

Black History Month Heroes Award Ceremony at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland

Saluting Black History Heroes



Ten prominent Black Marylanders were honored for their accomplishments and community contributions, during the annual Black History Month Heroes Award ceremony that was hosted at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland's venue, The HALL at Live! (Standing) Wayne R. Frazier, Sr., Md. Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA); Vincent O. Leggett, Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation; Carl Snowden, Anne Arundel County; Sam Davis, Baltimore Sun; and Damon Wilson, Morgan State University were among selected individuals. Zed Smith, The Cordish Companies, stands with them. (Seated) Gloria Dent, Genergi, LLC; Dr. Barbara Palmer, Kingdom Kare, Inc.; Shelonda Stokes, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, Inc; Danita Tolson, Baltimore County NAACP; and Allison Lawrence, Stanley Black and Decker were also honorees who were celebrated by The Cordish Companies, Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland and MWMCA on Thursday, February 23, 2023. (See more page 8) Photo courtesy of Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland

Baltimorean Becomes Writer-In-Residence, Nonprofit Helps Black Writers

By Andrea Blackstone

Women's History Month is a prime time to recognize trailblazing African American women writers. Zora Neale Hurston is one of them. She attended Morgan Academy, which is now Morgan State University, in addition to Howard University. Hurston is considered an anthropologist and one of the most influential writers of the Harlem Renaissance which was known as "a rebirth of African American culture and arts" in Harlem, New York, from the 1910s until the 1930s.

The Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation is a D.C.-based nonprofit. It was named after Hurston and Richard Wright, who was another prolific writer.

B. Sharise Moore was named a Hurston/Wright Writer-In-Residence in February of 2023. The Baltimorean explained that she began writing because she was an only child who needed an outlet. Today, Moore is a mother, multi-genre author, former educator, curriculum designer and poetry editor of FIYAH speculative fiction magazine. Moore continues the tradition of celebrating Black culture.

"I didn't have many friends, but I loved stories. I ate them up. However, none of the stories I read had any Black characters. I wanted to write stories that included Black people. I was about 10 years old when I started writing," Moore said, reflecting on her childhood. "Stories and books are vital to human existence. They communicate and entertain. They provide lessons and histories that are vital to our existence. Through books, we maintain culture and continue legacy."

To date, Moore has written collections of poetry, short stories, literature curriculum, novels and picture books. The wordsmith primarily writes fiction for young people. She is crafting a solution to increase awareness of Black books and authors.

"My first goal is to create a database of books by Black authors that target young people in the young adult, middle grade and picture book categories. Then, I'd like to create extension activities for a portion of those books that can be presented to students by educators," Moore said, mentioning her goals while completing the Hurston/Wright Writer-In-Residence program.

The author also stated that she would like to complete the first few books of a middle grade magical realism series, and a picture book series, centered around Afrofuturism.

Community education activist and businessman Clyde McElvene, in addition to Marita Golden, a writer and educator, founded the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation. Khadijah Ali-Coleman, serves as the nonprofit's executive director. She added that the mission of the nonprofit is to discover, mentor and honor Black writers.

"Since 1990, the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation has presented writing workshops, classes, public readings, writing competitions, and an awards ceremony—the Legacy Awards—locally and globally," said Ali-Coleman. "The foundation has established a strong literary community among Black writers for over 30 years."

Ali-Coleman added that the Writer-in-Residence program debuted in 2022.

"The Hurston/Wright Foundation's Writer-in-Residence Program aims to provide published Black writers with funding to focus on their writing craft and individual writing projects. This program strives to enable them to make a meaningful impact on emerging Black writers and the community-at-large through workshops and community events," said Ali-Coleman. "This year, the Hurston/Wright Writer-in-Residence program provides a stipend of \$15,000



B. Sharise Moore
Courtesy Photo



Khadijah Ali-Coleman
Photo courtesy of Bayou Elom

to two writers who have demonstrated community impact with their work as writers and global citizens. Selected from a pool of two dozen applicants interested in teaching with Hurston/Wright, this year's 2023 Writers-in-Residence—B. Sharise Moore and Imani Cezanne—were selected based on their record of community engagement as writers, works-in-progress and published works."

Black writers are also served through the nonprofit in a variety of ways including virtual workshops, in-person workshops and summer workshops. Writers must submit writing samples to request participation in them. Ali-Coleman said that six to 10 writers are admitted into a workshop each summer.

Additionally, Moore will facilitate a virtual workshop for parents and

educators from June 26-29, 2023. It is intended for parents and educators who are interested in building engaging literacy learning experiences with books by Black authors that center the experiences of people of African descent.

Moore's A Peek Into Picture Books: Tips on Writing and Pitching Your Picture Book to Agents virtual workshop will be held from March 8- 22, 2023.

"The course will discuss what it takes to write, edit and pitch a finished manuscript to agents. In this course, we will not only discuss picture book industry trends, but the importance of market analysis before completing and pitching your manuscript," Moore said.

Visit www.hurstonwright.org to register for a virtual course, or to learn more about in-person workshops and more.

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Made In Baltimore Now Accepting Applications for its 2023 Home-Run Accelerator Cohort

BALTIMORE (February 28, 2023) - Made In Baltimore (MIB), a program of the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), is now accepting applications for the 2023 Home-Run Accelerator Cohort. Made In Baltimore's Home-Run Accelerator is a five-month small business development program designed to help home-based entrepreneurs scale up and out into commercial production space.

The program is specifically tailored for product-based businesses that are currently run by entrepreneurs out of their home or a shared makerspace. The curriculum consists of two main components:

An eight-week Master Class curriculum designed and taught by seasoned Made In Baltimore business owners and other local experts in the fields of business development and real estate.

Additionally, program participants will be paired with Peer Mentors who have successfully scaled businesses out of their homes. The Peer Mentors will offer guidance and assistance to participants for three months following completion of the Master Classes.

Throughout the program, participants are supported by Made In Baltimore staff, who offer connections to resource providers, feedback on plan development, and assistance identifying locations to grow their businesses. Participants who successfully complete the program are awarded between \$5,000 - \$10,000 in seed capital to support their launch into a new facility.

"The Made In Baltimore Home-Run Accelerator Program leverages local talent and entrepreneurs to create opportunities for city residents," said Colin Tarbert, president & CEO of the Baltimore Development Corporation. "This program draws on the wisdom and experience of other local business owners who've scaled up their production to assist new entrepreneurs



**Graduates of the previous Made in Baltimore Home-Run Accelerator Cohort.
Made in Baltimore is a program of the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC)**

to do the same, which aligns with Baltimore Together's strategy of investing in people and places for more equitable economic growth.

The Home-Run Accelerator is open to entrepreneurs who make or manufacture a physical product in Baltimore City; are in good standing with the State of Maryland; currently run their business out of their home or shared makerspace; have been in operation for at least 18 months; and are committed to growing their business into a commercial or industrial space within the next year. Up to 12 entrepreneurs will be selected to

participate in the cohort with a strong emphasis on women and people of color. Selections will occur in April.

"Made In Baltimore is thrilled to be offering the Home-Run Accelerator to a second cohort of entrepreneurs," said Andy Cook, Executive Director of Made In Baltimore. "So many small businesses are started at home but face real barriers when it comes time to grow into a commercial space. This challenge is particularly acute for businesses owned by women and people of color, who often don't have access to the networks and resources that many businesses use to take this leap."

In existence since 2021, the Home-Run Accelerator has had twelve companies, all women and minority-owned businesses, complete the program.

Interested entrepreneurs are asked to complete the application on the Made In Baltimore web page at <http://madeinBaltimore.org/2023/02/hr-2/>. Additionally, MIB will hold a free information session regarding the accelerator program on March 9, 2023. Registration is required; details can be found on Home-Run Accelerator web page.

Pursuing Martin Luther King Jr.'s Beloved Community

By Congressman James E. Clyburn
(D-SC)

Martin Luther King, Jr. visited Ghana in 1957 to participate in the celebration of the country's independence from British colonialism. Upon returning home, he delivered a sermon called "The Birth of a New Nation," and introduced his idea for a post-Jim Crow society in this country. He explained the concept saying, "the aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community." He equated a beloved community to a successful country.

According to Dr. King, the creation of a beloved community would require the American people to address three great evils of society: racism, poverty, and militarism. My friend and former colleague, the late John R. Lewis, arguably Dr. King's most ardent disciple, often invoked the concept to buttress his calls for a "just society." John was committed to the pursuit, but I always wondered if such were possible until recently.

The Biden-Harris Administration has



President Lyndon B. Johnson meets with Martin Luther King, Jr. in the White House Cabinet Room, 18 March 1966.

Photo Credit: Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum. Image Serial Number: A2134-2A. <http://photonlab.lbjlib.utexas.edu/detail.asp?id=18256>

three great evils and undo the generational impacts of systemic racism in our communities. Their efforts and the response of the American people in last November's elections have buttressed my faith in such a possibility. President Biden has spearheaded a "whole of government" approach, directing every agency across the federal government to develop policies that make America's greatness more accessible and affordable to all regardless of skin color.

Racism is a clear and present danger to the success of our "pursuit of a more perfect Union" and the Biden-Harris administration is confronting it. Recognizing the importance of environmental justice to marginalized communities, the Biden-Harris Administration launched the Justice40 Initiative, directing 40 percent of federal investments toward underserved communities disproportionately burdened by pollution.

In their efforts to confront racism directly, the Biden-Harris Administration has begun to address the racial inequities in our health care system. My father often said that if you don't have your health, you don't have anything. President Biden signed the PACT Act to make it easier for veterans suffering side effects from the contaminated water, burn pits, and toxins they were exposed

percent of active-duty military are people of color, this will help our Black veterans and their loved ones receive equitable health care.

Reducing poverty, King's second great evil, is a priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. The American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure bill, and the Inflation Reduction Act, have created millions of opportunities for the American people to achieve upward economic mobility. President Biden's targeting of student loan debt relief will relieve the disproportionate economic burden of student loan debt from the shoulders of over 1.6 million vulnerable borrowers. It will also restructure repayment plans to make them borrower friendly.

Home ownership is one of the quickest and sustainable ways out of poverty. President Biden's Housing Supply Action Plan is designed to help close the housing supply shortfall in 5 years by increasing the supply and preserving the existence of affordable housing across the country. There is an extreme mismatch between the supply of and demand for affordable homes. Closing this gap will create more affordable rental units and purchase options for low- and moderate- income families.

Dr. King's third evil, militarism, has not gone un-responded to by the Biden-

tary-grade equipment in cities across the country during recent racial justice protests. The militarization of police is a phenomenon that endangers everyday citizens and precipitates violent policing.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities law reforms policing by investing in violence interruption funding and children and family mental health services. The law provides over \$250 million for community-based violence prevention programs, empowering communities to interrupt the cycle of violence by intervening on behalf of those most likely to commit offenses that require police attention. Similarly, bolstering programs and organizations that can help prevent and respond to emergency calls instead of armed police officers could stop incidents from ending in police violence.

In 2022, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety. This order mandates the reporting of police misconduct and use-of-force incidents and orders all federal law enforcement agencies to revise their use-of-force policies. Now Federal agencies cannot transfer or sell military equipment to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, cutting down on the militarization of our local police departments.

For us to continue our pursuit of a more perfect union, we must embrace Dr. King's vision of a blessed community and confront the injustices that have stymied that pursuit for centuries. It is our solemn duty as Members of Congress to put forth legislation that advances liberty and justice for all. But for all our successes, much remains to be done. As we pause to commemorate and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hopefully, as we move beyond this year's celebration, we will revisit this idea of a beloved community and recommit ourselves to making his dream, the American Dream, a reality.

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Women's History Month Spotlight

The First Black Woman, Woman of Color, to Go to Space

By Andrea Blackstone

The year 1992 became extremely significant when Mae Carol Jemison broke a barrier by becoming the first African American woman to go into space by traveling on Space Shuttle Endeavour. Jemison was born in Decatur, Alabama on October 17, 1956. She also made another lesser-known stride.

"I should remind you, yes, I was a medical doctor, but I was also an African Studies major in African American Studies. And so, when I went up into space, it wasn't only I was the first Black woman. As hard as this is to believe, I was the first woman of color in the entire world to go up, which really made no sense after all those years," Jemison recently said in a MSNBC News interview with Symone Sanders Townsend.

The pioneer worked as the science mission specialist on STS-47 Spacelab-J.

"The mission, which was a cooperative one between the U.S. and Japan, included 44 life science and materials processing experiments. Jemison was a co-investigator on the bone cell research experiment flown on the mission. In completing her first space flight, Jemison logged 190 hours, 30 minutes, 23 seconds in space," per NASA's report.

Jemison's accomplishments predated a time when girls and women were widely supported in experiencing equitable STEM opportunities through internships, programs, mentorship and cultural opportunities. The United States Census Bureau's statistics provide insight about the history of the underrepresentation of women in STEM occupations. Although women made up 38% of all U.S. workers in 1970, just eight percent were STEM workers.

"But by 2019, the STEM proportion had increased to 27% and women made up 48% of all workers," per the Census' article.

And when it comes to astronauts, "as of March 2022, 75 women have flown in space, including cosmonauts, astronauts, payload specialists, and space station participants," according to NASA's additional data.

Jemison stayed focused on her goal to achieve greatness, despite enduring racial and gender obstacles. She was a student who liked science in her youth. Exploring her interests paid off. The scholar "won a scholarship to Stanford University at age 16, graduating in 1977 with a degree in chemical engineering. She also fulfilled the degree requirements for a B.A. in African American Studies," per information provided by Cornell University Weill Medical College.

Jemison earned her medical degree from Cornell Medical School. She also was a Peace Corps volunteer. Despite achieving these accomplishments, Jemison did not walk an easy path as a trailblazer. Jemison recalled experiences as Black female engineering major, when some professors pretended that she was not present.

"I would ask a question and a professor would act as if it was just so dumb, the dumbest question he had ever heard. Then, when a white guy would ask the question, the professor would say, 'That's a very astute observation,'" Peace Corps Worldwide reported.

Jemison serves as an example of what a determined person can achieve, even against the odds. She was willing to do the work to prepare for her long-term goals.

"What I knew is I wanted to go into space. I was intending to be a scientist. I was intending to explore and be creative and to make a difference in this world," Jemison said, per MSNBC News.

The engineer, physician and former NASA astronaut resigned from NASA in 1993, according to NASA. Jemison continued to evolve and give



Dr. Mae Carol Jemison
Photo courtesy of NASA

back to others. The Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence (DJFE) was founded by Dr. Jemison, along with several family members.

Jemison still has not lost sight of making a difference.

"Currently, Jemison is leading the 100 Year Starship project through the United States Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). This project works to make sure human space travel to another star is possible within the next 100 years," the National Women's History Museum reported.

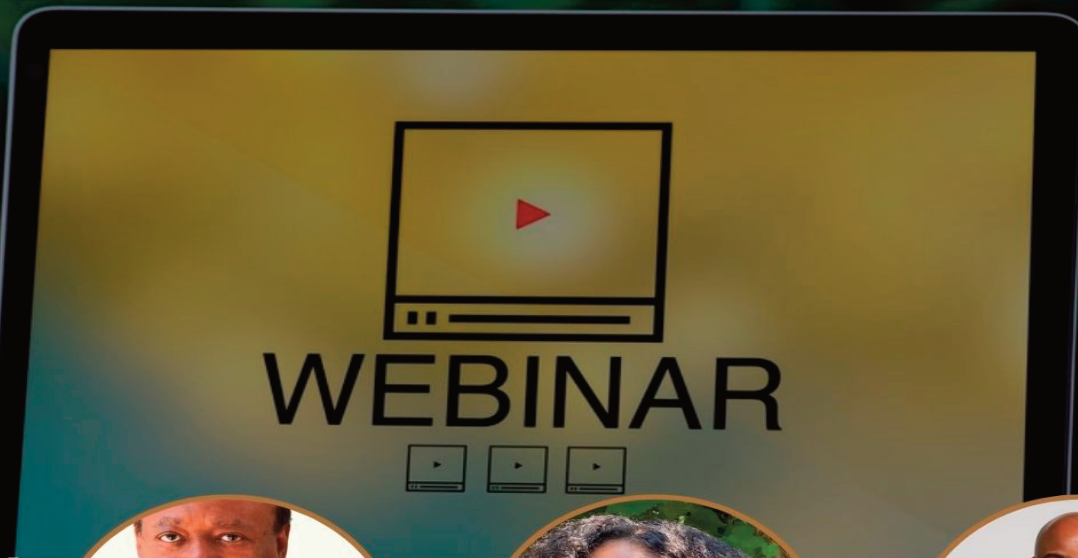
Jemison was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and

the International Space Hall of Fame. "Find Where the Wind Goes" marked her debut as a children's book author in 2001. Jemison is also the founder and president of the Jemison Group and BioSentient Corp. Researching, developing and marketing various advanced technologies are the purposes of them, according to Peace Corps Worldwide.

"Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live," Jemison once said.

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Blazing a Trail in Baltimore

Black History Month Heroes Award Ceremony at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland

By Chris Murray
For the Baltimore Times

The Cordish Companies, Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland and the Md. Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA) hosted the 10th Annual Black History Heroes Awards in celebration of Black History Month. Ten of Maryland's most prominent Black trailblazers in areas including business, education, civil rights, sports, journalism, and politics were honored for their contributions to the communities they serve at the 10th annual Black History Heroes Award ceremony held at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland on Thursday, February 23, 2023.

Co-sponsored by the Maryland Minority Companies Association and Maryland Live!, the awards honored those who have used their talents in a wide range of disciplines to make things better for the community as a whole, said Wayne Frazier, Sr., the Association's president and CEO.

"This is wide ranging," said Frazier, who was also one of the evening's honorees. "This is philanthropic, this is the sports world, this is business, this community and this is civil rights. When you look at our honorees, that's where they hail from, because that's important for our communities ... the contributions that we make."

In addition to Frazier, the other honorees included: Sam Davis, the first Black managing editor in the Baltimore Sun's 185-year history; Gloria Dent, owner/CEO of Genergi Logistics LLC and a member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education; Allison Lawrence, president of eCommerce for Stanley Black & Decker; Dr. Barbara Palmer, CEO of Kingdom Kare Childcare, Inc., which offers programming and free childcare for teen mothers;



(l-r) Jonathan Cordish, Lonnie Robbins, Wayne Frazier, Sr. and Travis Lamb
Photo courtesy of Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland

Shelonda Stokes, president, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, Inc. and the executive director of the Downtown Management Authority; Danita Tolson, president of the Baltimore County NAACP; Vincent O. Leggett, founder and president of Blacks of the Chesapeake; and Morgan State University football coach Damon Wilson.

The keynote speaker for the event was civil rights activist Carl Snowden, another one of the night's honorees. Snowden, a three-term member of the Annapolis City Council, recalled the time he heard a speech given by the late Rosa Parks, who ignited the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Civil Rights Movement by her refusal to give up her seat to a white man.

Parks' determination to demand her respect is a common thread tying

together all of the nominees.

"After (Parks) finished her speech, a reporter asked her, 'Mrs. Parks, why did you refuse to give up your seat to a white man in 1955?' and Mrs. Parks responded, 'I didn't refuse to give up my seat. I refused to give up my dignity.' Tonight's event is honoring people who refused to give up their dignity," Snowden said.

Snowden said that the Black History Heroes Award ceremonies are also a celebration of the progress African Americans made in both the country and in the state of Maryland.

"I think what makes this event significant is the times in which we are living," said Snowden, who also serves as the Convener of the Caucus of African American Leaders of several Black organizations. "We have seen in our lifetime the impossible become possible. We saw a president

(Barack Obama) get elected, we saw a vice president (Vice President Kamala Harris) get elected, we saw the first appointment of a Black woman to the Supreme Court and then here in Maryland the first Black governor, attorney general, speaker of the (Maryland House of Delegates), treasurer and 64 members of the Black caucus ... Nobody 20 years ago, 30 years would have thought this was a possibility. The people we celebrate tonight are the people who made that possible."

While the honorees spoke of the importance of community involvement and celebrating the success of African Americans, they also reminded everyone in attendance that there is still work left to do.

"It's extremely important because the work that I do supports our communities," said Kingdom Kare Childcare's CEO.

Palmer's program helps teen mothers get their high school diplomas.

"For me, it's boots on the ground. I'm not just in an office sitting there writing proposals and going to meetings, I'm hands-on. I work with those young ladies, and I talk to our people to educate them on the resources we have in our community," Palmer continued.

Sam Davis, the Baltimore Sun's first managing editor, talked about the importance of diversity in the media and providing opportunities for journalists of color.

"What it means to me is that there is an opportunity for others," Davis said. "Whenever I've climbed the ladder at the Sun, every job that I did, I hope this opens the door for the next person. ... Not only doing the job myself and being excited about being the first person to do it, but hoping that it showed others that the door is now open."

Designer Creates Attire for Leading Ladies, Fans of Fashion

By Andrea Blackstone

Jody Davis is a native Baltimorean who has an undeniable passion for fashion. Her luxury ready-to-wear brand for women, Jody Davis Designs has been worn by a variety of women, including the First Lady of Maryland, Dawn Moore.

Davis is the fashionista who created the timeless look for Maryland Governor Wes Moore's iconic inauguration.

"I found that beautiful cashmere for the cape and the jersey for the dress," Davis said.

However, her client base does not exclusively constitute high-profile clients.

"They are working women, business owners, managers, everyday women and housewives," Davis said. "I choose quality fabrics. I like natural fabrics like cottons and wools."

Davis also likes using Lycra to add stretch to the garment.

The graduate of Western High School in Baltimore later attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. Today, Davis can be found designing dresses, suits, jackets, pants and skirts. Davis' brand is self-funded. She tries to offer a collection two or three times a year.

"I drape all of my designs on my dress form. So, I make my patterns, then I make my samples and tweak them for that perfect fit to accent a woman's body with elegance and grace," Davis said.

Tracy Arnold Nixon is a real estate agent and nonprofit founder who is based in Prince George's County. Nixon has worn a wide array of pieces that she purchased from Davis. She remarked that it is very important for her to dress for an occasion because she believes that an individual is only given one time to make a first impression.

"What makes Jody Davis different is because she is a luxury designer who does not copy or imitate other



Jody Davis (left) stands with Maryland's First Lady, Dawn Moore (right). Davis created the look that is showcased. The First Lady wore the outfit to Governor Wes Moore's inauguration. Photo credit: Media Mogul Photography

luxury designs. Jody Davis Designs has its own flare, and you know a Jody Davis design when you see one. The special attention to detail for the curvy woman is unmatched," Nixon said. "I have been a customer since 1999 and it is due to the quality of the clothing. The clothing is flattering for women of all sizes, and they can be worn from your business meeting to a night out with the girls, to church."

She added that Davis' clothes are versatile, classy and sheik.

"With the highest quality of material and the specific attention to details

offered in a Jody Davis piece, you always feel very feminine and confident when wearing them," Nixon said.

Davis said that she has been designing women's apparel for over 20 plus years. She has been located in downtown Baltimore for the past 18. Davis has clients who still have garments from one of her collections from over 20 ago.

According to Davis, inspiration for design ideas come from a higher power. Davis pointed out that women are being seen more often in public since the pandemic has improved

after the end of lockdown. Ladies want to dress up again.

"They're looking for color. They're looking for things that pop," Davis said.

Initially, fashion was a hobby for Davis. She began receiving compliments from family and friends who commented on clothes that she sewed and made.

"But then I started getting compliments from people that I didn't know," Davis said.

She even began getting requests from people to make clothes for them. But before she designed clothes full-time, Davis worked at Neiman Marcus as a sales associate for seven years. Her boss encouraged her to work on her talent full-time, instead of working for Neiman Marcus. Over time, Davis built a client base while diving into a new endeavor.

When 9/11 terrorist attacks hit, Davis said that her business dried up. She took a job as a mortgage broker to stay afloat until the real estate market tanked.

"That's when I reverted back to my gifts and my talents of designing and making beautiful garments," Davis said.

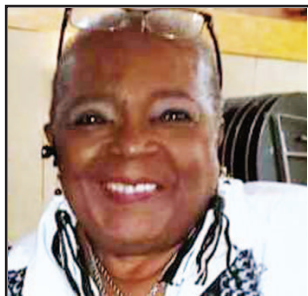
Davis' clients include Cathy Hughes and national news correspondent Michelle Miller. Even Gayle King has a few dresses in her wardrobe, according to Davis. But Davis remarked that she looks at all of her clients who seek to wear a Jody piece as celebrities.

"I am thankful for all of the clients that I have and in particular thankful for those repeat clients who come back year after year, month after month, looking for pieces to add to their wardrobe," Davis said. "It's like an addiction for some of them. It's a great feeling for me."

Davis' website is www.jodydavis.com. Her store's location is 110 W. Saratoga St. in Baltimore.

Rambling Rose

**DON'T BE SAD, MUSIC AND COMEDY
WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello Everyone,

I'm so sorry about the sad news that I had to bring to you about the passing of two people that we knew and loved. Ron and Ronnie both brought such joy to our community, and they always will be remembered for their contributions.

Ronnie Jackson owned Roots Lounge on the corner of Smallwood and Vine Streets in West Baltimore. It was one of the popular clubs that many of us from all walks of life partied at from the 1960's to the 1990's. We all enjoyed the food, DJ music and drinks. Ronnie was a special person and the perfect hostess every time patrons visited. Her contributions to the community were one of a kind. She gave back in many ways. Ronnie had her cook at Roots fix food for families who didn't have money to purchase food. She attended funerals and cooked food for repasts. Ronnie also visited the sick and shut-ins in the neighborhood. Ronnie Jackson was one of a kind and she will be truly missed.

The same goes for our friend, Ron Pender. He was one of the finest saxophonists who had the biggest personality. I send condolences to the Jackson and Pender families and all their friends.

But my dear friends, don't be sad. I have some music events to share with you to make you smile and pat your feet. A great comedy event can make you laugh, too.

First of all, let me tell you about a show my Boo-Boo and I went to last week. It was produced by my little brother, Carlos Hutchins and his partner, Charles Sparks. I was truly impressed.

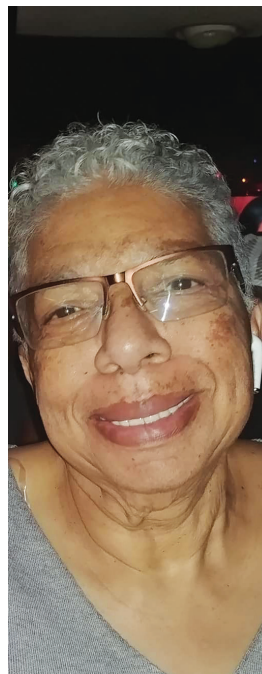
They were very organized. The show was very professionally done. All the entertainers including Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, the original Persuaders with Keith Soul, and The Spindles, put on a fantastic, out of sight show. Bravo! Well done, Carlos and Charles.

Now, speaking of music, I want you to check out the show every Thursday for Jazz night at Werner's Diner and Pub, presented by another one of our fine musicians, Todd Marcus. The club is located at 231 E. Redwood Street. I will see you there.

Now while you are driving around the city, or at home, turn on your radio to WEEA 88.9 FM, Monday-Friday from 4-6 p.m. and check out my friend, Anthony McCarthy. Call him at 410-319-8888 to join the conversation on his "Two Way Talk" show.

Remember when I told you about having a chance to laugh? Well, I am suggesting that you check out my buddy and comedian, Rickey Shackelford at Church of Satire Comedy Club on Friday and Saturday, March 10-11, 2022. Check out the show at 106 Broadway in Hanover, Pennsylvania. It is a BYOB event. Just make plans to go and laugh your head off.

Now, I want you to come to the Mickey Fields Tribute Concert at Towson University on Sunday March 5, 2023, at 8 p.m. in the Recital Hall in the Fine Arts Building at Towson University. There will be a tribute concert honoring Baltimore jazz legend Mickey Fields. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Mickey Fields Scholarship at Towson University. The band will include Craig Alston, Greg Thompkins playing saxophone, Tom Williams on trumpet,



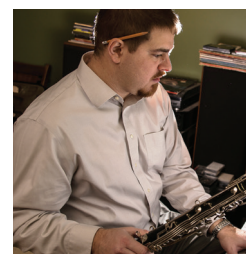
Veronica "Ronnie" Jackson, the well-loved Roots Lounge owner, passed away last month. Her funeral was last week at Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church under the direction of Carlton Douglass Funeral Services. The community has lost a great person.



A tribute to Baltimore jazz legend Mickey Fields will be held on Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 8 p.m. in the Recital Hall in The Fine Arts Building at Towson University. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Mickey Fields Scholarship at Towson University.



Rickey Shackelford, "The Real Deal Baltimore King of Comedy" will be performing at 106 Broadway, Hanover, Pennsylvania at Church of Satire Comedy Club, on Friday and Saturday, March 10-11, 2023. Cabaret Style, BYOB.



Todd Marcus' heads up Jazz Night is held every Thursday of the week at 5 p.m. New bands are featured at Werner's Diner and Pub, located at 231 E. Redwood Street in Baltimore.



Ron Pender, Baltimore's own renowned saxophonist, passed away last week. Funeral arrangements were not complete at press time.

Greg Hatza playing Keyboard, Eric Kennedy on drums and Quinn Ketteringham on bass. Yours truly, Rambling Rose, will speak at this event. For more information, call 410-704-2787. Please feel free to share this information about this event.

There is one other event coming up that I want to tell you about now, because my next column will come out after this special event. The 2023 WMEL Radio Honors, honoring the legends of Soul and R&B Black Tie Ceremony & Show, will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 5 p.m., at the Best Western Hotel Conference Center, located at 5625 O'Donnell

Street in Baltimore. Your ticket will include dinner and a cash bar. The honorees include The Manhattans, The Moments/Ray, Goodman & Brown, Gene Chandler, SKYY, Spyder Turner, Baker, Harris & Young, Keith "Showtime" Busey & The Unit Band, The NOW Horns, Wilbert Hart of the Delfonics and George Kerr. For more information, call 410-493-3512.

Now look, I can't talk to you anymore. I am out of time and out of space, 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.**

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Three Ravens Prospects to Watch at the NFL Combine

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have traditionally been able to build a quality roster through the NFL Draft. This week the NFL turns its focus to Indianapolis where the combine is set to take place. The Ravens will have holes to fill, even after the free agency period. Here are five position needs and prospects to watch during combine workouts this weekend. (Prospect breakdowns via NFL.com.):



Christian Gonzalez

Photo credit: AP/Godofredo A. Vasquez

Wide Receiver

A.T. Perry / 6-3, 195 lbs / Wake Forrest

Long wideout with quick feet and erratic hands who falls neatly into the category of higher-ceiling, lower-floor prospect. Perry has been highly targeted and highly productive over the last two seasons. He's crafty but physical in the early stages of the route and flashes the ability to become a more dangerous route runner with additional work. He has the tools to work all three levels of the field, but his drops and ordinary ball skills sap some of the excitement surrounding his massive wingspan. Perry's inconsistencies can be frustrating, but his talent and traits make him worthy of a Day 2 selection as a potential WR2/3.

EDGE

Derick Hall / 6-3, 252 lbs / OLB

Explosive and long, Hall plays with a rugged demeanor and puts his traits to work as an assertive power rusher capable of putting offensive tackles in reverse. He tends to lack consistency when forced to read and react in the run game and his rush approach is predictable with charges down the fairway. However, his jolting initial contact can help him gain positioning and he's excellent at transitioning from bulldozer to pocket vulture as a sack artist. He is average against the run, exploitable in coverage and in need of a more diversified rush approach, but a true power rush usually translates in the NFL.

Offensive Guard

O'Cyrus Torrence / 6-5, 337 lbs / Florida

Broad guard prospect whose physical limitations are balanced by his feel for the job and ability to use his size in his favor. Torrence is not a natural bender. He is forced to engulf and push rather than leverage and drive as a run blocker, but he's solid at neutralizing the man across from him. He uses his hands well to jab and maintain feel for the rush, but quick interior rushers with well-developed counters could be too much for his limited foot quickness to handle without help. He projects as a future starter for downhill offenses who covet size over athleticism.

Cornerback

Christian Gonzalez / 6-2, 202 lbs / Oregon

Explosive outside cornerback possessing a rare blend of physical and athletic traits. Gonzalez plays with fluid hips and blazing top-end speed, which should help him match against top-end targets in the future. He can rough up the release or use mirror-and-match footwork from press-man coverage and he has all the tools to become a highly capable route shadow. His technique will get away from him at times and he doesn't play with the level of instincts or ball skills that should make heavy ball production automatic. His testing numbers could send his draft stock skyrocketing, but the ingredients are already present to become a feared CB1 if he plays to his gifts.

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CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate, addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **GS21831 – Reisterstown Road Library Branch #31 Ramp Replacement**, will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023**. Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids.

Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. Bid opening proceedings can be also viewed live at <https://www.charmtvbaltimore.com/live-stream> at 12:00 noon. Bid tabulation sheets detailing the bids received will be publicly posted to the Comptroller's website by COB on the date of bid opening.

The Contract Documents may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00** by contacting Azza Rizkallah at azza.rizkallah@baltimorecity.gov as of **FRIDAY, MARCH 03, 2023**.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions. Interested contractors should call 410 396-6883 or contact the Office of Boards and Commissions at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a Joint Venture ("JV"), then in that event, the documents that establish the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **C03300 – CONCRETE**.

The Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$100,000.01 to \$500,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding information" session will be conducted at **the site: 6310 REISTERSTOWN RD, BALTIMORE, MD 21215 on TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

Principal Items of work for this project are:

1. Concrete
2. Metal Railing
3. Landscaping

The MBE goal is **27%**

The WBE goal is **10%**

CONTRACT NO. GS21831

APPROVED:
Erika McClammy
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Berke Attila
Director, Department of
General Services

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Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23001, RECONSTRUCTION OF FOOTWAYS CITYWIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MARCH 15, 2023, at 11:00 A.M.** Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **MARCH 3, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02601 (Portland Cement Concrete Paving).** Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$700,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **MARCH 10, 2023** at

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10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to vijaykumar.parekh@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **5 in. Concrete Sidewalk - 72,000 SF; 5 in. Exposed Aggregate Sidewalk - 8,500 SF; 7 in Concrete Pavement - 8,000 SF.** The MBE Goal is **30%**; The WBE Goal is **15%**. APPROVED: Bill Henry, Board of Estimates

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23002, RECONSTRUCTION OF FOOTWAYS CITYWIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MARCH 15, 2023, at 11:00 A.M.** Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **MARCH 3, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Commit-

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tee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02601 (Portland Cement Concrete Paving).** Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$650,000.00 to \$850,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **MARCH 10, 2023** at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to vijaykumar.parekh@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **5 in. Concrete Sidewalk - 63,000 SF; 5 in. Exposed Aggregate Sidewalk - 6,500 SF; 7 in Concrete Pavement - 8,000 SF.** The MBE Goal is **30%**; The WBE Goal is **15%**. APPROVED: Bill Henry, Board of Estimates

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23003, RECONSTRUCTION OF FOOTWAYS CITYWIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MARCH 15, 2023, at 11:00 A.M.** Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **MARCH 3, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled

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“**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02601 (Portland Cement Concrete Paving).** Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$600,000.00 to \$800,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **MARCH 10, 2023** at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to vijaykumar.parekh@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **5 in. Concrete Sidewalk - 58,000 SF; 5 in. Exposed Aggregate Sidewalk - 7,500 SF; 7 in Concrete Pavement - 8,000 SF.** The MBE Goal is **30%**; The WBE Goal is **15%**. APPROVED: Bill Henry, Board of Estimates

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23006, CONCRETE SLAB CITYWIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **APRIL 5, 2023, at 11:00 A.M.** Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **MARCH 3, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02601 (Portland Cement Concrete Paving)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$1,100,000.00 to \$1,500,000.00**. A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **MARCH 24, 2023** at

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10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to vijaykumar.parekh@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **9 in. Concrete Pavement Modified Mix #6 - 8,000 SY; 9 in. Reinforced Concrete Pavement Modified Mix #9 – 3,000 SY.** The MBE Goal is **22%**; The WBE Goal is **8%**. APPROVED: Bill Henry, Board of Estimates

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23007, CURB REPAIR CITYWIDE** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **APRIL 5, 2023, at 11:00 A.M.** Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **MARCH 3, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled “**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**” to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Contractors’ Qualification Committee. Interested

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parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **D02620 (Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$500,000.00 to \$800,000.00**. A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **MARCH 24, 2023** at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to vijaykumar.parekh@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Miscellaneous Curb Replacement and Repairs - 15,000 LF.** The MBE Goal is **30%**; The WBE Goal is **15%**. APPROVED: Bill Henry, Board of Estimates

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate, addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **GS16810RR – Mitchell Courthouse Roof Replacement**, will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023**. Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. Bid opening proceedings can be also viewed live at <https://www.charmtvbaltimore.com/live-stream> at 12:00 noon. Bid tabulation sheets detailing the bids received will be publicly posted to the Comptroller’s website by COB on the date of bid opening.

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The Contract Documents may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00** by contacting Azza Rizkallah at azza.rizkallah@baltimorecity.gov as of **FRIDAY, MARCH 03, 2023**.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions. Interested contractors should call 410 396-6883 or contact the Office of Boards and Commissions at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a Joint Venture (“JV”), then in that event, the documents that establish the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **F07500 – ROOFING INDUSTRIAL**. The Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$2,000,000.01 to \$3,000,000.00**. A “Pre-Bidding information” session will be conducted at the site: **100 N. CALVERT ST, BALTIMORE, MD 21202 on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

Principal Items of work for this project are:

1. Roofing
2. Existing Conditions
3. Paint and Coatings
4. HVAC

The MBE goal is **21%**
The WBE goal is **8%**

CONTRACT NO. GS 16810RR

APPROVED:
[Erika McClammy](#)
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
[Berke Attila](#)
Director, Department of
General Services

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