



# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Girl Boss, Ambitious Mother Make a Winning Barrette Team



*Rozalynn Goodwin, left, president of Confidence by GaBBY Goodwin, with daughter, Gabby Goodwin, CEO and cofounder of Confidence by GaBBY Goodwin hold a pack of GaBBY Bows. The mother and daughter invented GaBBY Bows, the first patented double-face, double-snap barrettes guaranteed to stay in place until they are taken out. They became frustrated when 5-year-old Gabby repeatedly returned from school without her hair barrettes. Their pastor suggested that they invent their own barrette. Rozalynn agreed after Gabby kept asking her when they would make a barrette. Today, Gabby is an 18-year-old "girl boss," entrepreneur and future college student. (See article on page 9)*

*Photo: Aaron Smalls*





## Addition of Regional Grocer Provides Relief for West Baltimore Food Desert



*MCB Real Estate announced that regional grocery chain Streets Market is coming to Reservoir Square. (L-r): Delegate Marlon Amprey (D40); Delegate Melissa Wells (D40); Campbell Burns, Streets Market; Mayor Brandon Scott; State Senator Antonio Hayes (D40); Congressman Kweisi Mfume; P. David Bramble, MCB Real Estate; Councilman James Torrence, District 7; Yojinde Paxton (on behalf of Sen. Angela Alsobrooks office); Alex Aaron, Blank Slate Development; Kayla Williams (on behalf of Gov. Moore); Commissioner Alice Kennedy, Baltimore City DHCD; and Baltimore City Comptroller Bill Henry MCB Real Estate and Blank Slate Development*

### MCB Real Estate Announces Streets Market Grocery Store Coming to Reservoir Square and Blank Slate Joining the Development Team

**Baltimore** (April 28, 2025) – MCB Real Estate, an institutional commercial real estate investment management and development firm with nationwide holdings, is excited to announce that regional grocery chain Streets Market will occupy the anchor retail space at Reservoir Square, an eight-acre, \$170 million mixed-use development located along the 600-850 block of West North Avenue in Baltimore, that is currently under construction.

The development team for Reservoir Square has been further enhanced by the addition of Baltimore-based Blank Slate Development, a full-service development company specializing in vacant and historic properties, bringing together local expertise and a shared vision for community-focused revitalization.

To accommodate the space for a supermarket, MCB and Blank Slate acquired 600 W. North Avenue, a 1.5-acre adjacent parcel, in October 2024. This new addition will feature 20,000 square feet of retail space, anchored by a 12,000 square foot Streets Market, with opportunities for both local and national businesses. Approximately 75 rear-accessed surface parking spaces to support the retail component of the mixed-use development. Early

funders of this phase include the state-backed West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA), which has designated the property as a key anchor along the North Avenue corridor.

Streets Market will provide a much-needed full-service grocery store offering fresh produce, prepared foods, everyday essentials and more for the neighborhood, which is often considered to be in an urban food desert. Currently, local residents only have one option within a one-mile radius, located on the other side of one of Baltimore's busiest streets, North Avenue. This is not the first time an MCB development has helped alleviate a Baltimore food desert. These include a Streets Market at Yard 56 in East Baltimore, and Northwood Commons in Northeast Baltimore, which features Baltimore City's first Lidl grocery store.

Eliminating a food desert is just one of the ways the development team is taking a stand for a community that has long deserved investment. The creation of a development of this size will spur a new era of home ownership and in turn, also build a new era of generational wealth. And for MCB Managing Partner and Co-founder P. David Bramble, the Reservoir

Square project carries a very personal connection that goes back to his childhood.

"I've lived in West Baltimore since I was a baby and am proud to call it my home today," says Bramble. "I grew up just a few blocks from where Reservoir Square is being built and when I was young, the project that stood where Reservoir Square was rising was notorious for its crime. For me and for MCB, being able to permanently cast aside that reputation and unlock the unlimited potential and opportunity that exists in this neighborhood is deeply rewarding."

The introduction of Streets Market is part of the recent acquisition of 600 W. North Avenue, a vacant and blighted lot at the northwest corner of Park and North Avenues. This property will anchor the second phase of the Reservoir Square development, which is planned to include housing, additional retail options, and the new 63,000 square-foot home to the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED), slated to open in 2026. The first phase of Reservoir Square, currently underway, focuses on establishing a new street grid and delivering over \$1 million in upgrades along North Avenue. This phase also features the sale of 120 Ryan Homes

townhome lots, 50 of which have already been purchased by future residents.

"We're thrilled to join Reservoir Square in this next phase and contribute to a development that improves access and quality options," said Alex Aaron, founder of Blank Slate Development. "We are committed to creating spaces that foster growth, inclusivity, and opportunity. Partnering on this project allows us to deepen our investment in Baltimore's future, bringing sustainable development and meaningful change to Reservoir Square and beyond."

As the Reservoir Hill neighborhood continues to grow, adding more professional offices, attracting new residents, and welcoming more retailers, Reservoir Square will tie together West Baltimore's historic neighborhoods and will provide abundant places to live, shop and work. And MCB is proud to be investing in its own hometown.

"From my perspective, this is one of the most important projects MCB will ever do," adds Bramble. "Neighborhoods like this are worthy of a major investment. And we can't wait for some outside savior to do it. It needs to be led by people and companies who call Baltimore home."



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# BNHA Unveils Commemorative Plaque at Site of Historic 1955 Read's Drug Store Sit-In by Morgan State Students

BALTIMORE, April 29, 2025—Baltimore National Heritage Area unveiled a commemorative plaque honoring the 1955 Read's Drug Store sit-in, a landmark event in the Civil Rights Movement at 301 W. Lexington Street in Baltimore on April 29, 2025. The celebration formally acknowledged Baltimore as the first city to organize a peaceful, non-violent civil rights sit-in. This historic act was initiated by students who sought shelter from the cold inside Read's Drug Store, but were told to leave due to the store's segregation policies. Instead, they remained in protest. This moment in history preceded a more widely recognized sit-in at the Woolworth Lunch Counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"Today, we honored not only a historical location but also the courage and conviction of young individuals who challenged the injustice of segregation in Baltimore," said Shauntee Daniels, Executive Director of Baltimore National Heritage Area. "With this plaque, we honor the past while simultaneously issuing a call to the present, ensuring that all individuals who traverse this intersection will recognize that, at this place, history was created that ignited change in this nation."

The plaque, now permanently affixed at the intersection of Lexington and Howard Streets, will serve as a public reminder of Baltimore's pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement. The ceremony was attended by elected officials, dignitaries, community leaders, and representatives of the Baltimore National Heritage Area.

"What an awesome piece of American history," said

Councilmember Zac Blanchard of Baltimore's 11th District. "It's a history of opposing and resisting oppression, resisting what is wrong in a non-violent but confident and brave way."

"It is a true honor to stand here with you all at this sacred site, a site where history was made, where courage stood taller than fear, and where a simple act of defiance helped change the arc of this nation's story," said Cleveland Horton, II, Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. "We are gathered here to unveil a plaque, but what we are really unveiling, what we are truly lifting up, is a legacy of bravery, dignity, and unstoppable hope."

The Baltimore National Heritage Area remains committed to preserving and promoting the city's diverse history through signage, programming, and inclusive community engagement.



*(L-r): Cleveland Horton, II, Executive Director, Maryland Commission on Civil Rights  
Shauntee Daniels, Executive Director, Baltimore National Heritage Area Baltimore City and  
Councilmember Zac Blanchard, District 11. Photo: Radiance M. Pittman*



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## Funding Cuts Would Extend Far Beyond Dollar Amounts

# Mayor Scott Condemns Trump Administration's Cuts to Public Safety Funding

By Lauren Burke

Baltimore Mayor Brandon M. Scott is urging the Trump administration to reverse sweeping cuts to public safety programs, warning that the decision could derail recent progress in reducing violent crime and leave victims of violence without critical support. The Department of Justice announced Wednesday, April 23, 2025 that it would slash nearly \$200 million across approximately 75 public safety grants nationwide — funds that cities like Baltimore rely on for law enforcement initiatives, community-based violence prevention, and services for crime victims, including survivors of domestic and sexual violence. “For all their lip service about public safety, the Trump administration doesn’t give a damn about it,” Mayor Scott said at a Thursday press conference in Baltimore.

“They say they support law enforcement, but they’re defunding programs that protect officers and communities. They say they care about victims, but they’re choking off the very resources victims depend on. This reckless decision threatens the progress we’ve made in reducing homicides and non-fatal shootings.” While Baltimore has not yet lost specific grant funding, the mayor emphasized that cuts to the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs and related agencies extend far beyond dollar amounts, jeopardizing technical assistance, training, and access to expertise that cities across the country rely on to combat crime and improve officer safety.

Among the cuts announced:

- \$1.2 million slashed from a \$2 million grant for LifeBridge Health’s Center for Hope, a local violence prevention initiative.
  - The removal of the VALOR Program’s website, the nation’s leading officer safety and wellness resource.
  - A \$2 million reduction in funding for VictimConnect, a service linking victims with support and resources.
  - The cancellation of the Training and Technical Assistance Initiative, a national program connecting police departments with proven violence prevention models.
  - A \$750,000 cut to Survivors.org, an online community supporting survivors of sexual and domestic violence.
- Many of the cancelled grants were mid-cycle in their three-year funding periods. The Department has yet to publicly clarify which additional programs may be at risk, raising concerns about transparency and long-term impacts on cities’ public safety strategies.



**Mayor Brandon M. Scott**

*Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Photo by Maryland AG*

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**Artscape moves to May 24-25, 2025!**

# MURALISTS TRANSFORM CITYSCAPE INTO URBAN OASIS

BRAND NEW NATURE-INSPIRED MURALS & LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS  
WILL MAKE DOWNTOWN VIADUCT BRIGHTER AND SAFER

Baltimore, MD, April 25, 2025 — The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA), in partnership with the City of Baltimore and Mayor Brandon M. Scott's Downtown RISE Initiative, announces the muralists who are transforming the viaduct at Holliday and Saratoga Streets into an urban oasis. The Urban Oasis Mural Project will revitalize the area beneath the underpasses through a blend of large-scale nature-inspired murals and vibrant lighting installations, creating a visually stunning and immersive experience. The murals weave together botanical elements, organic textures, and the city environment, offering people a space of beauty, reflection, and inspiration.

*"The Urban Oasis Mural Project is more than just public art—it's a driver of long-term transformation. By harnessing the festival model, we're proving that cultural investment can drive sustainability, economic opportunity, and community pride. These murals and light installations are just the beginning — we're laying the groundwork for deeper, more intentional investment in this district,"* said Tonya Miller Hall, Senior Advisor of Arts & Culture for the City of Baltimore.

Over 30 artists and artist teams were selected through a competitive application process to design and paint murals on 43 of the pillars holding up the Jones Falls Expressway (JFX). The murals are scheduled to be completed ahead of Artscape, May 24–25, 2025 but will remain well after the festival is over, adding a much-needed dose of color and vitality to the urban environment. In total, 44 of the concrete columns will have murals when the artists are finished with their work. Many of the columns are



**Muralist Artist Camila Leao, paints one of the structural columns in preparation for Artscape 2025, which will be relocated to the viaduct at Holliday and Saratoga Streets. Photos: The Baltimore Times**

being repainted, while some are being painted for the first time. One column will retain its original mural, painted by the late Baltimore muralist Pontella Mason. That mural, *"Bebop: Charlie Parker and Bettie Carter,"* is being preserved as is.

This initiative, titled the Urban Oasis Mural Project, introduced by the Mayor's Office of Arts, Culture and Entertainment, leverages the festival model not only to beautify the space but to activate it as a platform for sustainable, community-centered impact. The goal is to spark long-term investment and renewed interest in the district by demonstrating the transformative power of arts-driven placemaking. In addition to the murals, artistic vinyl light installations will illuminate the underpass pathway, enhancing safety and further elevating the corridor as a vibrant cultural destination.

The original murals were all painted

between 2006 and 2008 as part of the Baltimore Mural Project, which is managed by BOPA. When applications opened for the Urban Oasis Mural Project, organizers reached out to the original artists and invited them to apply. Danamarie Hosler, Gary Mullen, Michael Kirby, and Ernest Shaw are all returning to paint new murals. They are joined by the following artists and artist teams:

- Adam Stab
- Afr0delic
- Barbara Thompson
- Bilal Ahmad Farid X
- Bridget Cimino
- Camila Leão Lopes
- Dirk Joseph Artworks
- Gaia
- George Hiromitsu Hubbard
- Ground Zero Studio (Jordan Lawson)
- Ham and Cheese Studio (Chelsea & Sami)
- HOPE McCorkle



**One of 43 columns, holding up the Jones Falls Expressway (JFX) was painted as part of THE preparation for Artscape. The murals are scheduled to be completed ahead of Artscape, May 24–25, 2025 but will remain well after the festival is over**



**Ian Pearson, muralist, next to his "work of art" which took him six days to complete. He explains that it is the first time that he has worked on this type of surface.**



# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Maryland Nonprofit Continues to Empower Youth, Award Scholarships, Accept Award Nominations

By Andrea Blackstone

Nonprofits such as IT TAKES TWO, INC. provide immeasurable support within communities.

Jaemellah Jackson, founder and CEO of IT TAKES TWO, INC. established a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of young people and increasing opportunities for them by providing scholarships, life skills, and educational programming. Six hundred students have been supported through IT TAKES TWO, INC.'s scholarships and hybrid educational programming.

DJ Potts (Donnell Potts, Jr.), a 17-year-old eleventh grader from Lanham, Maryland, stated that IT TAKES TWO, INC. has helped him to increase his leadership skills; attend college tours; participate in seminars; increase his AI and data literacy; and obtain his first wedding booking for his DJ business.

"I have my own deejaying business (DJ Hyper Sound Music) and they have helped me with different gig opportunities. IT TAKES TWO, INC., has also helped me network. For example, I was in Toastmasters because of IT TAKES TWO," said DJ.

DJ plans to study business in college, then enroll in a trade school to learn about auto mechanics.

"I would like to run my own auto shop one day and I would also have my deejaying business as a side job. I just would like to thank IT TAKES TWO for everything they have done for me and will do for me."

Jackson, a mother, wife and nonprofit consultant who resides in Baltimore County, remains dedicated to helping IT TAKES TWO, INC. grow to enable more youth like DJ to experience a brighter future. Jackson stated that the nonprofit has experienced growth among community

partners and achieved various firsts.

"Last year, we executed our first Learn & Play series with Dave & Buster's Capitol Heights, and Equity Now, Inc. for our Financial Education for Today's Youth workshop, where youth learned how to invest, save, and discussed personal finances.

Thirty youth were in attendance," Jackson stated.

IT TAKES TWO partnered with Equity Now, Inc. to host the first Youth Investment Summit in July, a 5-day deep dive into investing for eighth- to twelfth-grade students. They learned investment strategies, how to create generational wealth, and stock market investment techniques with live market simulations, and more.

Jackson added, "Learning and the application of financial education continued as parents opened custodial accounts and started investing! Our second annual summit is happening Monday, July 28, 2025 through Friday, August 2 from 9 a.m. to noon at Legends Public Charter School in Lanham, Maryland. Registration is open at [www.ittakestwoinc.org/events](http://www.ittakestwoinc.org/events)."

Among many mentioned expansions, Positioned for Greatness Youth Program (P4GYP) members executed their first service day by preparing kindness bags for 35 unhoused youth. Additionally, a 75% increase in Tools for Success Scholarship funding was achieved and a 50% increase in scholarships were awarded.

"Since 2012, we've awarded 40



**Youth & Community Awards Brunch 2024 P4GYP volunteers on Saturday, October 12, 2024. Top (L to R): Kierra Hall, Ayden Bertrand, DJ Potts, Sameenah Sutton and Jaemellah Jackson. Seated (L to R): Se'lah Sutton and Donnell Potts. Photo: BLive Photography**

scholarships totaling over \$16,000," said Jackson.

Students can take advantage of more opportunities through IT TAKES TWO, INC.

### The 2025 Tool for Success scholarships

The Tools for Success Scholarship is IT TAKES TWO, INC.'s cornerstone program that has operated since the nonprofit's inception in 2012. It supports single parents with back-to-school costs. Eligible students must be in grades four through college, have at least a 2.5 GPA, and live in Baltimore City and the following counties: Anne Arundel; Baltimore; Dorchester; Charles; Montgomery; and Prince George's. Scholarships pay for school supplies; books; uniforms; academic and sports registration fees; laptops; tutoring; and Internet service for the school year. College students also receive a college care package. The submission deadline is July 1, 2025 at 11:59 a.m. Students can apply online at [www.ittakestwoinc.org/scholarship](http://www.ittakestwoinc.org/scholarship).

"We seek to award five scholarships this year and recipients will be announced on August 1, 2025," said Jackson.



**Jaemellah Jackson, founder and CEO of IT TAKES TWO, INC. Photo: Anthony Tilghman**

### Awards

The Youth & Community Awards Brunch 2025 will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2025 from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. at Great Wolf Lodge located in Perryville, Maryland. The IT TAKES TWO, INC.'s fundraiser brunch supports the nonprofit's youth programs and initiatives.

"One of our very own Positioned for Greatness Youth Program members, Donnell Potts, will be our DJ for the event," said Jackson. "

During the brunch, IT TAKES TWO, INC. will celebrate 2025-2026 Tools for Success Scholarship recipients; honor five local Maryland youth in various award categories; and thank the nonprofit's community partners for their dedication to our youth.

Nominations are underway. Youth in grades fifth to twelfth living in Maryland can be nominated for Rising Phoenix; He/She's Got Game; Youth in Service; Youth Entrepreneur of the Year; and Leading by Example categories.

Please visit the nomination link to learn more and apply: [bit.ly/ittnominations](http://bit.ly/ittnominations). Tickets will be on sale May 19, 2025. Visit [youthawards2025.eventbrite.com](http://youthawards2025.eventbrite.com).



# Girl Boss, Ambitious Mother Make a Winning Barrette Team

By Andrea Blackstone

Rozalynn Goodwin and her 18-year-old daughter, Gabby Goodwin are a mother and daughter duo who illustrate the value of a strong parental bond. They teamed up to sell GaBBY Bows, the first patented double-face, double-snap barrettes (bows) guaranteed to stay in until they are taken out.

Rozalynn, president of Confidence by GaBBY Goodwin, reflected on February 9, 2014, the date when GaBBY Bows was founded. The concept of the company began because after Rozalynn often fixed 5-year-old Gabby's hair nicely, the young girl often returned from school without barrettes and a messy head of hair.

"She was really frustrated about not just wasting that time in the morning but also wasting a lot of money replacing the barrettes that I lost," Gabby, the CEO and cofounder of Confidence by GaBBY Goodwin recalled.

Today, Gabby is a high school senior, preparing to leave Columbia, South Carolina to pursue her college education. Gabby loves math, business and inspiring others while being her own boss. She wants to remain in the entrepreneurship arena and desires to work more in a service-based business.

Imagine that she found her calling, partly because when she was a little girl who kept losing her barrettes, she simply wanted to stop getting in trouble for losing her barrettes.

"Secondly, I knew that I wanted to inspire people, especially little girls who look like me, and so I saw this product as a way to do that. So, I basically just nagged my mom to create a product, really a business, but not necessarily for the ideas that we would patent it," Gabby added.

Rozalynn once thought she quietly mumbled under her breath that "somebody needs to make a barrette" while doing Gabby's hair, expecting her to return home missing half of her barrettes. Gabby heard her mother's comment.

"I didn't know she heard me," Rozalynn said. "And she jumped out of her seat and asked, 'Are we going to make a bow?'" Gabby, then a persistent kindergartner, continued to ask Rozalynn about the bows and if they would be sold in Publix Super Market. The ambitious mother prayed to God for guidance. She could not draw a concept, nor did she have a background in entrepreneurship. Somehow, Rozalynn agreed to listen to her daughter and try to figure out everything.

She tapped into resources to learn about entrepreneurship. The pair also sat down at their kitchen table over a two-year period buying a bunch of different barrettes, putting them in Gabby's hair to make observations like a science project while noticing what stayed in longer and why. A church member drew the barrette idea. Rozalynn made cold calls and sent emails pitching the idea. In the end, the Goodwins sought legal advice and assistance with a provisional patent. The idea became a business when Gabby was seven years old.

GaBBY Bows' samples from the manufacturer were initially marketed on Facebook.

"We got our first sale the same hour," Rozalynn shared. "A million GaBBY Bows have been sold in all 50 states

and 16 countries later, but that's how it started."

GaBBY Bows are now available in 15 colors and three designs. Customers are gaining more hair accessory options since the company is developing licensee agreements with character brands.

"It's been a great journey to be able to see the impact that this product has been able to have on families, on children. Not just, obviously, the sustainability aspect. We have families that use the same barrettes on three different children growing up for, you know, the past seven, eight years. We have people who use them on their dogs. Use them on finer hair. You can even use them to close bathing suits or tank tops," Gabby explained.

Gabby also said that it has been an amazing journey to see many girls grow in their confidence, grow in their love for themselves, and their hair.

"I know a lot of people talk about how amazing I am, but it's really because of the parents [Rozalynn and Mike Goodwin] that have allowed me to do the things that I do. I am super thankful for them; super grateful for the guidance that they have given me. The freedom that they've basically given me to achieve my dreams at a really high level," Gabby said.

A new children's book, "Naturally Me at the Confidence Salon," written by Gabby, is available for pre-order. Visit <https://gabbybows.com> to learn more about GaBBY Bows and the forthcoming book.



*Gabby Goodwin, CEO and co-founder of Confidence by GaBBY Goodwin appears with Confidence by GaBBY Goodwin products in 2021 and a book written about her called "Gabby Invents the Perfect Hair Bow." Gabby holds patent certificates. Three patents have been granted since 2016 and 2018. Photo: Aaron Smalls*



# Black WWII Battalion Finally Honored

By Stacy M. Brown

BlackPressUSA.com

Senior National Correspondent

Seventy-nine years after their unprecedented service in World War II, the Black women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion — the only all-Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during the war — have finally received one of the nation's highest honors two years after then-President Joe Biden signed a proclamation clearing the way for the award. The heroes will receive the Congressional Gold Medal. "These heroes deserve their dues," Rep. Gwen Moore of Wisconsin said. "And I am so glad their story is being told."

Formed in 1944 as pressure grew to include Black women in overseas military operations, the 6888th was tasked with solving a massive wartime mail crisis. More than 7 million U.S. troops, Red Cross workers, and government personnel stationed in Europe were relying on mail to stay connected with loved ones back home. By early 1945, the Army estimated a backlog of roughly 17 million pieces of undelivered mail—some dating back years. The Army's solution was a newly created battalion of about 850 Black women led by Major Charity Adams, who would later become the highest-ranking Black woman in the Army during the war.

The unit deployed to England in February 1945 and immediately went to work in Birmingham, sorting an estimated 65,000 pieces of mail per shift around the clock, using a system of locator cards to track service members and their units. "They expected we were gonna be there about two or three months trying to get it straightened out," recalled retired Major Fannie Griffin McClendon is



*Second Lt. Freda le Beau serving Major Charity Adams a soda at the opening of the battalion's snack bar in Rouen, France.*

*Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Photo by United States Army Signal Corps*

one of only two surviving members. "Well, I think in about a month, month and a half, we had it all straightened out and going in the right direction."

By the time they finished the job in half the projected time, they had cleared the backlog and restored morale to soldiers desperate for word from home. The women then deployed to Rouen, France, and later to Paris, where they continued their mission while also investigating widespread mail theft and dealing with racism, sexism, and the trauma of burying fellow soldiers killed in a tragic vehicle accident — funerals they paid for themselves when the War Department refused.

Despite their success and high praise from fellow service members, the women of the 6888th returned to a country still unwilling to properly

acknowledge their service. They received standard medals issued to most who served, but no special commendation. That began to change in the 1980s as their story slowly resurfaced through reunions, books, museum exhibits, and documentaries.

A monument was erected in their honor in 2018 at Fort Leavenworth, and they received the Meritorious Unit Commendation in 2019. In 2022, Congress voted unanimously — 422-0 — to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the unit. Biden signed the bipartisan bill the following year. "That really shows how long this recognition took," said Kim Guise, senior curator at the National WWII Museum. "It is really important to recognize the accomplishments of these women and what they went through to serve their country in wartime."

The medal is a posthumous tribute for most of the battalion's 855 members. Only two are still alive today, including McClendon, who later joined the Air Force after military integration and became the first woman to command an all-male Strategic Air Command squadron.

In addition to the medal and previous honors, their story is now part of popular culture. Netflix has a feature film titled "The Six Triple Eight," directed by Tyler Perry and starring Kerry Washington. "They kept hollering about wanting us to go overseas," McClendon said. "So I guess they found something for us to do: take care of the mail. And there was an awful lot of mail." "It's overwhelming," she added. "It's something I never even thought about."





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**Government House Festival  
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May 15 / Government House,  
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By Rosa Pryor

Hello, everyone, I am so excited about the weather. This is now my favorite time of year, from May to September. So, if you are giving an event during these months, don't be surprised to see me—with your invitation of course. Hopefully, I will be doing a lot of book signings all over Maryland with my newly released book this month, entitled *"Baltimore & Maryland's Black History Stories, Who, What, When & Where."* We will let you know when and where I'll be in my next column or check Facebook.

There is something exciting coming up this weekend with DJ Mel. He is hosting an "Evening of Soul Music" with live entertainment in a cabaret-style gathering. It is scheduled for Sunday, May 4 from 5-10 p.m. at the **Most Worshipful Prince Hall of Maryland**, located at 1307 Eutaw Place. It is BYOB and BYOF with free set-ups. The live entertainment will include "Father & Son"; "Songbird Coates"; "Style"; and "Shades of Darkness." Mel is also giving Special Appreciation Awards to **Wanda Coe-Stewart**, **Gerard Pinkney**, **Dee Black** and yours truly, "Rambling Rose." For more information about this event, call 410-493-3512.

There will be a **Mother's Day Celebration at the Chesapeake Employee Insurance Arena**, 1000 Hilltop Circle in Baltimore on Saturday, May 10, 7 p.m. The entertainment will include: **Donnie McClurkin**; **Kurt Carr**; **Hezekiah Walker**; **Kelontae Gavin**; **Maranda Curtis**; and **Zacardi Cortez**. The event is hosted by **Jay Lamont**.

## DJ Mel's Evening of Soul Show & Cabaret Will Honor Special People in Baltimore Entertainment World



*DJ Jazz hosts the "Old-School Fridays" at the City View, 6700 Security Blvd, Gwynn Oak, Maryland every Friday from 6-10 p.m. with live entertainment of local bands. Free admission, free entertainment and free parking.*

Baltimore's comedian, **Rickey Shackleford** informed me that he will be leaving soon to take his play on the road. However, Sunday, May 4 will be the last time to see **"Sanford and Son Stage Play,"** which will be held at the Forum Caterer, 4210 Primrose Avenue. **Rickey Shackleford** will act as **Fred Sanford**, **Howard "G" as Lamont**, comedian, **Nicol as "Esther"** **Claude Meekins** as "Julio; **Owen Funderburke III** as "Grady" and **Songbird Shay** as "Donna." The stageplay is written by comedian, **Howard G** and directed by **Shelia Strawberry Gaskins**. For ticket information, call 410-808-5805.

Tribe 55+ presents **From Root to Sky**, a collaborative exhibition celebrating Black women artists and writers! May 4-31 at **MAXgallery** 126 N. Madeira Street - Baltimore, Maryland

The event will start with an opening

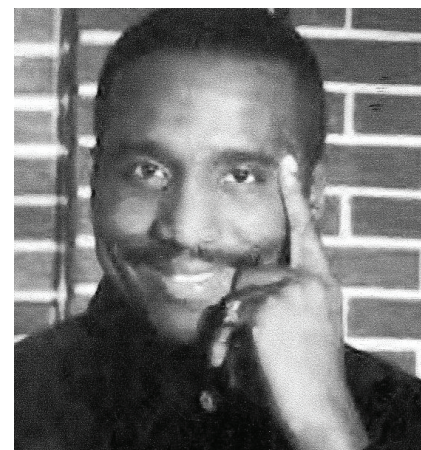


*Songbird Coates, along with Style, Father & Don and Shades of Darkness will grace the stage with live entertainment at the DJ Mel's Evening of Soul Show & Cabaret on Sunday, May 4, 5-10 p.m. at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall of Maryland, 1307 Eutaw Place in Baltimore.*

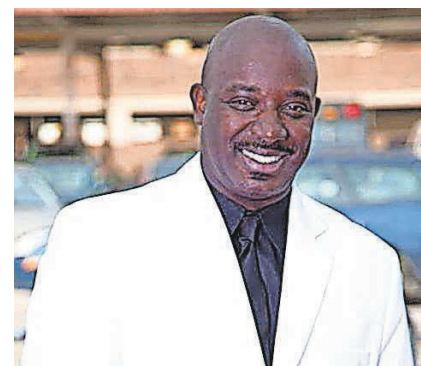
reception. **Congressman Kweisi Mfume** will provide opening remarks. Open Mic for 55+ will be hosted by **Maria Broom** on May 18, 1-3 p.m. A Visual & Literary Talk & Lunch will be held on May 22 from 1-3:30 p.m.

The **Vulcan Blazers** present the "Up-close and Cozy Series" with live entertainment featuring the legendary **Rollex Band** with special guest **DJ "Cool Brother, DJ Jazz**, and an open buffet on Sunday, May 18 from 5-9 p.m. at the **Vulcan Blazers**, 2811 Druid Park Drive. For more information, call 443-858-1966.

Okay folks, I have to go now, but remember, if you need me, you can call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at [rosapryor@aol.com](mailto:rosapryor@aol.com). **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.**



*"Sanford and Son Stage Play" written by comedian Howard G and directed by Shelia Strawberry Gaskins with Rickey Shackleford as "Fred Sanford"; Howard G as "Lamont"; Nicol as "Esther"; and Claude Meekins as "Julio" will showcase on Sunday, May 4 at the Forum Caterers, 4210 Primrose Avenue. For ticket information call Howard G at 410-808-5805.*



*DJ Mel Entertainment presents the "Evening of Soul Show & Cabaret" honoring Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor, Wanda Coe-Stewart, Gerard Pinkney and Dee Black on Sunday May 4 from 5-10 p.m. at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall of Maryland, located 1207 Eutaw Place.*



# Taking a Look at Ravens 2025 Draft Grades

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens entered the draft with some specific needs. They came away from the first two rounds with two players many projected to be a Day 1 pick. They added depth later as well with some prospects that should challenge for a starting position in the near future. Most draft analysts were happy with the haul Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta came away with.

**This is what the 2025 Ravens draft class looks like:**

**Round 1, Pick 27:** Malachi Starks, Safety, Georgia

**Round 2, No. 59:** Mike Green, Edge, Marshall

**Round 3, No. 91:** Emery Jones Jr., OL, LSU

**Round 4, No. 129:** Teddye Buchanan, ILB, California

**Round 5, No. 141:** Carson Vinson, OT, Alabama A&M

**Round 6, No. 178:** Bilhal Kone, CB, Western Michigan

**Round 6, No. 186:** Tyler Loop, K, Arizona

**Round 6, No. 203:** LaJohntay Wester, WR, Colorado

**Round 6, No. 210:** Aeneas Peebles, DL, Virginia Tech

**Round 6, No. 212:** Robert Longerbeam, CB, Rutgers

**Round 7, No. 243:** Garrett Dellinger, G, LSU



**Malachi Starks**

Photo: AP/Jeff Roberson

Let's take a look at how a couple of analysts graded the overall draft:

**Chad Reuter, NFL Network  
Grade: A**

The Ravens are perennial contenders because they let the draft board come to them. Starks will be a playmaker no matter where he lines up. Green was still available late in Round 2 because of off-field concerns, but he has a chance to provide a lot of value off the edge. Jones could be a solid starter at guard or tackle in time.

Buchanan met a need for Baltimore and Peebles should immediately step into the D-line rotation. The Ravens

took a massive tackle in Vinson and a tough guard in Dellinger, who will compete for playing time early. The fluid Kone and quick Longerbeam figure to make an impact in the secondary as rookies. Loop might be the replacement for Justin Tucker amid questions about his future with the team. Wester is a tough, quick slot receiver and punt returner.

**Chris Trapasso, CBS Sports  
Grade B-**

General manager Eric DeCosta is one of the savviest decision-makers in football, routinely allowing the draft to come to him. Starks creates a crowded

element in the safety room, but he can do it all as a defensive back. Green and Buchanan are two explosive defenders up front with modern-day, well-rounded games, and Jones and Vinson are two developmental types up front on offense, although Jones is much closer to being starter-ready.

Kone has the ball skills to be a starting outside corner sooner than later, and there probably was a legitimate need to add a new kicker. Keep an eye on Peebles as an explosive interior pass-rusher. Great Round 6 find. Another prudent draft weekend for Baltimore.



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

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - PROJECT NO. 1412 ON-CALL CIVIL/STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

The City of Baltimore's Department of General Services Capital Projects Division has been authorized to request the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC) to advertise Project 1412 for the selected services for the City of Baltimore from qualified Civil/Structural Engineering firms services on renovation, repair, and construction projects for various City agencies. It is the expectation of the City that interested firms providing these services must demonstrate and document the following services for the City of Baltimore.

The services to be provided may include but are not limited to assisting the City of Baltimore Department of General Service Capital Projects Division with studies and designs for repairs, renovations, and upgrades to a variety of City-owned or maintained structures. The services may include feasibility studies, field investigations, analysis of existing structures for safety, and prepare temporary or permanent corrective measures, bid analysis, post-award services, maintenance of project records and documentation, review of contractor's application for payment, attendance at progress meetings, preparation of record drawings, review of contract claims and supports, estimating, scheduling, project engineering, constructability reviews, submittal reviews and responses, RFI reviews and responses, and construction contract administrative support.

The needs of the Department of General Services Capital Projects Division vary widely as projects are identified. Consultants and selected team should consist of licensed Professional Engineers (PE) in the State of Maryland with specialized and skilled professionals capable of providing engineering design services which may include expertise in the following areas:

- \*Demonstrated success working with public sector clients and adherence to government procurement and contracting processes, particularly with experience on commercial high-rise buildings (5+ stories), municipal buildings, and critical infrastructure projects

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and managing projects in urban environments with complex permitting, zoning, and stakeholder coordination.

- \*Experienced in civil and structural engineering design services, including site grading, drainage, and stormwater management, structural analysis and design for new and existing facilities, Seismic retrofitting and structural failure analysis, Bridge, tunnel, and transportation-related structural engineering, Foundation engineering and geotechnical analysis, and Utility design and coordination.

- \*Experience in preparing complete bid-ready contract documents, including but not limited to construction plans, specifications, cost estimates, and permits, and providing technical support services through contract bidding and post-award services.

- \*In-depth knowledge of local, state, and federal codes and standards, including familiarity with the latest Baltimore City Green Building Code, International Green Construction Code (IgCC), International Building Code (IBC), current ASCE, AISC, and ACI codes, and other related codes and standards.

- \*Expertise in historic preservation policy and procedures, including the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

- \*Experience conducting and producing detailed field investigations & reports, feasibility studies, field assessments, life-cycle cost analyses, and condition assessments, preparing technical reports with recommendations for structural modifications, repairs, and compliance improvements.

- \*Experienced in environmental engineering services, including sampling, testing, and remediation planning for hazardous materials (e.g., lead, asbestos, PCB, mold) and compliance with environmental regulations and sustainable engineering practices.

- \*Experienced with various engineering and design disciplines, including architectural, mechanical, and electrical, with expertise in building systems design, energy efficiency, code compliance, adaptive reuse, and integration of sustainable and high-performance building practices.

- \*Experienced in project management and

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critical path method scheduling, including expertise in construction scheduling and cost control, including Oracle Primavera P6, change order management, claims analysis, and dispute resolution.

- \*Experience in quality control & cost estimation, including developing and implementing quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) protocols and preparing accurate cost estimates and budget assessments for public sector projects.

- \*Experience managing a multi-disciplinary team and developing an effective approach and collaboration with Minority/Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE).

- \*Proficiency in Building Information Modeling (BIM), GIS applications, and digital twin technologies for infrastructure projects.

The City intends to select the services of up to four (4) firms for a period of five (5) years for a fee not to exceed \$5,000,000.00 for each selected firm. The Department of General Services Capital Projects Division 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 Ms. Azza Rizkallah at 410-396-1073 or by email at [azza.rizkallah@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:azza.rizkallah@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 firm listed in this specific proposal to perform work 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

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Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

### Submittal Process

Each Firm responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project #1412 is required to complete and submit **an original** Standard Federal Form (SF) 255 / 330 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, June 13, 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 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



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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 **27%**  
The WBE goal is **10%**

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

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(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 Hiring Law**

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the “Local Hiring Law”) and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law’s effective date of December 23, 2013, which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit [www.oedworks.com](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 the RFP who are not prequalified at the time of the submittal due date will be deemed not

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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, Executive Secretary  
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

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### **CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF GRADES**

The Chief of the Transportation and Construction Engineering Division, designee of the Director of the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, will be in his office, Room 500 Charles L. Benton Jr. Building, 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on May 5, 2025 from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 noon for the purpose of hearing and considering protest and to explain matters in connection with re-establishing the grade of the following public streets and alleys as shown in the plans for Developer’s Agreement No.1930

This includes:

**Public Alley ‘A’ constructed from Station 0+00 to Station 1+66.97.**

**Public Alley ‘B’ constructed from Station 0+00 to Station 1+93.39.**

**Public Alley ‘C’ constructed from Station 0+00 to Station 1+67.04.**

Bimal Devkota P.E., Chief  
Transportation Engineering and  
Construction Division

Veronica P. McBeth, Director  
Department of Transportation

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

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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.

Proposals must be rec’d before May 14, 2025, 5pm at the Neighborhood Design Center at 120 W. North Avenue, Suite 306 Baltimore, MD 21201. Contact Jennifer Goold, [jgoold@ndc-md.org](mailto:jgoold@ndc-md.org), 410-736-9643. Contract awarded to lowest proposal from a qualified firm conforming to project schedule.

## **Register Now for UpSurge Baltimore’s Celebration of 200 Equitech Tuesdays**

Join the tech community May 13th from 6:00–9:00pm at the Baltimore Museum of Industry as UpSurge shares the *State of the Tech Ecosystem* and unveils the highly anticipated *2025 Ecosystem Report*. This milestone event comes just two days before the GBC Investment Summit—kick off the week with a celebration of progress, intel, and what’s next for Baltimore tech!

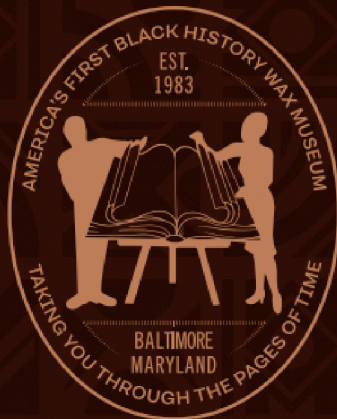
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**1601-03 East North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21213**

Ph. 410-563-3404 | [greatblacksinwax.org](http://greatblacksinwax.org)



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