



HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO25-0014

Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund

Committee: Education, Youth and Older Adults

Chaired by: Councilman John Bullock

Hearing Date: March 27, 2025

Time (Beginning): 12:00 PM

Time (Ending): 2:36 PM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 37

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Bullock	Mark Parker	Sharon Green Middleton
James Torrence	Jermaine Jones	Odette Ramos

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 type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" 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
Hearing televised 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 at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

Alicia Lee – BCYF, President, CEO

Larry C Simmons – BCYF, Board Chair

Hana Machover – BCYF, Director of Grantmaking for Compliance

Sheree Miller – BCYF, Co-director of Grant Making

Kim Truhart – City Resident

Dr. Renee Tangela – Founder and CEO of Peaceful Warriors

Angelo Solera – Founder and Executive Director of Nuestras Raices Inc

Asia Kerry – Founder and Executive Director of Crayons and Culture, President and CEO of the Culture Connect Group

Lisette Almos Godfrey – Board member of Latino Education Advancement Fund (LEAF), speaking on behalf of Donora Almos (President and CEO of LEAF)

Terry "Uncle T" Williams – CEO of Challenge to Change in East Baltimore

Marcia Williams – Manager of Operations for Challenge to Change

Danielle Brown – Founder and Executive Director of the Cody Young Empowerment Youth Charities

Ron Willoughby – Pastor of the Broken Wall Community Church, founder of the Broken Wall Project

Major Issues Discussed

1. BCYF's Financial Management and Operations

- Clean FY23 audit results with no compliance issues or material weaknesses
- Reduction in administrative costs by 27% while increasing program expenses
- Current administrative infrastructure readiness increased from 4% to 72%
- 92% compliance rate among grantees, up from 30% previously

2. New Funding Announcements

- \$8 million in new investments announced, including:
 - \$500,000 for youth sports initiatives with City Schools
 - \$6 million for Youth Works summer jobs program
 - \$1.5 million for the Mayor's summer youth engagement initiative

3. Grant-Making Approach and Impact

- Portfolio of over 100 organizations serving 17,000+ youth
- \$32 million awarded since 2020
- 80% of grants are multi-year
- Four funding mechanisms: Grassroots Fund (64%), Community Accountable Fund (8%), Aligned Grant-Making Fund (15%), and President's Fund (12%)
- Focus on supporting small, Black and Brown-led grassroots organizations

4. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

- Dual investment approach: 75% direct grants, 25% technical assistance
- Over 700 participants engaged in 100+ hours of professional development
- Learning Lab program with 95% of participants reporting skill advancement
- Pre-application technical assistance making applicants five times more likely to secure funding

5. Proposed Youth Master Plan

- First-ever comprehensive youth plan for Baltimore
 - Expected timeline of 1.5-2 years for development
 - Youth-centered approach modeled after New Orleans' plan
 - Focus on city-wide collaboration and youth leadership
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Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe.

1. Vice Chair Parker requested information regarding BCYF's conflict of interest policies, particularly as they pertain to board members with connections to grantee organizations.
2. Vice Chair Parker requested a detailed breakdown of staff positions showing the allocation between administrative functions and program roles.
3. Councilwoman Ramos requested a copy of the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund's FY23 Community Needs Assessment.

Committee Staff: Deontre L. Hayes
Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396-1260

Date: March 28, 2025

City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee

Thursday, March 27, 2025

12:00 PM Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall, Phone:
1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2342 358 9620, Password:
Public Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=mbfeeee8e2207eb989bdd2999cac89e16)
MTID=mbfeeee8e2207eb989bdd2999cac89e16

LO25-0014 - Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 6 - John Bullock, Mark Parker, Sharon Green Middleton, James Torrence, Jermaine Jones, and Odette Ramos

Excused 1 - Zac Blanchard

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

[LO25-0014](#) Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund

For the purpose of holding a committee hearing to give updates on the status of and/or activities associated with the fund.

Sponsors: John Bullock

Recessed

ADJOURNMENT