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Baltimore Community Foundation Raises \$103.7 million to help city thrive



The Campaign for Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF) and Baltimore, a three-year effort, has raised \$103.7 million, generating more than \$30 million to support immediate needs and almost \$70 million in endowment for long term goals. Twenty-eight donors pledged gifts of \$1 million or more, which will be used to support grants and endowment. Some gifts are already being used for immediate needs in BCF's priority areas— neighborhoods and education. Photo; The recent investment made by the BCF to the Patterson Park Neighborhood Greening Partnership. (See article on page 10)

Courtesy Photo



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Governor Larry Hogan Launches Customer Service Initiative

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan launched the Customer Service Initiative, a continuous program designed to foster improvements in customer service across Maryland state agencies. The initiative, which goes into effect immediately, focuses on three core deliverables: a renewed focus on a strong service culture in state agencies; improved customer service training for state employees; and the establishment of new service performance metrics, which will allow the administration and all Marylanders to track improvements in customer service over time.

“Marylanders expect the best possible customer service from their state government, and that is exactly what they deserve,” said Governor Hogan. “With today’s launch of a statewide Customer Service Initiative, we will ensure continued improvements across all Maryland state agencies by finally giving our state employees the leadership, the training, and the tools they need to be successful.”

A key provision of the initiative is a requirement for every state agency to develop and maintain a plan to continually improve service delivery, including minimum response times for phone, written, and in-person inquiries and services. These plans are due by October 1 and are required to be resubmitted each fall for review.

Agency plans will include appropriate customer service training programs for all staff and managers. State agencies will also be required to review agency business hours to better align them with customer demand and will begin to incorporate customer service goals into employee performance evaluations.

These plans will be reviewed annually by a panel that consists of the Governor’s Business Ombudsman, Roger Campos; the Director of the Governor’s Office of Performance Improvement, Luis Luna; and the Chairman of the Commerce Cabinet Customer Service Workgroup, Greg Derwart. The panel, which will report to the governor, will make recommendations to agencies and will measure improvements in service delivery using key performance metrics established by the Office of Performance Improvement. These metrics will also be published online for review by the public.

In order to help further encourage a philosophy of outstanding service delivery, all state agencies will implement appropriate recognition and awards programs to highlight exceptional customer service. Governor Hogan and Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford will also meet with agency award recipients at the State House to offer their own thanks to state employees who have consistently gone the extra mile in their jobs.

The final component in the Governor’s Customer Service Initiative is the launch of the Maryland Customer Service Promise, a series of key principles that will serve as basis of all interactions between state employees and their customers. As part of the initiative, Governor Hogan has directed all state agencies to display the Customer Service Promise prominently in state offices and on agency websites.



Community Affairs

National Aquarium to Build First Dolphin Sanctuary in North America

Baltimore— The National Aquarium announced that it will build a sanctuary for its Atlantic bottlenose dolphins by the end of 2020. The sanctuary would be the first of its kind in North America and will provide the dolphins with a protected, seaside habitat, creating a new option for how dolphins can thrive in human care.

“We now know more about dolphins and their care, and we believe that the National Aquarium is uniquely positioned to use that knowledge to implement positive change,” said John Racanelli, chief executive officer of the National Aquarium. “This is the right time to move forward with the dolphin sanctuary.”

The National Aquarium and its board of directors began exploring new ways to care for the dolphins five years ago. A variety of options were weighed, ranging from rebuilding the existing 25-year-old Marine Mammal Pavilion in a more naturalistic style to moving the dolphins to other accredited facilities. After careful consideration, the decision was made to create a protected, year-round, seaside refuge with Aquarium staff continuing to care for and interact with the dolphins. The work effort defines the sanctuary not just as a place, but also a set of corresponding practices and principles.

“We’ve evaluated this for five years and have decided that this is the right decision for the dolphins, and, thus, for our organization,” said Aquarium board member Colleen Dilenschneider, who also served on a special board committee that assessed this project. “We are excited to introduce this new option along a spectrum of human care for dolphins.”

“This is a special time in history concerning evolving attitudes about treating all forms of life with dignity and respect—other humans very much included,” said Sylvia Earle, marine biologist, explorer and author. “The idea of providing sanctuaries for elephants, chimpanzees, big cats—and now dolphins—is a sign of a maturing ethic of caring unthinkable in past millennia, centuries and even decades.”

The National Aquarium has formed an expert site selection team whose number one priority is to ensure the health and welfare of the dolphins. The location will be chosen based on a list of criteria, including:

- Ability to provide lifetime customized care for each dolphin
- Outdoor location with natural seawater, with more space and depth than current facility
- Tropical or sub-tropical climate
- Natural stimulus for the dolphins, such as fish and aquatic plants

“Where are the African American and Latina Mark Zuckerbergs and Cheryl Sandbergs?”

By Hill Harper

(NNPA News Wire Guest Columnist)

The question, which came from a participant in a minority business empowerment seminar, quieted the room. The answer is simple: “They’re out there. But they don’t have a data plan.”

That seems glib. But truth comes best in a simple package. The digital divide is real. Millions of brilliant, creative thinkers are still left behind, because they don’t have affordable access to the Internet. So what can we do to change this paradigm? We can go mobile.

Mobile technology has changed our world. Those of us who are already part of the mobile revolution know this innately: to be without our smartphones is to be isolated. It’s standing in a field, watching the train flash by. It’s trying to find a book in the dark when others are holding flashlights.

But we’re not done yet – not until we’ve brought that change across the digital divide. We know what it means to be connected. And we know that to fully bring change, we have to bring that connection to the populations who today



Hill Harper says that creators and innovators need access to the Web to connect with others and to expand their world.

may not have access. Mobile tools don’t work when you can’t get to them.

This issue matters more than ever because being “unconnected” now means

means not having an on-ramp to health-care and educational information that could transform or save a life. It means being stuck in the 20th century at a time

Until we get people online, they may not know the resources on which they’ll build. Creators and innovators need access to the Web to connect with others and to expand their world.

so much more than not having the chance to stream Netflix or send tweets. It means being unable to access the myriad of business and entrepreneurial opportunities that exist across today’s vibrant technological landscape. It

when the 21st century economy is finally kicking into high gear.

Imagine someone who isn’t connected or someone that has a mobile device, but can’t access more online data because they exceeded their monthly allotment.

For them, free data could be the key. Free data is an offering that allows you to use more mobile content without having to worry about exceeding your monthly data allotment. This leaves more data to use on other things like social media, and gives you the option of switching to a lower cost plan, if you have too much data left over, because the content you love is covered by free data program. It’s expanded opportunity at no cost. If you see that you can watch an unlimited amount of video as part of a plan, then that might just be enough to entice you to cross the digital divide. And once online, you’ll inevitably use your mobile device to explore the web, allowing your device to be the transformative tool that it can be.

Until we get people online, they may not know the resources on which they’ll build. Creators and innovators need access to the Web to connect with others and to expand their world. Indeed, our embrace of mobile innovations like streaming media and free data can serve as the light we use to illuminate the world around those who remain in the digital dark. Dr. King’s vision of a “world-wide brotherhood” comes from those connections, those ties that grow a fully empowered and engaged community that refuses to let any more opportunities pass us by.

Our vigilance and advocacy will build the momentum we need to close the digital divide once and for all. Join me in this monumental task and be #Mobile-LikeMe.

Hill Harper is an American Film, Television and Stage Actor, and Author.

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Discover The Unexpected:

NNPA Journalism Scholars Are Breaking The News

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President, National Newspaper
Publishers Association

Today, people are exposed to 10-minute news segments six times per hour in a 24-hour news cycle in terms of television and radio news. Twitter, Facebook and other social media are now used for instantaneous news, commentary, and the sharing of perspectives by hundreds of millions of people throughout the world.

Yet, Black-owned newspapers in the United States remain in high demand even amidst the growing digital age of communications and multimedia news services. Social media compliments and extends the reach of the Black Press.

Thanks to Chevrolet, the Discover The Unexpected (DTU) NNPA Journalism Fellows Program is giving undergraduate student scholars from the Howard University School of Communications the opportunity to “Break News” in Detroit, Chicago, Washington, DC, and in Atlanta. Tatyana Hopkins, Sidnee King, Briahanna Brown, McKenzie Marshall, Brandi Montgomery, Brelaun Douglas, Victoria Jones, and Rushawn Walters are all now working with NNPA member newspapers in the aforementioned markets.

On the ground and in the streets, these gifted and talented young journalists are helping not only to bridge generations concerning vital news coverage, but also the NNPA Fellows are using multiple media platforms to help reach new readers across the nation and global community. As more young readers are now consuming their news, sports coverage, and cultural aspiration via the Black Press, then the future sustainability of Black-owned newspapers is further assured.

The point here is that the print Black Press in America is content rich and therefore is invaluable in today’s context of national and international content distribution. There is a substantive difference between sensationalism to get media attention and good journalism that renders objective facts or that delineates informed opinions.



Denise Rolark Barnes (left), publisher of The Washington Informer and chair of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, D. Kevin McNeir (center), the editor of The Washington Informer, and Rushawn Walters, a NNPA/DTU journalism fellow discuss upcoming story assignments and events at The Washington Informer office in Southeast, Washington, D.C.

Photo: (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

For more than 189 years the Black Press in America has represented the best in presenting the facts, news, struggles and triumphs of African American life and empowerment. The baton is now being pass to a generation of journalists and publishers who are equally

Fellows have significantly increased the NNPA’s media impressions via social media.

It should be noted here that President Barack Obama on the occasion of the White House observance of the 2016 Juneteenth Celebration commented on

that remains undone. We remember that even in the darkest hours, there is cause to hope for tomorrow’s light. Today, no matter our race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, we recommit ourselves to working to free modern-day slaves around the world and to honoring in our

Black-owned newspapers in the United States remain in high demand even amidst the growing digital age of communications and multimedia news services.

fearless, courageous, and articulate.

We are proud of the opportunity and the engagement that the DTU is offering to the NNPA family and community of publishers and media owners throughout the nation. Already some of our NNPA Fellows’ news entries have made the front pages of our newspapers. In addition the published stories by the NNPA

the importance of continuing the struggle against all the lingering vestiges of slavery, racism, injustice, and inequality. The Black Press is today the most capable and responsible vehicle to continue to strive toward fulfilling the goal of racial, social and economic equality.

President Obama stated, “Juneteenth is a time to recommit ourselves to the work

own time the efforts of those who fought so hard to steer our country truer to our highest ideals.”

Learn more about Discover The Unexpected (DTU) at <http://www.nnpa.org/dtu/> and use the hashtag #DiscoverTheUnexpected on Twitter @BlackPressUSA and @NNPA_BlackPress

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

CHEVROLET 



Hundreds applied, now meet the 8 Howard University students who were selected to **DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED**—a first-ever fellowship program by Chevrolet Malibu in partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Teams will share good news stories from Detroit, Washington D.C., Chicago and Atlanta. Plus, they'll get to navigate their city in an all-new 2016 Malibu. Join them on this exciting journey that is sure to inspire us all.

#discovertheunexpected

DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORY AT NNPA.ORG/DTU

Getting your child vaccinated over summer break? Don't forget HPV

Vaccine helps prevent cancer but remains underutilized in Maryland

Baltimore— Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is encouraging parents and providers to use every child's visit to the doctor— such as an annual checkup or physicals for sports, camp or for other school-required immunizations— to discuss vaccination for human papillomavirus (HPV) and to initiate or complete the series of three shots over six months.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI). HPV is so common that nearly all sexually active men and women get it at some point in their lives. There are many different types of HPV. Some types can cause health problems including genital warts and cancers. But there are vaccines that can prevent such health problems. The HPV vaccine is recommended for preteen boys and girls at age 11 or 12 because it produces a more robust immune response during the preteen years, and to provide protection before exposure to the virus.

"The HPV vaccine has been proven ef-



fective at preventing various forms of cancer," said Dr. Howard Haft, Health and Mental Hygiene's Deputy Secretary of Public Health Services, "but we know that access and utilization of the vaccine in Maryland has been insufficient. We want parents and providers alike to think HPV when discussing routine vaccinations. The high coverage rates for other vaccines show us it is certainly possible to see simi-

lar utilization of the HPV vaccine."

While Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), meningococcal and HPV vaccines are routinely recommended for adolescents, Maryland data show more than 40 percent higher vaccination rates for Tdap (85 percent) and meningococcal (87 percent) disease than for HPV, despite its safety and efficacy in preventing HPV-related cancers. Only about 39 percent of adolescent girls and

25 percent of adolescent boys in Maryland received three doses of HPV vaccine in 2014. These gaps in coverage indicate missed opportunities to vaccinate boys and girls with HPV vaccine at the same time as other routinely recommended adolescent vaccines like Tdap and meningococcal vaccines.

For back-to-school immunization information, visit Health and Mental Hygiene at <http://goo.gl/m8WLeF>.

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MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) invite you to attend a public workshop where plans will be presented to provide dedicated bus lanes on several major downtown streets. Dedicated bus lanes are part of MTA's BaltimoreLink project to improve the quality and reliability of bus service across the Region. Dedicated lanes will allow buses to move more quickly through downtown as well as help keep them on schedule. At the workshops, BCDOT and MTA will share concepts under consideration and listen to your ideas about how the lanes could work. Workshops will be held in three locations and provide the same information.

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Md. Department of Transportation's MTA Debuts New Express BusLink Service

New Routes to improve suburb-to-suburb connectivity, significantly reduce travel time

BALTIMORE, MD (JUNE 20, 2016) – Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn praised the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for launching Express BusLink today as the first new service offered as part of BaltimoreLink. Governor Larry Hogan announced the \$135 million transit improvement plan in October 2015 to create an integrated transit system that is easy-to-use and better connects people to jobs, entertainment centers and other transit modes. Express BusLink will greatly improve suburb-to-suburb connectivity. Deputy Transportation Secretary James F. Ports, Jr., and MTA Administrator and CEO Paul Comfort joined media on a ride-along today to officially launch Express BusLink service in the Baltimore region.

“Governor Hogan and Transportation Secretary Rahn are committed to building a strong transportation network that links people to jobs and life's opportunities,” said Deputy Transportation Secretary Ports. “Express BusLink is a down payment on the transformative transit plan that will deliver a truly interconnected system when BaltimoreLink is fully in place next summer.”

MTA is introducing three new Express BusLink routes – 102, 106 and 107 – that now provide significantly faster

connections from Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall) MARC Train station to Old Court Metro Subway Station; from Owings Mills to Towson; and from Towson to White Marsh. Today's ride-along with media was on the new Express BusLink from White Marsh Park & Ride in Nottingham to Towson and back to White Marsh.

“Baltimore has desperately needed a comprehensive, regional transit plan that helps alleviate downtown congestion by opening up the transit grid and that connects people to emerging job centers,” said MTA Administrator and CEO Paul Comfort. “That is why updating our regional transit system with Express BusLink service is key. Express BusLink is an important new service that will link people to where they need to go.”

Additionally, the existing Express Bus Route 150 that connects Columbia to downtown Baltimore City has been extended to connect to the growing job center of Harbor East. Also starting today, MTA is providing additional peak-period trips on Local Bus No. 77 line, which also runs between Old Court Metro Subway Station and BWI Marshall.

These direct suburb-to-suburb connections will improve access to regional job centers as well as speed the ride for many commuters. For example, the new Express BusLink will reduce the two-hour ride from White Marsh to Towson to approximately an hour.

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Baltimore Community Foundation Raises \$103.7 million to help city thrive

By Stacy M. Brown

The Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), the local philanthropic organization whose mission is to inspire donors to achieve their charitable goals from generation to generation and to improve the quality of life in the region through grant making, civic leadership and strategic investments, has announced that it has raised nearly \$104 million in three years.

In a news release, foundation officials said they're celebrating the most successful fundraising in the organization's 44-year history.

The Campaign for BCF and Baltimore, a three-year effort, has raised \$103.7 million, generating more than \$30 million to support immediate needs and almost \$70 million in endowment for long term goals.

"BCF set a bold goal to raise \$100 million during this campaign," said Laura Gamble, the co-chair of the Campaign and chair of BCF's board of trustees. "This was a huge undertaking for us, but we knew it would pay untold dividends both in the immediate impact it would have in Baltimore and in ensuring that BCF would be able to continue its great work for years to come."

Wes Moore served as campaign co-chair with Gamble while George Bunting, Eddie Brown and Suzanne Cohen served as the honorary chairs and Ray Bank served as board of trustees' chair for most of the campaign. Their leadership and outreach was instrumental to the success of the campaign, officials said in a news release.

"What we set out to do was to raise one hundred million dollars for Baltimore," Moore said. "It really says something that Baltimore trusted BCF with that gift."

The campaign's 250 major donors represent a diverse cross section of individual Baltimoreans, business owners, private foundations, and many others who care deeply about the future of our city, foundation officials said. Major gifts ranged from \$10,000 to \$16 million.

Twenty-eight donors pledged gifts of \$1 million or more, which will be used



to support grants and endowment. Some gifts are already being used for immediate needs in BCF's priority areas—neighborhoods and education.

Other gifts will help build permanent endowments to strengthen BCF and ensure its ability to respond to Baltimore's evolving needs today and in the future, organization officials said.

"All of this generosity is driven by BCF's vision that Baltimore boasts a growing economy where all have the opportunity to thrive," said Tom Wilcox, BCF president and CEO. "Because of the campaign's success, we now can dare – not just to dream – but to assert that this community foundation can achieve what Baltimore deserves."

Wilcox said donations to the campaign provided funding to open nine new early childhood resource centers, known as Judy Centers, in Baltimore City between 2012 and 2015 to boost school readiness.

"Our goal is to have a 90 percent readiness for children entering kindergarten by 2017," Wilcox told the Baltimore Business Journal. "Our belief in our schools is fundamental to our future."

The BCF has provided services to more than 1,000 children across Baltimore City Public Schools, said Perry Gorgen, the director of early learning for BCPS. "It's something that we really appreciate," he said.

Wilcox said BCF's objectives also include making neighborhoods more safe, clean, green and vibrant, while strengthening community organizations and the

leadership skills of residents.

Although BCF invests in neighborhoods across Baltimore, he said the organization has particularly focused on Reservoir Hill and Greater Highlandtown, which were centers of unrest during the riots last year following the death of Freddie Gray.

Earlier this year, the BCF distributed \$750,000 from a separate post-riot fund,

but Wilcox said the riots certainly played a role in helping the organization reach its \$100 million goal.

"We had raised less than \$70 million at the time of the riots," Wilcox said. "That part, the last \$30-35 million, is definitely harder than the first \$35 million but we were heartened by the support that we saw."



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New Exhibit Focuses on Being Black in White America

By Stacy M. Brown

A new exhibit at the Galerie Myrtis Fine Art Gallery explores the politicization of Black identity in the United States. From legalized slavery to the most recent quips with racial-overtones by presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, a minority of Americans have been desperately and diligently fighting against a white power structure for equality throughout the nation's relatively short history, gallery officials said in a news release.

The exhibit, "To Be Black in White America," began simply, said Aden Weisel, the gallery director and curator for the display. "One of the artists that we represent, Larry Cook, became a semifinalist – and now he's a finalist – for the 11th annual Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize. We decided that Cook's work should be the starting point for our summer exhibition, which coincides with Artscape," Weisel said.

"Cook focuses on race, politics and history. I chose the other artists that round out the dozen in the show based on how they complemented, explored, focused or broadened those themes," he said.

Noting that social media is full of users asking if the country is back in the 1950s or 1960s, Weisel said the truth is that the country has never left the Civil Rights era completely in the past. Institutional racism and personal vitriol have always been present he said, adding that they crop up when vile words provoke violence or when an act of violence incites protests.

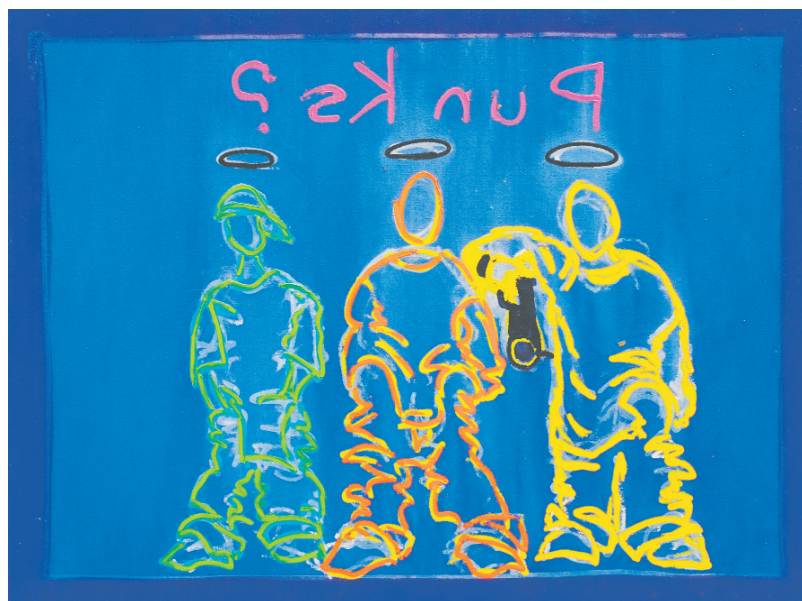
While the subject matter surrounding White power structures is as vast as the Middle Crossing, the artists featured in the exhibit are able to identify and clearly express difficult but highly-specific aspects of the struggle, he said.

"Cook's featured videos at Galerie Myrtis question the progress made for and by African-Americans since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech," Weisel said. "This established a link between history and today that allowed a flexible chronology for the other artists to explore the politics of being Black in the United States."

In the back gallery, artists tend toward



Linda Day Clark, *North Avenue No. 24, 1993, Color digital print*



Jeffrey Kent, *Punks (Colored Boys, 2004, Acrylic and oil on canvas*

history including Susan Goldman's series of prints of Saartjie Baartman the "Hottentot Venus" which induces the viewer to think both about the history of

"human zoos" and the contemporary exploitation of Black female bodies. The woman in Jamea Richmond-Edwards' drawing "Guns, Bubbles and Black

Power" evokes the principles, pride and community care of the Black Panthers, Weisel further noted.

Meanwhile, the front gallery features work with more contemporary themes and images. Stephen Towns painting "I Wish It Were That Easy," is about African-Americans having the right to vote but the difficulties of being able to exercise that right and have one's vote counted.

That exhibit is juxtaposed with Wayson R. Jones' highly textural and abstracted painting "Black President."

Also, Wesley Clark's series of small targets, "Open Season @103," follows his research and documentation of African-Americans killed by police and civilian authorities since the murder of Trayvon Martin.

Many of the targets are brightly colored to evoke the person and their spirit that have been lost. However, this gallery strays from the morbid to focus on family and community.

"This exhibit is extremely important and timely," Weisel said. "The history of the United States has been White history since before this country was formed and formalized. This is generally true of world history, but I'm narrowing the subject."

The show's earliest historical reference is Oletha DeVane's installation titled "Henry Box Brown," named for the man who escaped from slavery in antebellum Virginia by mailing himself to abolitionists in the free state of Pennsylvania. "The issues that these artists focus on are about identity, personal safety, family, community, school, police, prison, government and, unfortunately, violence and death," Weisel said.

"The issues confronted in 'To Be Black in White America' demand answers not hopes and prayers. Some people take to the streets to confront these issues, but artists take to their studios," he said.

"What you see at Galerie Myrtis is the processing of events past, the expression of frustration with the way things are and a search for answers."

The exhibit runs from June 25 to July 30. It will include some extended hours and artists' talks.

For more information, visit www.galeriemyrtis.net.



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Morris Day Headlines Baltimore Concert to Honor Prince

By Stacy M. Brown

Shortly after receiving the devastating news of his mentor Prince's death, Morris Day stood speechless.

"Right now," he said, stunned by the news that his musical brother and industry icon had died at the age of 57 on April 21, 2016. "There are no words that can express the feelings we all have for our dear brother Prince."

Approximately one year ago, Prince arrived in Baltimore to perform a concert for peace in the aftermath of the death of Freddie Gray.

Now, on July 1, 2016, Day and his famed group, The Time, will headline a tribute to their former boss and "Purple Rain" hit maker at Baltimore's Patapsco Arena.

Known for hits like "Jungle Love," "The Bird," and "777-9311," The Time is fronted by the ever flamboyant Day with sidekick Jerome Benton, Jesse Johnson and famed Janet Jackson producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis.

Dubbed "The Purple Rain Tribute Concert," other acts including the R&B band Secret Society also are scheduled to perform.

The show comes weeks after a heavily criticized tribute to Prince at the Billboard Music Awards took place, starring Madonna. Inexplicably, the tribute failed to include Prince protégés like The Time, Sheila E., and Apollonia Kotero.

Day, Benton and the other members of The Time all grew up with Prince in Minneapolis.

They also co-starred in Prince's semi-autobiographical hit 1984 movie, "Purple Rain," and later, they would appear again as co-stars in the 1990 "Purple Rain" sequel, "Graffiti Bridge."

Benton, who toured heavily with Prince in the 1980s, co-starred with the legend on the 1986 feature film, "Under the Cherry Moon," whose music included such hits like "Kiss," "Girls & Boys," and "Sometimes it Snows in April."

As the New York Times reported after his death, Prince was a man bursting with music – a wildly prolific songwriter, a virtuoso on guitars, keyboards

and drums and a master architect of funk, rock, R&B and pop, even as his music defied genres.

In a career that lasted from the late 1970s until his solo "Piano & a Microphone" tour this year, he was acclaimed as a sex symbol, a musical prodigy and an artist who shaped his career his way, often battling with accepted music-business practices.

"When I first started out in the music industry, I was most concerned with freedom. Freedom to produce, freedom to play all the instruments on my records, freedom to say anything I wanted to," he said when he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004.

In a tribute to George Harrison that night, Prince went on to play a guitar solo in "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" that left the room floored.

A seven-time Grammy winner, Prince had Top 10 hits like "Little Red Corvette," "When Doves Cry," "Let's Go Crazy," "Kiss" and "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World"; albums like "Dirty Mind," "1999" and "Sign O' the Times" were full-length statements.

His songs also became hits for others, among them "Nothing Compares 2 U" for Sinead O'Connor, "Manic Monday" for the Bangles and "I Feel for You" for Chaka Khan.

With the film and album "Purple Rain," he told a fictionalized version of his own story: biracial (although Prince's parents were both African-American), gifted, spectacularly-ambitious. Its music won him an Academy Award, and the album sold more than 13 million copies in the United States alone.

"This concert with The Time is going to be so much fun," said Sandy Hyatt, the director of sales at Patapsco Arena. "I have never had this many phone calls this far out from an event. We are so excited to host The Time here," she said.

The concert is scheduled to begin at 9 p.m.. For more information, visit <http://menwomenofrespect.com/oureven/ts/morris-day-the-time/>



Morris Day and Jerome Benton of The Time



Morris Day and Prince

CELEBRATING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC APPRECIATION MONTH

D.C. Native's Legacy: Promoting the Best of Black Music Entrepreneur Darryll E. Brooks Still Open- ing Doors for Local Talent

*By D. Kevin McNeir
WI Editor*

Last week, as the Washington Informer began its coverage of African-American Music Appreciation Month, we featured veteran disc jockey Russ Parr who recently returned to the Greater Washington Area, bringing his unique style and long-recognized brand to the DMV as part of the weekly lineup on Radio One DC's popular station, WKYS 93.9 FM. Now we turn our attention to the eternally-young and District-born Darryll E. Brooks – an entrepreneur and longtime promoter of live events whose penchant for recognizing talent and commitment to improving the lives of Black youth and the D.C. community have benefited District residents and others worldwide for over four decades.

Brooks recalls the early years of the 1970s when a surge in civil disturbances in the city then known as “Chocolate City” led him and several others to develop and promote programs that would honor local musicians, provide training for youth interested in the arts and offer family-friendly concerts in his beloved Southeast community where he spent his formative years.

“A group of concerned citizens wanted a program that would honor local musicians like Roberta Flack [who stands as one of the youngest students to ever enroll and graduate from Howard University where she majored in voice, served as an assistant conductor of the university choir and went on to establish a successful musical career],” he said.



L/R: Patti Labelle and Darryll Brooks

“I co-created ‘Compared to What, Inc.,’ a nonprofit that worked to broaden opportunities for D.C.’s Black businesses and creative arts entities,” he said. “We had great support including the mayor’s office, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Parks Service and were able to secure a program held in Anacostia Park, ‘The Summer Hut,’ that provided arts education programs and events as a means of giving youth an alternative to the significantly less safe activities on the streets,” said Brooks who now splits his time in Clinton, Maryland and New York City.

Brooks would change the name of his company as time went on but not its focus. In fact, they would branch out first as “G Street Express, Inc.,” then as “CD Enterprises,” presenting the first R&B concert ever at the White House, proving that rap was more than just a musical preference for inner city youth but rather a genre rapidly establishing itself as the preference of American youth and taking on the challenge of talent management after signing folks like hip-hop duo Salt-N-Pepa, while also making inroads for D.C.’s go-go performers including Chuck Brown & the Soul Searchers, Little Benny and the Masters

and others.

“I have always been proud of our work behind ‘Human Kindness Day,’ which we held each May between 1972 and 1976,” he said. “We honored celebrities who made positive contributions to our youth and attracted hundreds of thousands to the Washington Monument grounds. And we never had police officers maintain safety – the men who came out with their families and friends kept things safe both on the Monument grounds and at events in Anacostia Park. The drug dealers and thugs knew they weren’t welcome if they were going to bring trouble with them.”

Brooks and his partners achieved attendance at the Anacostia Park event in 1972 with close to 2000, which leaped to over 400,000 by their fourth year with an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 attendees each night. Honorees included Flack, Dick Gregory, Nina Simone and Stevie Wonder.

“It was amazing. We helped expose young musicians and bands and gave them an audience of supportive Blacks. People even came on their bicycles from across the city. But we struggled with funding even as the event rapidly grew after the focus of many funders and sup-

porting agencies changed to the nation’s bicentennial in 1976.”

“Back then the concerts served as a means of communication. The artists were vested in bringing a kind of soulfulness and spoke to Black life in a positive way. Blacks wanted to see artists like Bobby Womack, Curtis Mayfield, Otis Redding and Marvin Gaye and they were able to live vicariously through their positive lyrics. I still believe that there’s an audience for conscious-raising music in America even though the economics behind promoting the kinds of concerts that we featured has long changed,” Brooks said.

Brooks and company continue to promote some of the nation’s most popular events including the Summer Spirit Festival 2016, which will be held at Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, Maryland, marking the Festival’s 11th anniversary (August 6 – 7) with headliners that include Erykah Badu, Janelle Monae, Jill Scott, The Roots, The Chuck Brown Band and Kindred the Family Soul.

And of course, there will be several local groups who will get their chance to showcase their skills, Brooks said.

He noted some of the concerts that he and his partners have promoted that he believes really made a difference in the lives of the Black community, particularly the incarcerated.

“I’ve had so many highlights in my life. But I look to the free Prince concert we held at Gallaudet University that brought music to the hearing impaired, the show we held at the women’s detention center on Riker’s Island and another free concert for the men at the Lorton Reformatory here in the District. It was always about reaching out to and supporting local talent too – musicians, artisans, you name it.”

“Music can have a positive effect on people. It makes the daily grind, the daily disappointments and the day-to-day struggles a little more bearable,” he said. “We did it back then because we loved the music and we loved our people. That’s why we still do it today,” Brooks added.

Scarborough Foundation to Honor Earth, Wind & Fire

The Scarborough Foundation will honor music legends Earth, Wind & Fire, Melvin Miles and Dr. Hattie Bailey at its inaugural awards celebration, "A Musical Tribute to Skip Scarborough," on Sunday, July 3, 2016 at the Murphy Fine Arts Center located on the campus of Morgan State University.

Skip Scarborough, a Grammy Award winning songwriter, wrote hits such as "Can't Hide Love" by Earth, Wind & Fire, "Lovely Day" by Bill Withers and "Giving You The Best That I've Got" by Anita Baker among others.

Performances by In Gratitude, Tracy Hamlin and Alton McClain Scarborough will be featured at the event.

The event hosted by radio personality and singer Angela Stribling will present scholarships to deserving students, as well as honor Earth, Wind & Fire with the Alexi Lifetime Achievement Award, Melvin Miles with the Lifetime achievement award for Music Education, and Dr. Hattie Bailey with the Alexi Com-

Although Earth, Wind & Fire will not be present at the event, a pre-recorded interview will be shown.

On remembering Skip Scarborough, Philip Bailey said, "We were extremely proud to have been a part of the collection of people that he gave his wonderful songs to."

With regard to the importance of the Scarborough Foundation Verdine White said, "Because of the Scarborough Foundation, this generation will have a chance for the appreciation of music and to develop into great artists like Skip."

The mission of the Scarborough Foundation founded by Skip's widow Alton McClain Scarborough (formerly with the group Destiny) is to provide scholarships and grants to assist in the educational advancement of students within the public school system who display extraordinary natural abilities and acquired proficiency in music, dance, theatre arts, and the recording arts and sciences.

THE SCARBOROUGH FOUNDATION'S

Annual AWARDS CELEBRATION

"A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO SKIP SCARBOROUGH"

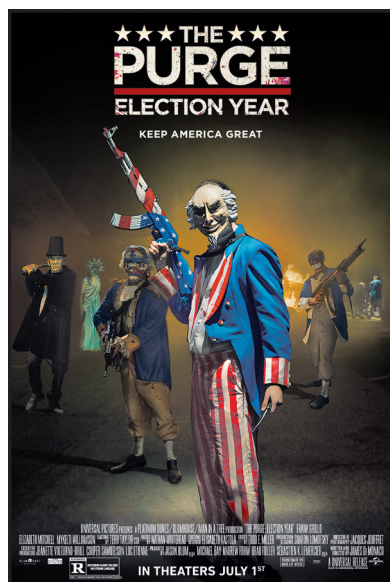


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Waterfront Partnership's First Annual Field Day

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Rash Field is located at 201 Key Hwy. Baltimore, MD 21230

This event is free to attend and several activities are also free of charge. Food, drink, and Bubble Ball tickets are available on-site for purchase.

For more information visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/>

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LEGALS

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING & 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 **Sanitary Contract No. Structural Rehabilitation of Chlorine Contract Chambers at Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, July 27, 2016**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Department of Public Works in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, June 24, 2016** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$35.00**.

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 the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90039-Concrete and Masonry Structural Repairs**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$3,000,000.01 to \$4,000,000.00**
A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at the **Administration Building, Operations Conference Room at the Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant (3501 Asiatic Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21226), on Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.** **Principal Items of work for this project are:**

Structural repair and rehabilitation of the four chlorine contact chambers, weir walls, effluent channel and other structural elements located within the chambers. The repair and rehabilitation shall consist of sealing the cracks and spalls on the concrete

LEGALS

surfaces; removal and replacement of the deteriorated or missing expansion joint material in all the basin walls with specified chemical resistant expansion joint material and coating of all the walls and floor slabs by chemical resistant epoxy coatings as shown on the contract drawings and specifications. In addition, the work includes partial demolition and disposal of all the masonry baffle walls in the chambers and other miscellaneous work, as shown on the contract documents.

The MBE goal is **27%**
The WBE goal is **9%**

SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 892

APPROVED:

Bernice H. Taylor
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:

Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director of Public Works

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

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 **RP 16806-Canton Parking Lot Resurfacing** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, July 20, 2016. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Department of Public Works in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **June 24, 2016** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00**.

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 the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 2nd Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the**

LEGALS

JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes. The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **A02602-Bituminous Concrete Paving**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$100,000.01 to \$150,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at **2600 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21217 on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.**

Principal Items of work for this project are: **Bituminous Concrete Paving**

The MBE goal is **16%**
The WBE goal is **3%**

RP 16806

APPROVED:

Bernice H. Taylor
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:

Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland needs volunteers

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland needs volunteers to provide help with a number of core programs and support systems for its home-delivered meal clients that can prevent premature institutionalization and increase quality of life.

Such assistance includes delivery of meals to the homebound, grocery shopping and delivery, and delivery of freezer friendly meals to cancer patients. Support services include help with connecting clients who are isolated with outside services or organizations or providing in-house services such as volunteer companions, phone pals, delivery of pet food, and other support to enable clients to stay in their homes.

Training, including weekly orientations for new volunteers, is provided and schedules are flexible. To learn more contact Terry Lehr at 410-431-5257 or Lehr@mowcm.org or visit the website at www.mealsonwheelsmd.org.

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