



## Affordable Housing Bus Tour

*The Affordable Housing Bus Tour was held May 3—three years late!*

The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle's Education Study Group, co-chaired by Pamela Young and Sue Talbott, began examining the issue of affordable housing in Baltimore in 2019. After hearing a series of speakers, it was decided to organize a tour of affordable housing sites in Baltimore. However, COVID derailed those plans until this spring, when 21 Circle members visited three sites.

The sites were chosen with input from two of those 2019 speakers: attorney Matthew Hill of the Public Justice Center, and Odette Ramos, then CEO of the Community Development Network of Maryland, now a member of the Baltimore City Council, where she continues to advocate for affordable housing.

The sites were Stadium Place in Waverly (site of the former Memorial Stadium), Clare Court (a former convent in Pen Lucy), and Johnston Square in East Baltimore. Stadium Place has been under development by the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation since 1991. It provides 349 affordable housing units and supportive services for older residents. Nearby, at Clare Court, the nonprofit Homes for America will create 42 apartments in a former convent and construct a new building with 41 apartments. The final stop was the vibrant neighborhood of Johnston Square. For more than 10 years, local residents, under the leadership of Regina Hammond, in partnership with ReBuild Metro president Sean Closkey, have brought new life to this community: new apartment buildings, dozens of renovated rental and owner-occupied rowhouses, mini-gardens, and large parks.

## Highlights:

### **CIRCLE LEADERSHIP FOR 2023-24 ANNOUNCED**

The new Steering Committee takes over. [Page 3](#)

### **GRANTEE CLASS OF 2023**

18 organizations receive funding. [Page 4](#)

Grants Learning Lab funds five. [Page 5](#)

## In This Issue:

- Co-Chairs message
- May Full Circle
- Grantee Connect Forum
- REDI
- Arts for Learning
- New member event
- New members
- Philanos convention
- Calendar
- Contributors
- Volunteer Corner

## Letter from the Co-Chairs



WOW! The year has flown by, and for the BWGC it has been a GREAT one. Thanks to the many wonderful members who have stepped up to be fabulous leaders and volunteers in our Circle.

We would like to start by recognizing the members who have served on the Steering Committee in 2022-23 and are now stepping down: Leslie Glickman (Secretary), Kelly Chew (Treasurer), and Committee Co-Chairs Peggy Sparr (Communications), Susan Manekin (Education), Jane Berkow (Grants), Sylvia Golombek (Grantee Connect), Jennifer Bedford (Membership), Robin Kaplan (Post Grants), Crickett Woloson and Vivian Manekin (REDI), and Penny Wald (Nominating & Leadership Development). We also want to acknowledge the contributions of these outstanding volunteers: Mary-Ann Pinkard and Kelly Chew (grants management), Renee Gordon (website), and Anita Pomerantz (MemberLeap).

We're looking forward to working with our new leaders on the 2023-24 Steering Committee: Pam Pasqualini (Treasurer), Ellen Hochman (Assistant Treasurer), Jane Meyer (Secretary), Ida Samet (Archivist), and these new Committee Co-Chairs: Kelly Chew (Communications), Ellen Stifler (Education), Ellen Cooper (Grants), Robin Kemp (Grantee Connect), Meg (Aldridge) Weinfeld (Membership), Mayer Martin (Post Grants), Katie Lekin (REDI, one year), Mary Jo Wiese (REDI, two years), and Susan Perl (Nominating & Leadership Development).

We hope you have a relaxing summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone in September for our next Full Circle meeting.

*Ann & Salli*

Ann and Salli

## New Dues Structure

*Beginning in July, the BWGC will offer three financial levels of membership – \$2,500, \$1,200, and \$600. It is hoped that this will increase the number of members, increase total monies available for grantmaking, and create a more economically diverse membership body.*

The Circle's 52 founding women made it very clear that all Circle members were equal in all ways, and that remains the same today. All dues levels have equal membership rights and benefits.

Because membership is renewed annually, members may choose the membership plan that is personally meaningful and aligns with their philanthropic goals year by year.

## Introducing New Circle Leaders

The Circle is led by the Steering Committee (SC) which includes six Circle officers and 16 committee co-chairs. The SC functions oversees the Circle's management and operations.

Every year the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee (NLDC) identifies and nominates new officers and new committee co-chairs to serve two-year terms.

The slate of officers is ratified by the full Circle via electronic vote. This year's slate received overwhelming support from the membership.

The NLDC is pleased to present the Circle officers and committee co-chairs for 2023-24:

### CIRCLE CO-CHAIRS:

**Ann Daniels and Salli Ward**

### SECRETARY:

**Jane Meyer\***

### ARCHIVIST:

**Ida Samet\***

### TREASURER:

**Pam Pasqualini\***

### ASSISTANT TREASURER:

**Ellen Hochman\***

### COMMUNICATIONS:

**Joyce Moskowitz and Kelly Chew\***

### EDUCATION:

**Carol Yoder and Ellen Stifler\***

### GRANTS:

**Carmina Hughes and Ellen Cooper\***

### GRANTEE CONNECT:

**Judy Dobbs and Robin Kemp\***

### MEMBERSHIP:

**Lynn Brynes and Meg Weinfeld\***

### POST GRANTS:

**Barbara Epke and Mayer Martin\***

### REDI:

**Katie Lekin\* and Mary Jo Wiese\***

### NLDC:

**Susan Hovanec and Susan Perl\***

*\*new for 2023-24*

**Many thanks to the members of the NLDC:**

Penny Wald and Susan Hovanec (NLDC co-chairs), Lissa Abrams, Day Bank, Renee Gordon, Susan Shubin, Suzanne Dagurt, Laura Hahn, Hilary Campodonico, and Peggy Cohen.



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## Grants

Each year, the BWGC makes grant awards based on funds available in the grants pool, which includes monies from member dues. This year, Circle membership was smaller than in 2022-23, and the grants pool reflects that difference with \$426,648 being awarded to 18 organizations. An additional \$24,500 was awarded through the special project Grants Learning Lab (see page 5).

Fifteen teams of five or six grant readers reviewed 94 applications (vs. 90 in 2022), conducted site visits with 57 organizations, and recommended 45 for funding. Six of the 18 organizations funded are first-time BWGC grantees, and there were 31 first-time applicants (vs. 25 in 2002). One new grassroots organization (budget of up to \$250,000) was funded, along with one large organization (budget of \$5 million plus). The majority were small and mid-sized.

After the 2023 grants were announced at the May Full Circle meeting, the BWGC received a message from the executive director of the Baltimore Furniture Bank telling us that it is in the midst of a major reorganization and has, therefore, decided to withdraw its application this year. It will reapply next year once it has had a chance to regroup and be in a better position to use Circle funds more effectively.

Below is the list of our 18 grantees.

**Fifteen teams of five or six grant readers reviewed 94 applications, conducted site visits with 57 organizations, and recommended 45 for funding.**

### CASE MANAGEMENT & REFERRAL

**\*HER Resiliency Center,**  
\$25,000

### DOMESTIC/SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**\*Restoring Ivy Collective,**  
\$22,500

**Tahirih Justice Center,**  
\$25,000

### FOOD & HUNGER SERVICES

**\*Italian Cultural Center of Maryland-Be a Chef for a Day,** \$25,000

**\*Manna House,** \$25,000

### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mission of Mercy,** \$25,000

**Roberta's House,** \$25,000

### HOUSING

**Baltimore Outreach Services,** \$25,000

**Marian House,** \$25,000

### LEGAL SERVICES

**Women's Law Center of Maryland,** \$19,650

### LITERACY/EDUCATION

**Adelante Latina!** \$17,000

**Baltimore Symphony Orchestra/OrchKids,** \$22,500

**Planned Parenthood of Maryland,** \$24,998

**Reading Partners,** \$20,000

### MENTORING

**\*No Struggle No Success,**  
\$25,000

### SERVICES TO SENIORS

**Action in Maturity,** \$25,000

**St. Mary's Outreach Center,**  
\$25,000

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**\*Per Scholas,** \$25,000

\*First-time grantee

*Clarification: Eleven organizations were funded by the Circle for the first time in 2022. Six had budgets of less than \$250,000 and fell under the BWGC's "grassroots" classification. Some organizations were mischaracterized in the April newsletter.*

## New Members

Elizabeth  
Courtemanche

Sue Gaintner

Michele Hunter

Karin Kendri

Marilyn Martin

Remy Shaffer  
Gomes

Chea Weltchek

## Prospective Member Event

The Membership Committee hosted an event for prospective members on April 27. Eight BWGC members were joined by 11 prospective members and two grantees.



## Grants Learning Lab Explores Trust-Based Philanthropy

The five-member REDI Grants Learning Lab team (consisting of two long-time Circle members and three community leaders) has completed its work. The process included exploring the tenets of trust-based philanthropy and applying those principles to create a simplified application form and streamlined process for grant evaluation and approval. Working with pre-approved pool of \$25,000 to award to non-profit organizations – all previously unfunded BWGC applicants with budgets of less than \$250,000, seven small non-profits were invited to apply, and five were approved for funding.

**Led Ladies**, which provides emergency financial assistance and support services to women facing eviction, and **Coach G Academy**, which uses step dancing to engage girls in education, leadership, and mentoring, will receive \$10,000 each. **Unique Fabrics**, which supports displaced youth with a variety of programs, will receive \$4,500. Two groups will receive \$250 application awards.

One invitee failed to provide the required documentation and was disqualified. The seventh invitee's budget exceeded \$250,000, so it was disqualified as well.

This experimental program will be reviewed by the REDI and Grants committees to evaluate the impact of the lab's work for the traditional grants process.

## May Full Circle

*The Roland Park Woman's Club provided the setting for the May 17 Full Circle meeting, closing a busy BGWC year and launching another.*

The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee introduced the new officers and committee co-chairs (see Page 3) and thanked those who had completed their Steering Committee terms.

Post Grants presented a video of interviews with 2022 grantees Goucher Prison Education Partnership and Hon's Honey (The Well).

REDI's Vision, Mission, and Values Working Group outlined its work in developing guiding statements for the Circle, on which members will vote. They noted that the Circle's mission has not changed but how it works has (values statement), and that the values should go hand-in-hand with the mission statement. The vision is the fullest expression of the BWGC's values.

Donations were collected for 2022 grantee Moms on a Mission, a volunteer group at St. Luke's Youth Center that develops social programs providing enrichment and safety for youth in the community. Baltimore Community Foundation CEO Shanaysha M. Sauls attended the meeting.

You can download a recording of the meeting [here](#).



## Arts for Learning

Circle members show off their art projects at the end of the Education Committee's April 13 event at Roland Park Community Center with Arts for Learning Maryland. CEO Stacie Sanders Evans and two other members of the arts outreach nonprofit, formerly Young Audiences of Maryland, discussed their organization, which began in Baltimore in 1950.

## Grantee Connect

Grantee Connect's first in-person Forum since November 2019 was held on May 16, at the Church of the Redeemer. It attracted 52 grantees and 13 committee members. The forum explored the topic Raising Funds Creatively, and featured presentations by Tyde-Courtney Edwards (Ballet after Dark), Mandy Memmel (Drink at the Well/Hon's Honey), Pam Wilkerson (Helping Up Mission Center for Women and Children), and Angeles Evans (TurnAround). Other grantees served as speakers, facilitators, and exhibitors. Afterward, in breakout sessions, grantees discussed creative ways to meet their funding needs.



Grantees said they appreciated the opportunity to meet in person, make new friends, and form alliances. "I loved the diverse speakers and how relevant the topic was to nonprofit leaders," one participant wrote. Another commented, "There was a lot of positive energy in the room!" The topic and format were planned by a team of grantees led by Grantee Connect members Barbara Anderson and Suzanne Levin-Lapides.

## Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI)

### CONVERSATIONS INITIATIVE TEAM

Fifty-one members and guests attended the May 4 Zoom webinar "BWGC Explores Shifts in Grant Making". The program, which defined Trust Based Philanthropy (TBP) and Participatory Philanthropy, was recorded. Tammy Wilhoite (ninety-nine girlfriends) from Portland, Oregon, was featured, along with Lorraine Rohlik and Kietalriarte-Amin from the Grants Lab team. Feedback was positive. You can watch the webinar [here](#).

## Philanos Conference in Baltimore Nov. 5-7



The BWGC is one of the six giving circles hosting "PowerUP! Baltimore: The Spark Igniting Collaboration" the national conference of Philanos, November 5-7 in Baltimore. The Baltimore Community Foundation is a \$20,000 sponsor of this event, and the Circle is a \$5,000 sponsor.

Special thanks to the many members who have worked to recruit sponsors for the conference or have contributed to the BWGC sponsorship themselves.

Philanos is an international network of women's giving circles with more than 80 affiliates in 27 states, the District of Columbia, England, and Australia. [Click here](#) to visit the conference website. As one of the hosts, BWGC has two conference registrations it can award to its members. Contact [sallijward@aol.com](mailto:sallijward@aol.com) if you would like to apply.

## Vision, Mission, Values (VMV)

After several months of listening to feedback from members, the VMV Work Group finalized its work and presented the updated Vision, Mission and Values statements at the May Steering Committee and Full Circle meetings. The statements were overwhelmingly approved by an email vote of Circle members in May and will be updated on the website and included in all material provided to grantees and the community.

## Volunteer Corner

### OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP CURRENT AND FORMER GRANTEES



**Project PLASE** (People Lacking Ample Shelter and Employment), which provides temporary and permanent housing and support services to homeless adults and families in Baltimore, seeks committee members for its October semi-formal fundraiser, the Charity Blanket Ball. Contact Jenny Graham, director of development and community engagement, at 410-837-1400 x121.



Saint Luke's Youth Center

**St. Luke's Youth Center**, which provides youth with resources, support, and enrichment, seeks volunteers to plan and lead an art project with students at its West Baltimore facility. Contact Amanda Talbot, executive director, at [amanda@bmoreslyc.org](mailto:amanda@bmoreslyc.org), or 410-587-0467.

*If you decide to volunteer for any of these organizations, please let us know!*

*Send your name and the name of the group you will be volunteering for to: [granteeconnect@thebwgc.org](mailto:granteeconnect@thebwgc.org) and to [postgrants@thebwgc.org](mailto:postgrants@thebwgc.org).*

## Thank you to our contributors:

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