



# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Best of Black Baltimore Awards Honor the Best Black-Owned Businesses in Baltimore



Baltimore Times Publisher Paris Brown (right, flowered dress) and Publisher Emeritus Joy Bramble (left, black dress white top) pose with a few of the 2024-2025 Best of Black Baltimore winners at the 2nd annual awards celebration. (See more on page 8)

Photo credit: Quinton A. Smith of Blind Media

# Genealogist Uncovers Ancestral History

## Mica L. Anders: Historian, People Finder, Family Mystery Solver

By Andrea Blackstone

Mica L. Anders, owner of Anders Genealogical Services, works as a full-time genealogist for hire. She is on a mission to help people find answers about their family's past.

"That could mean building out a family tree, verifying stories that have been passed down, or finding details about an ancestor's life that have been forgotten or erased," Anders said, explaining what her work entails.

The Minnesota-based genealogist uses archival records, census and vital records, newspapers, oral histories, property deeds, and sometimes DNA to uncover information. Anders feels that knowing your history changes how you see yourself.

"It's about understanding how the choices, struggles, and strengths of your ancestors shaped who you are today. Especially for Black and multiracial families, so much of that history has been erased or hidden. When we reclaim those stories, we don't just restore the past—we restore pride, belonging, and connection," she further explained.

Anders' interest in genealogy started during her childhood. She noticed missing pieces on her father's side of the family.

"I had very little—just a single photo of my grandma and the few stories my dad had shared about growing up in Missouri. As I got older, I realized how common that gap was, especially in Black and mixed-race families," Anders also said.

Anders officially started Anders Genealogical Services in 2014. She has also completed extensive genealogy-specific professional development. However, the foundation was built while she worked on her MFA in Visual Arts, which she completed in 2009. Utilizing art became a research tool.

"My thesis focused on creating art

rooted in genealogy. I researched 11 mixed-race families and designed textile-based wall hangings—what I called 'heraldic geneagraphs'—that used symbols, fabric, quilting, and beadwork to visually represent each family's story. After that project, the families I had researched started asking me to keep going. They wanted more. They wanted their stories back. That's when I realized this wasn't just art—it was healing. It was about reintroducing people to their ancestors and putting family stories back together," said Anders.

When she encountered gaps in written records, Anders cleverly used symbolic systems from their different cultural heritages to fill these gaps.

Anders added, "By combining European heraldry, West African textile traditions (adinkra symbols and adire patterns), quilting techniques, and Cherokee beadwork, I could represent all aspects of a family's heritage equally—even when the documentation wasn't equally available," Anders stated.

Anders explained that many families had detailed European records but minimal African or Native American documentation. Visual representation created balance and often prompted family members to remember additional stories or details they had not initially shared.

Anders officially started her unique business in 2014, but it evolved into a full-time endeavor in 2024. She currently offers a range of services to organizations and individuals.

"For individuals, I offer both 'Done For You' services, where my team and I research everything from single ancestors to full family lines. I also have 'Done With You' services where I work one-on-one with people to help them continue their own research when they hit roadblocks. Additionally, I teach classes and workshops," said Anders.

She also strives to help people solve



**Mica L. Anders, a professional genealogist, conducts research.**

Photo: L. Turner



**Mica L. Anders, a genealogist, believes that knowing your history changes how you see yourself.**

Photo: L. Turner

family mysteries in recent times or about an ancestor who lived 200 years ago.

Anders discusses privacy matters with her clients. For example, 23andMe, a company that offered DNA genetic testing, recently filed for bankruptcy, leaving users with concerns about their genetic data. Anders encourages her customers to read the privacy policies carefully to ensure that they are comfortable with them.

"But I also remind them that sometimes, DNA is the only way to solve certain family mysteries—especially in cases of adoption or family separation. Still, DNA is just one tool. For much of the work I do, records, newspapers, interviews, and historical archives are far more important," said Anders.

The genealogist also creates traveling exhibits. She gives workshops and presentations, and conducts large-scale community research projects, usually focused on uncovering lost or erased early African American histories within their communities for historical societies and museums.

"My services are both virtual and

in-person, depending on the project. I primarily focus on African American genealogy across the US, but I have also worked with multiple clients with Jamaican ancestry. I've even worked with clients in Canada, the UK, and Argentina," Anders stated.

She added, "For me, it's about more than records—it's about restoring legacies, reconnecting people with the stories and ancestors that shaped them."

Visit <https://www.andersgenealogicalservices.com/> to learn about Anders' business. Follow Anders Genealogical Services on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AndersGenealogicalServices/>.



**An individual textile piece from Mica L. Anders' master's thesis project in 2009.**

Photo: Mica L. Anders



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!**

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# Son Carries Father's Torch Forward, Book About Legacy Becomes Amazon #1 Best Seller

By Andrea Blackstone

Dr. Arthur Takeall, Jr., 35, embraces ambition and the value of family legacy. Takeall wears many hats from being a licensed real estate broker who has his own brokerage firm and having his own leadership development consulting company to teaching real estate. The entrepreneur was born and raised in Annapolis, Maryland, but now resides in South Carolina. Dr. Takeall attended college at Allen University and has achieved numerous life strides.

Takeall's growth continues to evolve as he adds new endeavors, including carrying his father's torch forward.

"Just recently, I relaunched FullHawse Productions, which is a production company to be an incubator for creatives," said Dr. Takeall. "Actually, it was a reignition, or I guess a pickup of the torch from my father's (Arthur Takeall, Sr.) vision."

Recounting pieces of his father's illustrious career, he explained that in 1970, Arthur Takeall, Sr. worked for James Brown's radio station in Las Vegas, Nevada. He originally started working with James Brown at his radio station in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Takeall, Sr. was Billboard Magazine's number-one radio personality several times in the seventies, according to his son.

"Radio announcers were the gatekeepers of all things entertainment, so comedians, magicians, boxers, you name it, if it was going to be broadcasted or advertised, it came through the radio announcer who was going to possibly even emcee and open up the shows," Dr. Takeall revealed.

Arthur Takeall, Jr. said that his father was passionate about creating opportunities for creatives to gain more exposure, educating the highly talented to avoid them being taken advantage



*A historic image of Arthur Takeall, Sr., the renowned ventriloquist, with his beloved partner, Scooter.*

*Photo courtesy of Dr. Arthur Takeall, Jr.*

of, and developing or obtaining sponsorships.

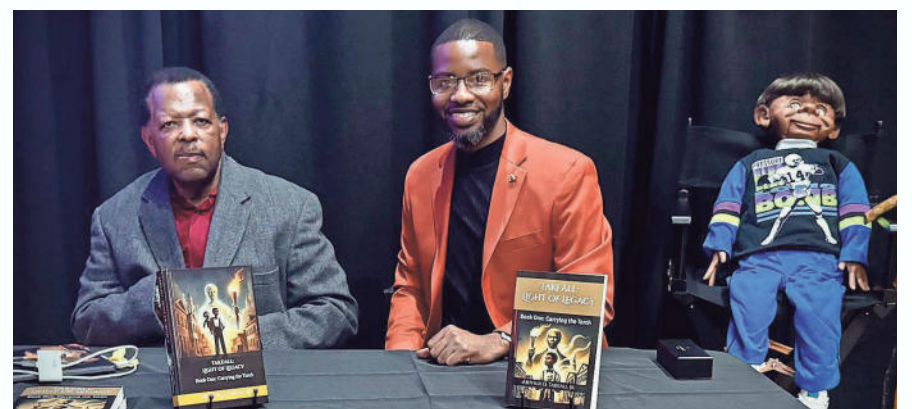
"And so, I kind of reignited that torch, if you will, and picked it up by restarting FullHawse Productions [doing business as Uh-Huh Productions] to do something that my father never got a chance to manifest and create," said Dr. Takeall.

He mentioned that his father's endeavor would have had a similar format to the "In Living Color" platform that was popular in the nineties. The elder Takeall, was also known for being a motivational speaker, national spokesperson, and ventriloquist. He incorporated his dummy, Scooter and passed away in 2009.

Dr. Takeall took a leap by publishing "Takeall: Light of Legacy: Book One - Carrying the Torch," a powerful tale of resilience, hope, and self-discovery. This first book in the series is set against the backdrop of a segregated era.

He added, "I am essentially just the first creative under FullHawse Productions to navigate the process that other creatives are going to experience."

Dr. Takeall revealed that the book is 90% true. It integrates his father's life story in his youthful years growing up in Annapolis, life lessons, ancestral ties,



*George Trotter (left), a close friend of Arthur Takeall, Sr., shared the journey behind "Takeall: Light of Legacy: Book One - Carrying the Torch," at the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, located in Annapolis, Maryland on March 22, 2025 during Dr. Arthur Takeall, Jr.'s (center) book signing.*

*Photo: FullHawse Productions*

fatherhood, and other elements of family lineage.

"He [My father] had dyslexia and he was also a stutterer. Those things empowered him to learn to overcome those disabilities," said Dr. Takeall. "My father passed away at age 62. This book covers up until about age 17."

Dr. Takeall further remarked that the book could appeal to readers who are ages eight to 88.

"Every one of us has something that we have to give, and you can utilize that for people to not just laugh at you or see you but listen to you. You can impart and engage what you have to give by truly showcasing who you are and what you are," Dr. Takeall explained, mentioning one lesson contained in the book's pages.

Dr. Takeall stated that "Takeall: Light of Legacy: Book One - Carrying the Torch" offers more than just reading a story or a chance to meet an author at a book signing. He has already begun to establish multiple partnerships with mentorship programs. Dr. Takeall is working on getting it into schools, a literacy program in the prison system,

and a fatherhood program.

"I already have a collaborative curriculum that goes with it to be able to teach and pull and extract some of these life lessons," Dr. Takeall added.

His audiobook version of "Takeall: Light of Legacy: Book One - Carrying the Torch" became Amazon's #1 Best Seller in the Teen & Young Adult Biographical Fiction category on Sunday, March 20, 2025 while Dr. Takeall was en route to appear at a book signing on March 22, 2025 at the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, located in Annapolis, Maryland.

Dr. Takeall remarked that literacy is important because it is how we absorb information from those who are no longer here to physically teach.

"Literacy is more than just writing and reading. It is a part of interpretation and digestion," the perceptive author noted.

"Takeall: Light of Legacy: Book One - Carrying the Torch" can be purchased on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/9TwYJnT>. Learn more about Uh-Huh Productions and Dr. Takeall's future book signing dates by visiting <https://uhhuhproductions.com>.

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## Making History

### Differing Ideas on Liberation



*Congressman Cory Booker (D-NJ)*

*Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Gage Skidmore*

By April Ryan

“April 2 is liberation day,” proclaims Karoline Leavitt, White House Press Secretary, during Tuesday’s daily press briefing (April 1, 2025). President Trump will announce the percentage of tariffs on products from targeted countries and which countries will have tariffs on imported goods at a Rose Garden event tomorrow afternoon. Leavitt inferred that the liberation was President Trump’s announcement of new tariffs to get U.S. companies to keep all product production in the United States. The presidential spokeswoman says American companies won’t be subjected to tariff costs if they produce in the United States.

Democrats criticize the targeted

tariffs, claiming they will impact American companies, forcing price hikes that will transfer to the pocket of the American consumer. Also, during the Tuesday afternoon White House Briefing, Leavitt affirmed that auto tariffs will go into effect on April 3, 2025. On the other side of Pennsylvania Ave., liberation had a different look. Democratic New Jersey Senator Cory Booker has been talking on the Senate floor to thwart the Trump agenda. “I rise to disrupt the normal business of the Senate as long as I can,” says the New Jersey Democratic Senator, speaking on the Senate floor for over 22 hours.

Booker’s protest isn’t blocking any action on the Senate floor while he is speaking, answering questions, and reciting famous works like the

Negro National Anthem written by James Weldon Johnson. Since 7 p.m. Eastern Monday, Senator Booker has discussed issues of Medicare, healthcare, education, immigration, and national security.

Booker made history by speaking for over 25 hours surpassing the 24 hours and 18 minutes completed by then-Republican South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond in 1957. The Thurmond filibuster was against civil rights legislation. Meanwhile, Booker’s protest is not a filibuster as he is not opposing or blocking a vote or legislation. Booker is taking this exhaustive action as he says, “I rise tonight because our nation is in crisis.”

@CoryBooker @AprilDRyan

## Charting Careers, Inc. Champions Equity, Supports the Underserved, Provides Free Programs

By Andrea Blackstone

Charting Careers, Inc., an Annapolis-based nonprofit consisting of 14 staff members and a legion of volunteers, goes above and beyond the scope of typical mentoring while incorporating family partnership and assistance for parents or caregivers.

Dr. Erin Snell, executive director of Charting Careers, explained that the nonprofit strives to recruit students and families who face obstacles or barriers to opportunity, such as living in a low-income neighborhood, experiencing loss, or incarceration of a caregiver.

“We meet each young scholar where they are and work alongside them as they build their power to enhance their well-being, foster positive relationships (with trusted adults, family, and peers), improve their communities, and ultimately drive positive societal change,” Dr. Snell added.

Over 70 youth are currently being served in the nonprofit’s long-term program, in addition to over 40 caregivers. More than 100 individuals benefit from work rendered in neighborhoods, and 280 middle school students have been afforded opportunities to explore various career options through a career day program.

Kimora Gillis, 17, greatly appreciates having Charting Careers as a resource since 2024.

“Charting Careers has also helped me further recognize my choices for after high school, with staying on top of my academics and taking us on college tours,” Kimora shared.

Jai Johnson, 18, benefited from receiving support with turning schoolwork in on time, exploring new things, and meeting new people.

“I have been taught to network, which was something I was not good at, but now I do well with it, and I am grateful for that,” said Johnson.

Dr. Snell noted that families served



*Charting Careers, Inc.’s family partnership coordinator, Stacey King with a college scholar at a CPR class. Photos courtesy of Charting Careers*

by Charting Careers primarily live in underserved communities in Annapolis, including the Greater Clay Street area; Annapolis Gardens; Bay Ridge Gardens; Eastport/Harbor House; Robinwood; and Woodside Gardens. Some families who moved to other parts of Anne Arundel County still participate in programs.

“Over 90% of the students we serve between second and twelfth grades qualify for free or reduced lunch as a result of their income level. Within the 21403 zip code, because of the high proportion of public and subsidized housing, an estimated 18.2% of children under 18 were living below the poverty level, more than three times the Anne Arundel County average,” Dr. Snell added.

Terressa N. Brown, Charting Careers’ High School Mentor and Volunteer Coordinator, pointed out some of the wrap-around services that are also offered. Impact specialists live in some of the underserved communities where Charting Careers serves scholars. Support is also provided through family support specialists, school coordinators, goal coaches, interns, and “beyond coordinators” who support scholars, even after they graduate high school.

“Our scholars are heavily supported inside the community and outside of their



*Education Director Ashley Mackell, College Scholar Joniece Pitts, and Dr. Erin Snell, Executive Director, at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation Employee Giving Grant Awards Night.*

community,” Brown stated.

Program services are offered to elementary students, middle schoolers, high schoolers and beyond.

Elementary students, second to fifth grade, meet one to two times a week after school at Bay Ridge Christian Church in Annapolis. They are provided with evidence-based tutoring, mentoring, and early college and career readiness. Sessions include mental health mini-lessons; individualized tutoring with culturally relevant texts; ongoing communication; time with trained counselors; and partnership with families. Special field trips are included.

“After completing our elementary program, scholars transition into our middle school program, which meets twice a week after school. Sessions focus on mental health, substance misuse prevention, building trusting relationships, community engagement, and college and career readiness—covering essential topics such as goal setting, career exploration, and resume development,” said Dr. Snell.

Each scholar is paired with an individual mentor, meeting once weekly to receive personalized guidance and support. Family night events remain a priority.



*A group of middle and high school scholars at a drug prevention conference in Oxon Hill, Maryland with staff members, Terressa Brown (High School and Mentor Coordinator) and Ashley Mackell (Education Director).*

Charting Careers’ high school program meets at Annapolis High School twice weekly during the day, in addition to opportunities for students to experience outside of school activities.

“Throughout our high school program, students continue to receive individual mentoring, opportunities for college visits and career panels, mental health support, and weekly college and career readiness education,” Dr. Snell explained.

Additionally, community impact specialists recruit parents/caregivers to enroll in the program, assess their needs and goals, then connect them with resources and serve as accountability partners.

“We assist with academics, activities, and transportation. We have helped families who are in need of food or who face other obstacles. Each family is different and may need additional support, but we are all family,” said Brown.

Charting Careers programs are free for all participants. The nonprofit is on a mission to raise \$10,000 by April 25, 2025, to invest in summer experiences for their scholars.

Visit <https://www.chartingcareers.org> for more information about programs or to obtain donation information.

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# Best of Black Baltimore Awards Honor the Best Black-Owned Businesses in Baltimore

The Baltimore Times hosted the second annual Best of Black Baltimore awards reception Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore. With nearly 400 businesses nominated and almost 20,000 votes, this celebration for the 68 winners was stunning. Best of Black Baltimore is an annual contest in which The Baltimore Times readers have an opportunity to nominate and vote for their favorite Black-owned businesses. This year's celebration took place against a backdrop of over 500 pieces of art created by local Black artists and was themed an "Artsperience." The event welcomed area politicians, business owners and artists in an evening that celebrated Black artistry and entrepreneurship at its highest level.



(Left to right) Paris Brown and Joy Bramble of Baltimore Times pose with Janella Mcrae, Best Author 2023-24, 2024-25 and Derrick Greene representing event sponsor Northeast Maglev



Naimah Sharif, Global Flair  
Best Event Planner 2024-25



James Collins, Blackout Studios -  
Event Co-producer



Craig Alston performing with his Jazz  
quintet



Africa W., Luminous Nails and Spa,  
Best Nail Salon 2024-25



Representative from Teavolve Cafe,  
Best Breakfast Spot 2024-25



Bryan Robinson, The Black Genius Art  
Show, Best Visual Artist 2024-25



Eric and Lynette Dodson, Cuples Tea,  
Best Tea Barista 2024-25



Chardee Scott,  
Best Graphic Designer 2024-25

**Photo Credit: All Photos by Quinton A. Smith of Blind Media**



# 2025 BEST OF BLACK BALTIMORE AWARDS CELEBRATION



Deana Stewart, Winner for Best Makeup Artist 2024-25



Joy Bramble, The Baltimore Times Founder, being interviewed by Doni Glover, Bmore News



Host and Event Co-Producer Olu Butterfly



Michael J. Jackson, A little Faith Accounting - Winner for Best Tax Services 2024-25



(left to right) Paris Brown, Publisher, The Baltimore Times; Kimberli Gross, Celebrate Still - Winner for Best non-profit 2024-25; Aisha Butler - Winner for Best Photographer 2024-25; and Joy Bramble, Founder, The Baltimore Times

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## Rambling Rose



# Award-winning Playwright Ursula V. Battle Has Done It Again! "A Man Called Jesus, A Gospel Musical"

By Rosa Pryor

Hello everyone! Sending love and prayers to all my "Rambling Rose" fans. Let's lift your spirits with some exciting upcoming events!

First, don't miss the powerful gospel musical stage play, "The Homegoing Service for A Man Named Jesus," written by Ursula Battle and directed by Dr. Gregory Branch. The play, featuring an outstanding cast including Rev. Dr. Carl Solomon, Leonard Stepney Jr., and Shirlethea "LeLe" Holmes, is filled with music from the Unified Voices of John Hopkins Choir, led by David White and organist Howard "Buddy" Larkins. The production also includes powerful performances by C.C. Brown, Tanya Brown-Lyesi, and Baltimore's own mortician Carlton C. Douglass as "Joseph of Arimathea." Expect an emotional and spiritually uplifting experience with inspiring music and dynamic acting that will move your soul. Honey Child! This play is no joke. I saw it last year, it almost made me get up out of my chair and run up and down the aisle and do the "James Brown." My husband, Shorty, had to hold me down. Check this out! Very powerful and very well done! This is a must-see event! For tickets, call 443-531-4787 or 443-531-5839.

Another fantastic event is happening at Caton Castle Lounge on Saturday, April 5, at 6 p.m. Renowned xylophone player Warren Wolf will perform alongside Allyn Johnson, Obasi Okoto, Lenny Robinson, and vocalist Imani-Grace Cooper. It promises to be an unforgettable evening of music!

TSB Promotions is hosting a \*Spring Fling Line Dance Party\* on April 5 from 12 to 4 p.m. at Diamondz Event



*Award-winning Playwright Ursula V. Battle is again presenting a powerful play called "The Homegoing Service for a Man Named Jesus," returning to the Huber Community Life Center, 5700 Loch Raven Blvd. for two shows on Friday, April 18, at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m.*

and Catering Hall in Randallstown, Maryland. DJ Chris Blues will be spinning tunes, and light fare will be served. Free set-ups. Call 410-905-4621 for details.

The Gladiators are celebrating their 50th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast on Palm Sunday, April 13, from 12:20 to 5:30 p.m. at Martin's West. DJ Mike Jones will be providing the music, and it's a BYOB event (no outside food). For more info, call 410-428-0270. Congratulations my friends!

Also, don't miss \*The Big Baltimore Kite Fest\* on April 5 at Patterson Park Observatory. Hosted by Creative Alliance, this event fills the sky with vibrant kites, celebrating Baltimore's diverse cultures. Enjoy friendly flyer workshops, performances throughout the park, food vendors, and a professional flying zone. Bring a picnic basket and enjoy a fun-filled day!



*Reverend Andrea Young, founder of "The Rising Authors Spring Fest," will host this event on Saturday, April 5, from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Inner Artist Event Center, located at 8 Music Fair Road., Suite D, Owings Mills, Maryland. You will hear from emerging authors. There will be book signings, vendors and a lot of give-aways. For more information, go to: [www.aeyministries.com](http://www.aeyministries.com).*

Tee-Shirt Brian is throwing an "Aries Day Party" on Sunday, April 6, from 1 to 5 p.m. at City View Bar & Grill in Gwynn Oak, Maryland. Hosted by Rockstar Jerry Hall and Alvin D. Tarver, the event features special guests DJs Technic, Kenny K, Mike Jones, and Boobie. Enjoy free admission, parking, entertainment, and a buffet!

Well, my dear friends, I decided to SAVE the best for last. My new book, "Baltimore and Maryland Black History Stories: Who, What, When, and Where 1950s-1980s," is finally here! The book features nearly 1,000 photos and 600 pages of incredible stories about you, your families, friends, and places that no one else has. It's available for \$55. Copies can be picked up at 214 Conewood Avenue, Reisterstown, MD 21136. Thank you to everyone who contributed! I have a few now, but I will let you know when I receive my orders.



*Congratulations to WJZ-TV's Denise Koch, the longest-running female news anchor in Baltimore's history and a dynamite voice in journalism for over four decades. Her leadership extends beyond the newsroom. She has mentored generations of journalists while actively serving on boards that uplift women, children, and survivors of abuse. Congratulations, my friend.*



*Isaac Parham will be performing live at City View Bar & Grill, 6700 Security Blvd, Gwynn Oak, Maryland. He will be giving a jazz tribute to the legend Mr. Roy Ayers. This event is hosted by the one and only, Carlos Hutchins on Thursday, April 17, from 6-10 p.m.*

That's all for now, my friends. If you need me, call 410-833-9474 or email me at [rosapryor@aol.com](mailto:rosapryor@aol.com). **Until next time, I'm musically yours!**

*Ursula V. Battle's*

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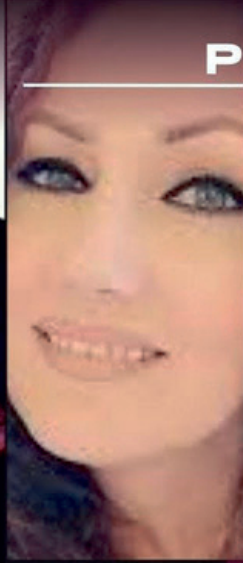
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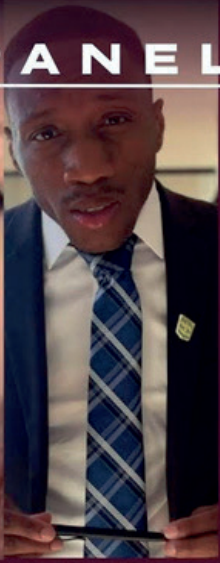
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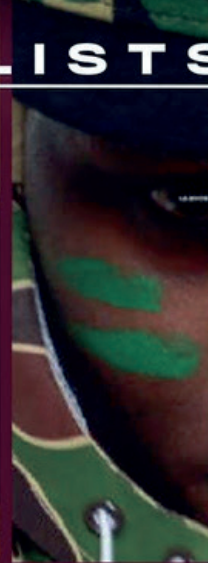
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#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - PROJECT NO. 1410 ON-CALL MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CITY OF BALTIMORE DPW - WATER FACILITIES DIVISION

The City of Baltimore Water Facilities Division (WFD) has been authorized to request the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC) to advertise Project 1410 for the selected services for the City of Baltimore from qualified Construction/Maintenance firms. 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.

#### Scope of Work

The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (the City) seeks a qualified firm (the "Contractor"), to furnish on-call repairs and improvements at Ashburton Water Filtration Plant located at 3001 Druid Park Dr., Baltimore, MD. 21215; Montebello Water Filtration Plant #1 located at 3901 Hillen Rd., Baltimore, MD. 21218; Montebello Water Filtration Plant #2 located at 3900 Hillen Road, Baltimore, MD. 21218 and outlying pump stations. The projects may include, but are not limited to, modifying underground and above ground piping, adding equipment to existing facilities, repairing or upgrading existing process equipment, or installing other systems, repair and replacement of motors, electrical controls, and pumps at the Water Filtration Plants and water pumping stations.

Contractors must be engaged in water filtration plants and water pump stations refurbishment, retrofit, and construction and must have been actively engaged in this type of work for a period of no less than three years.

The experience of owner(s) may be imputed to a newly formed company/contractor provided the owner(s) has/have at least three years of demonstrated experience of reliability and meets the criteria set forth herein.

The Contractor shall document this experience on the bidder's "Contractor's Qualification Information" Bid document and provide a detailed list of recently completed

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projects including the name of the customers, project title, size and dates completed. As part of the detailed list, Contractors shall include descriptions of at least three examples of work completed that demonstrates expertise in each of the following:

- Replacement and repairs of water facilities large diameter valves and valve actuators, filter's underdrain system including air scour system, rapid mixers, chemical storage and feed equipment and piping.
- Testing, condition assessment, and calibration for pumps, motors, large meters, high voltage equipment.
- Installation, troubleshooting, and repair of SCADA system, including but not limited to, programing, programmable logic controllers, human-machine interfaces, auto-dialers, controllers, and other components.
- Installation, troubleshooting, and calibration of chlorine analyzers, portables colorimeters and other monitoring equipment.
- Maintenance and repair of water facility equipment including, but not limited to, low and high voltage electrical work, motors, pumps, pressure transducers, ball floats, control panels, breakers, relays, soft starters, and appurtenances.
- Maintenance and repair of water facilities including, but not limited to, flocculation systems, sedimentation basins clarifiers, chemical feeders, pumps, motors, valves, piping, and appurtenances.
- Pump removal from job site (if necessary), motor diagnostics and testing, complete overhauls, motor rewinding, impeller balancing, impeller coating, and new impellers.
- Recondition switchgear including terminal blocks, insulators, bus bar and boots, control wire, and internal power wire.
- Testing, calibration and balancing, and miscellaneous repairs of HVAC equipment.
- Temporary bypass pumping during major repairs to a pumping station.
- Miscellaneous concrete work to support modification to process equipment and installation of fiberglass stairs, grating, and handrails.

The City reserves the right to inspect the Contractor's equipment and to perform such investigations as may be deemed necessary to ensure that competent personnel and management will be utilized in the performance of the Agreement.

The City intends to select the services of One (1) contractor for a period of 3 (three) years, with an option to extend for 1-year

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additional term at City's discretion, for an estimated fee not to exceed \$3,000,000.00. The Water Facilities Division (WFD) 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 Mr. Theo Karl Abiog at (443)-682-3134 or by email [theokarl.abiog@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:theokarl.abiog@baltimorecity.gov)

**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. Any construction contractor listed in the specific proposal for the Project to perform work in an existing prequalification category must also be prequalified. *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 Firm responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) **Project #1410** is required to complete and submit **an original** Standard Federal Form (SF) 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP. Provide one **(1) original** submittal, along with **five (5) additional** copies to the Office of Boards and Commissions at **4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202** on or prior to the due date by **NOON Friday May 23, 2025**. Submittals **will not be accepted after the due date (NOON) and cannot be emailed.**

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

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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](mailto:OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov). Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firms contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited

liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal Joint Venture (**JV**)

may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

#### COSTS 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 as a result of providing a submission to this RFP.

#### 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   8  %  
The WBE goal is   3  %

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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 Contractor shall not commence work under this proposal until it has obtained all the insurance required under this section. The Contractor will name the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City as additional insured. The Contractor, at its sole expense, shall procure and maintain during the life of this Agreement the following required insurance coverage.

A. Commercial General Liability Insurance at limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence for claims arising out of bodily injuries or death, and property damages, including products and completed operations coverage. With those policies with aggregate limits, a minimum limit of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000)

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is required. Such insurance shall include contractual liability insurance.

B. Worker's Compensation Requirement coverage as required by the State of Maryland, as well as any similar coverage required for this work by applicable Federal or "Other States" State Law.

C. The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, its elected/appointed officials, employees, and agents shall be covered, by endorsement, as additional insured as respects to liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of the Contractor in connection with this Agreement.

D. The Contractor's insurance shall apply separately to each insured against whom claim is made and/or lawsuit is brought, except with respect to the limits of the insurer's liability.

E. To the extent of the Contractor's negligence, the Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance with respects to the City, its elected/appointed officials, municipal agencies and departments, employees, and agents. Any insurance and/or self-insurance maintained by the City, its elected/appointed officials, employees, or agents shall not contribute with the Contractor's insurance or benefit the Contractor in any way.

F. Coverage shall not be suspended, voided, canceled or reduced in coverage or in limits, except by the reduction of the applicable aggregate limit by claims paid, until after forty-five (45) days' prior written notice has been given to the City. There will be an exception for non-payment of premium, which is ten (10) days' notice of cancellation.

G. Insurance must be placed with insurers licensed/approved to do business in the State of Maryland that have an A.M. Best's Insurance Rating of no less than A:VII, or, if not rated with A.M. Best's, have a minimum surplus equivalent to A.M. Best's surplus size VII.

H. The Contractor shall furnish the City with a "Certificate of Insurance" and a copy of the additional insured endorsement as verification that coverage is in force. The City reserves the right to require complete copies of insurance policies at any time.

### Local Hiring Law

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City

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

### Additional Information

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 this RFP who do not follow the guidelines within this RFP including being prequalified, meeting SMBA&D goals at the time of the submittal due date will be deemed nonresponsive.

Failure to follow any of the guidelines of this advertisement will cause disqualification of the submittal. and will disqualify the entire team for further participation in the project.

Deena Joyce, Executive Secretary  
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

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### **Request for Proposal: Historic Parren Mitchell House Exterior Restoration**

Proposals are requested for the exterior restoration of the Historic Parren Mitchell House at 828 N. Carrollton Avenue, Baltimore 21217. Work includes masonry cleaning and repointing and wood window and trim repair.

Project is partly funded by the MD Historical Trust. All work must comply with the Secretary's Standards and all State regs., incl. EEO.

Full Proposal Requirements available via request: Contact Jennifer Goold, [jgoold@ndc-md.org](mailto:jgoold@ndc-md.org), 410-736-9643. Pre-proposal site inspection March 31, 2025. Proposals must be rec'd before May 2, 2025, 5pm at the Neighborhood Design Center at 120 W. North Avenue, Suite 306 Baltimore, MD 21201. Contract awarded to lowest proposal from a qualified firm conforming to project schedule.

## Community Note

### **The 2025 Summer Experience in Aging Internship Program**

Our Elder Services program is now accepting applications for the 2025 Summer Experience in Aging Internship, with enrollment opening this past month. The program will run for 10 weeks, from June 2 to August 11, 2025..

### **Summer Experience in Aging Qualifications/Highlights**

- undergraduate human services majors
- available in person from June 2- August 11
- biweekly stipend + educational award (for completion of full term)
- must have reliable independent transportation
- background check/drug screening required

If you're interested in applying, please contact Jordan Hebron at [jhebron@civicworks.com](mailto:jhebron@civicworks.com)

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**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. 1282-Water Main Replacement and Rehabilitation at Franklin Square Neighborhood & Vicinity** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **May 7, 2025**. 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 125 / 1085 HD; [charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (410) 396-4041 as of **April 4, 2025** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **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., 4<sup>th</sup> 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 **B02551-Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$15,000,000.01 to \$20,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519, Phone Conference ID: 562-401-128# on **April 9, 2025, at 1:00 PM.**

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at: <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting> and [\\_dpwidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:_dpwidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov).

**For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract**

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Administrator [Amber.Coles-Johnson@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Amber.Coles-Johnson@baltimorecity.gov) Contractor questions shall be submitted via email to [Amber.Coles-Johnson@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Amber.Coles-Johnson@baltimorecity.gov) by April 16, 2025 at 4:30 PM. Questions submitted after the deadline may not be responded to and Contractors will be required to submit their bids based on the available information.

**Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:**

Abandonment and/or removal of existing water mains and installation of various sized new ductile iron pipes, valves, fittings and appurtenances, pipe restraints, replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renew and replacement of existing water services, temporary bypass piping, erosion and sediment control measures, maintenance of traffic measures, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, and roadway paving, as required.

The MBE goal is **11%**  
The WBE goal is **5%**

APPROVED:  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:  
Khalil Zaied  
Director  
Department of Public Works

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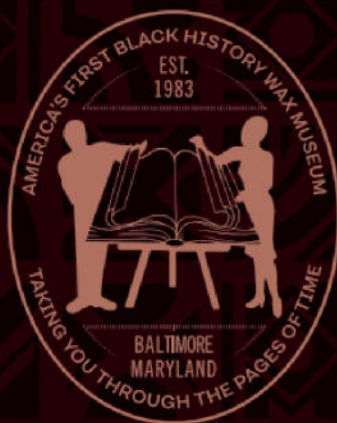
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<sup>1</sup>Tub-to-shower conversions and fiberglass replacements typically require a two-day installation. <sup>2</sup>Lifetime warranty valid for as long as you own your home. \*Offer ends 4/30/24. All offers apply to a complete Bath Fitter system 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 #811651, 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.

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