with Pri-

## Legal Notice

mavera P3 and Primavera Project Management 6.0

Personnel with skills equivalent to a CAD drafter, including a college degree and at least three (3) years' drafting experience using AutoCAD software and/or Revit.

Project fees have been estimated at \$2,000,000.00 per agreement for four (4) years. If further information is required regarding this request, please contact Ms. Azza Rizkallah at 443-992-0073.

### **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. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* If you need information on the City's Prequalification Certification process please call the Office of Boards and Commissions at 410-396-6883.

### **Submittal Process**

Each consultant responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project # 1366R is required to complete and submit an *original* Federal Form 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions on or prior to the due date by OCTOBER 28, 2022 NOON. Submittals *will not* be accepted after this deadline.

The Federal Form 255 *cannot* be supplemented with additional pages 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; 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.

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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202 or you may : email [OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov)). Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming part-

## Legal Notice

ners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal Joint Venture (**JV**) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

All tasks must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highway, 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.

Consultants interested in providing services to the City should be aware of City policies which determine the amount of overhead and profit a firm will be allowed. An Audited Financial Statement less than two (2) years old will be require to justify any requested overhead rate above 100%. The maximum allowed overhead rate is 172.73% for architectural firms, and 150% for engineering firms. Profit is fixed at 10% and salaries are capped at \$65.00 excluding Principal's time.

### **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 18%  
The WBE goal is 16%

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

*Cont'd on page 14*

## Legal Notice

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

### Verifying Certification

The 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.

A bidder that is an MBE or WBE may count up to 50% of the dollar value of the work it intends to perform with its own forces toward the applicable MBE or WBE goal. The amount of credit may not exceed the MBE's or WBE's available work capacity as calculated with the Contractor Prequalification rules. **Intentions to count self-performance toward the MBE or WBE goal must be identified within submitted proposals and will be required to be indicated on Part C: Statement of Intent to Self-Perform.** (Art 5, §28-31(d)).

A firm submitting as a prime consultant that 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.

### 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).

## Legal Notice

### 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.

### Local Law Hiring

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit [www.oed-works.com](http://www.oed-works.com) for details on the requirements of the law.

### Additional Requirements

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE 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.

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.

## Legal Notice

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

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

Deena Joyce, AEAC Executive Secretary  
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

## Legal Notice

### **CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE PROJECT #1361- ON-CALL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION**

The City of Baltimore, 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 perform ON-CALL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES. Two (2) firms will be selected to perform design related to repairs, maintenance, and new construction managed by the Office of Engineering and Construction.

The Firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document:

Experience in Water and Wastewater mechanical systems investigations, evaluations, and design of repairs, renovations, and new construction.

Knowledge of Water and Wastewater mechanical equipment, pumps, valves, piping systems, drives and controls.

Overall team experience in investigating mechanical equipment failures and development of innovative methods to upgrade, repair, and replace existing systems to improve system efficiency and reliability.

Experience in design of Heating, Ventilation, Dehumidification, and Air Conditioning Systems for Water and Wastewater Facilities.

Manpower availability and ability to complete assignments within time and budget.

## Legal Notice

Experience in preparation of Bid Documents and Cost Estimates including QA/QC procedures to be performed at critical stages

Overall team approach to utilize, manage, and coordinate assigned tasks of the Minority/Women Business Enterprises partners and to conform to City goals.

The engineering services will be for a period of three (3) years and the estimated cost of these On-Call Mechanical Engineering Services is \$1,500,000.00, each contract.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the Project, please contact Mr. Gurminder Singh at (410) 396-5385 or by e-mail at [Gurminder.Singh@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Gurminder.Singh@baltimorecity.gov).

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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (EMAIL: [OBC.Consultants@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:OBC.Consultants@baltimorecity.gov)). Since these letters are utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners, 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 **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions. The Federal Form 255 and the five copies must be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on October 28, 2022. Submittals may not be accepted after this deadline.

### **Prequalification Requirement**

**All 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. *A copy of the prime and sub*

## Legal Notice

*consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

### Submittal Process

Each consultant responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project # 1361 is required to complete and submit an *original* Federal Form 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions on or prior to the due date by October 28, 2022 NOON. Submittals *will not* be accepted after this deadline.

The Federal Form 255 *cannot* be supplemented with additional pages 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; 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.

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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202 or you may : email [OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov). Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal Joint Venture (**JV**) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

### MBE/WBE Requirements

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5,

## Legal Notice

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 **30%**

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.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

### Verifying Certification

The 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).

### 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.

### Local Law Hiring

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law")

## Legal Notice

and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit [www.oedworks.com](http://www.oedworks.com) for details on the requirements of the law.

### Additional Information

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.

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

Deena Joyce, AEAC Executive Secretary  
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

**To place  
Legal Notices,  
call: 410-366-3900  
email: [legals@btimes.com](mailto:legals@btimes.com)**

## Legal Notice

### **CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANT SERVICES PROJECT # 1368 – HIGH RATE CONTROL BUILDING AND GRAVITY SLUDGE THICKENERS NO. 1 THRU 8 REHABILITATION AT THE BACK RIVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

The City of Baltimore 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 perform evaluations and design ENGINEERING SERVICES for the HIGH RATE CONTROL BUILDING AND GRAVITY SLUDGE THICKENERS NO. 1 THRU 8 REHABILITATION AT THE BACK RIVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT. One (1) firm will be selected to perform this project managed by the Office of Engineering and Construction.

The Firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document:

Experience in the evaluation, preparation of preliminary engineering reports, and design of rehabilitation on the existing wastewater treatment facility buildings, tanks and improvements on existing equipment, piping, concrete, roofing, masonry and structural steel conditions.

Experience in the investigation of mechanical equipment failures and development of innovative methods to upgrade, repair and replace existing systems to improve efficiency and reliability while maintaining plant operations during construction.

Experience in evaluation and design of upgrades to mechanical, electrical, instrumentation and control, systems on operating wastewater treatment facilities.

Manpower availability and ability to complete assignments within time and budget.

Experience in preparation of Bid Documents and Cost Estimates including QA/QC procedures to be performed at critical stages.

*Cont'd on page 16*

## Legal Notice

Overall team approach to utilize, manage and coordinate assigned tasks of the Minority/Women Business Enterprises partners to conform to City MBE/WBE goals.

Services will include review of available information, project management, contract administration, investigation, design, developing and implementing public information and education programs, emergency services, preparation of reports and contract documents, including construction cost estimates and permit applications.

The engineering services will be for a period of 2 years and the estimated cost of these services is \$2,500,000.00. At the option of the City, the consultant may subsequently be considered for post award engineering services.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the Project, please contact Mr. Gurminder Singh at (410) 396-5385 or by e-mail at [Gurminder.Singh@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Gurminder.Singh@baltimorecity.gov).

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.

### **Prequalification Requirement**

**All 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. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

### **Submittal Process**

Each consultant responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project # 1368 is required to complete and submit an *original* Federal Form 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions on or prior to the due date by October 28, 2022 NOON. Submittals *will not* be accepted after this deadline.

## Legal Notice

The Federal Form 255 *cannot* be supplemented with additional pages 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; 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.

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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202 or you may email [OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov). Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal Joint Venture (**JV**) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

### **MBE/WBE Requirements**

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 **30%**  
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.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) partic-

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ipation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

### **Verifying Certification**

The 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).

### **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.

### **Local Law Hiring**

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit [www.oedworks.com](http://www.oedworks.com) for details on the requirements of the law.

### **Additional Information**

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

## Legal Notice

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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.

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

Deena Joyce, AEAC Executive Secretary  
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

## Legal Notice

### **CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE PROJECT 1354R STAFFING OF PROJECT CONTROLS OFFICE FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

The City of Baltimore Office of Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Public Works to certify the qualifications of consulting engineering firms to provide Staffing for the Project Controls Office of DPW. These services will address various needs in planning and scheduling, document management, workflows and processes, reporting and tracking, and schedule delay analysis related to DPW projects, which are primarily design and construction projects for Office of Engineering and Construction.

The firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document:

Experience in creating, updating, cost loading, and resource loading CPM schedules in Oracle P6 for engineering studies, design projects, and capital programs.



## Legal Notice

- Experience in reviewing and analyzing Contractor's CPM schedules in Oracle P6 for construction projects, including baseline schedules, progress update schedules, and revision schedules.

- Experience in analyzing delays in construction CPM schedules, specifically with water utility, wastewater utility, water facility, and wastewater facility projects

- Experience in document management for engineering and construction projects, using Oracle Unifier or similar.

- Experience in project tracking and reporting for large public works programs, including projects for water facilities and utilities, wastewater facilities and utilities, and solid waste.

- Experience in the coordination of a multi-disciplined team including Minority and Women Business Enterprises

- Demonstrated manpower availability to complete the project

The scope of services will include, but not be limited to, providing on site, full time support staff to provide:

- Creating, updating, cost loading, and resource loading project planning schedules, providing customized reports, and preparing look ahead schedules.

- Reviewing and analyzing contractor's schedules and performing delay analysis

- Populating Document Controls System, such as Oracle Unifier or similar, with all current and future Department of Public Works projects.

- Supporting Project Management Team by reporting, analyzing, and documenting metrics.

DPW reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

The agency intends to select 1 firm. The service would be for 2 years for a fee not exceeding \$3 million, plus the option of 3 additional one-year extensions at \$1.5 million per year.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the Project, please contact Mr. Eric Atandi at 410-396-8189 or [eric.atandi@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:eric.atandi@baltimorecity.gov).

Projects must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highway,

## Legal Notice

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.

### **Prequalification Requirements and Submittal Process**

All 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. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

Each consultant responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project # 1354R is required to complete and submit an *original* Federal Form 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions on or prior to the due date by October 28, 2022 NOON. Submittals *will not* be accepted after this deadline.

The Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 *cannot* be supplemented with additional pages 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; 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.

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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (EMAIL: ). Since these letters are utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners, 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.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corpo-

## Legal Notice

rations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal Joint Venture (JV) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

### **MBE/WBE Requirements**

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 30%.

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.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration 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

## Legal Notice

MBE or WBE

3. The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE

(Article 5, Subtitle 28-41).

### **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.

### **Local law Hiring**

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit for detailed on the requirements of the law.

### **Additional Information**

A firm submitting as a prime consultant that 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 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:

*Cont'd on page 18*

## Legal Notice

*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.*

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Deena Joyce, AEAC Executive Secretary  
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

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### CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANT SERVICES

#### PROJECT # 1363 – DESIGN OF SLUDGE STORAGE AND DISSOLVED AIR FLOATATION THICKENERS NO. 3 AND 4 AT THE BACK-RIVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The City of Baltimore 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 perform evaluations and design ENGINEERING SERVICES for the Dissolved Air Floatation Thickeners No.3 and 4 Rehabilitation and Sludge Storage Tanks number 4 – 9 demolition and replacement at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant to enhance operations and sludge thickening and storage capabilities.

The Firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document:

- \* Experience in the evaluation; preparation of preliminary engineering reports and design of rehabilitation improvements on

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existing reinforced concrete Dissolved Air Floatation Thickeners and Sludge Storage Tanks including assessments of equipment, piping, concrete, structural steel and dome conditions.

- \* Experience in demolition of existing reinforced concrete tanks and design of new tanks and incorporating new facilities into the existing operations and management process, while maintaining the overall wastewater treatment facility operations during construction.

- \* Experience in evaluation and design of upgrades to electrical, instrumentation and control systems.

- \* Experience in evaluation and design of mechanical equipment, pumps, valves, piping systems, drives and controls.

- \* Manpower Availability and ability to complete assignments within time and budget.

- \* Overall team approach with Minority/Women Business Enterprises and compliance meeting MBE/WBE goals,

The City intends to select the services of one (1) firm. Services will include review of available information, project management, contract administration, investigation, design, developing and implementing public information and education programs, emergency services, preparation of reports and contract documents, including construction cost estimates, permit applications and right of ways.

The engineering services will be for a period of two (2) years and the estimated cost of these services is \$4,000,000.00. At the option of the City, the consultant may subsequently be considered for post award engineering services.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the Project, please contact Mr. Gurminder Singh at (410) 396-5385 or by e-mail at [Gurminder.Singh@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Gurminder.Singh@baltimorecity.gov)

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.

## Legal Notice

### Prequalification Requirement

**All 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. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

### Submittal Process

Each consultant responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project # 1363 is required to complete and submit an *original* Federal Form 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions on or prior to the due date by October 28, 2022 NOON. Submittals *will not* be accepted after this deadline.

The Federal Form 255 *cannot* be supplemented with additional pages 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; 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.

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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202 or you may email: ). Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

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### Verifying Certification

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3. The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE  
(Article 5, Subtitle 28-41).

### Insurance Requirements

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### Local Law Hiring

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Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

Stay up-to-date on positive news in the community!  
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## SDAT's 2022 Homeowners' and Renters' Tax Credit Applications Available Online

Baltimore— The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) announced that applications for the 2022 Homeowners' and Renters' Tax Credit programs, which saved Marylanders more than \$64.5 million in FY21, are available online. The quickest and easiest way to determine eligibility for these credits, and to submit an application, is by accessing the department's innovative online tax credit application system, which strengthens SDAT's ability to continue processing all tax credit applications in an accurate and timely manner. The deadline to file for both tax credits is October 1, 2022.

"Our department is committed to helping Maryland's hard-working taxpayers save money on their rent or annual property tax bill, and strongly encourages all eligible residents to apply for the Homeowners' or Renters' Tax Credits this year," said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. "Our online tax credit application system makes it faster and easier than ever before for Marylanders to apply for these important tax credits, and SDAT looks forward to providing the best possible service to our customers."

The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program provides tax relief for eligible homeowners by setting a limit on the

amount of property taxes owed based on their income. Applications received and approved by May 1 will be included on the initial July tax bill. If a resident has already paid their property taxes and applies by October 1, any tax credit that the homeowner may be eligible for will be refunded by their county finance office. In FY21, 42,272 eligible homeowners received an average of \$1,451 in tax relief.

The Renters' Property Tax Credit Program similarly provides tax relief for eligible renters who pay high monthly rent relative to their total income. The majority of recipients of this credit are Marylanders aged 60 or older, but the program is also available to the 100% disabled and renters under age 60 with at least one dependent child. This credit is issued in the form of a direct check payment of up to \$1,000 a year. In FY21, 7,525 eligible renters received an average of \$446 in tax relief.

All Marylanders who received a Homeowners' or Renters' Tax Credit in 2021 will be mailed a complimentary 2022 application to their home address. To determine whether you are eligible to receive a tax credit, please visit SDAT's online tax credit system. To receive an application, please email [sdattaxcreditapp@maryland.gov](mailto:sdattaxcreditapp@maryland.gov) or call 410-767-4433. *While completing your tax credit application, please read the instructions carefully, provide all required documentation, and review your application to ensure that all fields have been completed before submitting it to the department.*

Homeowners may also be eligible to receive a Homestead Tax Credit to limit taxable assessment increases on their principal residence. To determine eligibility, homeowners may complete a one-time application online, which is available to complete all year. Many counties and municipalities also offer additional residential tax credits. If a resident is approved to receive the state homeowners' credit, they may automatically receive local supplemental homeowners' credits for which they are eligible.

To ensure that eligible tax credit recipients submit their applications by the required deadline, SDAT strongly encourages all homeowners and renters in Maryland to sign up for our email distribution list to receive timely reminders and general news updates.

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**GOES.**

Thanks to the support of our players, the Maryland Lottery set all-time records in Fiscal Year 2022. The Lottery awarded nearly \$1.7 billion in prizes and contributed nearly \$673.7 million to support Maryland's schools, public health and safety programs and the environment. Not bad. We'd like to think we generated a few million smiles as well.

Please play responsibly. For help, visit [mdgamblinghelp.org](http://mdgamblinghelp.org) or call 1-800-GAMBLER. Must be 18 years or older to play.

