

**Ordinance for Saana Center Alley Closing Bill**

(Based on the Planning Commission Staff Report)

February 24, 2025

**Background**

The Sanaa Center is a proposed arts and cultural institution within the Black Arts District. The Black Arts District was established to recognize the significance of West Baltimore as a place of great importance in African American music, art, and culture within the City. The Sanaa Center “will be a local economic and cultural engine that will empower Black creatives, strengthen the Historic Pennsylvania Avenue business corridor, generate new jobs, and bolster the arts ecosystem both in Baltimore and in the DMV,” according to the project website.

**Legislation**

These alley closures will assist in the creation of a singular parcel for the future development of The Sanaa Center, a proposed arts and cultural institution within the Black Arts District. The proposed building will be located over the portions of the alleys proposed for closure. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the closing of a ten-foot and a sixteen-foot alley in Block 320 on August 31, 2023. The closing of two alleys to accommodate the plans for the Sanaa Center are in direct alignment with the mission of the Black Arts District.