

# The Annapolis Times

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## Prince Hall Masons of Maryland Mark 200 Years of Legacy and Unity in a Full Circle Celebration



*A solemn yet celebratory atmosphere filled the historic Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church in West Baltimore as hundreds gathered to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland, founded on February 2, 1825. The event marked a significant milestone, honoring two centuries of leadership, community service, and fraternal unity. (See article on page 8)*  
*Photo: Casper – Courtesy of MWPHGLMD*

# How a Stranger on a Train Impacted Alex Haley's Father, A Pullman Porter with a Dream

By **Andrea Blackstone**,  
Granddaughter of Simon Haley

Simon Alexander Haley, my maternal grandfather, has had a big impact on my life, although I was too young to remember him. His commitment to education impacted the lives of his descendants like me and his former students who attended various colleges.

My late mother, Lois Ann Haley Butts, (formerly Lois Ann Haley Blackstone), proudly displayed Grandpa Simon's U.S. Army photo from World War I in the living room along with other family members. Mom told me that he had been gassed in France, and that he had been a professor, but more about Grandpa Simon's life remained unknown to me until I watched the movie, "Queen," many years later. At that time, I was given a crash course about the trials and triumphs of my ancestors. Queen Jackson Haley, Simon's mother, was among several ancestral faces that sat atop a glass side table in my youth.

Grandpa was born in 1892 and reared in Savannah, Tennessee. He was the eighth child of Alexander (Alec) Baugh Haley (a part-time sharecropper and local ferry operator) and Queen, his second wife. His formerly enslaved parents were products of a plantation overseer, and a confederate colonel who was the son of a plantation owner.

According to typed family notes, my Uncle Alex Haley interviewed his father in 1962 at one of his brother's homes. Uncle Alex, who was also one of Grandpa Simon's sons, documented that Alec was raised as a child of the plantation and "houseboy" after his enslaved, mixed-race Cherokee Indian mother, Sabrina, was sold to Mississippi for resisting the overseer's

further advances. After the Civil War, he did farmwork and drove cattle to the railroad. He later became a ferryman and worked his way up to owning land and houses. Queen was born to an enslaved mother, Easter—the daughter of a Cherokee Indian man and an enslaved woman. Queen did housework and "tended to" her younger half-sister, Eleanora, Col. Jackson's daughter he fathered with his wife. After the Civil War, Queen worked as a housegirl and cook in Savannah, Tennessee.

Around 1875, Queen and Alec, who were both employees of the Cherry family, met. Alec's first wife died and Alec later married Queen. My grandfather began working on a 150-acre farm with his brothers, Conway and Abner when he was eight years old.

According to "The Man On The Train," a short story penned by Alex Haley—originally published in the February 1991 issue of Reader's Digest—during my grandfather's era, a boy was considered "wasted" if he remained in school although physically capable of doing farm work.

When young Simon reached the sixth grade, Queen began to reason that since she and Alec had eight children, it would "be prestigious" if "they deliberately wasted one and got him educated." Queen advocated for Grandpa Simon to surpass his eighth-grade studies, although he had still been required to work in the fields after school.

"I good-talked my father. I told him about all the crops I'd worked. The hogs I'd fed. I said, 'Papa, I want to go off to school,'" Grandpa also told Uncle Alex when he interviewed him.

Details recounted in "The Man On The Train" also noted that my



*Queen Haley (right) with her son, Simon Haley. Photos courtesy of Andrea Blackstone and the Haley family*



*U.S. Army Sgt. Simon Haley, World War I is buried in Little Rock National Cemetery in Arkansas.*

great-grandfather, Alec, gave my grandfather fifty dollars. He also informed him that he should never ask for more money but permitted him to attend high school. Grandpa enrolled in Lane College's preparatory department. Back then, the Black Methodist school offered courses through junior college.

After Grandpa Simon depleted his funds, he struggled to pay for his education and only had one pair of pants and shoes. Grandpa worked odd jobs as a waiter, a handyman, a helper at a school for wayward boys, and he made fires in the home of prosperous white families during early mornings.

"The constant struggle to earn money took its toll. Dad's grades began to founder. But he pushed onward and completed senior high. Next, he enrolled in A & T College

in Greensboro, North Carolina, a land-grant school where he struggled through freshman and sophomore years," Uncle Alex explained in his published short story.

Grandpa was called into a teacher's office and informed that he had failed a course. It had required a textbook that he could not afford to purchase at the time. He pondered returning home to sharecrop. Grandpa Simon changed his mind after he received a letter from the Pullman Company. It informed that "he was one of 24 black college men selected from hundreds of applicants to be summertime sleeping-car porters," according to "The Man on the Train."

My grandfather was assigned to a Buffalo-to-Pittsburgh train. While

See **HALEY**, page 13



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS FOR ALL OF US.

The genius, pride, wisdom, and truth of Black stories are what continue to inspire more than just Black audiences – they touch us all. This Black History Month, everyone can enjoy a rich variety of curated movies, series, documentaries, and specials on the Black Experience on Xfinity.

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on **xfinity**

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. Available to residential Xfinity TV and internet customers. Programming subject to change. Streaming content only available in the U.S.

## Media Rhythm Institute Brings the Baltimore Hip Hop and Club Music Experience to the Creatively Black Exhibit

By Khepra Akanke

This past summer, Media Rhythm Institute (MRI) partnered with The Baltimore Times Creatively Black Baltimore exhibit for an incredible artistic collaboration. Together, they brought 30 young and ambitious artists, ages 10-19, to Baltimore's Inner Harbor to create a song and music video inspired by the exhibit.

The process began with a tour led by exhibit curator Larry "Poncho" Brown. During the tour, students explored the collection, identified their favorite pieces, and brainstormed creative ways to integrate the exhibit into the video.

Over the next two weeks, they poured their energy into writing lyrics, choreographing routines, and conceptualizing the video—determined to create a project that embodied Baltimore's resilience and vibrant culture. While not without challenges, the students forged an unforgettable bond. "It was hard, but we became a family through the process," said Jaylin, 18, one of the youth participants.

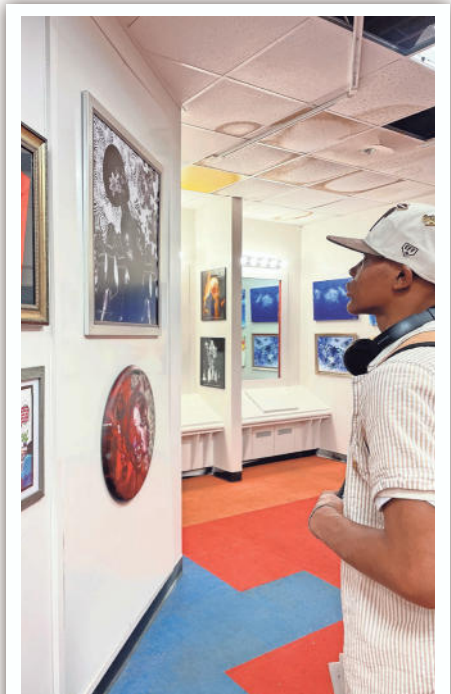
When planning was complete, the students returned to the exhibit armed with their music, film equipment, and ideas. Guided by MRI's experienced staff, they skillfully transformed their vision into reality, using the exhibit as the backdrop to their artistry. "We were so proud to see how professional our students were on the day of the shoot," recalled Deverick Murray, CEO of MRI. "It was hard to tell that for some of them, this was their first time in that setting."



*Deverick Murray (CEO) and student, Elijah, go over ideas for lyrics.  
Photos courtesy of Khepra Akanke*



*iRate dancers, Tyshawn and John, practice their choreography for the video.*



*Student, Jeremiah finds his inspiration during the tour.*

MRI continues to empower young artists and amplify their voices through programs and partnerships like this. To sustain and expand these opportunities, MRI has launched the Power of 5 campaign, aiming to secure 500 monthly supporters donating at least \$5 each. Every contribution directly funds creative workshops, resources, and projects like the Creatively Black collaboration.

"This campaign is about ensuring that we can continue to provide young artists with the tools and mentorship they need to thrive," said Murray. "Every contribution makes a difference, whether \$5 or \$50."

In addition to its youth programming, MRI works with schools, community centers, and summer programs to expand access to arts education. Organizations interested in incorporating music production, dance, or media arts into their curriculum are encouraged to explore partnership opportunities.

This summer, Baltimore youth ages 14-21 can gain hands-on experience in music, dance, filmmaking, and media arts through YouthWorks at MRI. As an official YouthWorks site, MRI offers paid opportunities where participants work on real-world projects like the Creatively Black music video. Applications are now

open. Interested youth can apply at [youthworks.oedworks.com](http://youthworks.oedworks.com) and select Media Rhythm Institute as their preferred site.

The Creatively Black Baltimore exhibit remains open for those interested in viewing the students' video alongside the works of over 50 local Black artists. The music video is also available to stream on MRI's YouTube channel. To support MRI's mission, donate to the Power of 5 campaign, or inquire about partnership opportunities, visit [www.mediarhythm.institute.com](http://www.mediarhythm.institute.com).

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## In Memoriam

# Nancy Leftenant-Colon, Trailblazing Army Nurse and Air Force Veteran, Dies at 104

Known for quietly breaking barriers during her remarkable military career, Leftenant-Colon enjoyed a legacy of resilience, excellence, and service.

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior National  
Correspondent  
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Nancy Leftenant-Colon, the first Black woman to join the U.S. Army Nurse Corps after the military was desegregated in the 1940s, has died at the age of 104. She passed away earlier this month at a nursing home in New York. Known for quietly breaking barriers during her remarkable military career, Leftenant-Colon enjoyed a legacy of resilience, excellence, and service.

Born on September 29, 1920, in Goose Creek, South Carolina, to James and Eunice Leftenant, she graduated from Amityville High School in New York in 1939. Despite facing racial discrimination, Leftenant-Colon pursued her passion for nursing, graduating from Lincoln School of Nursing in 1941. According to her biography posted on [Tuskegeeairmen.org](#), when she initially sought to join the Armed Forces, she was denied due to her race. Undeterred, she persisted and was accepted as a reservist into the Army Nurse Corps in January 1945, becoming a Second Lieutenant and serving at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, treating wounded soldiers from World War II.

In 1948, after President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 abolishing segregation in the military, Leftenant-Colon became the first Black woman integrated into the Regular Army Nurse Corps. Her career continued to flourish as she

transitioned to the newly established U.S. Air Force, where she supported missions during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, serving in various locations, including Germany, Japan, Alaska, and Vietnam. As a Flight Nurse with the 6481st Medical Air Evacuation Group, she evacuated wounded soldiers from active war zones and was credited with saving countless lives.

Her groundbreaking service extended beyond the battlefield. In 1989, she became the first woman elected as National President of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., where she held multiple leadership roles. Honored with numerous accolades, Leftenant-Colon received honorary doctorates from Tuskegee University and Mount Saint Vincent College and was inducted into the Long Island Air and Space Hall of Fame.

After retiring as Chief Nurse at McGuire Air Force Base in 1965, Leftenant-Colon continued to serve her community as a school nurse at her alma mater, Amityville High School, until 1984. In 2018, the school honored



*Known for quietly breaking barriers during her remarkable military career, Nancy Leftenant-Colon enjoyed a legacy of resilience, excellence, and service.*  
Photo courtesy of [nnpa.org](#)

her with a new media center named in her memory.

"She was just an awesome person," her nephew Chris Leftenant told The Associated Press. "She never created waves when she was doing all this first this, first that. She never made a big thing of it. It was just happening."

# "We Need To Learn The Stock Market NOW More Than Ever Before"

By **J.R. Fenwick**

Understanding and participating in the stock market is more crucial today than ever before. The stock market is often perceived as something only for the wealthy and the financially elite; however, it is actually accessible to everyone.

With the current economic uncertainties and the increasing cost of living, learning about the stock market can equip individuals with the knowledge to build and secure their financial futures.

It has been proven repeatedly that those who participate in the stock market are much richer than those who do not.

A CNBC headline reported a study that said, "The Stock Market is America's Great Wealth Equalizer."

The average white family has 30% of their wealth in the stock market, while the average Black family ONLY has 4% of our wealth in the stock market. If those numbers do not change, we are doomed to always be behind, and the wealth gap will continue to increase.

So why aren't we as Black people, participating in the stock market more?

My company, FLip That Stock, has been in business for 12 years, educating our people on the stock market. Here are the Top 5 Reasons our people say they do not participate in the stock market:

1. "That's for wealthy people."
2. "It's too complicated."
3. "I don't have time to sit in front of a computer all day and learn and watch complicated stock charts."
4. "I don't have any extra money to put in the stock market."
5. "It's gambling and I don't want to lose any money."

I can assure you that if we keep believing these reasons, it will keep us financially sliding further and further behind other groups of people who are participating in the stock market.

So, what exactly is the stock market and how does it work? Here is a simple analogy: just like you would go to a grocery store to buy groceries, the stock market is a place (online) where you go to buy shares or slices of ownership in publicly traded companies.

Think about all the billion-dollar companies you shop at like Walmart, Target, Apple, and McDonalds to name a few. We contribute to them becoming and staying rich and wealthy by shopping and buying their products and services.

There are thousands of companies that offer people the opportunity to become owners by purchasing shares of stock in them.

The great news is that you don't have to work for the company to have the opportunity to make money. That's right, you heard me correctly. You don't have to work for the company, you simply buy ownership in the company based on different factors, but you are not responsible for working at the company.

How would it feel to "own" pieces of companies and when the company's stock increases in value after you purchased your shares, your wealth increases, without you having to "actively" go to work?

This is one of the ways the wealthy become wealthy and stay wealthy.

This is why every Black person should learn how the stock market works and be actively involved.

Now you may be thinking, it must be expensive to buy shares in these

multi-billion-dollar companies!

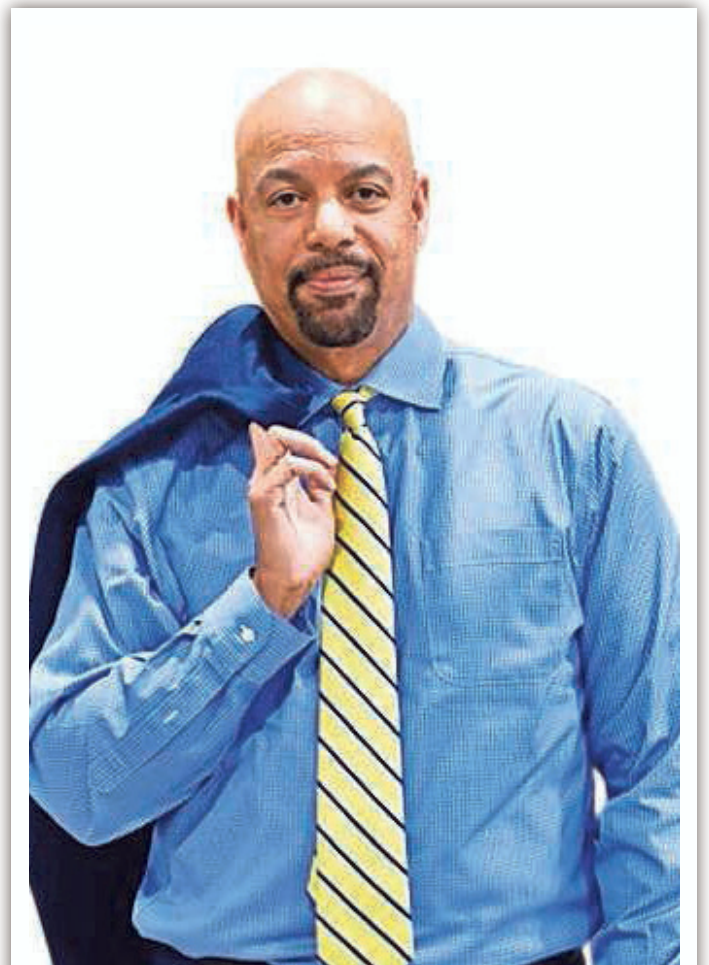
Well, think of it this way, when you go into most stores, they have items in the store with different price ranges and that's the same for when you are shopping to buy shares of stock in different companies; the prices can range from a few dollars per share to hundreds of dollars per share to a thousand dollars per share, but there is something in everyone's price range.

You may also be thinking, "This sounds great, but won't I have to spend hours every day looking at complicated charts and doing research!"

With advances in technology, now you can do all that on your smartphone in a matter of minutes.

My company, FLip That Stock, has partnered with The Baltimore Times, to educate, empower and lift our people to new financial heights that we need and deserve to live our best lives!

Join me February 22, 2025, at The Inner Harbor for my LIVE Seminar



*J.R. Fenwick is the Founder and CEO of FLipThatStock.com, a leading education and technology company that specializes in unique ways of teaching people how the stock market works. Photo courtesy of J.R. Fenwick*

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**THE BALTIMORE TIMES**

# Prince Hall Masons Usher in Black History Month

## Prince Hall Masons of Maryland Mark 200 Years of Legacy and Unity in a Full Circle Celebration

By Adrian Harpool

*Baltimore, MD (February 2, 2025)* — Several hundred Free and Accepted Prince Hall Masons and members of the Order of Eastern Star from across Maryland convened on Sunday, February 2, 2025 to commemorate the founding of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1825. Since its establishment which pre-dates the end of slavery in the United States, the Maryland Lodges have played a significant role in civic, economic, and spiritual life in our state and the nation.

Attendees gleefully joined in powerful a cappella renditions of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and gospel hymns, invoking the spirit of their ancestors. The theme of “Unity” resonated throughout the ceremony, underscored in the Bicentennial Address delivered by Senior Grand Warden RW Reverend Otis D. Wilson, Sr. citing the African Proverb – “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

The event drew members from dozens of lodges across Maryland, including representatives from the Order of Eastern Stars (OES) whose bright white and flowing apparel illuminated the sanctuary of the African American landmark. Sharp Street Memorial was established in 1787 and was the site of the Grand Lodge’s early organizing meetings, thus providing a symbolic “full-circle” backdrop for the celebration.

Reverend Warren L. Savage, Pastor of the Sharp Street congregation and Brother Brandon Lee, Worshipful Master of Friendship Lodge No. 1 welcomed attendees with scripture readings by RW Reverend Joshua J.



**Most Worshipful Grand Master Kevin Barney Leading Prayer**  
*Photos: Casper – Courtesy of MWP HGLMD*



**Prince Hall Lodge Historian Seymour E. Chambers**



**Most Worthy Matron Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star Maryland Chapter 15 OES**

Slack, Sr., and historical reflections shared by Grand Historian R.W. Seymour E. Chambers.

This massive gathering was “summoned” by the newly elected Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Honorable Kevin Barney, Jr., who presided over the event and offered greetings alongside Past Grand Master Bishop Orlando A. Wilson, who delivered the invocation.

### Historical Roots and Growth

The origins of Prince Hall Masonry in Maryland trace back to February 2, 1825, when the First African Independent Grand Lodge of North America No. 1 of Pennsylvania authorized Maryland’s first Black Masonic lodge. By 1845, with Pennsylvania’s support, three subordinate lodges formed

Maryland’s First Colored Grand Lodge, led by Rev. James A. Handy. The Grand Lodge evolved over time, adopting its current name in 1947: The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland and Its Jurisdictions, Inc.

The Black Methodist Church has been intertwined with Prince Hall Masonry’s history as the lodge was initially chartered at the original Sharp Street Building. Notably, Richard Allen, founder of the A.M.E. Church, served as the first treasurer of the First African Independent Grand Lodge. Leaders like Rev. Daniel Coker of Sharp Street Church and Bishop James A. Handy, the first Grand Master of the Union Colored Grand Lodge, further cemented this connection.

### Modern Legacy and Global Reach

Today, the Grand Lodge oversees 81 constituent lodges, including 66 in Maryland and others in Germany, England, Italy, Belgium, and Kuwait. Its history of distinguished leadership includes recent Grand Masters like the Honorable Noel C. Osborne, Sr. (2021–2024), who is known for modernizing and professionalizing lodge operations.

Grand Master Barney concluded the ceremony with a charge to continue serving the community, declaring 2025 as “The Year of the Maryland Prince Hall Mason.”

A series of events and activities are planned throughout the year in celebration of this bicentennial milestone. Many events will be free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.mwphgldm.org](http://www.mwphgldm.org).



# Valentine's Day Tips for Singles

## Love Coaches Seek to Heal, Restore Black Love

By Andrea Blackstone

Renee Miller, a chief certified love coach and CEO of The Love Camp, believes that love is the most powerful force for healing and transformation. She founded The Love Camp in 2022. Coaching, courses, retreats and self-love products are provided through her business.

“Black singles and couples face unique challenges in love and relationships, including low marriage rates, high divorce rates, and historical trauma. I’m committed to helping Black singles and couples overcome these challenges by providing the tools and skills to build healthy communication, conflict resolution, and intimacy. I believe that by developing these essential skills, we can create a new narrative for Black love,” Miller stated.

Chad Smith, a certified love coach, is in a committed relationship with Miller. Together, the couple provides love-related services through The Love Camp. Ahead of Valentine’s Day on February 14, Smith and Miller answered questions to help singles navigate through today’s dating world.

First, Miller advised that singles should understand their desires, non-negotiables, and how they want to feel in a relationship before seeking a love connection.

“Second, recognize your season. Are you truly ready for a relationship, or do you need to focus on personal growth and healing first? Third, commit to being the most healed and authentic version of yourself. Bring your vulnerability, honesty, and assertiveness to the table. And don’t forget those strong communication skills! Finally, be patient and trust the journey,” she advised.

Miller cautioned that women should not lean on their accomplishments, degrees, job titles, and material possessions while seeking a meaningful relationship.

She added, “But true connection comes from sharing your genuine self, the beautiful soul beneath the surface. Learn to present yourself through the lens of who you are, not what you’ve achieved. This applies to men too, of course! Let’s focus on building connections based on authentic selves, not impressive resumes.”

Miller shared dating trends for people who are under 40 years old, and additional trends for people who are over 40.

“In 2025, people under 40 are prioritizing deeper connections, intentional dating, and embracing romance through small gestures. Black daters are especially focused on emotional, trust, and shared values,” said Miller.

Daters over the age of 40 have far less tolerance for drama. They value stability and long-term relationships, according to Miller.

The certified love coach also stated that intentionality and clear communication are key for them. Black singles of all ages want relationships that acknowledge cultural identity and allow for personal growth, rejecting superficial connections.

“Trends also show a shift toward valuing intimacy and trust over casual encounters,” according to Miller.

When it comes to crafting online dating profiles, daters can use a variety of recent photos that show different sides of themselves.

“Don’t just do selfies. Include pictures of you doing things you love. Traveling, exercising, enjoying hobbies, volunteering – whatever makes you, you. This gives potential matches a much better sense of who you are,” Miller explained.

Daters should be sure to be the person their pictures portrayed upon meeting in-person. Work on improving their conversation skills and learning good conversation starters.



*Renee Miller and Chad Smith*

*Photo: Ninety7frames*



*A Savannah Retreat with The Love Camp’s Black couples participating in a five senses exercise in June 2024.*

*Photo courtesy of the Love Camp*

She added, “Ask open-ended questions, be genuinely interested in their answers, and use your emotional intelligence to really connect.”

While online dating is popular, meeting someone special can happen anywhere. Meeting people face-to-face can still be very valuable.

Cultural events, such as festivals, art exhibits, and historical commemorations, often draw individuals with shared interests and a strong sense of community. Community gatherings hosted by various organizations, including social events, workshops, and volunteer opportunities provide further avenues for connection. Places of worship can also be a source of community and potential connections. Professional networking events like conferences and workshops offer a chance to meet driven, like-minded individuals in your field, according to Miller.

The love expert further explained that social clubs and groups centered around hobbies, from book clubs to sports leagues, create a natural environment for bonding over shared interests and offer

opportunities for organic interactions.

“If you’re near a college or university, explore community events there,” Miller also suggested.

Smith added that singles should be open and approachable.

“Make eye contact, smile, and be willing to start conversations,” he advised.

While assessing if a person may have found a good match, Miller stated that a single person should reflect on what a prospective person offers beyond superficial attraction.

“Does this connection offer the potential for deep emotional intimacy, shared goals, and mutual respect – the foundation for something lasting?” she asked.

“To find a truly compatible match, ask insightful questions that go far beyond the surface,” Miller added.

Visit <https://thelovecamp.co> to find out more about The Love Camp.



2024

# WINNERS LIST!



Best Art Gallery	The Black Genius Art Show
Best Author	Janella McRae - Every King and Queen
Best Dance Group/Ensemble	Fearless Dance Empire
Best Graphic Designer	Chardee Scott
Best Museum	The National Great Blacks In Wax Museum
Best Photographer	Jazzy Studios
Best Theatre Company	Arena Players Incorporated
Best Visual Artist	The Black Genius Art Show
Best Accounting Firm	A Little Faith Accounting & Tax Services LLC
Best Financial Services Banks & Credit	The Harbor Bank of Maryland
Best Black Radio Station	92Q
Best Event Planner	Global Flair Events
Best Event Space	Reginald Lewis Museum
Best Event Space	The garage
Best Live Performance Event	Jazzy Summer Nights
Best Alcoholic Beverage / Specialty Cocktail	Los Hermanos Tequila
Best All-Around Restaurant	The Empanada Lady
Best Bakery	Crust by Mack
Best Bartending	Moving and Shakin Mobile Bartending Services
Best Breakfast	Teavolve Cafe
Best Brunch Spot	SunnySide Cafe LLC
Best Catering	Xquisite Catering LLC
Best Cookies	Aunt Kellys Cookies
Best Cultural Cuisine	Island Quizine
Best Dessert	Whimsy Cakes By WDE
Best Food Truck	Shareefs House of Wraps
Best Fried Fish	Capital Lounge Inc.
Best Ice Cream	Cajou - A Plant-Based Creamery & Cafe
Best Lunch Spot	Our time kitchen
Best Roastery	Sunday Morning Roast
Best Seafood Restaurant	The Urban Oyster
Best Specialty Non-Alcoholic Drinks	Mova Nature
Best Tea Barista	Cuples Tea House



2024

# WINNERS LIST!



Best Vegan Restaurant	The Land of Kush
Best Childcare/Preschool	Mother Mary Lange Catholic School
Best Florist	Fleurs dAve
Best Funeral Home	Wylie Funeral Home
Best Nonprofit Organization	Celebrate Still Inc
Pet Services	The Blvck Gypsy Mobile Grooming & Holistic Care
Best Day Spa	Zen and the City
Best Dental Practice	Shelton Family Dental
Best Fitness Class	Michele Blu Yoga
Best Massage	Serene Mobile Massages by Angel
Candles and Aromatherapy	the dede. shop
Best Air Conditioning/HVAC Service	Luhvac and Properties LLC
Best Hardware Store	Carey Hardware
Best Plumber	Sewer Slayer
Best Remodeler/Contractor	She Nailed It
Best Remodeler/Contractor	Taylor Made Custom Contracting Inc.
Best Barbershop	Reflection Eternal
Best Hair Salon	Diaspora Salon
Best Hair Stylist	Deana Stewart
Best Lash Tech / Lash Salon	Bombshell Bling & Beauty Boutique
Best Make-up Artist	Deana Stewart
Best Nail Salon	Luminous Nails and Spa
Best Skin Care Products	NKVSKIN
Best Cigar Shop	Fire and Smoke Cigar Parlor
Best Jewelry Store	Flourish Baltimore
Best Mens Clothing Store	SKRUED.Æ
Best Place to Buy a Unique Gift	Everyones Place
Best Pop-Up Market	Blkass Flea Mkt
Best Urban Retail	City Of Gods
Best Womens Boutique Shop	The Doll House Boutique
Best Womens Fashion Designer	Yele Stitches
Best Auto Body Repair	Baltimore Body Shop & Service
Best Auto Dealership	Exclusive Motorcars
Best Auto Service Center	Dare-It Auto Center
Best Full Service Car Wash	Designer Wash Auto Detailing



## Social Media Influencer, Food Critic, Blends Food Adventures with Random Acts of Kindness

By Andrea Blackstone

Performing good deeds can have a great impact. Random Acts of Kindness Day 2025, held on February 17, 2025, is an official time to illuminate the world with kindness.

When people are kind to strangers or people they know, and they choose to commit unexpected random acts of kindness without ulterior motives, it benefits the helper and the receiver.

Steve Siegle, a licensed professional counselor, wrote an article for Mayo Clinic Health System and stated that kindness has been shown to increase self-esteem, empathy and compassion, and improve mood.

“It can decrease blood pressure and cortisol, a hormone directly correlated with stress levels. People who give of themselves in a balanced way also tend to be healthier and live longer,” said Siegle.

“Kindness can increase your sense of connectivity with others, decrease loneliness, combat low mood and improve relationships. It also can be contagious, encouraging others to join in with their own generous deeds.”

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation (RAK) is a small nonprofit that invests resources into making kindness the norm. It was created in 1995 after Anne Herbert, a Berkeley writer and activist, published “Practice Random Acts of Kindness and Acts of Senseless Beauty” in *CoEvolution Quarterly*. According to RAK, thereafter, “the kindness movement began to spread in surrounding communities.”

Editors at Conari Press published a book entitled, “Random Acts of Kindness.” Book readers and fans of the phrase began creating local “Random Acts of Kindness Days” in mid-1993,” RAK mentioned.

While world events and societal changes have recently threatened the togetherness of people with different political beliefs, ethnicities, and personal viewpoints, practicing random acts of kindness can serve as a bridge that can reconnect the human family.

Rashad Mooreman (aka “Mr. Chime Time”) knows that people connect through kindness and they can benefit through showing it randomly. The North Carolina-based social media influencer’s moniker was given to him because he used to post controversial, debatable questions that prompted Facebook users to “chime in.” After a while, they labeled Mooreman as “Mr. Chime Time.” Four years ago, Mooreman began spotlighting restaurants. He became known for giving honest food reviews that he recorded with his cell phone. Mooreman says that he did not “sugarcoat” anything.

Today, he also uses his social media presence to share his random acts of kindness or “chimes” with his audience. His movement gives back to people in need and shows his audience appreciation for being in a position to help others.

“My mission is to deliver honest food reviews, help struggling businesses, and also inform people of restaurants that are trying to be known but don’t have the marketing,” said Mooreman.

Mooreman’s Tik Tok following has grown to more than 2.2 million and 801,000 on Instagram. He has monetized his social media. Tik Tok is one of his sources of income.

“Supporters that support me make it possible for me to help people in need,” he stated.

Before Christmas 2024, Mooreman distributed over \$17,000 in tips to Lyft drivers in 24 hours.

“I do randomly select businesses and people to bless, but mom-and-pop and



*Rashad Mooreman gave away over \$17,000 in tips to Lyft drivers in 24 hours. Photo courtesy of Rashad Mooreman aka “Mr. Chime Time”*



*Rashad Mooreman aka “Mr. Chime Time”  
Photo: Mike Byrd of FatBelly Media*

public service workers are who I love helping. I love Maryland and will come back to support more restaurants in the future,” Mooreman said. “When sharing kindness, it’s not just how you treat other people, it’s also about how you extend those same behaviors and intentions to yourself. I believe you can be kinder in your own self-talk and practice gratitude.”

Siegle substantiated Mooreman’s views about how kindness can impact givers, not just recipients of benevolent gestures.

“When sharing kindness, it’s not just how you treat other people — it’s also about how you extend those same behaviors and intentions to yourself. I believe you can be kinder in your own self-talk and practice gratitude,” he stated in his article.

Although it is easy to get caught in webs of negativity and hostile times, taking time to volunteer, show kindness

to others, or spread benevolence without being asked can be infectious and give emotional boosts.

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation offers a variety of ideas to show random acts of kindness. Read ideas on their online calendar: [https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/home/calendars/2025/2025\\_RAK\\_kindness\\_calendar.pdf](https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/home/calendars/2025/2025_RAK_kindness_calendar.pdf) if you would like to participate in Random Acts of Kindness Day explore ideas to spread kindness.

Mooreman suggested that showing kindness to others does not have to be monetary.

“Give back in your own way,” he added. “Give back because you want to, not because of anyone else.”

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckgH9czZcks> to watch Mooreman’s Lyft driver adventure.

# Haley

Continued from page 2

working there, he gave a man and his wife glasses of warm milk when they had trouble sleeping. The mysterious man tipped him well. The man turned out to be R. S. M. Boyce, a retired executive of the Curtis Publishing Company. When Grandpa Simon later returned to Greensboro, North Carolina, A & T's college president informed him that Boyce had donated \$500 for his board, tuition and books for the entire school year.

"The surprise grant not only enabled dad to finish A & T, but to graduate first in his class. And the achievement earned him a full scholarship to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York," said Uncle Alex.

Grandpa Simon later pursued his master's degree at Cornell University, became a professor, and achieved the milestone of becoming a dean of agriculture.

My mother, Lois Ann, occasionally mentioned to me that Boyce's generosity not only impacted her father but also his children. Both of her parents—Simon and Zeona Eubanks Hatcher Haley (stepmother of my mother's brothers), were professors. She became a teacher. Her brother, George Haley, became a lawyer, politician, chairman of the U.S. Postal Rate Commission and ambassador. Julius Haley became an architect, and Uncle Alex became the first Chief Journalist of the U.S. Coast Guard and a writer who became known for penning "Roots," The Autobiography of Malcolm X," "Queen" and various works.

Some people question the

relevance of Black History in today's time. However, the 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," intersects with the history of Pullman porters, their labor, and a pivotal time in American History. The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was a union led by A. Phillip Randolph. Grandpa Simon's gift from Boyce probably would never have happened if he had not been working on a train as a pullman porter trying to pay for school. I do not know who plucked my grandfather's Pullman Company application from a pile of applications, but I remain forever grateful. The ripple effect of Boyce's generosity continues in my family to this day. I hope to make my great-grandparents' sacrifice of allowing Grandpa Simon to be "wasted" worth the sacrifice into the next generation.



Retired professor Simon Haley (front, center) with his children, (l-r) George Haley, Alex Haley, Lois Ann Haley Blackstone, and Julius Haley. Photos courtesy of Andrea Blackstone and the Haley family

## \$50 TICKETS FOR CIAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

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## Ravens Shrine Game and Senior Bowl Only Mock Draft

By Tyler Hamilton

It's that time of the year again. The weather is still cold, but sometimes teases of what's to come. Flowers will be blooming soon. All of those are signs of, yep, you guessed it, the start of mock draft season.

This Baltimore Ravens mock draft will consist of only players who participated in the two biggest college all-star games. One being the East-West Shrine game and the other being the Senior Bowl.

### First Round (27th pick)

Aireontae Ersery, LT, Minnesota  
Ronnie Stanley has probably seen his last days as a Raven. His contract is expiring and the Ravens may not want to make another large investment after all of the injuries. Insert Ersery who took on a bevy of outstanding pass rushers during one one-on-ones at the Senior Bowl. The three-year collegiate starter at left tackle played in Minnesota's wide zone scheme which matches what the Ravens like to do with Derrick Henry. At 6-foot-6, 330 pounds, Ersery is big enough to handle power off the edge and nimble enough to work against speed rushers trying to get Lamar Jackson.

### Second Round (59th pick)

Kyle Kennard, OLB, South Carolina  
Kennard was a force during the Senior Bowl practices. He left early because of an ankle injury. But is one of the most well-decorated prospects in the draft. Kennard finished with 11.5 sacks last season. He was named the Bronco Nagurski Award Winner, given to the best college defensive player.

### Third Round (91st pick)

Demetrius Knight Jr., LB, South Carolina  
Knight anchored a ferocious Gamecocks defense last season. The

maturity he gained after playing six years of college football showed immediately at the Senior Bowl. Knight was one of the players other prospects rallied around at the Senior Bowl. His instincts and tenacious approach will pair beautifully with Ravens captain Roquan Smith.

### Fourth Round (128th pick)

JaCobee Bryant, CB, Kansas  
Bryant is a long, sticky-cover corner who loves to press receivers. He's a chatty player who will fit right in with the Ravens aggressive defense. Bryant more than held his own in two practices during Shrine week. He opted to stand on that work and not participate in the remaining practices or the game.

### Fourth Round (136th pick)

Miles Frazier, OL, LSU  
Frazier played both tackle and guard during the Senior Bowl practices. He was named outstanding offensive lineman for the American Team. The Ravens will love his versatility and value in the fourth round.

### Fifth Round (176th pick)

R.J. Mickens, safety, Clemson  
Mickens will bring a ball hawking match to the secondary that already features all-pro safety Kyle Hamilton. His father, Ray, played cornerback for the New York Jets.



*South Carolina defensive lineman Kyle Kennard*

*Photo courtesy of SI.com/Fisher Brewer*

### Fifth Round (178th pick)

Jimmy Horn Jr., WR, Colorado  
Horn is a dynamic playmaker whose offensive coordinator Todd Monken can design a special package of plays. Horn can also double as a punt/kick returner.

### Sixth Round (205th pick)

Eugene Asante, LB, Auburn  
Ravens Defensive Coordinator Zach Orr will see a lot of himself in Asante. The Senior Bowl practices were a good showcase for how Asante plays like his helmet is on fire. He was all over the place and just seemed to find the football on every play. Asante will enjoy a long career as a reserve linebacker and special teams ace.

### Sixth Round (213th pick)

Traeshon Holden, WR, Oregon  
Holden is a big receiver that gives

depth at the X-receiver position. Holden had a good couple of days at the Shrine Week practices but was unable to finish the week because of neck soreness after falling to the ground as he made a catch. His deep-threat ability will be good for Jackson.

### Seventh Round (245 pick)

Shiloh Sanders, DB, Colorado  
Sanders follows his father Deion's footsteps to Baltimore. But unlike his father, the younger Sanders is a hard hitter that loves to tackle. His coverage skills were lacking during one-on-ones at Shrine Week. That's OK because he won't be asked to do a lot of covering in the league. The Ravens can use him as a depth safety and a boost to special teams.

## Jackson's Performance in Second Half of Playoff Loss a Vision of Things to Come

By Chris Murray

On the Saturday night before the Super Bowl LIX, Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson will probably walk away with his third Most Valuable Player Award during the NFL Honors celebration.

He was recently voted the MVP by the Pro Football Writers Association and received first-team All-Pro Honors from the Associated Press. These are some of the same voters who will decide the MVP award.

As Jackson receives his accolades for an outstanding regular season in which he passed for 4,172 yards, threw 41 touchdown passes, ran for 915 yards, and had 45 total touchdowns, the enduring echoes of his team's latest postseason failure will be there, too.

On that cold, frosty night in Orchard Park, New York, Jackson's team was on the short end of a heartbreaking 27-25 loss to the Buffalo Bills in the Divisional Playoff round. In what was a winnable game, the Ravens as a team beat themselves more than the Bills did. They committed three turnovers—including two by Jackson in the first half and one by always sure-handed tight-end Mark Andrews on a crucial drive in the fourth quarter.

Disappointed Ravens fans can point to some of the questionable decisions of the Ravens coaching staff—going for two instead of kicking the extra-point or passing on that two-point try when Derrick Henry bullied his way through the Bills defense. You could also point to the lack of designed quarterback runs in which Jackson could either give the ball to Henry or run it himself.

Even worse, the loss dropped Jackson's playoff record to 3-5 while fueling doubt among his

fans, media pundits, and detractors about his ability to win football games in the postseason. To more than a few observers of the game, those MVP awards won't mean as much to Jackson's legacy as an NFL quarterback as a Super Bowl ring.

But the good news for Ravens fans about Jackson's latest loss in the postseason is that this could be one of the last times we have this conversation about losing in the postseason because he is going to win more of those games than he will lose them including a Super Bowl before it's said and done.

While I am neither a psychic nor a handicapper—I am not telling you to bet the mortgage on Draft Kings following my opinion—I saw something in Jackson in this last loss to Buffalo that tells me that he's going to get his fair share of postseason success and will win some championships before he hangs his cleats for good.

After committing those first-half turnovers, Jackson, with help from Henry, put the Ravens on his back and brought them back into the game by leading Baltimore to two scores on their first two drives of the second half to cut the halftime deficit to two.

Trailing 24-19 after a Buffalo touchdown, Jackson and the Ravens were on the move again, but Andrews, after catching a first down pass in Bills territory, was stripped of the football. That miscue ultimately led to a Buffalo field goal to put them up by an eight with 3:29 left in the game.

The eight-play, 88-yard drive that culminated in a 24-yard touchdown to tight end Isaiah Likely was Jackson's finest and yet most bittersweet moment in his playoff career.

On that final drive through a snowstorm, Jackson calmly and methodically moved the Ravens



*Washington Football Team vs. Baltimore Ravens from FedEx Field, Landover, Md*

*Photo: Joe Glorioso | All-Pro Reels*

downfield using his arms and his legs in a way that should have reminded older Baltimore football fans of the way Johnny Unitas drove the Baltimore Colts to the winning drive in sudden death overtime against the New York Giants in the 1958 NFL Championship game that was dubbed as "The Greatest Game ever played."

Unfortunately for Jackson, the two-point conversion pass that would have

tied the game slipped out of Andrews's hands and the Ravens were eliminated from the playoffs.

In a tragic loss, Jackson had his best performance in his postseason career. That final drive showed that he has a clutch gene in the postseason that his win-loss record says he does not have.

Jackson's time is coming a lot sooner than you think.

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-25007, RESURFACING HIGHWAYS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, NORTHEAST, SECTOR - I** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MARCH 5, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.** 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 **FEBRUARY 7, 2025**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at [brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov](mailto: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)** 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620(Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$3,000,000.00 to \$4,000,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **FEBRUARY 21, 2025** 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

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address to [uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov) to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Superpave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 11,200 Tons; Curbs, Curbs & Gutters 4,690 LF; Sidewalk 42,500 SF.** The MBE Goal is **21%**; The WBE Goal is **9%**. APPROVED: Celeste Amato, Board of Estimates

## Legal Notice

### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-25008, RESURFACING HIGHWAYS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, NORTHWEST, SECTOR - II** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MARCH 5, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.** 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 **FEBRUARY 7, 2025**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at [brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov](mailto: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)** 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that estab-**

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**lished the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620(Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$3,000,000.00 to \$4,000,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **FEBRUARY 21, 2025** 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 [uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov) to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Superpave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 11,600 Tons; Curbs, Curbs & Gutters 5,100 LF; Sidewalk 32,500 SF.** The MBE Goal is **21%**; The WBE Goal is **9%**. APPROVED: Celeste Amato, Board of Estimates

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-25009, RESURFACING HIGHWAYS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SOUTHWEST, SECTOR - III** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MARCH 5, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.** 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 **FEBRUARY 7, 2025**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at [brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov](mailto: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**

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**CENTS (\$75.00)** 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620(Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$3,000,000.00 to \$4,000,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **FEBRUARY 21, 2025** 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 [uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov) to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Superpave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 11,460 Tons; Curbs, Curbs & Gutters 4,350 LF; Sidewalk 41,700 SF.** The MBE Goal is **21%**; The WBE Goal is **9%**. APPROVED: Celeste Amato, Board of Estimates

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-25010, RESURFACING HIGHWAYS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SOUTHEAST, SECTOR - IV** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MARCH 5, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.** to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board



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of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **FEBRUARY 7, 2025**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at [brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov](mailto: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)** 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Pre-qualification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620(Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$3,000,000.00 to \$4,000,000.00.** A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **FEBRUARY 21, 2025** 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 [uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov) to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Superpave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 11,190 Tons; Curbs, Curbs & Gutters 5,600 LF; Sidewalk 38,500 SF.** The MBE Goal is **21%**; The WBE Goal is **9%**. AP-PROVED: Celeste Amato, Board of Estimates

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC NOTICE

This project is primarily focused on pedestrian/vehicular safety and traffic signal infrastructure reconstruction. The project includes pedestrian improvements including replacement of non-compliant ADA curb ramps, bump outs, enhance crosswalks, traffic signal reconstructions, pavement markings, and signage.

#### TR19309 & TR25301 DOT Intersection and Traffic Signal (Sector 2)

#### PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, March 3, 2025  
6:00p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Enoch Pratt Library Walbrook Branch  
3203 W North Ave  
Baltimore, Maryland 21216

If you have any questions, comments or need special accommodations, please contact [dotengagement@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:dotengagement@baltimorecity.gov) subject line Sector 2  
Or call 410-396-6802  
Accommodation requests should be received by Monday, February 24th, 2025  
Receive regular updates via Facebook, “X” formerly known as Twitter at @BmoreCityDOT.

Veronica McBeth, INTERIM DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC NOTICE

This project is primarily focused on pedestrian/vehicular safety and traffic signal infrastructure reconstruction. The project includes pedestrian improvements including replacement of non-compliant ADA curb ramps, bump outs, enhance crosswalks, traffic signal reconstructions, pavement markings, and signage.

#### TR19309 & TR25301 DOT Intersection and Traffic Signal (Sector 1)

#### PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 2025

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6:00p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Huber Memorial Church  
5700 Loch Raven Blvd  
Baltimore, Maryland 21239

If you have any questions, comments or need special accommodations, please contact [dotengagement@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:dotengagement@baltimorecity.gov) subject line Sector 1  
Or call 410-396-6802  
Accommodation requests should be received by Thursday, February 27th, 2025

Receive regular updates via Facebook, “X” formerly known as Twitter at @BmoreCityDOT.

Veronica McBeth, INTERIM DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Legal Notice

### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC NOTICE

This project is primarily focused on pedestrian/vehicular safety and traffic signal infrastructure reconstruction. The project includes pedestrian improvements including replacement of non-compliant ADA curb ramps, bump outs, enhance crosswalks, traffic signal reconstructions, pavement markings, and signage.

#### TR19309 & TR25301 DOT Intersection and Traffic Signal (Sector 3)

#### PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, March 13, 2025  
6:00p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center  
201 Reedbird Ave.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21225

If you have any questions, comments or need special accommodations, please contact [dotengagement@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:dotengagement@baltimorecity.gov) subject line Sector 3  
Or call 410-396-6802  
Accommodation requests should be received by Thursday, March 6th, 2025

Receive regular updates via Facebook, “X” formerly known as Twitter at @BmoreCityDOT.

Veronica McBeth, INTERIM DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC NOTICE

This project is primarily focused on pedestrian/vehicular safety and traffic signal infrastructure reconstruction. The project includes pedestrian improvements including replacement of non-compliant ADA curb ramps, bump outs, enhance crosswalks, traffic signal reconstructions, pavement markings, and signage.

#### TR19309 & TR25301 DOT Intersection and Traffic Signal (Sector 4)

#### PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 2025  
6:00p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Enoch Pratt Free Library Southeast Anchor  
Branch  
3601 Eastern Ave  
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

If you have any questions, comments or need special accommodations, please contact [dotengagement@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:dotengagement@baltimorecity.gov) subject line Sector 4  
Or call 410-396-6802  
Accommodation requests should be received by Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

Receive regular updates via Facebook, “X” formerly known as Twitter at @BmoreCityDOT.

Veronica McBeth, INTERIM DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Legal Notices  
email: [legals@btimes.com](mailto:legals@btimes.com)  
[dwane@btimes.com](mailto:dwane@btimes.com)

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### CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION

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

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - PROJECT NO. 1393R ON-CALL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Office of Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP), Capital Development and Planning Division, to advertise for Architectural Design Consultants to provide on-call services for the City of Baltimore. The work will include planning, design, preparation of construction documents, and construction administration necessary for the renovations and improvements of various City recreational and aquatic facilities, park buildings and other miscellaneous projects. The City intends to select the services of five (5) consultants.

The Consultant teams are to include, but not be limited to, prequalified Building Architects, Interior Designers, Landscape Architects, Surveyors, Construction Inspectors, Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, A/V, Lighting, Geotechnical, and Environmental Engineers, Aquatic Designers having designed a minimum of 5 public, institutional, or commercial pool projects should also be included on the teams.

The consultant firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate the following:

\*Experience in the design or renovation of modern recreation and aquatic facilities.

\*Familiarity with International Green Construction Code.

\*Experience in preparation of reports which include field investigations, feasibility studies and cost estimates.

\*Experience in producing presentations and submittals to Clients, Contractors, the Public, and Jurisdictional Organizations/Officials.

\*Experience in providing Construction Administration services.

\*Ability to provide manpower for a rapid response to the City's needs in meeting scheduling requirements.

\*Experience in research-based creative

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strategies for community outreach.

Each contract will be limited to an estimated fee of \$4,000,000. The contract duration will be three years with an option to extend for an additional one (1) year term.

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

BCRP encourages consulting firms having the specified experience who have not previously worked with the City of Baltimore, and those who are currently working with the City that have the capacity to deliver the specified work in this scope, to submit their proposals. During presentation, consultants must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time.

Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the Project, **please contact Mr. Adam Boarman at 410-396-7948 or email [adam.boarman@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:adam.boarman@baltimorecity.gov).**

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

#### Prequalification Requirement

**All firms** listed in the specific proposal for the Project **must** be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline *at time of submittal* for this Project. *A copy of the prime and sub-consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

#### Submittal Process

Each consultant responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project #1393R is required to complete and submit an *original* Federal Form 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions on or prior to the due date of April 4, 2025, by NOON. Submittals *will not* be accepted after this deadline.

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

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additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound. They should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

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

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

#### MBE/WBE Requirements

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore 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 **23.90%**

The WBE goal is **20.30%**

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 consult-

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ants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project.

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

#### Verifying Certification

The firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized on the project are certified by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (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:

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

#### Insurance Requirements

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

#### Local Law Hiring

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

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## 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.

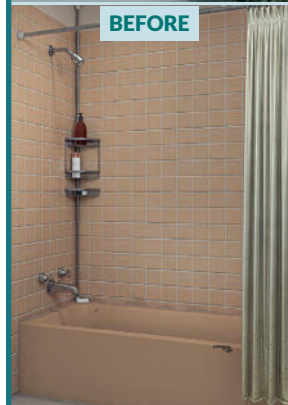
Firms providing a SF255 in response to an RFP who are not prequalified at the time of the submittal due date will be deemed not qualified and will not be considered for further participation on the project.

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

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

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