

Charm City Youth Athletics Public Hearing

November 2025



About the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF)



Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF)

Advancing equity and opportunity through community-rooted grantmaking.

- Established by Baltimore voters
- Independent public fund investing annually in youth-serving organizations
- Mission: Partnering to support the youth development ecosystems' organizations and leaders
- Vision: A just, abundant, and creative Baltimore



Corner Team - BCYF Grantee Partner

Our Progress and Successes



BCYF's Impact Since 2020

\$40M+

invested in youth-serving organizations

460+

hours of professional learning and technical assistance

17,000+

youth seats supported citywide

100+

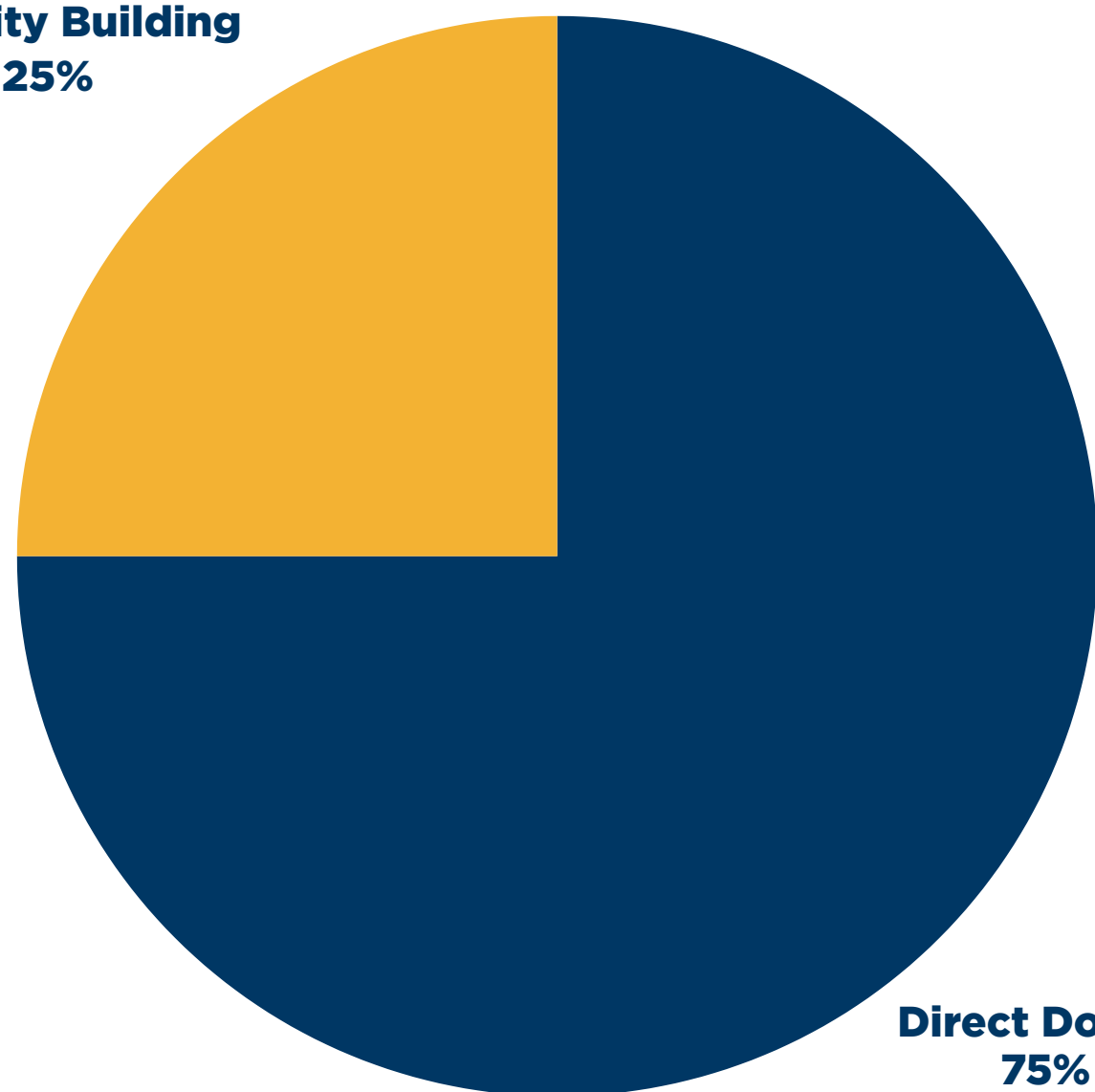
grantee partners across Baltimore neighborhoods

BCYF's Dual Grantmaking Approach



Dual Investment Model: Programs + People

Capacity Building
25%



Direct Dollars
75%



HOW DOES BCYF
INVEST IN THE YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT ECOSYSTEM?

BCYF's Track Record in Sports



Investing in Youth Athletics (FY22–FY25)

Recent partners include:

- 10:12 Sports
- Corner Team
- Harlem Lacrosse
- Blax Lax Inc.
- UMAR Boxing Program, Inc.
- Grind Hard Enrichment Program
- Dream Bigger Community Institute
- The Agoge Project
- The Bamboo Project
- The Mr. Mack Lewis Foundation
- The Tender Bridge
- ABC Park Seminoles Sports Agency
- Baltimore Urban Baseball Association
- Visions Select Baseball Inc.
- MissionFit Inc.

Overview of Charm City Youth Athletics (CCYA)



Charm City Youth Athletics (CCYA)

A partnership between Baltimore City Public Schools & BCYF

- Goal: 63% middle school student sports participation by 2030
- BCYF: \$300K fund management, grants, capacity building, and storytelling
- City Schools: Outreach, safety, and alignment with district policies
- Shared Framework: City Schools Health & Safety Guidelines + Project Play's Children's Bill of Rights in Sports



Leader Breeders, Inc. - BCYF Grantee Partner

Direct Grantmaking through CCYA



Investing in Community-Rooted Youth Sports

- Grants for local youth athletics organizations
- Emphasis on equity, safety, and sustainability
- Expanding access and community leadership



gather! Sports — Community Engagement Snapshot



Strong Community Demand: gather! CCYA Info Event

- 50 registrants + 17-person waitlist (sold out)
- 68% Black-led organizations; 74% with BCPS experience
- Top activities: Basketball, Flag Football, Dance, Baseball/Softball, Yoga

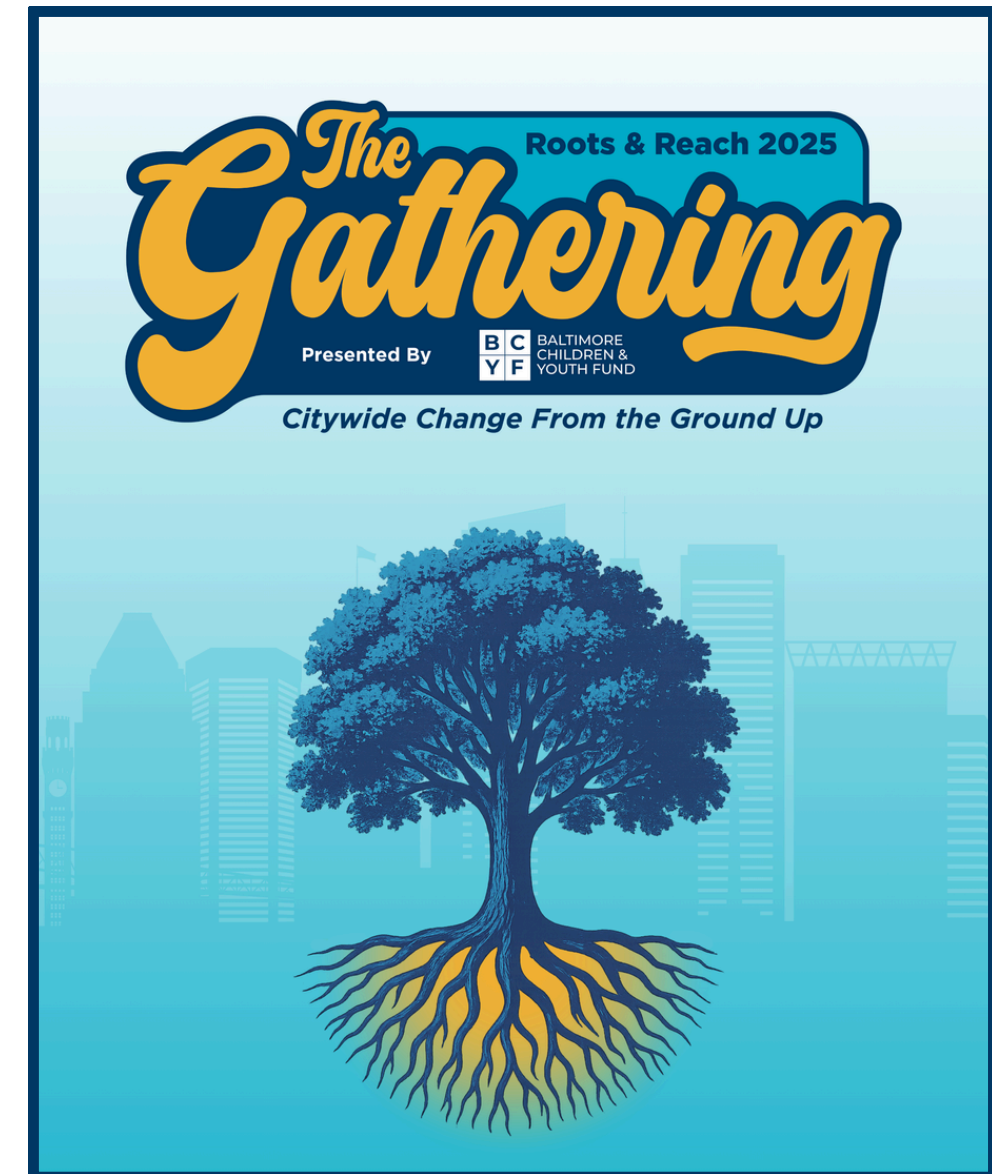


The Gathering 2025 — Roots & Reach Preconference



Co-Designing Baltimore's Future of Play

- Track B: Sports & Athletics — Centering Youth Voice
- Youth stipends, art, and community celebration
- Hands-on inclusion site visit at MissionFit
- Co-creating a framework for equitable youth sports



Opportunities for Collaboration



Building a Citywide Sports Ecosystem

- Strengthen alignment across schools, agencies, and community orgs
- Share data, safety standards, and resources
- Center youth as co-designers of the system



Charm City Youth Athletics Council (CCYAC)



Youth-Led Insight & Advocacy for Baltimore's Future

- Youth-led advisory council co-created by BCYF & City Schools
- Provides input on access, equity, and safety in sports
- Advises BCYF, City Schools, and the Charm City Sports Cabinet
- Guided by Project Play's Children's Bill of Rights in Sports
- Builds youth leadership through advocacy and shared decision-making



10:12 Sports - BCYF Grantee Partner

Defining Roles & Engagement Strategies



Shared Leadership for CCYA

- BCYF: Grants, Learning Lab, Evaluation, Storytelling
- City Schools: Outreach, Vendor Selection, Compliance
- Youth Council: Advocacy, Recommendations, Accountability



Closing



Equity | Youth Leadership | Connected Learning

“Together, we can ensure every middle schooler in Baltimore has the right, the space, and the support to play.”



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Thank You!