

The Annapolis Times

Vol. 38 No. 50

October 4 - 10, 2024

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

Creatively Black Baltimore Celebrates Official Opening



The artists of Creatively Black Baltimore join (l-r) Jenenne Whitfield, Director of Harbor Place Experience, MCB Real Estate; Jermaine Prince, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore; Paris Brown and Joy Bramble of The Baltimore Times and exhibit co-creators; Artist Larry "Poncho" Brown exhibit co-creator; Derrick Green, Green Consulting and Northeast Maglev, Presenting Sponsor, in cutting the ribbon to officially open the largest regional exhibition of Black art. (See article on page 12)

Photo credit: L.A. Randall

Longshoremen Engage in Coast-wide Labor Action for Better Treatment, Call for an End to 'Corporate Greed'

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Ports along the U.S. East and Gulf coasts from Maine to Texas shut down Tuesday, October 1, 2024, as a result of the expiration of the master agreement between United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) and the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA). Coverage of the USMX-ILA Master Contract includes ILA members from Maine to Texas. Workers at ports on the U.S. East and Gulf coasts are represented by the ILA while USMX represents employers in the maritime industry. These parties include port associations, marine terminal operators, and container carriers.

"Contract negotiations between the ILA International and USMX expired Monday, Sept. 30 at midnight. Since an agreement had not been reached," tens of thousands of ILA rank-and-file members began setting up picket lines," according to statements issued on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ILAUion> by the ILA.

"The Ocean Carriers represented by USMX want to enjoy rich billion-dollar profits that they are making in 2024, while they offer ILA Longshore Workers an unacceptable wage package that we reject," the ILA added.

The ILA further stated that "longshore workers deserve to be compensated for the important work they do keeping American commerce moving and growing."

"In addition, the shippers are gouging their customers that result in increased costs to American consumers. They are now charging \$30,000 for a full container, a whopping increase from \$6,000 per container just a few weeks ago. In just a short time, they went from 6K, to 18K, then 24K and now \$30,000. It's unheard of and they are doubling their \$30,000 fees stuffing the same container from multiple

shippers. They are killing the customers," the ILA also asserted.

A coast-wide strike has not happened since the mid-seventies.

ILA President Harold Daggett, the leader of the 85,000-member ILA union further stated on social media that members are prepared to fight as long as necessary to garner the wages and protections against automation our ILA members deserve. However, the ILA said that they will continue to handle military cargo and work passenger cruise vessels. Antoin Jennings and Magdy Wahba, crew members from a military vessel, Roy P. Benavidez were kind enough to bring lunch to strikers in Newport News to show appreciation and support for what they do. As a part of the ILA agreement, military vessels were allowed to continue operations.

Daggett joined ILA members outside the gates at Maher Terminal located in Port Elizabeth, New Jersey to picket. A \$5-an-hour increase in wages for each of the six years of a new ILA-USMX Master Contract is one of the ILA's demands.

"Plus, we want absolute airtight language that there will be no automation or semi-automation, and we are demanding all Container Royalty monies go to the ILA," Daggett added.

President Joe Biden weighed in on the Negotiations Between USMX and the International Longshoremen's Association on October 1. Statement from President Joe Biden on the Negotiations Between USMX and the International Longshoremen's Association | The White House

"Collective bargaining is the best way for workers to get the pay and benefits they deserve," he said.

President Biden urged USMX to come to the table and present a fair offer to the ILA workers.



Aerial shot of the Port of Baltimore looking across an intermodal container yard towards a ship being loaded by cranes. Photo: Getty Images

"Ocean carriers have made record profits since the pandemic and in some cases profits grew in excess of 800 percent compared to their profits prior to the pandemic. Executive compensation has grown in line with those profits and profits have been returned to shareholders at record rates. It's only fair that workers, who put themselves at risk during the pandemic to keep ports open, see a meaningful increase in their wages as well," he added.

The President further stated that his Administration will be monitoring the situation "for any price gouging activity that benefits foreign ocean carriers, including those on the USMX board."

Another statement was issued by the ILA about the strike. It mentioned how their members worked tirelessly during the pandemic to ensure that the nation's commerce flowed, and they continue to sacrifice time with their own families so that goods can arrive in the homes of other families throughout the world.

Additionally, less manpower is needed to do work at ports because of automation. Certain container-handling equipment has been implemented in the



Picketing dockworkers at Hampton Roads on October 1, 2024 picketed at Newport News Marine Terminal. Photo: Andrea Blackstone

process of loading and discharging vessels which has eliminated several manual jobs that would require compensation from the ILA's checkers (longshoremen who use digital equipment to account for delivered and loaded freight) and longshoremen, thereby increasing profits, according to sources.

"Still due to corporate greed, employers refused to compensate the ILA's members fairly. Over the last several

See **STRIKE**, page 18

CHEVROLET
DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED



WATCH THE 2024
DTU FELLOWS POWER THEIR FUTURES WITH CHEVROLET



Together, these 10 HBCU students drive the summer internship of a lifetime with **Black-owned newspapers**



Erinn Gardner
Spelman College
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow



Kayla Hare
North Carolina A&T University
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow



Amyah Fountain
Clark Atlanta University
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow



Joseph Tilaye
Alabama A&M University
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow



Imani Waters
Howard University
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow



Kynnedi Jackson
Southern University A&M College
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow



Juan Benn Jr.
Howard University
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow



Harrison Buck
Morehouse College
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow



Stefon Young-Rolle
Alabama State University
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow



Mattie Moore
North Carolina A&T University
-
NNPA Journalism Fellow

FOLLOW THE JOURNEY AT [NNPA.ORG/CHEVYDTU](https://www.nnpa.org/chevydtu)

f X Instagram TikTok YouTube #ChevroletDTU



Skincare from an Esthetician's Perspective is More than Meets the Eye

By **Andrea Blackstone**

“Black Don’t Crack” is a common saying in the Black community that reflects the belief that Black skin ages or wrinkles less, and minimal effort is required to keep skin looking attractive despite aging. However, individuals of all ethnicities and ages can benefit from providing tender loving care to their skin.

The skin is the body’s largest organ and includes three main layers: the epidermis (top layer), dermis (middle layer), and hypodermis (bottom later). Melanated skin can benefit from being treated with tender loving care. Finding a skincare routine that works for you helps to combat aging and protects skin.

Additionally, reducing your exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays can lower your chances of getting skin cancer. The CDC reminds that anyone can get skin cancer, but people with certain characteristics are at greater skin cancer risk.

Meka Mathis, a licensed master esthetician of 27 years, provides facials; teeth whitening; lash lift; sugaring; waxing; laser cavitation (non-surgical fat removal); and eyelash and eyebrow tinting services. Mathis serves men and women at her Skin Beauty Bar located in Washington, D.C. She explains the difference between an esthetician and dermatologist.

“Estheticians are licensed professionals by the state who provide skincare services to clients. They help maintain the personal appearance of clients by performing facials, waxing, sugaring, and most skincare treatments. The difference between an esthetician and dermatologist is

the medical degree. A dermatologist is a medical specialist educated and experienced in the prevention, recognition, and treatment of skin, hair, and nail diseases,” said Mathis.

She further noted that a dermatologist typically gets involved when laser resurfacing or prescription products are needed for the skin. However, when it comes to learning how to maintain an at-home skin care regiment, or visiting an esthetician for self-care, Mathis stated that a facial followed by professional skincare products is a budget-friendly recommendation that can be used to start a skincare routine. Both genders can benefit from having an easy skin care routine that includes a double cleanse; mild exfoliant; toner; and serum; and moisturizer followed by SPF (Sun Protection Factor).

Mathis added, “Men should understand that they must cleanse their skin twice a day and use skincare that addresses their skin type.”

It is important to note that investing in skincare made for faces is not merely a luxury.

“Soap is made for the body and Vaseline clogs the pores of the skin of your face,” Mathis stated.

Additionally, products that contain lanolin, castor oil, formaldehyde, and mineral oil can damage or irritate skin, according to Mathis.

Mathis specifically recommended the use of baby skincare products that are paraben and fragrance free. Teens should establish skincare geared towards them such as Dermalogica Clear Start, a product that can be purchased at Skin Beauty Bar. The aesthetician further explained that teen skincare should include a cleanser;

toner; SPF with moisturizer; and a mask once a week. Mathis suggested that adults who are under 40 years old should incorporate a cleanser; exfoliant; toner; serum; moisturizer with SPF; night cream; and a mask with vitamin C or retinoids once a week into their routine. Lastly, Mathis suggested use of a cleanser with vitamin C or glycolic acids; an exfoliant; toner; serum; moisturizer with SPF; night cream; and a mask containing vitamin C or retinoids once a week for adults who are 40 years old and older.

She also offered insight about products and methods to take care of aging skin.

“It is important to use active ingredients, such as glycolic acids; retinoids; and hyaluronic acid to increase cell turnover, which regenerates new skin. You may minimize damage, wrinkles or flaws by [getting] monthly facials and [using] professional grade skincare products,” said Mathis.

A few common skin issues that arise in African Americans include hyperpigmentation, eczema and keloids.

Mathis added, “Hyperpigmentation occurs because we have more melanocytes, and when the skin is injured, it takes time to heal. And when the UV rays, which is sun exposure hits the skin the scarred area becomes darker. That is why it is important to resurface the skin with peels and exfoliants and SPF.”

Individuals who want to maintain healthy, glowing skin will benefit from establishing a skincare routine and incorporating healthy eating habits into their lifestyle.



Meka Mathis, founder of Skin Beauty Bar and master esthetician
Photo: Myron Smith

“Drink plenty of water. A great diet includes eating fruits and vegetables and low fat foods. Have a skincare routine that is followed daily,” said Mathis.

Visit <https://www.skinbeautybardc.com/> to learn more about Skin Beauty Bar. Follow @skinbeautybardc on all social media platforms, including Instagram via <https://www.instagram.com/skinbeautybardc>.

Paris Brown
Publisher

Joy Bramble
Publisher Emeritus

Dena Wane
Editor

Andrea Blackstone
Associate Editor

Eunice Moseley
Entertainment Columnist

Ida C. Neal
Administrative Assistant

Sharon Bunch
Advertising

Ursula V. Battle
Reporter

Stacy Brown
Reporter

Demetrius Dillard
Reporter

Jayne Hopson
Columnist

Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor
Columnist

Karen Clay
Technology Columnist

Tyler Stallings
Junior Reporter

The Baltimore Times (USPS 5840) is a publication of The Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore, Inc. The Baltimore Times is published every Friday. News and advertising deadline is one week prior to publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. 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 Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21218

Notice

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

Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410-366-3900
<https://baltimoretimes-online.com/>



National

Vance and Walz Begin Cordially but End in Heated Clashes Over Trump, Jan. 6, and National Policy Issues

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National
Correspondent
[@StacyBrownMedia](https://twitter.com/StacyBrownMedia)

Republican Senator JD Vance of Ohio and Democratic Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota faced off in the only vice presidential debate of the 2024 election on Tuesday night, which began with a measured tone but eventually escalated into a combative exchange. The debate, which CBS News hosted at their Broadcast Center in New York and Norah O'Donnell and Margaret Brennan moderated, covered a range of important national issues, with Vance's connections to former President Donald Trump and the January 6 uprising emerging as key flashpoints.

The debate's early moments were largely civil, as both candidates laid out their platforms and shared their visions on topics such as foreign policy and the economy. However, tensions flared when Vance was asked about Trump's recent comment that childcare was "not very expensive" compared to the money the country would gain from his policies. Vance explained that Trump was referring to the nation's ability to raise funds by "penalizing companies shipping jobs overseas" and those using "slave laborers." But Vance sidestepped when pressed on whether Trump was committed to the child tax credit, redirecting the discussion to economic penalties for outsourcing, prompting frustration from Walz.

The debate took a sharper turn when Vance was questioned about the 2020 election and Trump's role in the January 6 insurrection. Rather than directly answering whether Trump lost the 2020 election, Vance defended the former president's actions that day,



Photo courtesy of NNPA

stating, "Remember, [Trump] said that on January the 6th, the protesters ought to protest peacefully, and on January the 20th, what happened? Joe Biden became the president. Donald Trump left the White House."

Walz responded forcefully, calling Vance's failure to answer directly "a damning non-answer." He continued, "To deny what happened on January 6, the first time an American president or anyone tried to overturn an election, is unacceptable. This has got to stop. It's tearing our country apart."

Walz also drew attention to the broader implications of Vance's remarks, reminding voters of the violence on January 6, including a march on the governor's mansion in Minnesota. "What I'm concerned about is, where is the firewall with Donald Trump? Where is the firewall if he knows he could do anything, including taking an election, and his vice president's not going to stand up to it? That's what we're asking you, America," Walz said, clarifying that accountability for democracy was at

stake in the 2024 election.

Vance avoided direct answers on election integrity and instead pivoted to discussions of censorship, blaming tech companies for "censoring their fellow citizens" and touting Trump's endorsements by former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. He continued to defend Trump's policies, including tax cuts and immigration, while steering clear of addressing the core issue of Trump's role in questioning the election results.

The debate further escalated as the two candidates clashed over climate change, healthcare, and gun violence. On climate change, Walz highlighted the Biden-Harris administration's investments in clean energy and infrastructure, citing the Inflation Reduction Act as a crucial step in addressing the crisis. "We've made massive investments in electric vehicles, solar technology, and job creation because we know climate change is real," Walz said.

See **DEBATE**, page 15

The Wealth Creator Most Black People Are Ignoring and Missing Out On

By J.R. Fenwick

It's no secret there is a massive wealth gap between Blacks and whites. For every \$1 a white family has, Black families only have 23 cents according to "The State Of U.S. Wealth Inequality."

To make matters worse, Black people are major consumers in America, spending almost \$2 trillion dollars annually and the majority of those dollars are not being spent on things that will increase Black Wealth. In fact, Black Wealth is decreasing while spending is increasing as reported on CNBC by Frank Holland.

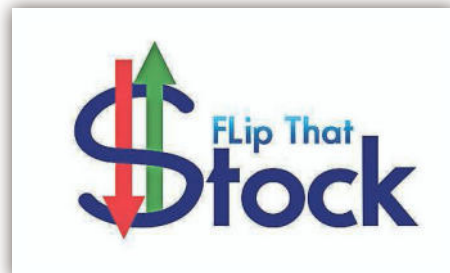
There are three proven wealth creators: Real Estate; Owning A Business; and Investing and Trading in the Stock Market (not in any particular order).

Of the three major wealth creators, the stock market has been called "America's Great Wealth Equalizer and those who are not in the stock market are much poorer as a result" as stated in an Investor's Business Daily article.

Blacks are involved in real estate and business ownership in increasing numbers, but the wealth creator they are ignoring and missing out on is the stock market.

The stock market has risen to historic levels over the past years and Blacks continue to miss out. This has been well documented in articles such as, "Stocks Are Soaring And Most Black People Are Missing Out," reported in AP by Stan Choe.

"Black Americans' lack of participation in the stock market is likely to widen the post pandemic wealth gap," reported on CNBC by Yun Li.



"Many Black Americans missed out on the hefty gains from the stock market" as reported by CNBC.

While 30% of white wealth is comprised of stock ownership, only 4% of Black wealth is comprised of stock ownership" as reported on MSN by Rachel Christian.

As the Founder and CEO of FLip That Stock, my mission is to change those headlines and drastically increase the percentage of Black participation in the stock market. FLip That Stock is a leading stock market education and technology company that specializes in teaching beginners (particularly Black people and minority groups) how to become active investors and traders in the stock market using our fun and easy education platform, live mentoring sessions and a community chat board.

Our "Shop For Stocks Online" platform and app teaches how to easily buy stocks just like shopping on Amazon.

Since we have already mastered shopping, we just need to re-direct some of our shopping dollars into buying ownership in the companies we are making rich and our Shop For Stocks Platform and App make it easy and fun to do that.

I came up with the idea for Shop For Stocks Online while shopping on Amazon and realized how easy it was to shop there and be a big consumer.

I thought to myself, what if there were a platform similar to Amazon where I could "shop for stocks online" as easy as it is to shop on Amazon and that's when I created "Shop For Stocks Online."

But I'm not stopping with just creating the Shop For Stocks Online Platform, I'm also planning the 1st Annual "Shop For Stocks Day" on Monday, November 25, 2024. This is the Monday before Thanksgiving and Black Friday.

Before spending one penny on Black Friday and being just a consumer on Shop For Stocks Day, we plan to buy some stock in those companies whose products we plan to buy on Black Friday and over the holidays. That way when we buy those products on Black Friday and over the holidays, we will be owners in those companies, rather than just consumers!

Each week in October, I will contribute an article to The Baltimore Times to help people further understand the stock market and the importance of being active participants in the stock market. Tune in next Friday to continue learning about the stock market.

Additionally, on Saturday,



J.R. Fenwick,
Founder and CEO of FLip That Stock

Photo: J.R. Fenwick

November 16 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., I will be hosting a live seminar to teach how to Shop For Stocks, so people can prepare for Shop For Stocks Day on Monday, November 25.

J.R. Fenwick is Founder and CEO of FLip That Stock has been trading and investing in the stock market for over 20 years.

2024 NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!



NOMINATE

**YOUR FAVORITE BLACK-OWNED
BUSINESS TODAY**

Scan Now!



[BestofBlackBaltimore.com](https://www.BestofBlackBaltimore.com)





The proposed ritual, The Overcome: A Black Passover, is the concept of a yearly celebration of and by African Americans commemorating the significance of overcoming slavery, Jim Crow, and institutionalized racism to ascent as leaders in all walks of life. This proposed ritual has been compared to the yearly commemorated Jewish Passover. The book The Overcome: A Black Passover delineates the logical explanation of a celebration. Overcome: Rite, Liturgy & Songs outlines the actual celebratory ceremony. So, like those of Jewish ancestry, **there is no going back to Egypt and for African Americans, there is no going back to slavery!**

ON SALE NOW AT:

PETER W.D.
BRAMBLE

**BARNES
& NOBLE**

iUniverse®

amazon

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !!!



Michael Jackson's **THIS IS IT**

Highest Grossing Concert Film of All Time

Michael Jackson **THE IMMORTAL** World Tour

Top 10 Touring Concert Show of All Time

Michael Jackson **ONE**

Top Las Vegas Show

MICHAEL JACKSON IS ROCKIN' THE BOX OFFICE WORLDWIDE! WITH OVER \$2 BILLION IN TICKET SALES & UNIVERSAL ACCLAIM!

MJ The Musical

4X Tony Award® Winning Broadway Musical
Continues to thrill sold out audiences on Broadway,
the North American Tour and London's West End

MJ The Musical Hamburg

COMING SOON!

MJ The Musical Australia

COMING SOON!

MICHAEL (2025)

The Most Anticipated Biopic Ever, Directed by Antoine Fuqua
& Produced by Graham King, John Branca & John McClain

THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL JACKSON

Eradicate the Stigma: Let's Talk About Perimenopause and Menopause More

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Menopause Awareness Month offers a prime opportunity to raise awareness about two female health topics: perimenopause and menopause.

Actress Halle Berry, 57, has spoken out about these transitional times in a woman's life. Her voice reached Capitol Hill months ago as she joined bipartisan senators who push for legislation that would support menopausal research and expansive healthcare options. She was initially misdiagnosed with herpes. The discovery was later made that Berry was in perimenopause, she revealed during a discussion with First Lady Jill Biden at "A Day of Unreasonable Conversation," a conference held in Los Angeles last March.

"I have to use all of who I am, and I have to start making a change and a difference for other women," she said, mentioning that she decided to use her platform to raise awareness about perimenopause.

LaKeisha McMillan, M.D. ("Dr. LaKeisha"), a Maryland-based integrative gynecologist and author of the Amazon Best-Seller, "The Other PMS: Your Survival Guide for Perimenopause and Menopause" explained the significance of knowing that menopause is marked by a woman going 12 consecutive months without having a menstrual period.

"This is very important because if you go 12 consecutive months without a period, and you are not on hormones, and you have a period, you have to have a workup to make sure your bleeding isn't due to uterine cancer. I'm not saying that all post-menopausal bleeding means uterine cancer," she said.

She added, "Perimenopause is

the time in a woman's life when the hormones that helped her have a period start declining. The result can be a shift in your cycle by plus or minus seven days. However, this isn't the only symptom."

The gynecologist believes that the more perimenopause is discussed, the less stigma it carries, and the more understanding society can become.

"Estrogen is just one of the hormones that helps you have a cycle at a set interval every 28, 30, or 32 days. During the reproductive years, estrogen helps the uterine lining grow in preparation for a fertilized egg to implant," Dr. LaKeisha stated.

She added, "When estrogen levels start falling during perimenopause, you can begin experiencing some of the other symptoms that accompany perimenopause other than irregular cycles. You can experience vaginal dryness; hot flashes; skin itching; and mood swings, just to name a few."

Dr. LaKeisha noted that perimenopause can start as early as a woman's late thirties and last years before menopause. Perimenopause symptoms can include having a new onset insomnia; unexplained weight gain; brain fog; joint pain; mood swings; hot flashes; night sweats; and phantom smells. However, perimenopause symptoms can vary. Not everyone experiences the same symptoms.

A woman should consult a doctor if she has perimenopause symptoms.

"Some of these symptoms are debilitating and interrupting a woman's ability to function. Some symptoms are interfering with relationships and activities of daily living. I tell women all the time, you don't have to suffer in silence," said Dr. LaKeisha.

She also mentioned that FSH is a

follicle-stimulating hormone. It is a signal from the brain telling the ovaries it's time to make an egg. This test determines if the ovaries are responding to the signal. The higher this number goes, the more certain you can be that no egg was produced during this cycle, but FSH levels can change throughout perimenopause.

Women can become pregnant during perimenopause, or at the beginning of menopause, even when they have irregular cycles.

"A woman can still have an ovulatory cycle and get pregnant,"

Dr. LaKeisha shared.

She also stated, "This means that during one of those times, a woman can produce an egg. If the sperm is present, it can fertilize it. The broader discussion should involve a reproductive endocrinologist (a fertility specialist) because you have to start talking about egg quality and levels of hormones needed to make the uterine lining favorable for implantation and a whole host of other factors that will contribute to a full-term pregnancy.

She also stated that she often tells her patients that there is not one test that determines their menopause status, although several tests can help determine a comprehensive approach



LaKeisha McMillan, M.D. ("Dr. LaKeisha"), a Maryland-based, traditionally trained OB-GYN who now practices integrative gynecology.

Photo: WRiiphotography

to managing menopause.

Treatment options exist for perimenopause.

"Options for treating perimenopause range from lifestyle changes to supplementation and bio-identical hormone replacement therapy (BHRT). Women should seek help early. They should seek help as soon as symptoms are interrupting their lives. You don't have to "grin and bear it," she added.

Learn more about Integrative GYN Solutions, Dr. LaKeisha, and her book by visiting www.integrativegynsolutions.com and www.theotherpms.com. Follow @drlakeischamd on all social media platforms.



lendistry

Lendistry Customer:
Kuo Pao Lian, PI.KL
Baltimore, MD

Permission to dream BIG

As a minority-led, non-bank lender, Lendistry is empowering **Baltimore small businesses** with flexible, fast financing options, starting at **\$25,000**.



SCAN ME

Learn more today!
lendistry.com/baltimore

©2024 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. NMLS# 1571851. Lendistry SBLC, LLC California Finance Lender, License #60DBO-49327.

Largest regional exhibition of Black art showcased



*Derrick Green,
Green Consulting,
representing
presenting sponsor
Northeast Maglev
and Inter-disciplinary
Artists Tamara Payne.*

Denzel Robinson

CREATIVELY BLACK BALTIMORE CELEBRATES OFFICIAL OPENING

By **Demetrius Dillard**

What began as a conversation between Baltimore Times founder Joy Bramble and renowned artist Larry “Poncho” Brown has transpired into an elaborate display of one of the finest Black art arrangements this city has to offer.

Creatively Black Baltimore, a pop-up touted as the “largest regional exhibition of Black art,” officially opened to the public during a special reception and celebration on September 28, 2024 in downtown Baltimore.

The exhibit features more than 430 pieces of artwork from more than 80 artists who are either from, reside in or have ties to Baltimore.

The artwork uses essentially every art medium and style imaginable — including paintings, drawings, abstract, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, quilting, photography, digital and much more — while reflecting the rich reservoir of artistic genius that lies within the fabric of Black Baltimore.

Brown, the co-founder and curator of Creatively Black Baltimore, is a Baltimore City native whose artwork has achieved international acclaim. He, with the support of community

leaders and local organizations, are on a quest to promote and uplift Black American artists, many of whom are underrepresented in the broader arts community.

Not only did the Creatively Black Baltimore opening reception signify the official opening of the art show to the public, but it was an opportunity for local artists to network amongst themselves along with community leaders and other supporters of the arts community.

“What we’re looking for is support and food artists to kind of band together and expand their connectivity with the community. We were able to achieve that,” Brown said, reflecting on the reception and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“It was a great artist fellowship going on there, and it was a great introduction to the project itself.”

Brown, whose career as an artist spans more than 40 years, got his start in the industry specializing in graphic design and fine art. From there, his artistic profile and acumen expanded.

Over the past three decades or so, Brown’s works have been featured in a number of prominent magazines, books, television shows, films and academic institutions on his path to become one of

the nation’s most powerful and profound artists.

Creatively Black Baltimore builds upon the legacy and ingenuity of local Black artists of yesteryear who made invaluable contributions to the vibrant arts community that Baltimore has become today. It accentuates Black excellence in the Baltimore arts community in a way that reconnects two to three generations of artists separated by a lack of opportunities Brown pointed out.

The exhibit is housed in 12,000 square feet of space on the second floor of the Light Street Pavilion within Harborplace. Creatively Black Baltimore will occupy the space for two years.

Prior to Creatively Black Baltimore’s arrival, the space belonged to Ripley’s Believe It or Not!

Art in the exhibit is for sale. Each piece has an accompanying QR code that takes patrons to a website to purchase the artwork. The exhibit, which is free for viewing pleasure, also offers a 3D virtual tour and scheduled events that consist of lectures, art talks, demonstrations, paint parties, small exhibitions and other community outreach efforts.

In addition to the more than 430 pieces of artwork by more than 80 artists included in Creatively Black Baltimore, there is a waiting list, Brown said. In the process of time — as art sells and pieces are moved around — he suspects the show will expand to include work from as many as 100 artists.

“Our mission is to nurture and uplift Baltimore’s African American art scene,” Brown wrote in an article published in The Baltimore Times last week.

Anthony Coates, an artist whose work is featured in the exhibit, is fascinated with abstract art. He used recycled plastic bags to create pieces that depict the Key Bridge collapse and sunrise over a green pasture. Coates also produced a painting inspired by jazz saxophonist Kamasi Washington.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for the artists and the public,” said Coates, a West Baltimore native.

“Larry ‘Poncho’ Brown is an internationally known artist and that needs to be highlighted. He has a vision to put these things together and bring out other artists so we could all have some exposure.”

Adriana Downs, 17, is the youngest artist in the Creatively Black Baltimore’s exhibition. The high school senior is a sickle cell warrior. Her work reflects her personal journey being a sickle cell patient coupled with her faith.

Downs’ other art piece is a painting of the Baltimore skyline. It meant a great deal to be included in the exhibit, she said.

“I never really get to show my art to anyone, and it really meant a lot to show sickle cell through art to other people and share that with the world,” Downs said.

A fervent advocate and mentor to artists, Creatively Black Baltimore is simply an extension of the work Brown has been doing for decades.

“What I am trying to do is offer an opportunity for African American artists to show their work,” he said. “This show is unapologetically African American, and I think it’s time for something like that to take place.”

For now, Creatively Black Baltimore is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Entrance of Creatively Black Baltimore, largest regional exhibition of Black art, featuring 420 works of art from over 80 artists. Denzel Robinson



Creatively Black Baltimore served as the backdrop and capstone project for the summer youth program of Media Rhythm Institute (MRI). Students perform the song they produced and dance they choreographed, inspired by the artists of the exhibition. Denzel Robinson



*Couple enjoying exhibition
Denzel Robinson*

Adriana Downs, the youngest artist in the exhibition, addresses attendees during the opening reception.

Denzel Robinson



Dear Black Girl Tribe pose in "Dear Black Girl, you are the Blueprint" T-shirts designed by Tamara Payne Creations, pearls, and all-star sneakers in support of Vice President Kamala Harris. Denzel Robinson

Meet Linda Lee Hickerson: Donate Life's Newest Board Member has a Passion to Serve

By Andrea Blackstone

Linda Lee Hickerson, an outgoing resident of Ellicott City, Maryland joined the Donate Life Maryland (DLM) Board of Directors in August. DLM is a state-authorized nonprofit organization serving Maryland. Lee Hickerson, a Howard County Volunteer of the Year for 2015, has a long history of stepping up to volunteer and lend a hand to worthy causes with great commitment and a passion to serve others.

"I like to help people," Lee Hickerson said. "This will be the fifth board I've been able to serve on."

Lee Hickerson volunteered with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for over 25 years where she encountered Lisa Spicknall, who is now DLM's executive director. Lee Hickerson recently stepped down from MADD, to take care of an ill husband, work full-time, and juggle other matters. Despite her husband, Brian Hickerson's passing, Hickerson regained her momentum to return to the volunteer space. Her heart to serve, joy of talking to people, affinity for networking, and desire to illustrate a compassionate spirit remained intact. Spicknall told Lee Hickerson that she would love for her to become a DLM board member. Hickerson welcomed the opportunity.

Lee Hickerson reflected on meeting people she encountered who had been touched by organ donation.

"Years ago, in another life, I sold new homes. I had a client who was a heart transplant patient, and I was so impressed with his will to live... and his always being careful. He would call me before an appointment, and he'd

say, 'Just checking in. Are we still on? And I'd say, 'Yes, sir, we are.' And I'd wipe everything down in my office," she recalled.

Lee Hickerson, a savvy sales professional who sold new homes for 25 years, recalled having a sinus infection and being on antibiotics. Her client postponed their appointment so that he would not put himself in harm's way. Lee Hickerson reminisced about the way he spoke up and shared the reason for his delayed appointment. She continues to retain sensitivity for people with failed organs and individuals who have dealt with health problems. Lee Hickerson, who is now retired, later worked in the development office at a local hospital.

During Lee Hickerson's downtime, she loves to read, bake, listen to music, partake in crafts, and volunteer to support causes such as organ donation. "My father always said, 'You need to give back to the community,' and that's what I do," she explained.

Lee Hickerson is a registered organ, eye, and tissue donor who puts fear aside, even when doubtful remarks are made about her decision. She previously refuted the idea that medical professionals would not do everything to save her if she signed up to become a donor and happened to experience a life-threatening medical emergency.

"I said, 'That's not true.' It's a common myth that people are afraid of... but I'm not afraid. I embrace it. If there's something I can do to help someone else, and I don't need them [organs] anymore, then why not?" she added.

Since she has volunteered on other boards, she is comfortable getting the word out about DLM and clearing up



myths and incorrect information.

In fact, Hickerson Lee has already started using social media to share about DLM and start a conversation about organ, eye, and tissue donation amongst family and friends. She posted about the DLM's unanimous approval of her by the board.

"I had 60 of the most complimentary posts," Lee Hickerson shared.

People in her circle openly chimed in about their organ donor status. One friend shared that her husband's organs were recently donated to science because he had a rare cancer. They wanted to help people despite their own situation.

"That's why I said, if I'm going to be gone and someone can use any one of my organs, or skin grafts, eyes or whatever it is, then God bless them. Let's do it. Let's give that gift of life!" Lee Hickerson added.

Regarding her selection as a Donate Life Board member, a host of people congratulated her and agreed that adding her was a great decision.

"I wake up every morning thankful and blessed. I know I've had some hard times, but there's other people out there that are having a harder day



Linda Lee Hickerson recently became a Donate Life Board member.

Photo courtesy of Linda Lee Hickerson

or a rougher day. And to me, if there's something I can do to help, I want to do it," Lee Hickerson stated.

Please visit Donate Life Maryland via <https://www.donatelifemaryland.org> to learn more about organ, eye, and tissue donation.

We love to hear from our readers!

**Connect with us:
Facebook.com/
TheBaltimoreTimes**

**Twitter:
@Baltimore_Times**

**Instagram:
@thebaltimoretimes**

Debate

Continued from page 5

Vance countered by downplaying the urgency, arguing that Democrats were not serious about the issue. “If they really believed climate change was serious, they’d be doing more manufacturing and energy production here in America. That’s not what they’re doing,” he said, accusing Democrats of using climate change as a political slogan rather than implementing real solutions.

Gun violence also sparked a heated back-and-forth. Vance proposed increased school security measures, suggesting, “We need to make sure the doors lock better, strengthen windows, and add school resource officers.” Walz quickly criticized the proposal, asking, “Do you want your schools hardened to look like a fort?” He pressed for more comprehensive

gun control measures, emphasizing the need to address the root causes of violence.

Ultimately, Walz positioned himself as a champion of middle-class families, touting healthcare and affordable housing policies. At the same time, Vance remained firmly aligned with Trump, repeatedly defending the former president’s record and platform.

Walz appealed to voters to choose leaders who will protect democratic institutions, saying, “When Mike Pence made that decision to certify the election, that’s why Mike Pence isn’t on this stage.” Vance, meanwhile, reflected on his loyalty to Trump, asserting that “Donald Trump delivered for the American people.”



“When I own a home, I’ll decorate my way.”

Together we can make it possible. Visit mtb.com/firsthouse or call **1-800-936-0969** to get started today.

M&T Bank



Equal Housing Lender. ©2024 M&T Bank. Member FDIC. NMLS #381076



AN EXELON COMPANY



SMELL NATURAL GAS?



get out fast AND CALL
911 or **877.778.7798**

If you detect the rotten egg smell of natural gas, your first move should always be toward the door. Just get to a safe place, at least 100 feet away and call BGE 24/7—even on weekends and holidays. We’ll check it out at no cost to you.



DON'T
TURN ANYTHING ON OR OFF



DON'T
OPEN A WINDOW



DON'T
LOOK FOR THE SOURCE



Visit us to learn more.



By Rosa Pryor

“Fell’s Point Funn Festival” celebrates 58 years and will run for three days, Friday, October 4 thru Sunday, October 6, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The “Fell’s Point Funn Festival” is Baltimore’s longest-running community festival celebrating local Baltimore and providing a high-profile showcase for the region’s artists, makers and musicians. Past festivals have attracted people from across the country to experience one of Baltimore’s most historic, eclectic, and fun neighborhoods. Go on down to Fell’s Point to enjoy a multi-block arts and crafts market, delicious food, and a diverse music line-up.

Explore tasty bites across six blocks in Fell’s Point, from local vendors, craft cocktails and beers, one-of-a-kind products from area artisans and energetic live music performances, all with a spectacular view of the Harbor along Thames Street from Caroline to Wolfe Streets. All live entertainment will take place on the CFG Bank Main Stage. The entertainment includes: The Dancing Bears; Baltimore Men’s Chorus; Naptown Brass Band; Jovon Newman; Ebb & Nova; Avenue 66; Joi Carter; DJ Allure; and Soultet and Unity, just to name a few. I know many of you may not have heard of some of these entertainers, but neither have I, but the joy of it all is to go and have fun and hope we have an enjoyable weekend and folks IT IS FREE! I will see you there.

“My Wife & I Production” will present a “Breakfast Show with live entertainment at Vulcan Blazers, 2811 Druid Park Drive, in Baltimore on Saturday, October 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., hosted by DJ “Mr. Disco.”

FELL’S POINT FUNN FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 58 YEARS

Fantastic groups “Style” and JP Moore will perform. For more information, call Vulcan Blazers.

Shelly Mosley contacted me last week to inform me about their non-profit organization called, “Moveable Feast” 31st Annual Dining Out for Life” event on October 10. Participating restaurants will donate a portion of their proceeds in October to Moveable Feast, a Baltimore nonprofit serving medically tailored meals to those facing chronic illnesses and food insecurity. Whether you are looking to have a fun night with friends at a favorite restaurant or an easy way to make a difference, “Dining Out for Life” is the perfect opportunity to enjoy a great meal for a great cause with one of their partner restaurants. For more information, email Shelly Mosley at smosley@mghus.com.

Mark your calendars for October 5 to November 3 and join the “KRAKEN Baltimore LLC,” (DBA Tequilla Works), located at 26 Market Place in Baltimore. Whether you’re a lover of Halloween, a fan of Tim Burton’s films, or just in the mood for a delightfully dark night out. **The Nightmare Before Bar** is the place to be this October. Your experience includes a 90-minute journey through an epic themed bar inspired by Halloween and Tim Burton movies. Upon arrival, you’ll be greeted with a welcome themed drink, with both alcoholic and non-alcoholic options available. A full themed menu of drinks and dishes awaits, adding an extra layer of enchantment and eeriness to your visit. Engage in Halloween-themed activities hosted by their resident ghosts and ghouls and discover why The



The Fell’s Point Fun Festival will be held on Friday, Saturday, Sunday from October 4-6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. celebrating 58 years. The free three-day event will showcase local musical artists, over 100 artists, makers, food and retail vendors, and special programming for people of all ages. Ladies and gentlemen, IT IS FREE!



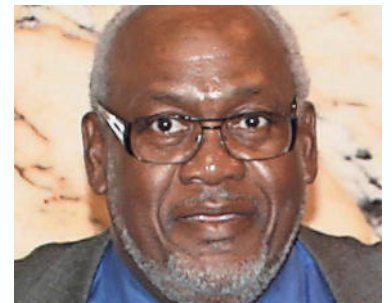
Promoter, and Entertainment Manager, Wanda Coe Stewart will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her service in the Entertainment Business, with special guests performing by “Crosswind” on Tuesday, October 8th from 6-10 p.m. at “The View” (located inside of City View, 6700 Security Blvd. Free and open to the public. She is one of the best group managers I know. Her award is well deserved.

Nightmare Before Bar has been hailed as the best Halloween bar in the city.

Look folks, I’m getting carried away. I am out of space. I hope to see you around. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I’M MUSICALLY YOURS.**



Herb Brown celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends last week. He is a long-time friend. Happy Birthday Sweetie, God bless you. Continue to enjoy your life.



Melvin Stukes passed away on September 21, 2024. His viewing and tribute is Monday, October 7, 2024 from 5-8 p.m.; Tribute at 7 p.m. at Wylie Funeral Home, 9200 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Maryland. Celebration of life is Tuesday, October 8, Wake: 10 a.m. -11 a.m. Service is 11 a.m. at Union Bethel A.M.E. Church, 8615 Church Lane, Randallstown, Maryland.



April Watts, a well-known radio personality and journalist, will host “The Secret Garden Autumn R&B Music Arts & Wine Festival” on Sunday, October 6 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center Street, Westminster, Maryland. For more information, call 240-761-1618.

JOURNEY TO BETTER HEALTH

UPCOMING MOBILE EXHIBIT STOPS:

OCT
5

Frederick Community Health Fair

Frederick High School, Frederick, MD

9 am – 3:30 pm

OCT
9

St. Matthew's Apostolic Faith Church & Community Outreach Clinic

Corner of North Ave & Rosedale St, Baltimore, MD

9 am – 3:00 pm

OCT
11

Salem United Methodist Church

3405 Gough St, Baltimore, MD

9 am – 3:00 pm

OCT
12

Our Community Market

4501 Edmonson Ave, Baltimore, MD

11 am – 4:00 pm

Strike

Continued from page 2

years, the net revenues of these companies have grown astronomically from hundreds of millions to billions of dollars, while the ILA members' wage increase does not even cover the cost of inflation. The ILA is fighting for respect, appreciation, and fairness in a world in which corporations are dead set on replacing hard-working people with automation. Employers push automation under the guise of safety, but it is really about cutting labor costs to increase their already exceptionally high profits," per additional information that was issued by the ILA.

According to the Port of Baltimore, it handles more farm and construction machinery than any other East Coast port.

"Farmers in the heartland rely on the Port of Baltimore," a statement posted on X read.

The Port of Baltimore was the sixth-ranked U.S. port for importing coffee in 2023 with 185,000 tons of coffee worth \$1 billion according to another statement that was posted on the social media account. Coal is another big export item in Baltimore. Trainloads of coal are also loaded in Hampton Roads onto ships to head to other countries.

Additionally, The Port of Baltimore is among the top 20 ports in the United States by tonnage and number of containers handled, is the 10th largest port for dry bulk, and is a major hub for the import and export of motorized vehicles, according to information provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

After the Dali ship crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, causing a lot of damage on March 26, 2024, it later headed to Virginia International Gateway where containers were off-loaded and additional repairs were made, before finally heading to China in September. There was extra work to do because of the tragedy. ILA members pulled extra shifts in Virginia while supporting emergent labor needs



James Lassiter (front) walks the picket line with fellow dockworkers.
Photos: Andrea Blackstone

that arose because of the accident. Virginia is in the top five of the largest ports in the nation.

Port members in Baltimore and Virginia were among ILA members who joined the strike. Many consumers who may not have much knowledge about dockworkers, who are also known as longshoreman, may not have understood their vital role in ensuring that cargo is loaded on and off ships with great care. They must have excellent physical stamina, a willingness to face job hazards ranging from slip-and-fall accidents to handling dangerous equipment, despite the long and odd hours that ships come or go, or the conditions of weather, while often sacrificing family time. Well-oiled teams move containers or climb in machines high in the air. Lashers secure and unsecure tie containers on ships to ensure they do not shift and fall in waters. Drivers move containers from one point to another.

Shortages of goods could range from automobiles to items that customers could expect to find on store shelves, but longshoremen do what many cannot or will not. Truckers need them to keep the supply chain moving to enable consumers to pluck what they need or want from store shelves.

"The ILA has rejected their so-called "nearly 50% wage increase" because it fails to address the demands of our members adequately. They might claim a significant increase, but they conveniently omit that many of our members are operating multi-million-dollar container-handling equipment for a mere \$20 an hour. In some states, the minimum



Thurman "BoBo" Leonard shows his ILA sign to drivers passing by.

wage is already \$15. Furthermore, our members endure a grueling six-year wage progression before they can even reach the top wage tier, regardless of how many hours they work or the effort they put in. USMX also overlooks the fact that two-thirds of our members are constantly on call, with no guaranteed employment if no ships are being worked," the ILA stated online.

"Toilet paper isn't important until you don't have any," an anonymous longshoreman said during the strike. "Our strike puts the world on strike—the rich, the poor, the young, the old, the Black, the white."

Another longshoreman looked toward the street as he shared that ILA members lost friends who have died on the job from accidents and catching COVID during the pandemic. Sometimes dock workers were exposed to COVID when they were unaware that crew members aboard ships put them at risk, in addition to showing up to work amongst each other.

"It created heightened anxiety," an anonymous longshoreman said.

Darrin Riddick-Davis, a longshoreman who is a heavy equipment operator, represented Local 1248 as a strike captain. He has 33 years of experience as a civilian and military longshoreman. Riddick-Davis provided direction to members, and helped Local 1248's president, Chris Faulk, with the organization of members who participated in the strike in Newport News, Virginia. He tracked numbers of ILA members who showed up and went home to sort through notes and phone numbers to organize the next day's strike participants.



Chris Faulk, president of ILA Local 1248, shows Darrin-Riddick Davis, a longshoreman and strike captain, how to operate the megaphone.



(L-r): Curtis Burley, Darrin Riddick-Davis (center), and James Williams October 1, 2024.

Kevin Cooper and Charles Nichols, a lasher and a driver, showed up to support the Local and the causes of their industry. Cooper has been doing his job for 29 years. Nichols has contributed 15 to the industry.

Dock workers with a variety of jobs held signs and encouraged passing cars to honk in support of their contractual plight.

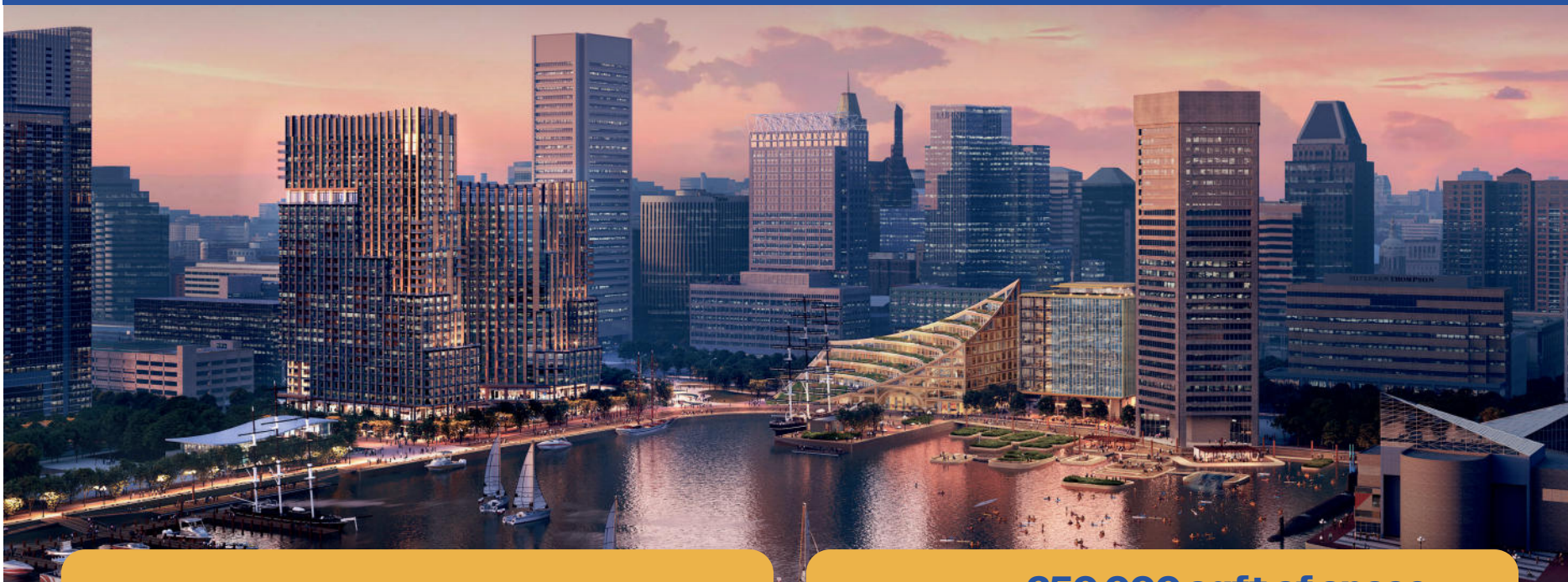
"When people go to stores and find what they are looking for, it is because a vessel was unloaded at a port. This is the one strike that everyone is impacted by," an anonymous longshoreman reminded while walking the picket line.

From time to time, another car horn honked.

ILA members continued to chant, "Corporate greed ends today! Fair pay for the ILA!"

They hope for successful negotiations with USMX. Until that happens, dockworkers from the U.S. East and Gulf coasts say they will continue to strike.

Vote Yes on Question F to transform Harborplace and the Inner Harbor



\$200M of long term climate change resiliency investments



250,000 sqft of space for local businesses, restaurants, artists, and more



500+ trees will be planted - all species native to Maryland



18.7 acres of vibrant public space designed for all of Baltimore

YES ON QUESTION F

BaltimoreforQuestionF.com @baltimoreforquestionf /baltimoreforquestionf



LEARN MORE

PAID FOR BY BALTIMORE FOR A NEW HARBORPLACE, JONATHAN SANDOVAL, TREASURER

COMMUNITY SOLAR

in The City

No Panels Necessary

SAVE UP TO 25% FOR 25 YEARS
APARTMENTS, HOMES AND RENTERS QUALIFY

SIGN UP TODAY

TEXT "SAVE25" TO (410) 406-7768

WWW.BTIMES.THINKENERGY.BIZ

Legal Notice

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - PROJECT NO. 1404 ON-CALL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Office of the Bureau for Water and Wastewater has been authorized to request the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC) to advertise Project 1404 for the selected services for the City of Baltimore from qualified Engineering firms.

The City intends to select the services of four (4) firms for a period of three (3) years, with two (2) options to extend for one (1) year additional terms at City's discretion, for a fee not to exceed \$11,000,000.00 for each selected firm. The Bureau reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.

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

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Paul Sayan, P.E., Acting Bureau Head, Water and Wastewater at 310-396-3502 or by email at paul.sayan@baltimorecity.gov

Introduction

Historically, the City of Baltimore's (City's) Department of Public Works (DPW) has relied on engineering consultants to provide program management services to support various compliance and capital improvement programs such as the City's sanitary sewer Consent Decree, Modified Consent Decree and capital improvement plan. Therefore, past regulatory negotiations and solutions to recurring system performance issues were based on engineered improvements and less emphasis on effects to water

Legal Notice

and wastewater operations, rates and affordability.

The City recognizes the need for third-party program management support for the sanitary sewer Modified Consent Decree ("MCD"), Wastewater Facilities Consent Decree, other environmental programs, other regulatory programs, water and wastewater operations and DPW's capital improvement program. The intent of the contract is to have program management teams that (1) assists DPW with strategic planning of regulatory compliance, staff/financial/capital improvements and asset/system performance, (2) assists DPW with implementing a strategic plan that considers financial sustainability for the Department and affordability for City rate payers and (3) supports daily program management activities for any of the five operating divisions within the Bureau of Water and Wastewater.

Program management work shall be assigned on a task order basis. DPW reserves the right to assign task orders based on cost, consultant qualification, availability, M/WBE utilization and compliance and/or schedule or any other criteria.

Scope of Work

It is the expectation of the City's that interested firms providing these services must demonstrate and document the following services for the City of Baltimore:

- *Assist the Department of Public Works (DPW) with regulatory negotiating strategies and/or strategic planning.
- *Assist DPW with coordinating and tracking all project activities and milestones including, but not limited to:
 - *Archiving all regulatory correspondence
 - *Maintaining and updating project schedules using DPW's existing scheduling software.
 - *Tracking and reporting all regulatory penalties, potential penalties, and penalty waiver requests.
- *Assist DPW in preparation of regulatory reports, communications, and certifications.
- *Assist DPW in strategic planning of capital improvement program and business case evaluations of capital improvement projects.
- *Assist DPW in strategic planning of other environmental programs.
- *Assist DPW in developing and implementing public outreach/education media strategies.
- *Assist DPW with special projects.
- *Coordination with financial accounting

Legal Notice

and assist with financial planning.

*Assist with public outreach events, including but not limited to, any public meetings required by applicable contracts and/or laws.

*Provide technical assistance, as needed. Technical assistance includes, but is not limited to:

*Developing planning-level system improvements or alternative improvement strategies.

*Data management, Cityworks® querying/reporting, and geographic information system support.

*Water and wastewater facility operations.

*Asset management/reliability centered maintenance.

Key Personnel

The key personnel on the Program Management team shall include, but not be limited to the following.

*Program Manager: a minimum of five (5) years of experience managing large regulatory compliance programs.

*Strategic Planning Manager: minimum of ten (10) years of experience working at the executive level of a water/wastewater system owner. This position can be the Program Manager if the individual meets the experience requirements of both positions.

*Senior Wastewater Engineer: minimum bachelor's degree in civil engineering from an ABET-accredited college/university, certified Professional Engineer in the State of Maryland and a minimum of seven (7) years of experience performing wastewater utility designs and working in wastewater treatment operations. Experience in preparing concept design proposals and managing wastewater utilities and facilities design contracts is preferred.

*Senior Water Engineer: minimum bachelor's degree in civil engineering from an ABET-accredited college/university, certified Professional Engineer in the State of Maryland and a minimum of seven (7) years of experience performing water utility designs and working in water treatment operations. Experience in preparing concept design proposals and managing water utilities and facilities design contracts is preferred.

*Senior Construction Manager: minimum of fifteen (15) years of experience managing wastewater or stormwater utility construction projects.

Legal Notice

*Data Manager: minimum bachelor's degree in computer science or equivalent from an ABET-accredited college/university and a minimum of seven (7) years of experience identifying efficient methods to organize, store, and analyze data and data/trending analysis.

Selection Criteria

The following is the selection criteria and weighting:

- *Experience with strategic planning (30%)
The interested firm is required to demonstrate and document their experience with developing strategic plans to:
 1. Negotiate/renegotiate permits for Federal regulatory requirements such as Consent Orders permits.
 2. Provide financially sustainable long-term improvement programs.
 3. Manage multiple regulatory programs for a single water/wastewater system owner.

*Experience in managing Federal regulated programs (30%)
The interested firm is required to demonstrate and document their experience in managing Federal regulatory compliance programs similar in scope to Baltimore City's Modified Consent Decree and Wastewater Facilities Consent Decree. Management includes design and construction project schedule tracking and updating, developing construction cost estimates, preparing regulatory correspondence and reports, monitoring and coordinating operational activities required by a regulatory compliance program and tracking and reporting compliance milestones and stipulated penalties.

*Experience in supporting water and/or wastewater facility operations (10%)
The interested firm is required to demonstrate and document their experience in providing technical support for water and/or wastewater facility operations. Technical support includes safety, property management, water/wastewater treatment and facility rehabilitation/improvement, data analysis, evaluation of facility performance, predictive modeling and reliability centered maintenance.

*Key personnel on the Program Management team and their relevant experience (10%)
The interested firm is required to demonstrate and document their experience of the Key personnel they propose for the program management services.

Legal Notice

The key personnel should include the minimum personnel mentioned in the Section V.

*Experience with data management and analysis (5%)

The interested firm is required to demonstrate and document their relevant experience with developing a data governance structure, data integration and interoperability, ensuring data quality and performing data analytics and predictive modeling.

*Experience with public communication and outreach (10%)

The interested firm is required to demonstrate and document their experience with developing and implementing public communication plans to educate the public on water/wastewater policies and program/project progress. In addition to developing and implementing public communications plans, include description of media types and public outreach formats used for public communications and communication examples.

*Overall team approach with Minority/Women Business Enterprises (5%)

The interested firm is required to demonstrate and document MBE & WBE firm's role and their relevant experience.

Submittal Process

All firms listed in this specific proposal **must** be prequalified at time of submittal. **If any firm is not prequalified, it is necessary to submit a completed SF254 on or before October 11, 2024. Any SF254 received after this date, may not guarantee approval of prequalification before the submission due date for this project of November 22, 2024. A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.** Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

Each Firm responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) must complete and submit one **(1) original**, and **five (5) additional** copies of the Standard Federal Form (SF) 255 (unless otherwise specified) for this RFP to Office of Boards and Commissions at **4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202** on or prior to the due date by **NOON Friday November 22, 2024**. Submittals **cannot be emailed** and **will not be accepted after the due date (NOON)**.

The Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 **cannot** be supplemented with additional pages, or additional information such as graphs,

Legal Notice

photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound; simply 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, or you may email: OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov. Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

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

MBE/WBE Requirements – Mayor's Office (SMBA&D)

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development (SMBA&D) 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.

Cost of RFP Response

There will be no payment or compensation provided to firms' who desire to participate in any part of the submission. All expenses related to the preparation of a response, including additional requested information, interviews, and any other necessary information, will be the sole responsibility of the firm. The City, its staff, or its representatives will not be responsible for reimbursing any costs or expenses incurred of due to a firms' submission to this RFP.

Legal Notice

MBE/WBE Requirements – Mayor's Office (SMBA&D)

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

The MBE goal is **30%**

The WBE goal is **15%**

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

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

Verifying Certification

Each firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized on the project are certified by the SMBA&D prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from SMBA&D. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call SMBA&D at (410) 396-3818 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:
The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE
The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE
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 Hiring Law

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 for details on the requirements of the law.

Additional Information

Any firm submitting a SF255 in response to the RFP 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; nullification of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

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

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

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.

Any firm(s) submitting a SF255 in response to this RFP who are not prequalified at the time of the submittal due date will be deemed non-responsive and disqualified from further consideration or participation on this project.

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

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

Legal Notice

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND
CONSTRUCTION
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 **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1446-Loch Raven Drive Over Rush Brook Culvert – LRD Culvert No. 19** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **November 20, 2024**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **October 4, 2024** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **200.00**. **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 OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 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 Category required for bidding on this project is **B02554 Drainage Structures**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$500,000,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted virtually on **October 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** Vendor can access this Microsoft Teams virtual meeting by utilizing the following ID and passcode: **Meeting ID: 232 514 828 242 Passcode: YCgWG**s or Vendors can call Phone Conference ID: 1 667-401-2804 Passcode: 178609837#.

A site visit will be held on **October 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**

Contractor questions will be accepted (in writing only) until **November 8, 2024**. For any bid questions, please contact **Mr. Farid Sikander** at **farid.sikander@baltimorecity.gov**

Legal Notice

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting-and-dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov> For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned **Contract Administrator Amber.coles-johnson@baltimorecity.gov**

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:
Construction of culvert improvements and washout area at Culvert No. 19 per the Plans.

The MBE goal is **30%**
The WBE goal is **15%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Khalil Zaid
Acting Director
Department of Public Works

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO BID

Minority Subcontractor/Supplier Schummer, Inc. seeking Certified Minority Subcontractors for: Talbot County Sanitary District Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) Installation & Connection, Resolution 235. Bids due in our office 10/21/24. Certified MBE's & WBE's for: Excavation, Paving, Piping, Concrete Masonry, Plumbing, Electrical, Pipe, Septic Hauling, Aggregates, and Trucking. Email quotes to **Schummerinc@aol.com** no later than Oct. 21, 2024.

To place
Legal Notices,
email:
legals@btimes.com
dwane@btimes.com



A BETTER BATH REMODEL

With hundreds of custom designs for showers or tubs, a one-day install¹ and a lifetime warranty² ... it's no wonder 2 million happy customers have trusted Bath Fitter with their bath remodels.
Contact us today to book your FREE consultation!

SPECIAL OFFER

24 MONTHS
0% INTEREST*

NO INTEREST UNTIL 2026!

OUR BENEFITS



One-Day Install¹



Easy to Clean



Seamless Wall



Lifetime Warranty²

1-877-799-1685
bath-fitter.com/24local

¹Tub-to-shower conversions and fiberglass replacements typically require a two-day installation. ²Lifetime warranty valid for as long as you own your home. *Offer ends 4/30/24. All offers apply to a complete Bath Fitter system only, and must be presented and used at time of estimate. Minimum purchase required. Terms of promotional financing are 24 months of no interest from the date of installation and minimum deposit. Interest accrues from date of purchase, but is waived if paid in full within 24 months. Monthly payments are required during the 24 months, and making only the required monthly payments will not pay off the amount financed. See representative for details. Qualified buyers only. May not be combined with other offers or applied to previous purchases. Valid only at select Bath Fitter locations. Offers and warranty subject to limitations. Fixtures and features may be different than pictured. Accessories pictured are not included. Plumbing work done by P.U.L.S.E. Plumbing, MD MPL #17499, NJ MPL #10655, DE MPL #PL-0002303, MD MPL #82842, VA MPL #2710064024, IA MPL #18066, OH MPL #37445, WV MPL #PL07514, MI MPL #8111651, PA HIC #PA017017, NJ HIC #13VH03073000, WV HIC #WV053085, MD HIC #129346, VA HIC #2705155694, MD HIC #122356, VA HIC #2705096759, IA HIC #C112725, WV HIC #WV038808, MD HIC #129995, VA HIC #2705146537, DC HIC #420213000044. Each Franchise Independently Owned And Operated By Bath Saver, Inc. Iowa Bath Solutions, LLC, Ohio Bath Solutions, LLC, Mid Atlantic Bath Solutions, LLC.

KNOW YOUR ODDS
KNOW YOUR ODDS
KNOW YOUR ODDS

Know your odds before playing.

Winners play responsibly.



Scan to get more tips,
visit mdlottery.com/playresponsibly
or call 1-800-GAMBLER

