



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 22-0235

Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Returning Agency

Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts

Committee: Ways and Means  
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello

Hearing Date: June 14, 2022

Time (Beginning): 10:00 AM  
Time (Ending): 10:50 AM  
Location: Council Chambers  
Total Attendance: Approximately 30

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric T. Costello                      Danielle McCray  
Robert Stokes, Sr.                      Ryan Dorsey  
Sharon Green Middleton              Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

Excused Absence: Kristerfer Burnett

Bill Synopsis in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Donna Sawyers, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA)

## Major Issues Discussed

1. The representative from BOPA gave opening remarks. Some highlights of her discussion were:
  - The mission of the Office is to elevate arts in the City of Baltimore
  - Talked about grants given to local artists
  - The Office continues to thrive but not without the support of the City of Baltimore
  - Comments about the Artscape Festival
  - About the importance of robust collaboration
  - Talked about meetings held with partners, including mentioning some of the names of the partnerships they have
  - Talked about some of things offered at the farmers' market; which also depends on the support of the City of Baltimore
  - We feel we have a good relationship with our partners and consumers but, if you receive any complaint, would hope you bring it to our attention.
2. The committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, asked for clarification, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
  - **Comments**
    - Artscape is vital to the culture of the City of Baltimore
  - **Artscape Festival**
    - It is critically important that Artscape be held in the Mt. Vernon/Bolton Hill Area (11<sup>th</sup> District)
    - Can I walk away from this hearing with this understanding?
    - Also want more local artists included in the festivities
    - \$98,000 was allocated for Artscape but was not held for the past two (2) years; Is there an accounting of what the funds were used for and did you need approval to use the funds elsewhere? **Answer: We did have a virtual Artscape and used the funding for same. And, we started prepping for the next physical Artscape before the pandemic hit.**
  - **Local Artists**
    - We know that some artists are located at the Bromo Seltzer Tower
      - We also have other local artists
  - **Locating Buildings for Housing Local Artists**
    - Concern – Before finding locations for Artists, please make sure that the location (building) will not be demolished soon thereafter
    - More conversations are needed between BOPA and the Housing Department before placing Artists in locations that soon will be demolished. **Per Member Stokes, if you contact his office before placement he can let you know about the building(s) at hand**
  - **Request for Information**
    - Employees
      - The information requested for employee was incomplete
        - **Answer: Some information regarding employees cannot be shared**
        - **Per Member Torrence: Would like to meet with the Law Department to discuss the law pertaining to same**

- Actual Audit
    - Have not received the information requested; want to make sure you are a good steward of our funding! **Answer: Will submit a copy of the audit**
  - Strategic Plans – talk about this
  - Board Members
    - How are they selected? What is the process?
    - Concern: The representation of Board Members is not reflective of the community
    - Requested by Member Dorsey: Submit a written narrative for how the board members are selected.
3. Per Chairman Costello, “We look forward to receiving the additional information requested. And, we will let you know if we need anything else.” Hearing called to recess.

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### Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe. If yes, describe. Yes, see “red and yellow” highlights in Major Issues Discussed.

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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: June 30, 2022

cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

<b>Council Bill</b> – Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 – <b>Returning Agency - BOPA</b>	Bill #: 22-0235
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: <b>Tuesday, June 14, 2022</b>	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: <b>Council Chambers</b>	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sophie	Gebelwot	HOGA					
DONNA	SANGER	BOPA	✓				
Brian	Lyles	BOPA	✓				
Randi	Nanis	BOPA	✓				
TONYA	MILLEL	BOPA	✓				

\*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Ways and Means

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Tuesday, June 14, 2022

10:00 AM

Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

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22-0235 - BOPA

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

**Present** 6 - Eric T. Costello, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.

**Excused** 1 - Kristerfer Burnett

#### **ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

22-0235

#### **Ordinance of Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023**

For the purpose of providing the appropriations estimated to be needed by each agency of the City of Baltimore for operating programs and capital projects during the Fiscal 2023 year.

**Sponsors:** City Council President (Administration)

Hearing recessed.

#### **RETURNING AGENCY - BOPA**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**