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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

The Committee on Education, Workforce and Youth (EWY) is responsible for creating opportunities for our young people, ensuring economic opportunity and prosperity for Baltimore's workforce, and supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include public education, labor relations, workforce development, employment, public parks, recreation, and youth affairs. Issue areas include, but are not limited to: education, including adult education, higher education, workforce development, labor, senior affairs, veterans, childcare, accessibility and disability issues, recreation and parks, and historical landmarks.

**The Honorable Robert Stokes, Sr.
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023
10:00 AM**

VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

Legislative Oversight – LO 21-0007

Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund – An Update

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth

LO 21-0007

Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund – An Update

Purpose:

Representative(s) from the Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund will come before the committee to give an update on the status of and/or activities associated with the Fund.

Background

There is a continuing, non-lapsing Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund to be used exclusively for purposes of establishing new and augmenting existing programs for and services to the children and youth of Baltimore City.¹ *(See attached laws)*

No later than June 30th of each year the Board shall prepare and submit a report to the Mayor and City Council detailing the activities and the impact of the Fund.²

On Thursday, March 10, 2022, representative(s) on behalf of the Fund came before the committee to give an update about the activities and impact of the Fund.

Following are notes from that hearing:

Major Speaker(s) – March 10, 2022

- Davyon Love, Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund
- Alysia Lee, President, Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund (BCYF)

¹ Baltimore City Charter, Article 1, Subsection 13 – Children and Youth Fund

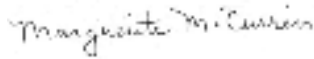
² Baltimore City Charter, Article 5, Subsection 9-10 – Annual Report

Major Issues Discussed – March 10, 2022

1. Dayvon Lee gave opening remarks and introduced the new President of the BCYF, Ms. Alysia Lee. He also stated, “in the future there will be more BCYF employees attending the hearings.”
2. Ms. Lee gave opening remarks and presented a PowerPoint Presentation. *A copy is on file.*
 - Some remarks included:
 - Have been in the position approximately seven (7) weeks
 - Is a Baltimore native
 - Talked about her background and experience
 - Thanked everyone who worked with the fund before her arrival; so much has already been done!
3. Several committee/councilmembers gave comments, asked questions, and etc. Some highlights of same were:
 - Comments
 - Several committee members thanked Mr. Love for his consistent work and leadership
 - Congratulated Ms. Lee for being the first in her position
 - Is excited to have Ms. Lee’s leadership in place
 - Is glad to have Ms. Lee on Board and the Presentation was great!
 - ✓ The Presentation shown was right on point!
 - ✓ The Fund is growing and thriving and is glad you touched on it during your Presentation
 - The Fund: Intervention, measurements, leverage, and etc. have grown in district and it is a great investment!
 - Comments regarding enhancing and/or increasing the City’s economy
 - Thanks went out publicly to former Mayor Bernard Young and his staff for creating the Fund
 - Non-Profits
 - A lot of the non-profits did not receive funds; did anyone reach out to them to offer any technical assistance?
 - What type of follow-up is being implemented to ensure everyone stays in “good standing” with the State?
 - BCYF Website
 - Had the opportunity to review your website and think it is great!
 - **Request:** Please send your flyers and newsletters to councilmembers so we can advertise it.
 - Technical Assistance/Matrixes
 - Will you be providing any technical assistance now and in the future?
Answer: Yes
 - Are there any updates or success stories?
 - Youth Participation
 - Glad to see youth participation; they are developing skills to become future leaders!
 - Can you talk more about the training that is available for youth?
 - Participatory Budgeting
 - Can you talk more about this and how the public can participate in grant-making/review?
4. Hearing was recessed.

5. Also attached are documentation/paperwork received after the last hearing on March 10, 2022; as follows:
- BCYF 2021 Annual Report – received in July 2022
 - Flyer – Grass Roots Funds – received in October 2022

On Thursday, March 10, 2023, **Ms. Alysia Lee** will come back before the committee to give an update about the activities and impact of the Fund. A PowerPoint Presentation is anticipated.



Committee Staff: Marguerite Murray Currin

Date: March 27, 2023

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485



BCYF ANNUAL REPORT 2021



BALTIMORE CHILDREN THIS IS FOR YOUTH.

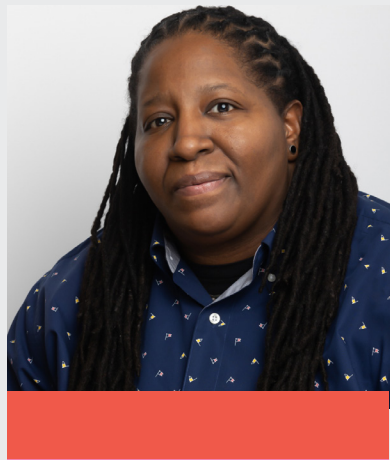


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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Dion Cartwright
Board Chair
Baltimore Children and Youth Fund

For the past two years, I have had the privilege and honor of serving Baltimore’s youth as the Chair of the BCYF Board of Directors. As we transitioned from our original host organization into a quasi-public entity, I was challenged to keep our mission and our values of racial equity, intergenerational leadership, community ownership, and collective decision-making at the forefront of all we did. Talented people, many of them women of color, answered the call to serve Baltimore’s youth and make BCYF the functioning philanthropic powerhouse it is quickly becoming.

BCYF’s Board is populated by individuals highly committed to Baltimore, who are all dedicated to the ideals of improving our city, by investing in our youth. We all share a vision of a more equitable Baltimore where all children, and more specifically children marginalized and hurt by systemic racism, have access to quality programming in the arts, sciences, sports and much more.

As the cliché states, “The youth are our future.” I disagree, the youth are our now, and now is the time to show them that their future is one worth fighting for, and I’m for the fight. In this report you will see just how we’ve been fighting to build an institution that will last and serve Baltimore’s young people well both now and for years to come.

“

THE YOUTH ARE OUR NOW, AND NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW THEM THAT THEIR FUTURE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.”

Student making Slime
Image Courtesy St. Francis
Neighborhood Center



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I joined the BCYF team in January 2022, I was inspired by the achievements of the team, board, and, partners. It is an honor to serve the people of Baltimore as the inaugural President of the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund. The team accomplished so many great things in 2021 and we will continue to push barriers in the philanthropic sector as we become the leading racially equitable funder in our region.

My experiences as an educator (from the classroom to my position as the arts education program supervisor for the Maryland State Department of Education) and with grassroots organizations (from founding a

grassroots youth program to developing it into a nationally-awarded youth development organization), have primed me for this moment. In my first quarter as President, we boldly offered over 100 hours of free technical assistance to every applicant of the newly launched Grassroots Fund.

Leaning in on the expertise of people of the global majority as subject matter experts, community members were taught the mechanics of grant writing, preparation, and budgeting. That was only a snippet of what is to come in the future.

We are determined to bolster and strengthen the grassroots institutions in our city that are working diligently on behalf of our young people. We will do this while also providing support to organizations in ways that are untraditional in the sector, such as robust technical assistance and capacity building.

Our future looks bright and I know with the people of this great city at our side, we can do amazing things for our young people. Baltimore is a town of immense potential and vast talents, and I am proud to be able to work with wonderful people to steward public funds to unlock that potential and nurture that talent.



Alysia Lee

President

Baltimore Children and Youth Fund

Grantee Onboarding Session



“WE ARE DETERMINED TO
BOLSTER AND STRENGTHEN
GRASSROOTS INSTITUTIONS.”

WHO WE ARE

MISSION

Baltimore Children & Youth Fund, Inc. (BCYF) is a nonprofit organization stewarding public funds to ensure our children and youth are healthy, ready to succeed in school and live in stable, safe and supportive families and communities.

Our vision is that children and youth throughout the city enjoy access to high-caliber enrichment and learning opportunities, and children and youth programs have the resources they need to equitably serve all our young people.

FUNDED BY THE PEOPLE

BCYF is one of the most unique grantmaking organizations in the United States. Instead of being sustained by private endowments, corporations and individuals, we are funded by Baltimore City residents, with an annual appropriation of 3 cents on every \$100 of assessed value of all Baltimore City properties dedicated to BCYF.

The Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF) works to create new opportunities for the city's young people to learn, thrive and succeed. BCYF has awarded grants to dozens of organizations, allowing thousands of our young people to experience a range of programs, from academic support and science exploration to dance and photography. These are the kinds of experiences that all young people need to feed their curiosity, learn about their world, build confidence and stay on track in school.

Unlike traditional philanthropic entities, BCYF is committed to authentic community engagement and our strategy and grants decisions have been shaped by a range of Baltimoreans. BCYF partners with Baltimore residents themselves to decide how funds are spent and partners with other organizations that share our values.

*BCYF is governed by a board of directors made up of engaged Baltimoreans and experts in grantmaking. Over time, the board will expand to include young people, philanthropic stakeholders and government officials.

*BCYF reports regularly to Baltimore City Government and concerned citizens.

*BCYF is subject to city audits, public information laws and other reporting requirements.

OUR VALUES

RACIAL EQUITY

For too long, the public, private and philanthropic sectors have failed to adequately invest in Baltimore's people and communities of color, leading to sharp disparities in vital outcomes. In response, BCYF is committed to racial equity in everything we do. That includes funding and providing hands-on support to nurture Black-led community organizations and supporting high-quality programming for children and youth of color who have been left out in the past.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

The purpose of the BCYF is to provide the communities typically seen as merely recipients of services with equal, authentic decision-making power to disperse BCYF's resources. This means that the organization should reflect the totality of our community. Specifically, BCYF must include a variety of people who are highly committed to the communities they serve.

COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING

BCYF will strive to have collective decision-making processes. "Gatekeeping," when one person has too much power in a decision-making process, marginalizes the people and communities who are most hurt by structural racism. Gatekeepers can use their power to circumvent community accountability and limit access to power and resources.

INTERGENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP

In the West we often greet each other by saying, "How are you doing?" The Maasai people of East Africa greet each other by asking, "How are the children?" This greeting embodies the idea that the well-being of the children defines the well-being of the community. BCYF is committed to making Baltimore a place that embraces and lives out this worldview that our children's well-being is everyone's responsibility. And we consistently include young people in decision-making about BCYF's work

FOREWARD

2021 was a milestone year for the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund.

It marked an important transition period to becoming a permanent organization and creating the necessary infrastructure for our organization to thrive in the future. Often, we do not see the arduous work that is done to build institutions of BCYF's size and scale - in real-time. This report will provide insight into how BCYF has shifted from an idea to a fully functioning organization working to improve the lives of children in our community.

We are excited to share this inaugural Annual Report with the Baltimore community and describe how we've been building the institution, supporting local

community organizations, providing technical assistance, breaking down barriers, and innovating in the non-profit sector.

There are also profiles of some of our outstanding grantees who have been working tirelessly to improve outcomes for Baltimore youth. Our vision for the future is bright with such a stellar roster of community leaders in this wonderful city.

OUR STORY

Prioritizing Baltimore Youth (2015-2016)

The effort to create a dedicated fund to support programs for Baltimore's young people was launched in 2015 by then-City Council President Bernard "Jack" C. Young -- a response to the unrest in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody, an event that sharply illuminated longstanding inequities in public funding in Black communities. The Baltimore City Council approved the creation of BCYF through a charter amendment that was sent to the ballot in November of 2016. More than 80% of Baltimore voters approved the measure.

The charter amendment calls for BCYF to receive an annual appropriation that is at least \$0.03 on every \$100 of assessed or assessable value of all property in the City of Baltimore.

Setting the groundwork (January - May 2017)

In 2017, a task force of community leaders, youth program service providers, City government representatives and other key community representatives was convened by Council President Young to make recommendations on BCYF's governance and operations.

The group was Co-Chaired by Adam Jackson, CEO of Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, and Dr. John Brothers, President of the Program for Charitable Giving at the T. Rowe Price Foundation, and included community leaders, youth program services providers and City government representatives. The task force benefited from extensive involvement from community members, with hundreds of attendees participating in meetings across Baltimore.

The task force's work culminated with recommendations to the City Council on how the new Children and Youth Fund should operate. These recommendations stressed the critical need to establish racial equity and community empowerment as core principles to guide BCYF's design, including these guiding values:

- Our work is informed, driven and led by youth voices.
- Our work both advances equity and is welcoming and supporting of all races, classes and gender identities.
- Our work is accountable and brings benefits to local communities, neighborhoods and places where young people connect.
- Our work is free from politics and promotes confidence from the caring networks of Baltimore's young people.
- Our work inspires new partnerships and new approaches to philanthropy to advance Baltimore's young people.
- Our work is focused, expedient and conducted with urgency.

READ THE FULL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE [HERE](#).

OUR STORY

Executing the Mission (June 2017 - January 2018)

The recommendations from the task force were bold and unprecedented in the Baltimore grantmaking arena, reflecting the reality that the city's grantmaking structures and systems often fail to meet the needs of the community. In short, the task force recognized that a different approach was needed.

To facilitate such a radical shift in grantmaking, the task force made a crucial recommendation to designate a local organization to take on two major responsibilities for BCYF:

- Serve as the temporary intermediary to distribute the first year of grants.
- Create the permanent organization to sustain the work of BCYF for years to come.

The task force desired an intermediary that had worked in disenfranchised communities in Baltimore, had experience in racial equity and knew how to build the capacity of organizations serving Black communities in Baltimore.

Associated Black Charities (ABC) was selected to serve in that role. ABC, under the leadership of President and CEO Diane Bell-McKoy, was the only foundation in the Baltimore region with an explicit focus on racial equity.

In November 2017, the City Council authorized ABC to serve as BCYF's interim operator and authorized ABC to allocate up to 10 percent of BCYF's resources for administrative costs. The balance – \$10.8 million – was to be committed in grants to Baltimore organizations serving children, youth, young adults and supporting programs. Some funds were devoted to community capacity building and technical assistance, as well as to support the infrastructure of BCYF and its grantees.

Manifesting the Vision (February 2018 - August 2019)

Over the first half of 2018, ABC brought on a team to lead BCYF's work and develop a framework for participatory grantmaking in which the community would have a meaningful role. BCYF held six community sessions to hear from city residents.

A range of Baltimoreans — young people, youth-serving mentors and practitioners, youth and community advocates and concerned adults — helped determine which children and youth needs and issues BCYF should prioritize in its first year. This led to the establishment of three priority investment areas.

**Strengthening
the Village**

**Fostering Authentic
Youth Leadership,
Empowerment, and
Self-Actualization**

**Building Permanent
Bridges to Educational and
Economic Advancement
Opportunities**

After an open application process held independently of ABC, BCYF established a team of 24 Baltimore City community members with diverse backgrounds, ages and grant-review experience to serve as reviewers. Panelists were chosen to achieve diverse representation of geography, age, race and gender. BCYF provided in-depth training to the grant review panel, and the panel deliberated carefully before making grant decisions that were forwarded to ABC.

DURING THE FIRST GRANT CYCLE

BCYF RECEIVED 488 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS.

**BCYF APPROVED GRANTS TOTALING ALMOST \$9.6
MILLION TO 84 ORGANIZATIONS IN AUGUST 2018**

Recipients were located across Baltimore. Some were firmly established while others were less experienced but had promising programming to engage with children and youth.

**2/3 OF THE RECIPIENTS WERE
LED BY AFRICAN AMERICANS.**

BCYF PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANTEEES

Grantees were able to build their operational capacity and provided support to help grantees have background checks done and obtain insurance.

**ABC PROVIDED SUPPORT RELATED TO FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION.**

A FULL LIST OF ROUND ONE GRANTEEES CAN BE FOUND AT [BCYFUND.ORG](https://bcyf.org).

Along with the grants, BCYF provided hands-on support to help grantees improve their ability to receive, spend and document grants. The BCYF team provided technical assistance to people interested in applying for grants; they also provided support to grantees, including helping them prepare for continuation grants. This deep commitment to supporting grantees through hands-on, expert technical assistance sets BCYF apart in Baltimore grantmaking.

A NEW ORGANIZATION (2020)

In July 2020, the Baltimore City Council and mayor enacted legislation to permanently establish the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund as an independent entity. BCYF, Inc. is now an non-profit organization with a board of directors and a talented team to run the organization – as intended originally by city leaders who conceived the idea of a new youth-focused fund. ABC’s role overseeing BCYF ended June 30, 2020.

The legislation that was passed by the Mayor & Baltimore City Council covers the following areas of BCYF:

- BCYF serves as a steward for children and youth-focused funds generated annually.
- BCYF is currently governed by a transition board of directors of Baltimore City residents, community leaders, philanthropic stakeholders who were named in the ordinance.
- The permanent entity must report regularly to Baltimore City government and concerned citizens.
- BCYF is subject to city audits, public information laws and other reporting requirements.
- Authorized FY 2019 & FY 2020 funds allocated to BCYF could be used for emergency relief efforts
 - \$6 million - Cash assistance for Baltimore residents
 - \$3 million - Computers to support online learning for Baltimore City public school students

Sets guidelines for BCYF dollars that are not spent on grants or technical assistance

- 15% - Administrative costs
- 5% - Public engagement
- 5% - Transition management

Sets guidelines for permanent board composition

- One-third of the board must be Baltimore youth.
- The designees of the Finance Department and Law Department as non-voting members
- A mayoral designee of the Mayor’s Office of Family and Children’s Success
- A designee of the Baltimore City Council

Outlines the process by which allegations of misconduct are brought to the attention of the Baltimore City Council.

Continuation Grants (September 2019 - April 2021)

In Year 1, there were delays in BCYF’s disbursements to many grantees, due in large part to the time required to bring grantees into compliance with contractual requirements for funding. It was essential for BCYF to exercise due diligence as a steward of public resources and simultaneously build capacity in the inaugural class of grantees. This process proved to be time-consuming but critically important.

In Fall 2019, BCYF announced plans to make continuation grants to Round One grantees that met all reporting and compliance requirements of their first grant agreement. Making those continuation grants gave members of BCYF’s first set of grantees the opportunity to perform and demonstrate the impact of their work, while giving BCYF more time to learn from the performance and results of its first round of grants.

During this phase, grantees worked closely with a technical assistance provider to review their round one performance and develop a refined program plan, timeline, budget, and performance targets for the second round of funding. The continuation grant cycle ran from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. The grant cycle was automatically extended by 90 days for all grantees due to COVID-19. Grantees were offered to apply for a second extension, if needed.

Also, to support residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Baltimore City Council in April of 2020 authorized the use of up to \$9 million from the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund to buy food and laptops for children to use during the sudden transition to virtual learning. Up to 15,000 Baltimore residents received a \$400 prepaid debit card to help them pay for essentials via the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance program, managed by the Open Society Institute Baltimore.

OUR PROCESS

A panel of Baltimoreans were selected to serve on BCYF’s initial board of directors and were responsible for organizational oversight and creating a governance structure for the future permanent board. The transition board had deep ties to the community and had been involved in some aspects of BCYF’s work.

Members included people from philanthropic institutions, nonprofit leaders and engaged community members. The term of the transition board ended on December 31, 2021. The transition board was responsible for installing a permanent board, bylaws, and procedures for the future board of directors.

As an independent organization, BCYF now has more permanence and the ability to hire full-time staff. It will continue to strengthen its ability to make grants and provide critical support to community-based organizations serving the city’s young people.

BCYF will maintain its focus on racial equity in its grantmaking and technical assistance and will continue to include the community in its work. BCYF will also continue to build its organizational partnerships, working in collaboration with stakeholders across the public, private and philanthropic sectors to expand much needed opportunities for Baltimore’s young people.

Youth across the city will continue to have access to high-caliber opportunities – and all of Baltimore will benefit.

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT



CREATIVE NOMADS

CREATING FAMILY MEMORIES THROUGH DRUMMING



On an August summer afternoon, West Baltimore's Druid Hill park was transformed into a euphony of harmony, drum beats, and rhythmic community during the culminating event for Creative Nomad's 'Drumming With Dad' program.

A circle, furnished with drums, djembes, maracas and family shared stories that painted pictures of strengthened family bonds, fellowship, and a community forged from beating out rhythms on a drum. Many of whom were Dads directly impacted by the program. One such Dad, named Thomas Cudjoe, stood bold in the circle, his towering presence demanded the attention of children and adults alike. He praised the program for making him "a better father" to his children, Cudjoe exclaimed, "Drumming with Dads' has given me the space and opportunity to spend dedicated time with other fathers, and spending quality time with my children." This sentiment was echoed by other fathers in attendance who nodded in solidarity with Mr. Cudjoe.

Program founder, Kayenesha Daugherty had no idea a dancer cancelling on her a few years ago would grow into a community of men who use one of the oldest musical instruments in history as an avenue to strengthen bonds with both their children and other fathers. Ms. Daugherty described how the program came to fruition as Dads' played the drums in the background as if they were playing their life stories. she explained that Creative Nomad's organizational partners, namely, the Judy Center wanted more Dad centric programming, A call Ms. Daugherty sought to answer, "One day we had an African dance class, and the dancer was not able to make it, so we had Baba Changa do the drums with the kids.....the energy was so different when it was a man and drums, I saw the energy and I was like dang, what would happen if their Dads were actually participating." After the program officially launched, Ms. Daugherty's inquiry was answered. She observed children, who were able to catch on quickly to the drumming, teach their Dads who would sometimes lose patience and become dependent on the expertise of their children. "The program showed children that their parents don't know everything and that their fathers are actually human, and seeing the fathers' learn with their kids, and we could see the dads and children communicate more." For Ms. Daugherty Community voice is important, people wanted to engage Dads and the concept of drumming tied into Creative Nomad's mission of creating greater access to art.

Sadiq Ali, a Dad who participated in Drumming With Dad, also spoke of the impact of the program after spending the summer of 2021 participating with his two sons, "Too many times, the best of what makes us people of color, particularly people of African descent is not lifted up, it's not shared, it's not heralded, it is not lauded" Sadiq Smiled at the drummers, popped the collar of his snazzy Black polo complete with a matching black snapback hat as he pivoted to the importance of the culture embraced and taught in the program, "Culture, culture, culture, if we don't teach culture early to our young people, our kids, they will not learn to value it, they certainly will not duplicate it in the future."

An idea echoed by Ms. Daugherty who even supplied participants with soul food, the cuisine most symbolic with African American culture. Ali reiterated his appreciation for the culture Drumming with Dad brought to his children, "To let them know that our culture as people of African descent has many many beautiful aspects, we got to practice those [aspects] weekly during Drumming with Dad."

LEARN MORE: [THECREATIVENOMADS.ORG](https://thecreativenomads.org)

2021 IMPACT

AVIS RANSOM INSTITUTE



AVIS RANSOM INSTITUTE

Leadership. Education. Integrity.

The voice and presence of Baltimore's youth and young adults are absolutely essential. At BCYF, we value their experiences and analysis not just from a programmatic perspective, from an institutional perspective as well. Oftentimes in the non-profit sector - there is an emphasis on youth serving in leadership positions in organizations without offering the requisite training to be fully involved participants in daily work of running an institution. In witnessing this challenge - BCYF has committed to creating a pipeline of leadership for our young people on how to be honorable and effective managers of power.

BCYF has developed a framework and project plan for a pilot of the Avis Ransom Institute (ARI) which will develop youth partners to sit on the BCYF board, and the boards of other youth-serving organizations and generally engage in supporting the work across the sector.

The institute will be a continuous program of BCYF and run throughout the school year. Applications and interest meetings were released in September 2021 and began in October 2021. So far the institute has had 5 participants - with 4 migrating to serve on the BCYF Board of Directors.

WHAT IS THE AVIS RANSOM INSTITUTE?

Objectives

Youth will be introduced to a framework for advocacy and leadership that will equip them with the tools to develop an advocacy campaign that is community-based.

Youth will learn and be able to apply techniques of self-actualization in order to strengthen their ability to advocate for themselves and their community.

Youth will gain knowledge of the social and civic landscape in order to effectively navigate those environments in ways that are empowering for themselves and their community.

Methodology

THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE TO TEACH STUDENTS HOW TO BE HONORABLE AND EFFECTIVE MANAGERS OF POWER." - JOHN HENRIK CLARKE

IN THE PRE-CIVIL RIGHTS ERA, AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH LIVED IN COMMUNITIES, ATTENDED SCHOOLS, AND CHURCHES, AND WERE MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT, IN RESPONSE TO THE LARGER SOCIETY'S EXPLICIT IDEOLOGY ABOUT AFRICAN AMERICANS' INTELLECTUAL COMPETENCE, COMMUNICATED A COUNTER-NARRATIVE ABOUT THEIR INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY." - THERESA PERRY

There are two core components of the youth development framework. The first is the cultivation of social and cultural identity rooted in social justice. This includes guided exercises in self-exploration that help to ground young people in a sense of themselves that is culturally affirming. This allows youth to draw from strength-based notions of themselves and their community, instead of deficit models that facilitate notions of dependence and inherent pathology. The second core component of our youth development framework is an orientation around the acquisition and cultivation of power. When youth are grounded in a sense of themselves and their community, their ability to effectively advocate for themselves and their community requires a knowledge of how to navigate and cultivate power. These two components together comprise the basis of our methodology of youth leadership development.

Avis spent her life working to create a better Baltimore. Her body of work ranges from working cooperatives to investing in the lives of Baltimore's youth. Avis was a member of BUILD in its beginnings. She was most proud of its ability to amass grassroots power to eventually have an impact on the state budget.

She keenly understood the importance of Black people being able to exercise power over the distribution of resources. Avis was one of the lead trainers of BRJA. She has trained many of the most respected minds on racial justice in Baltimore.

2021 ARI PARTICIPANTS

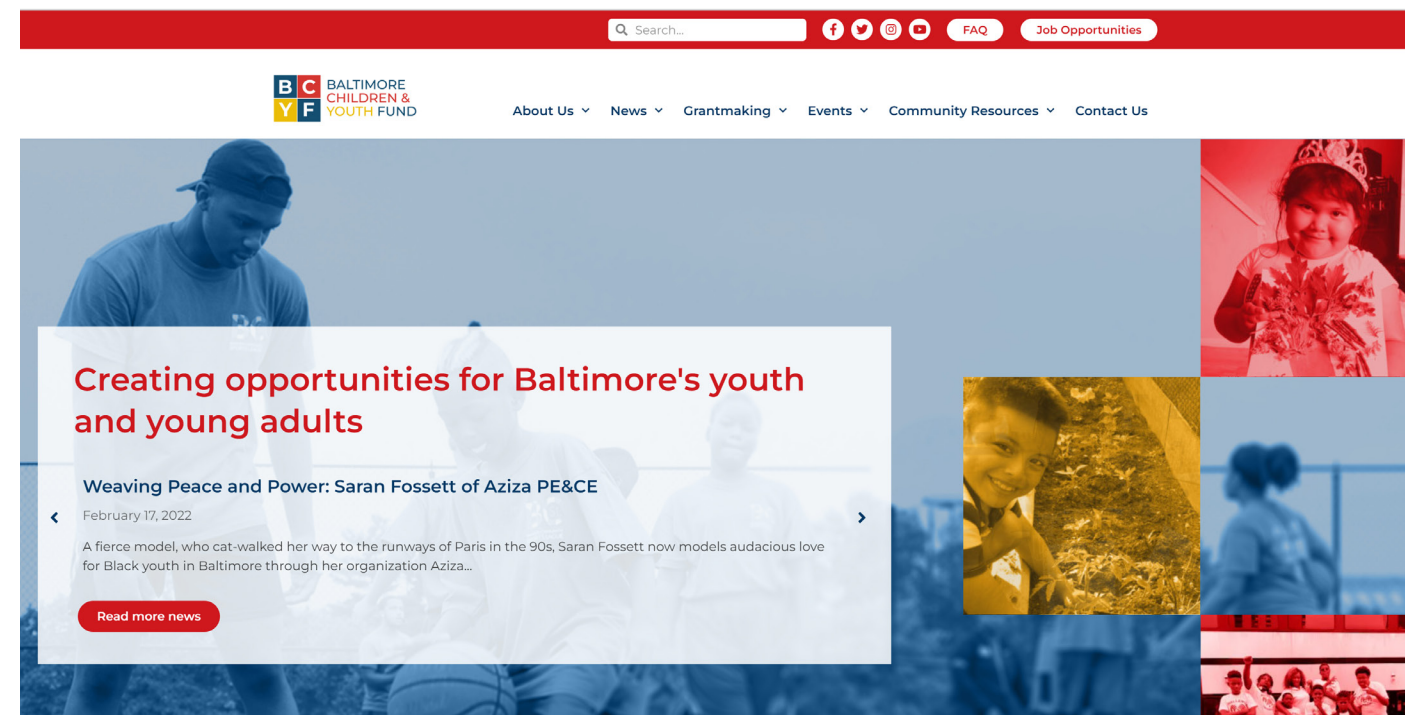
Aaron Brown
Lanaye Drake
Jon Gray
Darius X
Louis Williams III

2021 IMPACT

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Team is responsible for alerting the Baltimore community about BCYF programming, initiatives, and partnership opportunities. In 2021, BCYF onboarded a full consultant team to administer all its public-facing platforms to the Baltimore community.

2021 marked the implementation of a consistent communications strategy for BCYF. A skilled team of consultants was responsible for the development of strategy and public-facing content to introduce BCYF to the broader public. In addition to providing day-to-day communications support - the Communications Team is also responsible for creating consistent and engaging content for Baltimore residents.



Website Redesign

BCYF completed its website update and launched a user-friendly version of the website at BCYFund.org. The site was designed and implemented through collaboration with Fireside Digital.

Monthly Newsletter

BCYF launched its monthly newsletter, The Community Connector, and published its first two issues in September and October. The newsletter features grantee spotlights that lift up our grantees' programs and accomplishments, BCYF News and Events, and Community Events and Resources.

Social Media

The BCYF YouTube channel is an excellent source of free, on-demand content which includes videos from and of grantees, recordings of the recruitment events/grantee showcases, public events, and community-based technical assistance.

Social media feeds are now regularly updated and the communications team has become integrated into the leadership and management teams.

2021 IMPACT

STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

Grantmaking

In December 2020, BCYF began to identify potential aligned grantmaking partners for FY21. BCYF seeks to support existing collaborative efforts where a funding gap may exist, particularly in support of organizations with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) leaders. Aligned grantmaking also lifts some of the administrative burden from BCYF, allowing the team to continue building internal infrastructure during this start-up phase.

BCYF identified fiscal sponsorship as a critical need to support grassroots organizations' ability to access and manage public funds, which carries significantly more requirements than private funds. As a result of this pressing need, BCYF awarded a multi-year grant to Fusion Partnerships, a fiscal sponsorship for numerous BCYF grantees and a partner committed to BCYF's values.

BCYF also began working through the details of grant agreements for FY21 investments into the Summer Funding Collaborative and Fusion Partnerships.

Additionally, BCYF awarded a grant to the Summer Funding Collaborative, managed by Baltimore's Promise, a collaboration of local funders that supports summer programs throughout the City. BCYF's more than \$2 million investment into the Summer Funding Collaborative pushed the 2022 funding cycle to more \$5 million. BCYF's priority areas were programs run by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-led organizations and programs serving older youth ages 14-24. BCYF also committed funds for technical assistance to support the application and reporting process for grantees, plus general capacity-building opportunities for all Summer Funding Collaborative recipients.

Finally, BCYF invested in BCIITY (Baltimore City Intergenerational Initiatives for Trauma and Youth). BCYF will invest \$1 million to sustain the work of this coalition in central west Baltimore that focuses on addressing youth violence and trauma. B-CIITY was created through a federal grant by residents, community activists, service providers and youth to provide resources to local organizations that are working to address youth violence and trauma. This coalition has demonstrated a commitment Black, grassroots leadership that is aligned with the values of BCYF.

ABOUT OUR PARTNERS

Baltimore Summer Funding Collaborative (SFC) – A partnership between public, private and nonprofit organizations that supports high-quality summer programs serving children and youth from low-income backgrounds in Baltimore City.

Fusion Partnerships – Through collaborative action, including fiscal sponsorship, facilitation, and community grantmaking, Fusion Partnerships works as a catalyst for social justice and peace. The organization provides fiscal sponsorship services and capacity building support to a wide variety of grassroots community programs and organizations.

BCIITY (Baltimore City Intergenerational Initiatives for Trauma and Youth) - The B-CIITY mission is to promote healing and thrive-ability through collaboration, resource generation, and network-building for organizations that serve youth and their families experiencing trauma.

2021 IMPACT

COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Youth Development Series

In Partnership with **Maryland Mentors** and **Strategic Resource Group (SRG)**, BCYF launched a Youth Development Technical Assistance series in April 2021. Our focus was to focus Youth Development sphere - with training and TA being focused in the realms of organizational/operational support, youth violence prevention, and youth entrepreneurship. We wanted to allow exposure for participants to a combination of mentoring and youth development best practices, along with creating the opportunity for a solid foundation for those individuals operating community-based youth-oriented programs and organizations.

The sessions covered a bevy of topics designed to positively influence the work of youth service providers - including

- How to Build an effective Community-Based Youth Mentoring Program with Best Practices
- Virtual Programming to Engage and Retain Youth
- Best Practices for Group Mentoring
- Partnership Development 101 for Community Based Mentoring Programs
- Incorporating Authentic Youth Voice and Creating Youth-Friendly Programming
- Engaging Families in Youth Development Activities



Each session averaged 25 participants for the general sessions and about a dozen organizations attending the corresponding small group TA sessions.

This TA series culminated in the **Baltimore City Youth Development Forum** – held November 11 – 12, 2021, and hosted by MENTOR Maryland | DC and Strategic Resources Group. This virtual gathering, featured well known and respected practitioners from Baltimore and beyond, was designed to bring adult youth development staff, stakeholders, and leaders together to learn, network, and grow.

These sessions helped BCYF meet our goal of providing community-based technical assistance (TA) in 2021. All nonprofit organizations serving Baltimore City youth and youth adults, as well as those thinking about starting nonprofits to serve youth, were eligible to benefit from services.

Fiscal Sponsorship

BCYF started the series of community-based offerings with a January 28, 2021 panel discussion on “Understanding Baltimore’s Fiscal Sponsorship Landscape” via Facebook Live. BCYF identified fiscal sponsorship as a key component to serving grassroots organizations because a number of programs use fiscal hosting as an initial incubator and/or to provide back-office infrastructure. The webinar covered the state of Baltimore’s fiscal sponsorship ecosystem, the importance and relevance of fiscal hosts, and ways to improve the fiscal sponsorship landscape to better serve grassroots organizations. More than 70 participants attended the virtual event. BCYF will host another session on fiscal sponsorship in March, focused on programs currently in fiscal sponsorship relationships and programs thinking about fiscal sponsorship.

BCYF is testing topics, presentation styles, and platforms to inform how community-based TA should be provided in the future and will incorporate feedback surveys into future events.

BCYF hosted direct TA opportunities to the public during this time period and partnered with other organizations to promote their TA opportunities to grassroots organizations. All programming was provided free of charge to participants.

Sustainability

On the evening of April 5 and April 12, 2021, BCYF presented **Success Stories and Potential Opportunities and Developing an Infrastructure for Success**, providing training on building and accessing alternative funding streams. Sessions were provided virtually. Kendrick Staley of the President’s Roundtable led both sessions.

Program Development

BCYF provided funding for youth service providers to attend the Black Children Losing Hope Conference on April 27 which provided tools and strategies to address suicide among Black children and youth. The conference was led by Michael Lindsey, Executive Director of NYU Silver’s McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research.

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT



BEYOND THE NATURAL FOUNDATION CREATING SAFE SPACE FOR YOUTH ARTISTIC EXPRESSION



Robert Levine, a former actuary by day and musician by night, found his transition from crunching numbers 8-hours a day to teaching music to Baltimore’s youths an easy one. He recalls a childhood where his mother sang in a band around Baltimore, while his dad would play records by a famous R&B band named Earth, Wind, and Fire, also known as the ‘mighty elements’. His love of music- impressed upon him by his parents- bloomed to the extent he would bang on pots and pans to emulate the drummers he would hear on his father’s records.

“When my mom got tired of me damaging her furniture, and messing up her pots and pans, and stuff like that, they finally decided to invest in a drum set for me.” His first set was a Mickey Mouse set that was also destroyed.

Though enjoying the financial comfort of being a full-time actuary, Levine longed to venture into a career path that cemented him in his passion and his first love. After 12 years of statistical data crunching, he launched a music program named Beyond The Natural. A year before incorporating his new program, Mr. Levine worked with kids in a program managed by his cousin. He would meet with about eight youths in a lobby every Tuesday and perform musical activities.

Though no longer destroying furniture or drum sets to make music, Mr. Levine’s organization is making a difference in the lives of young people in Baltimore.

Levine recounts the impact his program has had on youth, in some respects, youths society had given up on. While contracting with the Victor Cullens center, of the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services in Hagerstown, Mr. Levine saw an opening to change lives for the better. “All the young guys just wanted to rap, they want[ed] to spit their bars and do their thing, which we embraced.”

The young men at the Victor Cullens center participating in the program were asked to express themselves musically in a way that made them feel most comfortable. Mr. Levine recounted his initial experience, “What we want you to do is get in the booth and just let it out, so of course they get in the booth and it’s just like they done slayed the whole block, they done shot up the community.” Without passing judgment or offering harsh criticism, Beyond The Natural challenged the young men to rap about particular topics that affirm aspects of community- without telling the young men they could not use profanity- the young men began to make music without any traces of violence or profanity.

A moment of pride for Mr. Levine, the young men making positive music reminded him of why he chose the name Beyond The Natural for his program, “Looking beyond all the natural circumstances that may be around you. In Baltimore, we all have the violence, just different crime, and different economic barriers and challenges that our youth and everyone deals with on some level.”

Levine realized that music is an instrument to convey whatever feeling the human condition requires- if you want to party or love, there is music for that- if you want to change the community, he has a music program for that.

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT



WIDE ANGLE YOUTH MEDIA CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Wide Angle Youth Media is widening the narrowed angle by which youth-serving nonprofits utilize the talents and know-how of Baltimore’s youth. With a mission to ‘cultivate and amplify youth voice’ Development & Communications Director, Moira Fratantuono, believes that media arts that are utilized to tell stories should be accessible to as many youths as possible and she boasts how Wide Angle teaches youths to do just that in the most practical way, “Our goal is to provide spaces where they [youth] get to tell their own stories, own their own narratives, center their gaze, and highlight what’s important to them.”

Since the year 2000, Wide Angle Media has worked with over 6,500 young people in Baltimore, producing hundreds of digital projects from film shorts, photography, and documentaries. Being a white-led non-profit organization that works with 80-95% of Black youth annually, the importance of Black youth voice is omnipresent in their work. Destiny Brown, a college sophomore, is one such youth whose voice was given a platform at Wide Angle, now teaches the actor’s workshop, “My future goal is to become [a] part of the force that is diversifying mainstream stage, television, and film works as a producer, director, and actress.”

According to the Hollywood Diversity Report, released annually by the University of California, Los Angeles, there is an uptick in women and people of color representation in Hollywood. The “Hollywood Diversity Report 2021: Pandemic in Progress” accounted for streaming properties for the first time to adjust to the impact that covid-19 had on theatrical releases in 2020. The report revealed that more women and non-white talent were retained as lead actors, principal cast members, writers, and directors. While this is long overdue progress, Wide Angle Media has been working to bridge the gap between Black youth and the industry for two decades, “Who’s telling those stories, because we need that same diversity and representation in terms of who is in the writers’ room. Who’s making the decisions on what shots are being integrated into a video or into a piece of media. It has to happen at every level or we’re not going to undo some of the shortcomings that currently exist in media.” Moira Fratantuono explained.

With the introduction of a new drama program, students are now learning dynamics from both behind and in front of the camera. For those who aren’t interested in acting, Their workforce training program matriculates youth from trainees into Wide Angle’s staff who have honed their skills as industry professionals.

While speaking on a film using the words of Amanda Gorman’s poem The Hill We Climb, Destiny Brown reflected on her time at Wide Angle and what it has done for her, “I would’ve never thought to or had the opportunity to create a collaborative piece of this nature if it weren’t for the empowerment I received from Wide Angle.”

Moira made the mission of Wide Angle quite clear and did not shy away from the necessity of white leadership deferring to the voices of Black youth and producing work from the gaze of Black youth, pushing them into, “going deep on different issues, so it can be things they wanna celebrate, or just depictions of joy in their communities because we know that frequently those are not the stories shared by outsiders putting their gaze in on [Black] communities.”

Wide Angle Media made a splash in 2020 with a virtual prom that was featured on CNN and are continuing their mission to bring media arts to as many youth as they can serve. Moira pressed the point of listening to young people and teaching them to use their authentic voice because “All of our young people have something important to share, whether or not they’re told that is something else.”

WIDEANGLEMEDIA.ORG



INSTITUTION BUILDING

MOVING TO A PERMANENT BOARD

Transition Board

The City ordinance that established BCYF, Inc. as the permanent intermediary of BCYF named eight members to the Transition Board, with a term ending no later than December 2021. From these eight members, five members were selected as officers and the Board formed four committees, in accordance with the bylaws:

- Executive Committee
- Race Equity Committee
- Audit Committee
- Community Engagement/Communications Committee

Each committee met at least once in 2020. Similar to the consultant team, the Transition Board spent the first few months building relationships, creating working agreements, understanding their roles, and managing numerous requirements associated with a start-up organization, including executing contracts, setting the calendar for Board meetings, establishing roles, and managing emergent needs. Individual board members also supported the consultant team with thought leadership and coaching, particularly during the first few months of transition. The Board also began the process of selecting a first President through the creation of a Hiring Committee and determining next steps. Public board meetings were held in July, September and November 2020 via Zoom.

The Transition Board made several decisions of significant importance to the grantee portfolio and the youth served by these organizations. A few of these decisions were made prior to July 1, however, board members provided additional support as the consultant team worked through implementation. These decisions provided some relief to grantees managing twin crises: the economic fallout created by COVID-19 (keeping their doors open) and providing services to youth and young adults at a critical time in a socially distanced environment. The Transition Board approved the following changes of significance:

- Approved flexibility in the use of grants funds due to the impact of COVID-19 by converting programmatic funds to general operating grants to be used in compliance with BCYF values and the ordinance.
- Approved the consideration of continuation grants to programs fiscally sponsored by Strong City that had moved on to new fiscal sponsors
- Automatically extended the grant cycle 90 days due to delays with contracting and sudden COVID-19 closures, and offered grantees the opportunity to apply for an additional extension if needed.
- Extended the budget modification period 90 days to coincide with Baltimore City Schools decision whether to offer in-person or virtual learning for Fall 2021.
- Expedited the release of the second half of grant funds to organizations in good standing.

Permanent Board

In January 2021, BCYF announced its first permanent Board of Directors. The new permanent board members engaged in an open process and were ultimately approved by the Baltimore City Board of Estimates. The transition Board served through December 2021, therefore, a permanent board of directors were installed to mark the end of BCYF's transition year.

New members included Keona Gorham, Marcus E. Pollock, Larry Simmons, and Lisa Molock. In order to maintain continuity of leadership, several permanent board members also served on the transition board. Returning board members include John Morris, Catherine Benton-Jones, Kirsten Allen, Jacqueline Caldwell, and the Chair of the Board, Dion Cartwright.

In October of 2021, several dozen Baltimoreans responded to an open call to attend a virtual information session about joining the BCYF Board of Directors. The applicants underwent an open and transparent selection process akin to the city's Civilian Review Board selection process. Including an open City Council hearing where applicants provided testimony and answered questions from council members and members of the community. The Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee, chaired by Councilman Schleifer, screened applicants who also attended a hearing with the city council at large, and were ultimately approved by the Baltimore City Board of Estimates.

Local Government, Compliance & Legislation

The consultant team worked with the Offices of the City Council, Mayor, and Comptroller to finalize the hearing dates and required documentation to carry out the ordinance's requirements of a City Council hearing and Board of Estimates approval of the bylaws and initial permanent Board slate.

City Council Hearings

April 29, 2021

- BCYF appeared before the Baltimore City Council Education, Workforce and Youth Committee on April 29, per the requirement of the City ordinance naming BCYF, Inc. the permanent intermediary. Though BCYF did not complete the verbal presentation due to time, a copy of the written presentation submitted to the committee is on the www.bcyfund.org home page.
- Per the requirement in the ordinance, BCYF submitted its 2020 report to the City. BCYF also responded to several requests made through the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) and notified grantees about the MPIA request for grantee reports.

December 2, 2021

- BCYF appeared before the Baltimore City Council Education, Workforce and Youth Committee to provide a status report of BCYF.

December 16, 2021

- BCYF appeared before the Baltimore City Council Legislative Oversight Committee to present the newly selected member of the BCYF Board of Directors.

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT



AFRIKAN YOUTH ALCHEMY REFOCUSING THE GAZE



African Youth Alchemy uses media and the arts to create cultural ambassadors of African Descent to educate themselves and their community. An outgrowth of an Atlanta-based organization, Helping Africa By Establishing Schools at Home and Abroad (HABESHA), AYA has redefined cultural education for Baltimore's youth, "When I say cultural education, particularly for African descendent young people, I mean the knowledge and history that they don't particularly get in school of themselves, their communities, the study of their own family lineage, their connection to various diasporic communities and so forth" explains program founder, Ras Tre.

During the HABESHA days, youth would travel from all ends of Baltimore City to connect at a church every Sunday afternoon in Baltimore's Station North neighborhood. The youth came from diverse backgrounds, but they all had one thing in common- to make it to Africa, "Youth would travel, get outdoor experience, and fundraise and eventually travel to Africa" recounts Ras Tre. After years of success traveling to Africa with youth who otherwise would never have the opportunity, Ras Tre decided to take his programming to the next level-creating cultural education with film and photography using what his apprentices have coined as experiential education, which Ras Tre describes as, "education which means getting young people out of classrooms in front of teachers and getting them into the community."

The projects have been a great success, to the extent that two program alums are now working with HBO and others are now full-time program staff. The goal, at the very least, is for AYA's youth to be prepared to walk into an entry-level media production position or start their own business, with a critical cultural lens, prepared to create media that reflects the best of who Black people are. Ras Tre explains, "We see so much media that is a misrepresentation of who we are." This is largely due to a lack of Black people behind the scenes in Hollywood despite gains in representation made during the covid-19 epidemic.

The Color of Change reported that Over 90% of showrunners are white, two-thirds of shows had no Black writers at all, and another 17% of shows had just one Black writer.

Whatever the challenges, AYA is pushing forward with its mission, and in doing so, setting its youth up for optimal success. Ras Tre combined his love of film with the mission of HABESHA, to expose Baltimore's youth to global Black culture, while using film and photography to bridge gaps and build global solidarity, "The culminating experience with that [program] was also traveling with young people to Ghana, West Africa. It was an opportunity to explore and travel, but it was also an opportunity to develop a portfolio, a body of work, photography wise, that would help set them apart from other young people in Baltimore."

AYA Youth, Ui-Seng Francois, explains, "I had been feeling the urge to get a camera and take pictures, Griot Works provided this and so much more. The fact that Griot Works [AYA] was able to provide each of us with a camera for free and a studio space is a blessing. All of the personal projects that the program assigned to us opened up a well of creative expression. In addition to learning the basics of how to work a camera, we also were blessed with a dynamic variety of guest artists and speakers."

After a decade of doing this work it is clear that cultural competency is important to Ras Tre when creating stories using the gaze of cameras and lenses, he explained plainly, "Our greatest stories come from our history." By looking back in order to look forward AYA is proffering Black youth in Baltimore an authentic and safe space to develop their voice, develop their critical thinking skills, and be able to make connections to tangibly move the needle toward any issue they're addressing using media arts from the unique gaze of Baltimore's African Descendent youth.



LOOKING AHEAD

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM BCYF IN 2022:

BCYF WILL RELEASE IT'S GRANTMAKING FRAMEWORK FOR OUR NEWLY ESTABLISHED GRASSROOTS FUND IN 2022.

BCYF WILL BE ADDING YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS IN 2022
Through the Avis Ransom Institute. It is an exciting opportunity to meaningfully incorporate youth leadership into the organizations based on our values.

FINALIZING BOTH THE LEARNING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK AND RACE EQUITY FRAMEWORK.

This next year will be critical, particularly as new staff and board members join the team. If we have done our work well, BCYF will be a permanent example of true investment into our community by the people for the people.

We are looking forward to carrying out our bold and ambitious vision for a better Baltimore and - most importantly - our youth and young adults.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY2020

Statement of Financial Position - July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 M&T Main Acct (2938)	1,054,452.67
1015 M&T 2nd Acct (2920)	-20.00
1020 M&T 3rd Acct (2953)	-10.00
1072 Bill.com Money Out Clearing	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 1,054,422.67
Accounts Receivable	
1200 Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,054,422.67
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,054,422.67
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	444,199.54
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 444,199.54
Other Current Liabilities	
2700 Deferred Revenue	575,928.86
2710 Other Accrued Liabilities	34,294.27
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 610,223.13
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,054,422.67
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,054,422.67
Equity	
3500 Unrestricted Net Assets	
Net Revenue	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 1,054,422.67

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BCYF 2021 Annual Report

Statement of Activity - July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

	1-Admin	2-Community Engagement	3-Grantmaking	TOTAL
Revenue				
4000 Contributions	711,402.57	159,848.02	5,640,151.55	6,511,402.14
Total Revenue	\$ 711,402.57	\$ 159,848.02	\$ 5,640,151.55	\$ 6,511,402.14
Gross Profit	\$ 711,402.57	\$ 159,848.02	\$ 5,640,151.55	\$ 6,511,402.14
Expenditures				
5100 Fringe Benefits			1,371.00	1,371.00
5200 Professional Fees	632,636.10	148,007.43	519,701.25	1,300,344.78
5325 Bank & Payroll Fees	30.00			30.00
5375 Insurance, Corporate	6,200.00		8,371.00	14,571.00
5450 Grants			5,042,852.84	5,042,852.84
5500 Membership Dues	9,520.00			9,520.00
5625 Rent	4,840.00			4,840.00
5725 Supplies	4,673.01			4,673.01
5750 Telecommunications	806.97			806.97
5875 Operational Support Fees	52,696.49	11,840.59	67,855.46	132,392.54
Total Expenditures	\$ 711,402.57	\$ 159,848.02	\$ 5,640,151.55	\$ 6,511,402.14
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Net Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY2021

Statement of Financial Position - January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 M&T Main Acct (2938)	1,054,452.67
1015 M&T 2nd Acct (2920)	-20.00
1020 M&T 3rd Acct (2953)	-10.00
1072 Bill.com Money Out Clearing	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 1,054,422.67
Accounts Receivable	
1200 Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,054,422.67
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,054,422.67
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	444,199.54
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 444,199.54
Other Current Liabilities	
2700 Deferred Revenue	575,928.86
2710 Other Accrued Liabilities	34,294.27
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 610,223.13
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,054,422.67
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,054,422.67
Equity	
3500 Unrestricted Net Assets	
Net Revenue	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 1,054,422.67

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Activity - January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021

	1-Admin	2-Community Engagement	3-Grantmaking	TOTAL
Revenue				
4000 Contributions	780,611.39	243,424.44	5,624,874.55	6,648,910.38
Total Revenue	\$ 780,611.39	\$ 243,424.44	\$ 5,624,874.55	\$ 6,648,910.38
Gross Profit	\$ 780,611.39	\$ 243,424.44	\$ 5,624,874.55	\$ 6,648,910.38
Expenditures				
5200 Professional Fees	700,715.80	220,512.49	566,850.00	1,488,078.29
5300 Advertising/Promotional		1,950.00		1,950.00
5325 Bank & Payroll Fees	-30.00			-30.00
5375 Insurance, Corporate			10,154.50	10,154.50
5450 Grants			5,000,209.69	5,000,209.69
5500 Membership Dues	9,520.00			9,520.00
5625 Rent	5,280.00			5,280.00
5725 Supplies	7,302.52	2,930.51		10,233.03
5875 Operational Support Fees	57,823.07	18,031.44	47,660.36	123,514.87
Total Expenditures	\$ 780,611.39	\$ 243,424.44	\$ 5,624,874.55	\$ 6,648,910.38
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Net Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT



BALTIMORE URBAN BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ENDING THE YEAR WITH A HOMERUN

When traveling on I-95 north into Downtown Baltimore, one may be shocked to learn that the tall landmark embossed with the name Baltimore written vertically is in fact, a trash incinerator. You may be even more shocked to learn that this site, where our city burns trash, was once home to a proud Negro League Baseball history, now that legacy is in the ashes of the city’s memory, literally and figuratively. Well, that is until Andrew Wetlinger, a Baltimore native and Baseball professional, founded BUBA, the Baltimore Urban Baseball Association.

The Baltimore Urban Baseball Association, or BUBA for short, is a state of the art baseball/softball training center that rivals even that of University or professional training facilities. The facilities boasts elite training equipment and programs that have caught the eyes of Coppin State, Towson, Johns Hopkins, and University of Maryland Baltimore County’s baseball programs, all of whom have committed to conducting their off-season training at BUBA.

Andrew Wetlinger describes himself as a local guy whose life was defined by baseball. Many years before BUBA was a gem in the heart of Pigtown, South Baltimore, Andrew was a star baseball player at Calvert Hall College High School. He was drafted out of high school by the Houston Astros, but Andrew chose instead to attend college, “I went to school at Calvert Hall, I took a full scholarship to Cal State Fullerton which is a perennial national championship program.” At that time, Andrew was the first out-of-state athlete to receive the coveted full-scholarship. His experience at California State, Fullerton is now a cautionary tale Andrew uses to encourage the athletes at his facility. In an unfortunate turn of events, Andrew failed off the team one year before they won the national championship.

He came back to Baltimore and played for Towson University. “My career ended up being pretty uneventful and a little bit disappointing compared to what I was projected to do when I was younger. That created a lot of trauma in me, that trauma I used in a positive way to drive me into success.” Andrew recounts.

After successful completion of his undergraduate at Towson University, Andrew took a job at Merrill Lynch where he would remain for the next 22-years of his life and managed a portfolio of 1.5 billion dollars. In the spirit of the old cliché money can’t buy happiness Andrew’s love of baseball continued to call him. He found himself volunteering on the baseball team at Digital Harbor high school, a commitment that was supposed to pass the time, until he found himself developing bonds with the athletes and advocating for more practices and games.

In those defining moments, Andrew realized for the first time in his life the disparity between the worlds of baseball. On one hand you have Baltimore, largely black and low to moderate income and on the other hand you have the surrounding counties, largely white and mid to upper middle class. “Baseball and softball have a huge diversity issue, ok, and we’re here to advocate and help with that” argues Andrew.

After 18-months of renovating and repurposing an old warehouse, Andrew now has what he believes to be America’s only free baseball/softball training facility for minority athletes, “Now we have this facility, and we run pretty much daily programming here. The market cost of the programming we provide is valued at around \$5-8000.00 per year per kid and we give it to Baltimore kids for free.” As ambitious as BUBA is, it has been sustained largely by volunteers, guys in and around Baltimore City who share in Andrew’s love of baseball. Andrew put out a call and former players from all backgrounds came out to help, including Casper Wells, former professional baseball player, notably with the Chicago White Sox and Detroit Tigers. Andrew himself has neither taken a salary or paid himself for his service to the program.

BUBA’s mission is to serve Baltimore City Public School students who want to experience the wonders of baseball and softball. Andrew stated, pretty adamantly, that BUBA is not here to serve the wealthy Baltimore families who can send their children to private schools, but the public school students who do not often get opportunities. His drive is the fact that potential MLB talent from Baltimore is often overlooked, “No one has been drafted into the MLB from a Baltimore High school in over 21-years. There have been over 30 drafted from private schools in the Baltimore metro area” Andrew explained. When asked how BUBA would change this, Andrew made a bold promise to double Baltimore’s little league baseball participation in the next five years.

“I’m left-handed so I have all these crazy Ideas,” joked Andrew as he sat under an enclosed Towson University Baseball Jersey. Baltimore’s baseball legacy has seen it’s high and its lows. Once a city with two Negro league teams, the Black Sox and Elite Giants, from the 714 homeruns hit by Pigtown’s own Babe Ruth, from three World Series Titles held by the Baltimore Orioles to virtually no high schools having teams is a reality Andrew is not willing to concede to, so we now have BUBA.

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*BCYF is actively hiring permanent staff members for our executive leadership team and support staff.



Baltimore Children and Youth Fund

info@bcyfund.org | www.bcyfund.org

ANNOUNCING THE GRASSROOTS FUND



The Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF) is happy to announce that a new Request for Proposals (RFP) is underway for 2022. As part of a multi-layered approach to community-centered grantmaking, the upcoming RFP will be the BCYF Grassroots Fund.

The Grassroots Fund is designed to support, through seed capital, smaller organizations whose operating budget does not exceed over \$250,000 in one fiscal year. Organizations led by Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian people are prioritized in this Fund; decision-making processes are structured through a community-based grants review panel.

“The launch of this RFP is exciting for BCYF and for Baltimore! Our decision to offer multi-year general operating support to grassroots organizations helps position our small nonprofits in Baltimore to succeed,” said Dion Cartwright, Board Chair for BCYF. “The Grassroots Fund also helps build the organizational capacity of these programs to a point where they can be responsive to their own needs and responsive to crises. It also encourages innovation and helps them explore new opportunities to serve our youth.”

“We believe that the Grassroots Fund is an excellent opportunity to invest in community driven programming for Baltimore youth,” said Alysia Lee, president of BCYF. “Grassroots, youth-serving programs in Black and Brown communities are often seeking resources each year for their programming. This means that organizations in our communities are lacking the necessary resources to build the infrastructure for our organizations to thrive. We believe this investment strategy will have a tremendously positive impact on the sector and – more importantly – Baltimore City youth.”

You should apply if your organization:

- ...is Baltimore City-based and serves children and youth ages 24 years and under.
- ...is a Maryland 501(c)(3) organization or has a confirmed Fiscal Sponsorship.
- ...has an organizational budget that totals \$250,000 or less.

Important Dates

The full Request for Proposals (RFP) – which will contain the grant application questions and key details about the grantmaking process – will become available March 15th, 2022.

**The submission portal will open on
April 15th, 2022 and close on May 15th, 2022.**

All information related to the Grassroots Fund will be available on the BCYF website – www.bcyfund.org. Please email info@bcyf.org if you have any questions.

BYLAWS
BALTIMORE CITY
CHILDREN & YOUTH FUND

- *Baltimore City Charter* – Article 1 -Subtitle 13 – Children and Youth Fund
- *Baltimore City Code* – Article 5 – Subtitle 9 – Children and Youth Fund

See attached

- (1) money appropriated to the fund in the annual Ordinances of Estimates; and
- (2) grants or donations made to the fund.

(c) *Continuing nature of fund.*

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, unspent portions of a fund established under this section:

- (1) remain in the fund, to be used exclusively for their ordained purposes;
- (2) do not revert to the general revenues of the City; and
- (3) their appropriations do not lapse.

(Res. 11-032, ratified Nov. 9, 2011.)

§ 13. Children and Youth Fund.

(a) *Fund established; Scope.*

- (1) There is a continuing, nonlapsing Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund, to be used exclusively for purposes of establishing new and augmenting existing programs for and services to the children and youth of this City.
- (2) These programs and services must be from among those designed to:
 - (i) ensure that Baltimore's children and youth are healthy, are ready to learn and succeed in school, and live in stable, safe, and supportive families and communities;
 - (ii) ensure that Baltimore City supports families as an important part of the City population and civic culture;
 - (iii) focus on the prevention of problems and on supporting and enhancing the strengths of children, youth, and their families;
 - (iv) complement the City's community development efforts;
 - (v) strengthen community-based networks of recreation and after-school services in all neighborhoods; and
 - (vi) ensure that children and youth with the highest needs receive maximum benefit from the Fund.
- (3) The Fund shall be administered in accordance with the following standards:
 - (i) programs and services shall be provided and funds allocated based on best practices and successful and innovative models;

- (ii) to the maximum extent feasible, funds shall be allocated equitably among services for all age groups – from infancy to transitional-aged youth;
- (iii) programs and services shall be gender-responsive and culturally competent; and
- (iv) programs and services shall be designed to strengthen collaboration among service providers for children, youth, and their families, including collaboration among public agencies and non-profit organizations.

Editor's Note: For statutory requirements governing the proposal, adoption, and publication of administrative rules and regulations, see General Provisions Article, Title 4 {"Administrative Procedure Act – Regulations"}.

(b) *Limitations on use.*

The Children and Youth Fund may not be used to substitute for or replace funding for children and youth programs or services provided in the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2017, except to the extent that federal, state, or private agency funds for those programs or services have since been discontinued.

(c) *Revenue sources.*

The Children and Youth Fund shall comprise:

- (1) a mandatory annual appropriation in the Ordinance of Estimates of an amount equal to at least \$0.03 on every \$100 of assessed or assessable value of all property in the City of Baltimore (except property exempt by law); and
- (2) grants and donations made to the Fund.

(d) *Continuing nature of Fund.*

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, unspent portions of the Children and Youth Fund:

- (1) remain in the Fund, to be used exclusively for its specified purposes;
- (2) do not revert to the general revenues of the City; and
- (3) their appropriations do not lapse.

(e) *Implementation.*

By Ordinance, the Mayor and City Council shall provide for the oversight, governance, and administration of the Children and Youth Fund, including:

- (1) methods and criteria for identifying specific program and services eligible for funding by the Fund;

- (2) methods and criteria for allocating available funds among eligible programs and services; and
- (3) the establishment of any other legislative or administrative rules, regulations, or standards, consistent with this section, governing the Fund, its operations, and programs and services funded by it.

(Res. 16-026, ratified Nov. 8, 2016.)

§ 14. Affordable housing trust fund.

(a) *Fund established: scope.*

There is a continuing, nonlapsing fund to be used to promote fair housing in neighborhoods throughout Baltimore, develop and preserve affordable housing for renters and homeowners, and increase affordable housing opportunities for low-income working families and other persons of low income, including:

- (1) providing assistance, by loan, grant, rental subsidy, or otherwise, for the planning, production, maintenance, or expansion of affordable housing, including inclusionary housing;
- (2) providing predevelopment activities for the acquisition, development, new construction, rehabilitation, and/or restoration of affordable housing;
- (3) providing capital and operating assistance for the creation of community land trusts that will develop, own, or operate permanently affordable rental housing and assist low income residents to build a path to homeownership;
- (4) providing affordable and fair-housing related services to low income households to assist them in obtaining housing and remaining stably housed, provided such uses shall not exceed 30% of the funds allocated in a given fiscal year; and
- (5) providing administrative and planning costs for the operation of the trust fund, provided such uses may not exceed 5% of the funds allocated each fiscal year.

(b) *Revenue sources.*

A fund established under this section may comprise:

- (1) money appropriated to the fund in the annual Ordinance of Estimates;
- (2) grants or donations made to the fund;
- (3) mandatory or voluntary payments made pursuant to the development policies established by ordinance;
- (4) a portion of the tax increment financing revenue from increased property tax receipts for the development of affordable housing inside the project area and special taxing district, or in other locations as permitted by law; and

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SEE NEXT PAGE(S)

**SUBTITLE 9
CHILDREN AND YOUTH FUND****§ 9-1. Definitions.***(a) In general.*

In this subtitle, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(b) Board.

“Board” means the Board of Directors of the fiscal agent.

(c) Fiscal agent.

“Fiscal agent” means the entity designated by § 9-4(a) of this subtitle to administer the Fund and this subtitle.

(d) Fund.

“Fund” means the Children and Youth Fund established by City Charter Article I, § 13 {“Children and Youth Fund”}.

(Ord. 18-103; Ord. 20-363.)

§ 9-2. Uses of Fund.*(a) In general.*

The Fund may be used only for the purposes generally described in City Charter Article I, § 13(a).

(b) Inclusions.

Allowed uses for the Fund include:

- (1) direct grants to program and service providers;
- (2) administrative costs to operate the Fund; and
- (3) capacity-building efforts to strengthen Fund administration or the ability of providers to successfully and sustainably offer services to Baltimore’s youth.

(Ord. 18-103.)

§ 9-3. Purpose.

The fiscal agent shall be a community-centered grant-making institution that fosters and promotes:

- (1) racial equity;

(2) inter-generational leadership;

(3) community ownership; and

(4) collective decision-making.

(Ord. 20-363.)

§ 9-4. Fiscal agent.

(a) Designation.

The fiscal agent for the Fund is the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Inc.

(b) General powers and duties.

The fiscal agent must:

(1) identify specific programs and services to be funded by the Fund; and

(2) allocate the available funds among the programs and services identified for funding.

(c) Identifying programs and services for funding.

(1) As it identifies specific programs and services to be funded by the Fund, the fiscal agent must select programs and services that:

(i) are active in Baltimore City;

(ii) are credible with and accountable to youth and the local communities they are proposing to serve;

(iii) have an element of youth-centered programming; and

(iv) can demonstrate how they are designed to improve outcomes for young people.

(2) The fiscal agent may also use any additional factors listed in City Charter Article I, § 13(a) to identify specific programs and services to be funded by the Fund so long as the additional factors are made publically available to applicants for funding at the time that applications are requested.

(3) Beginning in Fiscal Year 2022 and continuing every 3 years thereafter, the fiscal agent shall conduct a community-wide needs assessment to assist the Board in determining grant-making areas.

(Ord. 18-103; Ord. 20-363.)

§ 9-5. Board of directors.**(a) *In general.***

The fiscal agent shall be governed by and administered by a Board of Directors.

(b) *Number and appointment.*

- (1) The number of voting members of the full Board may not be less than 9, excluding vacancies, and no more than 20.
- (2) The Board may increase or decrease its membership, within the limits specified in this subsection, in its bylaws.
- (3) The Board members shall be appointed and serve the terms prescribed by the Board's bylaws.

(c) *Composition.***(1) *Ex-officio members.*****(i) Of the voting members of the Board:**

- (A) 1 shall be the Director of the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success or the Director's designee; and
- (B) 1 shall be the City Council President or a City Councilmember designated by the City Council President.

(ii) Of the non-voting members of the Board:

- (A) 1 shall be the City Solicitor or the City Solicitor's designee; and
- (B) 1 shall be the Director of Finance or the Director's designee.

(2) *Diversity.***(i) *In general.***

The Board shall reflect a diverse economic, social, and racial mix.

(ii) *Youth participation.*

- (A) In this subparagraph, "youth" means an individual between the ages of 14 and 25, inclusive.
- (B) Except as provided in sub-subparagraph (C), at least one-third of the Board shall consist of youth members.

(C) The Board of Estimates may waive the requirement in sub-subparagraph (B) if the Board of Estimates finds that the Fund's Board has taken reasonable and diligent efforts to comply with that requirement and that those efforts have failed.

(d) *Bylaws.*

- (1) The Board must adopt bylaws for the administration of the fiscal agent. However, those bylaws may not be inconsistent with the terms of this subtitle or of City Charter Article I, § 13 {"Children and Youth Fund"}.
- (2) The initial bylaws required by this subsection must be approved by the Board of Estimates before taking effect.
- (3) Subsequent amendments to the initial bylaws must be filed with the Board of Estimates before taking effect.

(e) *Board of Directors approval required.*

No funds may be disbursed from the Fund without the prior approval of the Board of Directors.

(f) *Staff.*

The Board may employ staff to carry out the fiscal agent's day-to-day operations.
(Ord. 20-363; Ord. 22-124.)

§ 9-6. Annual financial plan.

(a) *In general.*

Subject to the requirements of this section, the Board shall adopt an annual financial plan, based on the City's fiscal year, consisting of at least a budget and an amount to be disbursed from the Fund during that year.

(b) *Fund allocations; Limitations.*

(1) *Limitations on use.*

(i) For the purposes of this paragraph, "public engagement" may include:

- (A) staffing needs for community outreach;
- (B) space, supplies, and personnel for community information sessions;
- (C) materials for education, marketing, and promotion of fund-related efforts; or
- (D) facilitation and execution of community participatory processes for grant making.

(ii) In its financial plan, the Board may allocate from the Fund's balance:

(A) up to 5% for public engagement; and

(B) up to 15% for staff and other costs to administer the Fund.

(2) *Remainder to be disbursed.*

The Board must allocate the remainder of the Fund's balance among the programs and services identified under § 9-4(c) of this subtitle, with an emphasis on programs or services operating in, or meant to assist young people from, the communities in Baltimore City most impacted by high poverty.

(c) *Public hearing and comment on financial plan.*

Before adopting any financial plan required by this section, the Board shall arrange for a public hearing on the proposed plan. Notice of the hearing must be published on the fiscal agent's website for at least 3 consecutive weeks.

(d) *Board of Estimates filing required.*

After adopting a financial plan, the Board shall file the plan with the Board of Estimates.
(Ord. 20-363.)

§ 9-7. {Reserved}

§ 9-8. Annual review; Dissolution of board.

(a) *Public hearings.*

No later than March 31 of each year, a relevant committee of the City Council shall hold 1 or more public hearings to evaluate the activities of the fiscal agent and its disbursements.

(b) *Petition for dissolution.*

(1) If after conducting a public hearing and hearing testimonial evidence, the City Council finds evidence of misappropriation of funds, malfeasance, or violation of law in connection with the administration of the Fund, the City Council may, by a three-fifths vote of its members, refer a petition to the Board of Estimates to dissolve the fiscal agent's Board.

(2) On receipt of a petition described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board of Estimates shall consider and vote on that petition as soon as practicable.

(Ord. 20-363.)

§ 9-9. Rules and regulations.

Subject to Title 4 {"Administrative Procedure Act – Regulations"} of the City General Provisions Article, the Director of Finance must adopt rules and regulations to carry out this subtitle including:

- (i) a schedule for dispersing the Fund each year; and
- (ii) procedures for transferring money from the Fund to either the interim fiscal agent or directly to service and program providers designated by the interim fiscal agent.

Editor's Note: By authority of Ordinance 20-431, Section 5, the Director of Legislative Reference, in consultation with the Law Department, has conformed the text of this section to refer to and reflect the requirements of the recently-enacted Administrative Procedure Act that, effective January 15, 2021, governs the proposal, adoption, and publication of administrative rules and regulations.

(Ord. 18-103; Ord. 20-363; Text Conformed 02/14/21.)

§ 9-10. Annual report.

No later than June 30 of each year, the Board shall prepare and submit a report to the Mayor and City Council detailing the activities and the impact of the Fund.

(Ord. 20-363.)

EDITOR'S NOTE TO SUBTITLE: This subtitle was substantially modified by Section 1 of Ordinance 20-363 (Council Bill 20-519). For effective dates and transitional provisions, *see also* the following uncodified provisions of that Ordinance: Section 2 {Transition Board; First Financial Plan}, Section 3 {Interim fiscal agent close-out and transfer of records}, Section 4 {Unused Fund balances from FY 2019 and FY 2020}, and Sections 6 and 7 {Effective dates}.