

# The Annapolis Times

Vol. 37 No. 17

February 24 - March 3, 2023

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

## Bank of America Donates Building for Community Benefit



*(L-R) Janet Currie, President, Bank of America Greater Maryland and Meredith Chaiken, Executive Director, Greater Baybrook Alliance hold a key to celebrate a generous donation of the building that was provided from Bank of America, located at 3601 S. Hanover Street in Brooklyn (Baltimore) on Monday, February 6, 2023. The building donation was made to the Greater Baybrook Alliance for the Baybrook Coalition on behalf of the surrounding community. Currie and Chaiken were surrounded by elected officials, the Greater Baybrook Alliance and members of the Baybrook Coalition. Photo courtesy: Bank of America (See more on page 6)*



# The SANS Institute Reopens HBCU Cyber Academy Application Window to Address Growing Need for Cybersecurity Professionals

Bethesda, MD - The SANS Institute is proud to announce the reopening of the HBCU Cyber Academy application window from February 1, 2023 to March 1, 2023. The HBCU Cyber Academy is a unique opportunity for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to gain hands-on cybersecurity training and real-world experience, free of charge.

The HBCU Cyber Academy was established with the goal of addressing the growing need for cybersecurity professionals and increasing diversity in the field. According to recent studies, the demand for cybersecurity professionals is expected to increase dramatically in the coming years, making it a highly lucrative and fulfilling career path for those with the necessary skills and knowledge.

Through the HBCU Cyber Academy, students will receive in-depth training from top SANS instructors and access to cutting-edge cybersecurity technologies. The program is designed to be flexible, allowing students to complete the training around their academic schedules and giving them the opportunity to gain practical experience in a real-world setting.

“The HBCU Cyber Academy is more than just a scholarship program,” said Max Shuftan, Director of Mission Programs and Partnerships. “It’s an investment in the future of the cybersecurity industry and in the students who participate in the program. By providing free, in-depth training and real-world experience, we’re helping to prepare the next generation of cybersecurity professionals and ensure a diverse and well-rounded workforce.”

The application window for the HBCU Cyber Academy is open to all juniors, seniors, and graduate students enrolled at HBCUs who have a strong interest in cybersecurity and



Photo courtesy: [nnpa.org](http://nnpa.org)

any alumnus who would like to shift careers into cybersecurity. SANS Institute is dedicated to supporting the next generation of cybersecurity professionals and helping them to achieve their full potential.

“Misconceptions about cybersecurity abound due to popular culture, which often suggests that only those with a computer science background are suited for the field,” says Delisha Hodo, Chair of the SANS Institute HBCU. “The reality is that the growing demand for cybersecurity professionals requires individuals from diverse backgrounds, and even just having an interest in the field matters. Diversifying the industry now will improve its future and dispel these false ideas.”

“The HBCU Cyber Academy is a truly remarkable program,” said Shuftan. “We’ve seen firsthand the impact it can have on the students who participate, and we’re excited to see the positive impact they will have on

the industry as a whole.”

For more information on the HBCU Cyber Academy and to apply, please visit <https://www.sans.org/scholarship-academies/hbcu-cyber-academies/>

## NOTICE

Any unsolicited manuscripts, editorial cartoons, etc., sent to **The Baltimore Times** become the property of **The Baltimore Times** and its Editorial Department, which reserves the right to accept or reject any or all such unsolicited material.

**The Baltimore Times** (USPS 5840) is published every Friday by *The Baltimore Times*, 2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21218. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233. Postmaster send address changes to: **The Baltimore Times** 2530 N. Charles St, Suite 201 Baltimore, MD 21218





## Gigs for your grind

Real influencers stay connected to their followers using ultra-fast WiFi. They stream, game, and create content for their online fanbases. With Xfinity supersonic WiFi, there's space to power every device in your home. Now, everyone can stay one step ahead of the game anytime, anywhere.



**Ultra-fast internet** with multi-gig speed capability

**3x the bandwidth** for more reliable connections

**Power hundreds of devices** —all at once

📞 1-800-xfinity    📶 [xfinity.com/gig](https://www.xfinity.com/gig)    📍 Visit a store today

**xfinity**

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. New Xfinity Internet residential customers only. Gig-speed WiFi requires Gigabit Internet and compatible gateway. Actual speeds vary and not guaranteed. Many factors affect speed, including equipment performance, interference, congestion, and speeds of visited websites. WiFi speeds affected by additional factors, including distance from Gateway, home configuration, personal device capabilities, and others. For factors affecting speed visit [www.xfinity.com/networkmanagement](https://www.xfinity.com/networkmanagement). ©2023 Comcast. All Rights Reserved.



# Tulsa Race Massacre Survivors Set to Receive Ghanaian Citizenship at Ceremony in Washington

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

Viola Fletcher, the 108-year-old survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, and her 101-year-old brother, Hughes Van Ellis, will acquire Ghanaian citizenship during a ceremony at Ghana's embassy in Washington on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

In 2021, Fletcher, called "Mother Fletcher," and Ellis, often called "Uncle Red," traveled to Ghana for the first time. The visit was part of Ghana's Remembrance Day. For Fletcher and Ellis, it also counted as a time of reflection on the Tulsa massacre, which left about 300 dead, hundreds more injured, and 10,000 African Americans homeless.

The pair returned to Ghana this month but will attend the citizenship ceremony organized by the Ghana Tourism Authority, members of the government, and H.E. Dr. Erieka Bennett, the founder, and head of

mission at the Diaspora African Forum. The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ghana Tourism Authority will host the 11 a.m. event.

"The family is honored to be receiving Ghanaian citizenship for our priceless Black icons," Ike Howard, Mother Fletcher's grandson, told NNPA Newswire from Africa.

"Mother Fletcher wanted to visit the Motherland before she caught her wings," Howard stated. "Now she has the option to live in the Motherland."

In 2021, the Ghana Tourism Authority, Diaspora Africa Forum, and Osu Traditional Council honored Fletcher and Ellis in Accra with a naming ceremony. Fletcher received the name Naa Lameley.

Ellis was given the name Bio Lantey. Both received certificates with their new African names.

"The naming ceremony is for our brothers and sisters to reconnect with them and welcome them back home, and also to review their identities as Africans and Ghanaians, to be



Viola Fletcher

precise," Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, and Tourism Mark Okraku Mantey said.

"Ghana is a hospitable country, and I am sure you have seen places, worn Ghana, eaten Ghana, and heard Ghanaian music. Share the word that Ghanaians love people, especially Black people," Mantey declared.

H.E. Bennett said Fletcher and Ellis combined for more than 200 years of history and experience of the diaspora and are an embodiment of the strength and resilience of the African spirit. She said their history would

live forever, and all generations would come to hear about them.

"DAF together with GTA intends to do a memorable ceremony at the Ghana Embassy in Washington at the end of Black History Month," H.E. Bennett wrote in a Jan. 26, 2023, letter to the CEO of the Ghana Tourism Authority.

"We have engaged Tyler Perry, the world-renowned actor, playwright, author, songwriter, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, to film this ceremony as a documentary," she stated.



Viola Fletcher, left, and brother, Hughes Van Ellis, right.  
Photos courtesy of nnpa.org



## We Cancel TIMESHARES for You

Every year 150,000 people reach out to us for help getting rid of their timeshare. In 2019, we relieved over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and maintenance fees. We can help.



Get your free information kit and see if you qualify:

**888-984-2917**



## Marshall “Eddie” Conway, Black Panther Party Member, Dies at 76

By Dr. Ken Morgan

Marshall “Eddie” Conway, a compassionate, giving human being and former Black Panther, died of pneumonia-related complications at the age of 76 on February 13, 2023. Eddie was incarcerated from 1971 until 2014. Although he was convicted of killing Donald Sager, who was a Baltimore police officer, the conviction was overturned.

The local cops and the FBI infiltrated and intervened in the Black Panthers through the infamous Cointelpro Counterintelligence Program. The Black Panther Party, without question, represents the greatest threat to the country’s internal security,” Hoover reportedly said.

Conway iterated in his trial transcripts, “I feel as though ... this prosecutor and this judge have been selected to persecute me in an attempt to destroy the Black Panther Party here in Baltimore City.” His showcase trial ended with Eddie’s conviction in 1971, charged with the April 1970 ambush of two city



*Eddie Conway makes his first cell phone call after his release from prison  
Photo credit: Susie Day*

police officers in a patrol in West Baltimore’s Upton neighborhood for the killing of police officer Donald Sager and the wounding of his cop partner, Stanley Sierakowski. Many irregularities of the state existed during the trial. For all intentions, they tried Eddie for a crime that he did not commit.

Moving from Columbia to Baltimore in 1980, this writer heard of Marshall Eddie Conway, the Black Panther and political prisoner in Baltimore, generally. I began my long-standing activist relationship with him in 1982. While Eddie was in prison, we conversed on the telephone often about topics connected with the modern-day U.S. revolution. My first meeting with the Eddie Conway support group occurred in Baltimore circa 1982.

My first personal encounter with Eddie occurred at one of the Maryland

prisons in Jessup, Maryland, at the Writers and Readers Club, where Eddie invited me in the 1980s. The lifers prisoners had at least one and a quarter lifetime sentences. They had little chance of being released and started the program in prison.

When I first heard the large clanks that automatically opened and closed prison gates and doors, I thought of the prisoners, primarily Black, locked up.

Eddie co-authored a memoir titled “Marshall Law: The Life & Times of a Baltimore Black Panther” with his wife Dominique Stevenson and “The Greatest Threat: The Black Panther Party and COINTELPRO.” He found the time to complete his two-year community college, four-year, and master’s degrees. Eddie initiated a literacy program, made efforts to organize a prison union and helped to create a prison li-

brary. After decades of fighting for his release, he obtained his release on parole after an appellate court ruled that his jury had been given improper instructions.

Eddie, as many activists do behind bars, came to the Black struggle from his desire and tireless work to make a difference as he did.

“The whole time I have been incarcerated, I have always been trying to continue to do the positive work that I joined the Black Panther Party to do. And that was to feed children, help educate people, help organize the community, and help build a better community,” Conway said during an interview with host Marc Steiner on WEAA-FM following his release.

Conway’s grasp of what transpired globally on the other side of the walls continued to amaze me. He knew when events and programs occurred on the outside and about what was happening worldwide. He stayed in touch with events and programs and participated worldwide if only to call. As a political prisoner activist, it helped to sustain Eddie and keep him focused.

After his release in 2014, Eddie became the executive producer of Real News - an alternative newscast concentrating on the working class and poor. He appeared in regular programming in a piece called “Rattling the Chains.”

Paul Coates, a former Black Panther and current Black Classic Press publisher, supported Eddie in and out of prison in many ways before and after Eddie’s release.

Eddie leaves behind his wife of five years, Dominique Stevenson; two sons, Ronald Conway and DeShonne Massey; a daughter, Amber Jones of Baltimore; four sisters, Veronica Booth, Marilyn Smith, Peggy Smith, and Myra Smith; and five grandchildren.

Eddie, a Black nationalist, worked with others to forge a path. Can we agree to build on it?

### *The Annapolis Times*

**Publisher**  
Joy Bramble  
**Associate Publisher**  
Paris Brown  
**Editor**  
Dena Wane  
**Director of Special Projects**  
Dena Wane  
**Dir., Promotions/Entertain. Columnist**  
Eunice Moseley  
**Administrative Assistant**  
Ida C. Neal  
**Writers**  
Ursula Battle  
Andrea Blackstone  
Stacy Brown  
Demetrius Dillard  
Rosa “Rambling Rose” Pryor  
**Website**  
James Collins  
Layout  
Chris Jones

*The Baltimore Times is a publication of The Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher*

**Mailing Address**  
The Baltimore Times  
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Phone: 410-366-3900- Fax 410-243-1627  
www.baltimoretimes-online.com



# Bank of America Donates Building for Community Benefit

By Andrea Blackstone

Bank of America donated a building in Brooklyn, located at 601 S. Hanover St. in southwest Baltimore, to the community on Monday, February 6, 2023. Bank of America, a leading financial institution, provided the donation to the Greater Baybrook Alliance (GBA) for the Baybrook Coalition, on behalf of the surrounding community.

“Our community had many organizations and local leaders engaged in the process of working with the bank to secure the donation. However, they felt GBA— as a community development corporation — had the appropriate capacity to steward the building,” said Meredith Chaiken, executive director of GBA.

She further explained that Baybrook Coalition is a loose coalition that is composed of local residents, businesses and community organizations. Members of the Baybrook Coalition include: GBA, Action Baybrook, City of Refuge Baltimore, Community of Curtis Bay Association, Concerned Citizens for a Better Brooklyn, Friends of Garrett Park, Grow Home Baltimore and Rehoboth Church of Deliverance, according to information that was released to the media.

“(GBA) is a non-profit community development organization whose mission is to act as a catalyst and conduit for equitable development and reinvestment in the Brooklyn, Brooklyn Park, Curtis Bay neighborhoods and empower its residents to strengthen the Baybrook community. This includes a wide range of community building, neighborhood revitalization, and issue advocacy leadership for the South Baltimore peninsula,” according to additional details.

Chaiken added that the approximately 3,500 square foot building will become GBA’s

permanent office space. Retail space for an emerging local business will be included along with pairing with technical assistance programs for small businesses.

“GBA will lead in the redevelopment of the building and finding a tenant,” said Chaiken, also pointing out additional plans for the donated building. “Everyone in the community benefits from our neighborhood revitalization programs and initiatives, such as economic development, green space and public safety programs. In addition, our plans to support a new local business will generate jobs and local wealth in the community.”

Janet Currie, president of Bank of America Greater Maryland explained that the bank closed during the pandemic in 2020. Only the ATM in the parking lot remained utilized. The bank has not been used by anyone else since it closed.

Currie also said that the bank’s clients have been “migrating towards digital options.” The pandemic accelerated utilization of innovation. She provided an example of bank clients being able to bank through their mobile devices, instead of standing in line to complete tasks such as depositing checks.

Before Bank of America bought it, the building was used for a variety of uses. These include serving as a community meeting hall and space for social events, according to WBAL-TV. The loss of financial services was another topic of concern.

“Often, there’s a fear when a bank branch closes, the community’s going to lose -- not only having an empty building, they’re also going to lose the financial services and investment in the community, Marceline White, executive director of Economic Action Maryland, said in WBAL’s report. “So, it’s a big deal when the bank says, ‘You know what? We’re leaving, but we’re not going far.’”



*(L-R) Janet Currie, President, Bank of America Greater Maryland and Meredith Chaiken, Executive Director, Greater Baybrook Alliance*

*Photo courtesy of Bank of America*


But Currie further noted that discussions with Baybrook Coalition included concerns being shared about how residents in the Brooklyn area would receive services after the Bank of America building closed.

“They had a vision to have the bank be donated, so that they could try to create something that would be a positive outcome for the community. It would be a place where the community could gather, potentially receive financial education services, homeowner education, small business, education, all of those kinds of things,” Currie said. “We decided that if they were willing to receive it, we were willing to donate it.”

Chaiken mentioned that the non-profit community development organization will not move into the space as their permanent office for another 18-24 months. However, GBA’s programs and initiatives are ongoing. Individuals who would like to learn more about the progress of future developments can stay informed through GBA.

“GBA’s Steering Committee meets bimonthly and will receive regular updates on the progress of the building. Our meetings are open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. We will also provide information in our newsletter and website [www.greaterbaybrookalliance.org](http://www.greaterbaybrookalliance.org),” Chaiken said.



A close-up photograph of a basketball hoop and ball. The ball is orange and is positioned just above the white net. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a gymnasium, with bright lights creating a bokeh effect.

## Proud to partner with The Baltimore Times, the official news source for the 2023 CIAA Tournament

As a minority-led, non-bank lender, Lendistry is empowering Baltimore small businesses and startups with flexible, affordable financing choices.

Learn more today!  
[lendistry.com/CIAA](https://lendistry.com/CIAA)



©2023 B.S.D. Capital, Inc. dba Lendistry. All rights reserved. Loans are made pursuant to state law and may not be available in all states. SBA loans originated by Lendistry SBLC, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of B.S.D. Capital, Inc. dba Lendistry. Lendistry SBLC, LLC is approved to offer SBA loan products under SBA's 7(a) Lender Program. Lendistry SBLC, LLC California Finance Lender, License #60DBO-49327. NMLS# 1571851.



# Exploring the Under-Discussed Legacy of Black Cowboys, Cultural Contributors

By Andrea Blackstone

Aisha McElroy, Executive Director of the Black Cowboy Coalition recalls being exposed for the first time to the Black Cowboy Parade in Oakland, California featuring cowboys, when she was about six years old. McElroy learned that a plethora of Black cowboys exist. She later discovered how many people do not know about their presence in cowboy culture.

“The challenge was nobody knew where to find them,” McElroy said.

McElroy—a Howard University alumna—was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Oakland. The mother of two founded the Black Cowboy Coalition in 2021. It is based in Charlotte, North Carolina-based. McElroy’s background is in technology. She is a consultant who has self-funded launching the Black Cowboy’s Coalition’s programs, and maintaining the organization, by completing contractual IT work.

“One of the biggest reasons that I started this organization [The Black Cowboy Coalition] was to help the network of Black and brown cowboys grow. I created a somewhat of a Yellow Pages and it’s a cowboy directory on our website, [www.blackcowboyco.org](http://www.blackcowboyco.org). It will point you to different barns, ranches and other cowboy related organizations that are located within the United States. It also points you to the saddle club organizations that are located within the United States,” McElroy said. “The core of the mission of the Black Cowboy Coalition is to connect cowboys to the community.”

McElroy added that individuals in saddle clubs get together to ride horses and network.

According to the executive director of the Black Cowboy Coalition, a plethora of Black-owned barns and ranches have phone numbers but lack websites. Many individuals primarily locate them by word of mouth. McElroy added that these

establishments do not possess the financial capabilities to advertise much. However, they typically offer horse riding lessons.

The Black Cowboy Coalition also focuses on providing education, leadership and mentoring and community engagement. McElroy pointed out that youth and adults are provided with skills, knowledge, and exposure to opportunities within the agricultural industry. The nonprofit’s mission is accomplished by bringing

programming to the youth and adults within inner city community settings in North Carolina and other locations in partnership with local barns and ranches. In addition to being exposed to horsemanship, urban farming and agricultural related trades are also explored.

“The Black Cowboy Coalition is executing a series of Agricultural Enrichment Programs throughout the United States,” McElroy also said.

The goal of the Agricultural Enrichment Program is to expose youth to agricultural trades by offering hands-on training within areas of horsemanship, food production, cattle handling and other career related opportunities that enhance the United States food supply chain. Black/African American, indigenous, and Hispanic youth between 13 -21, who are exposed to communities with



*Aisha McElroy speaks with Joseph Matthew, “Cowboy Douger.” The pair gave children and adults horseback rides throughout the West Oakland/North Oakland neighborhood. Photo credit: Douglas Doss*



*Aisha McElroy, Executive Director, Black Cowboy Coalition*  
Photo courtesy of the Black Cowboy Coalition

elevated rates of poverty, substance abuse, and violence, are targeted to participate in the Black Cowboy Coalition’s programs.

Wanting a horse as a child, and being interested in them, was ingrained in McElroy. Thomas McElroy, 94, is Aisha’s grandfather is from Texas. While learning more about her family history from Thomas, Aisha was informed that ranchers who farmed land, raised livestock and rode horses are a part of her legacy in Beaumont, Texas.

She added that people have diverse opinions about variations of cowboys who range from ones who wrangle cattle to today’s cowboys. They are known as “urban cowboys.” Aisha said that typically do not raise cattle on hundreds of acres of land and are located in cities. These cowboys ride



# Exploring the Under-Discussed Legacy of Black Cowboys, Cultural Contributors



*A community member interacts with a horse for the first time.*  
Photo credit: Deangelo James

through neighborhoods.

William “Fat Pack” Bias is based in South Central Los Angeles. The cowboy who volunteers with a nonprofit called Urban Saddles is in Aisha’s network. Bias said that he teaches people of all nationalities and creeds in the community how to ride horses. The cowboy informs them about husbandry – the cultivation of crops and raising of animals for food— and the equestrian lifestyle, too. Therapeutic services are also offered.

Bias has been a horse owner for over 20 years. He has been riding for a long time. His interest in horses began because of family ties.

“Two of my uncles got into the cowboy lifestyle and went on to ride bulls,” Bias said.

He noted that some Black cowboys in the modern era are not

just 95-year-old guys. Their stories remain under-told.

“The wear [cowboy] boots, but they also wear Jordans because that’s the time we’re in,” Bias explained.

He also mentioned that the cowboy lifestyle offers a lot of family values and strength. Bias’ 14-year-old son, Bryce Bias, plays football and rides horses.

“Horses are one of my favorite animals. To go out there and ride them, have a dad like my dad, and just to be out there riding with my friends are pluses,” Bryce said. “When I grow older, I’m going to be just like my dad.”

Find out more about the Black Cowboy Coalition via <https://www.blackcowboyco.org>. Donations are also accepted. Learn more about Urban Saddles by visiting [www.urbansaddles.org](http://www.urbansaddles.org).



*William Bias and Bryce Bias are a part of cowboy culture.*  
Photo courtesy of William Bias



*Bryce Bias stands on a horse. The pose implies that he is a good rider.*  
Photo courtesy of William Bias



*Cowboy William Bias with his son, Bryce Bias*  
Photo courtesy of William Bias



## National Great Blacks in Wax Museum Profile:

### *Mailed to Freedom*

# Henry “Box” Brown was a Special Delivery

By Ursula V. Battle

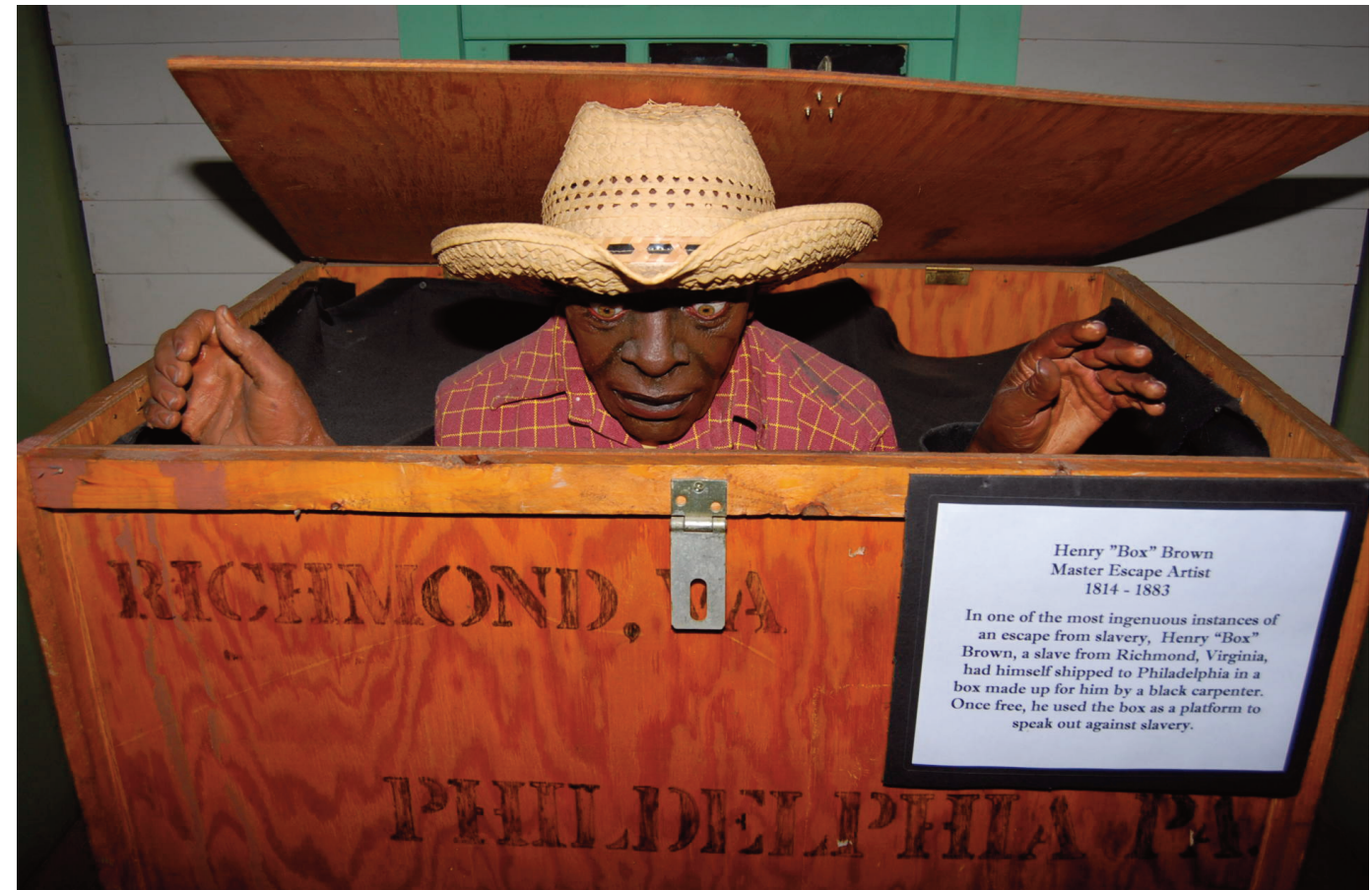
Out-of-the-box thinking can be described as exploring ideas that are creative, unusual, and don't limit themselves to rules or tradition. Another way to describe such thinking is innovatively and unconventionally looking outside common problem-solving methods. This metaphor certainly can be said about a man whose out-of-the-box thinking earned him the nickname “Box” after he escaped from slavery after having himself mailed to Philadelphia.

Henry “Box” Brown, who was born enslaved in Louisa County, Virginia in 1815 is among the wax figures you will find at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum located at 1601-1603 E. North Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland.

“Henry “Box” Brown has a very interesting story,” said Dr. Joanne Martin, co-founder of the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. “His family was sold away and that prompted him to run away himself. He got this idea of having a box made up, and he would use that as an escape to freedom. And so here in the museum, we have the size of the box. It was three feet by two feet, and he used it to have himself mailed to freedom. It was a 350-mile trip that took 27 hours.”

Brown had enlisted the help of a free Black man and a white enslaver, who conspired to ship him in a box to Philadelphia. In March 1849, the package was accepted there by a leader of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society.

“When the box was taken off of a horse drawn cart the men taking it out had no idea a slave was inside,” said Dr. Martin. “They just thought it was a normal shipment of something. And so Henry had to be very quiet in the box. That was very grueling because he was flipped upside down and all kinds of ways and was also on his head. He



*Henry “Box” Brown’s figure at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum*

prayed and God must have heard him.”

A man of faith, Brown’s many perilous moments included having to relieve himself and someone noticing what looked like water coming from the box. After the victorious, but agonizing journey, Brown wrote that he “was resolved to conquer or die, I felt my eyes swelling as if they would burst from their sockets; and the veins on my temples were dreadfully distended with pressure of blood upon my head.”

The box with Brown inside was received by abolitionists William Still, James Miller McKim, Professor C.D. Cleveland and Lewis Thompson. Upon the box being opened, Brown reportedly said, “How

do you do, Gentlemen?” then recited a Psalm: “I waited patiently on the Lord and He heard my prayer.”

As a free man, Brown lectured across New England on the evils of slavery and participated in the publication of the “Narrative of Henry Box Brown.” In 1875, Brown who was also a hypnotist, returned to the United States with his second wife and daughter and performed as a magician. He died on June 15, 1897.

“Brown used the same box he was shipped in as a platform to speak out about slavery,” said Dr. Martin. “He brought attention to the evils of slavery, attention to the mail service as a mechanism for seeking freedom and attention to the abolitionist cause. His ingenious thinking that came with

great danger and discomfort in order to gain freedom is such an amazing narrative.”

To see the wax figure of Henry “Box” Brown and other African American champions, visit the Great Blacks in Wax Museum. For more information, including hours of operation, visit <https://www.greatblacksinwax.org/>





# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

## BALTIMORE'S POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

BLACK-OWNED AND OPERATED  
FOR OVER 37 YEARS AND  
COUNTING.

[WWW.THEBALTIMORETIMES.COM](http://WWW.THEBALTIMORETIMES.COM)



**A Free Community  
Resource.**

**A Community  
Connector.**

**A Trusted  
Brand.**



 @TheBaltimoreTimes

 @btimesonline

 @Baltimore\_Times

**Subscribe  
to our  
Newsletter**



**SCAN  
ME!**



CHECK US ONLINE AT [WWW.THEBALTIMORETIMES.COM](http://WWW.THEBALTIMORETIMES.COM) OR PICK UP A PRINT COPY AT ONE OF OUR 168 LOCATIONS



# Nation's largest Black-owned Bank Launches the Largest Surcharge-free ATM Network

By Andrea Blackstone

OneUnited Bank recently announced its new Empowerment Network, “with more surcharge-free ATMs than any other bank in the country,” according to a press release.

OneUnited Bank is reportedly the nation's largest Black-owned bank, the first Black-owned digital bank, a Minority Depository Institution (MDI), and a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Over 100,000 surcharge-free ATMs are available at Chase Bank and Citibank branches and neighborhood retailers such as 7-Eleven, Costco, CVS, Target, and Walgreens, per additional details that were provided in the press release.

“We have the largest surcharge free network than any other bank, white, Black or other in the country,” said Teri Williams, president and chief operating officer of OneUnited Bank. “Our goal is not only to help our customers to reduce their costs, but to also send a message because if we can do this, other institutions can as well.”

OneUnited Bank also empowers customers through the OneUnited Card Command to empower customers. They can “instantly turn on and off their OneUnited Bank Visa® Debit Card, get real-time transaction notifications, add their card to their digital wallet, set travel plans, and even set spending limits in the mobile banking app,” according to the press release.

Kevin Cohee, OneUnited Bank's other owner, is the bank's chairman and chief executive officer. Williams explained the progression of working with Cohee and the evolution of OneUnited Bank. OneUnited Bank's offices are located in Boston, Massachusetts, Miami, Florida and Los Angeles, California. Williams stated that the bank is headquartered in Boston.

“Together, we bought a community bank called Boston Bank of



*Teri Williams, President and COO of OneUnited Bank*  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Salter

Commerce. We then acquired four Black-owned banks and rolled them into one and changed our name to OneUnited. And then from there, we launched the digital platform in 2006. So, we've grown both in our local communities as well as online,” Williams said.

Cohee's experience included investment banking. Williams holds an M.B.A. with honors from Harvard University and a B.A. with distinctions in Economics from Brown University. Williams worked for Bank of America and American Express. She added that they tried to work with large banks to focus on the Black community, but they could not find a partner to do that in 1995. As a result, Cohee and Williams realized that they needed to own a bank to focus their attention on the Black community themselves.

OneUnited Bank is not just a digital bank. Cohee and Williams have made strides although Williams said that there is more to progress to make.

“We've done close to a billion dollars in lending in low to moderate income communities that are over 80% Black. We have launched services to meet the needs of our community,” Williams said. “We believe that you have to have a bank account in order to build wealth. We have to figure out ways to get our community back into banking and that's why we offer our second chance checking account.”

Secured credit cards and a recent launch of a short-term, small dollar loan to offer an alternative to payday lending are among additional services that OneUnited Bank offers. Second-chance checking accounts are offered, too. Williams noted that many people

do not know that overdrawing on bank accounts can negatively impact ChexSystems records. The consumer reporting agency monitors how people use their bank account. It is the reason why some individuals turn to payday loan options. A person's ability to have a bank account, and even have direct deposit, can be impacted if a banking account was closed involuntarily.

“About 30 percent of our community has a ChexSystems record,” Williams said.

This is where OneUnited Bank can provide an option to bank, since it is national. Customers span in all 50 states including Alaska.

“If you are in the U.S., you can open up an account with us within minutes. Go to <https://www.oneunited.com>,” Williams said. “With direct deposit, you can get two days early if you bank with us. You can also take a picture of a check to deposit it. We actually have ATMs that accept deposits, so you can go to ATMs in your community and deposit funds into the bank.”

Using CashApp and Venmo are other ways to move money into an account.

Williams' interest in the banking and finance industry begins with her great-grandmother, Annie Coachman. She owned a barbecue pit, a candy store, real estate and other ventures in a rural community in Florida. Although Williams did not initially think of her relative as a businesswoman, Williams gained awareness of the importance of a business serving the community because of Coachman.

“Our focus is really to educate our community about money,” Williams said, mentioning that OneUnited Bank provides financial literacy through various tools.

Visit <https://www.oneunited.com> to learn more about OneUnited Bank and to find a complete list of banking services.



# New Ravens OC Todd Monken Fits Personnel



*Todd Monken*

Photo courtesy: USA TODAY Sports Images

*By Tyler Hamilton*

The Baltimore Ravens made a step in the right direction when they hired University of Georgia offensive coordinator Todd Monken to be their play caller. Monken was Georgia's offensive coordinator from 2020 - 2022. His last experience in the NFL was in 2019, when he was the offensive coordinator for the Cleveland Browns. It didn't go well as he only lasted one season, but Monken learned from his experience.

"I think the game has changed. The game has become more of a space game," Monken said. "Now, it's utilizing athletic quarterbacks. The game has changed; it's changing. At one time, it was taller pocket passers, and now you're seeing more shorter,

athletic players. The game has changed in terms of using their athleticism, using players' athleticisms, what they bring to the table because the game is about space. It's about being explosive."

Monken will have explosive players such as wide receiver Devin Duvernay to take advantage of in Baltimore. Running back J. K. Dobbins, along with tight ends Mark Andrews and Isaiah Likely, should be direct beneficiaries of Monken's arrival.

Georgia has produced some productive running backs with Monken calling the plays. A healthy Dobbins should be able to excel in the scheme which is in line with the Ravens desire to pound the football.

Monken's offense featured tight ends Darnell Washington and Brock Bowers

over the last two seasons. Andrews and Likely will get to make plenty of plays for Monken.

Then there's quarterback Lamar Jackson. Monken obviously likes the explosive plays that Jackson generates, but he also feels Jackson is a better quarterback than he's given credit for.

"He has an elite skill set," Monken said." It's obvious when you watch him on film, the things he can do with the football and the plays that he makes. I think he's underrated as a passer in terms of his ability to make plays and throw it down the field."

The Ravens offense only averaged 20.4 points per game last season. Monken figures to help put more points on the board.

## Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
CORRECTION TO NOTICE  
OF LETTINGS'

For TR23001, TR23002 & TR23003 –  
Reconstruction of Footways Citywide  
that were advertised on 2/17/23.  
These projects will be advertised  
at a later date.



## Legal Notice

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

#### PROJECT NO. 1371R - ON-CALL ENVIRONMENTAL AND STORMWATER STUDY AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Public Works (DPW), Office of Engineering & Construction, to advertise for Civil/Environmental Engineering Firms to perform On-call Environmental and Stormwater Study, Engineering Design Services, and Post-award services. Three (3) firms will be selected to perform design services of assessments at various locations under the City's MS4 Permit Program and Drainage Improvement Program. The MS4 projects have deadlines and there are stipulated penalties associated with these projects.

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

1. Ability to complete the design of urban BMPs for large drainage areas.
2. Experience in a cost/benefit analysis of potential alternative technologies identified in the feasibility study, including but not limited to, facility construction, operation, and maintenance.
3. Experience in hydrogeomorphological stream assessments, fluvial geomorphology, river and stream restoration using natural channel design approach and bioengineering techniques.
4. Experience in the preparation of reports, detailed cost estimates, and contractual documents as required by the City including processing all permits and approvals from regulatory authorities required for the design, construction, and operation of the facility.
5. Experience in rights of way, easements, and related items necessary for the procurement of construction. Also, have the ability to provide project management and contract administration services.
6. Experience in reviewing shop drawings, preparing operation and maintenance manuals, and evaluating potential change orders during construction.
7. Experience in using geographical information systems (GIS) and database management.

## Legal Notice

8. Experience in geotechnical services for utility investigations and designs.
9. Experience in invasive species control, forest stand delineation, and forest conservation plan.
10. Geotech assessment and structural design for culvert rehab, retaining wall, slope stabilization, and outfall stabilization.
11. Experience in identifying dynamic stormwater modeling software and methodologies that are applicable to urban drainage and that other stormwater owners/operators have implemented and have been accepted by Federal, State, and Local regulators.
12. Expertise and experience in gathering and reviewing the various information sources and data sets needed for building stormwater models.
13. Experience in building an integrated and dynamic model of the hydrologic and hydraulic components of stormwater drainage systems.
14. Expertise in stormwater model calibration and verification of industry standards.
15. Expertise in stormwater drainage system characterization and analyzing deficiencies based on discrete synthetic storms and multi-year continuous simulations model runs. Analysis to include but not limited to:
  - \*Hydraulic performance of the 2D overland flow and the 1D sewer pipe drainage systems,
  - \*Interactions of the above-ground and the below-ground drainage systems,
  - \*Hydraulic limitations in drainage pipes, inlets, culverts, as well as overland flooding areas, and
  - \*Sensitivity and resiliency analyses of the impact of higher flood frequency events, storm surge or sea level rise.
16. Experience in developing comprehensive reports documenting:
  - \*Data collection and gap analysis,
  - \*The stormwater model development, calibration, and verifications,
  - \*Findings from system characterization and project recommendations, and
  - \*Plan to develop the overall stormwater drainage system model extrapolated from resources, time, lessons learned, and costs associated with generating the pilot sub-watershed model.
17. Experience in conducting and evaluating all subsurface investigations, such as soil characterization.

## Legal Notice

18. Expertise and capacity to provide storm drain inspection services to:
    - \*Perform condition assessment of the stormwater drainage system utilizing electronic and multi sensor technologies including, but not limited to, visual, CCTV, sonar and laser, and
    - \*Develop maintenance and rehabilitation plans.
  19. Ability to provide appropriate skilled personnel and resources to ensure effective performance and delivery.
  20. Experience in the coordination of a multi-disciplined team including Minority and Women Business Enterprises and demonstrated manpower availability to complete the project on schedule and within budget.
  21. Experience in developing knowledge management processes, City staff training and project repositories.
  22. Experience in using drone technology for environmental engineering projects.
  23. Experience in designing and delivering sustainable, resilient, and equitable projects using Envision Sustainability Toolkit or equivalent toolkit, a rating system that encourages systemic and holistic changes in the planning, design, and delivery of sustainable and resilient infrastructure.
- The Office of Engineering and Construction reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.
- The City intends to select the service of three (3) firms for a period of five (5) years at an estimated fee not to exceed \$2,000,000.00, with an option to extend for one (1) year additional term.
- DPW encourages consulting firms that have the experience and capacity to work on this scope to submit their proposals. All firms must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time.
- Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact **Ms. Kirastin Spence via phone at (410) 396-3440 or via email at [Kirastin.Spence@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Kirastin.Spence@baltimorecity.gov)**
- Prequalification Requirement**  
**All firms** listed in the specific proposal

## Legal Notice

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 Pre-qualification 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 # 1356R 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 March 31, 2023 by NOON. Submittals *will not* be accepted after this deadline.

The Federal Form 255 *can not* 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.



## Legal Notice

### 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

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.

## Legal Notice

### 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 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 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

## Legal Notice

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that this lien sale shall be conducted online at [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) where additional information about the sale and the contents to be auctioned will be posted at least three (3) days before the sale date. The contents will be sold to the highest bidder on 03/07/2023 at 2PM

### Unit # Name

2098	Sie-duke, Trevor
3026	DIGGS, Timothy
3001	Balewa, Mynks
5020	Mitchell, Latonya R
1154	Palma Isaula, Orlin
2128	Johnson, Jayda
1123	Johnson, Corey
1095	Ward, Rodney Orlando
3032	Thomas, Tavon Quincy
2115	Spinney, Howard
1088	Faulkner JR, Charles L.
3048	Hall, Joseph William
5096	Davis, Shakiera
2037	Gladden, Walter
5015	Gwaltney, Satya
2068	Zorrilla, Tylor
2107	Blake, Julian
5017	Snowden, Tycaira R.
2034	Daniels, Dawn A.
2158	Henry, Valerie D
3110	Davis, AveMaria
4021	Berryman, Daniel T.

This sale is subject to cancellation without notice in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

**SECURITY PUBLIC STORAGE**  
3500 Pulaski Hwy, Baltimore, MD 21224  
410-276-3300

## Employment

Johns Hopkins University: Software Engineer – Baltimore, MD. Resp for creation, implementation, maintenance, performance, production support & documentation of various departmental & enterprise-wide application systems. Reqs Bachelor's degree\* or frgn equiv in Comp Sci, CIS, IT, Electronic Engg, Sys Engg or rlted fld +5 yrs rlted work exp w/comp sys & apps. \*Will accept single degree or combination of degrees, diplomas &/or professional exp equiv to Bachelor's degree. Pre-employment background check req'd. Please apply online at <https://jobs.jhu.edu/viewalljobs/> (Job Req ID 106021).

## Lexington Market / Baltimore Public Markets Celebrate Black History Month

Lexington Market/Baltimore Public Markets has been hosting events celebrating Black arts and culture at their markets, in celebration of Black History Month. Lexington Market is the longest continuously operating market in the United States. It is joined by five additional smaller neighborhood markets called Baltimore Public Markets within the network of six public markets that serve their surrounding neighborhoods. Two upcoming literary events will be hosted by Lexington Market at 112 N. Eutaw Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

### **Art at Lex February 25, 2023**

**Artists Shan Wallace and Oletha Devane** discuss their commissioned artworks on display at the market on Saturday, February 25, 2023, from 1- 3 p.m. Resource for artists will be shared. Select local artists' work will also be on display. Devane is a multidisciplinary artist who is known for works that explore diverse political, cultural, and social themes. Shan Wallace is an award-winning visual artist, photographer and educator from Baltimore.

### **Oletha Devane Author Talk February 28, 2023**

Urban Reads Presents: Author Talk with Brian Buckmire  
**Brian Buckmire** will discuss his new young adult novel, "Come Home Safe" on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, from 5-6:30 p.m. at Lexington Market. Buckmire is a New-York based, ABC News analyst. His novel explores the pain, the truths, and the hopes that accompany growing up as a person of color in America, as well as why "the talk" and discussions about social justice are so important in the Black community. A book signing will follow the conversation.  
Learn more about these events via <https://lexingtonmarket.com/events>.





# INTRODUCING THE **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CASH BASH**



As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we're thanking players with a chance to win up to \$5 million.\* From February 20, 2023 - August 1, 2023, enter \$50 worth of eligible Maryland Lottery games such as Pick 4, jackpot games and non-winning scratch-offs at [mdlottery.com/cashbash](http://mdlottery.com/cashbash) for your chance to win.

\*See official rules for details.

See how to play within your limits at [mdlottery.com/playresponsibly](http://mdlottery.com/playresponsibly) or call 1-800-GAMBLER. Must be 18 years or older to play.

