



Baltimore Together.

A Platform for Inclusive Prosperity

Summit Recap 2023

Prepared by :

Baltimore
Development
Corporation

36 South Charles Street, Suite 2100
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
www.baltimoretogether.com

Baltimore Together.

2023 Summit Goals

The Baltimore Together Summit aimed to achieve the following goals:

- Align stakeholders around a shared vision and understand key metrics, including citywide goals and objectives.
- Highlight the great work that is happening around economic, workforce and community development in Baltimore City.
- Tie together various economic, workforce and community development activities into one coherent platform and community narrative.
- Expand the opportunities for participants to identify specific actionable next steps and take responsibility and accountability for implementation.

Overview

Building on the success of the inaugural 2022 Baltimore Together Summit, the 2023 Summit served as a celebratory touchpoint and galvanizing moment to continue the critical work of building an inclusive, equitable and thriving economy for all. The weeklong Summit started with Day 1 at the M&T Bank Exchange, a newly renovated historic venue within the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center at the Hippodrome. The Summit started with opening remarks from Mayor Brandon Scott and a highlight reel introduced by BDC President & CEO Colin Tarbert, sharing the great work that Baltimore Together has accomplished over the past year.

“ Baltimore Together calls all of us to engage in creative solutions, collaborative efforts, and new ways of working, investing in people, places and infrastructure. Today we get to celebrate that great work. ”

- Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott



2nd Annual Summit 2023



Number of participants

1018

(50% increase year-over-year)

Day 1

302

Guests
Checked In

Workshops

716

Guests Checked-In across
all breakout sessions

11

Workshops hosted
in partnership with

10

different
organizations



10

SPONSORS



76

moderators, speakers, panelists
(50% increase year-over-year
from 2022 to 2023)

22

media
pieces from

15

unique
outlets



Livestream
views (Day 1)

Events
held at

9

unique locations
across Baltimore City

864

EVENT SPENDING



22

unique vendors

90%

of Baltimore City-based vendors

80%

of minority or women-owned businesses

Dr. Andre Perry from the Brookings Institute delivered the morning keynote address outlining the devaluation of assets in Black neighborhoods. He highlighted how “the perceptions of our neighborhoods are affecting the perceptions of the businesses that exist within them, regardless of the true quality of those businesses.” Our city’s commercial corridors are typically the first impression of our communities, and they contribute significantly to the perceived value of a community. Dr. Perry also outlined a solution to this devaluation, which directly aligns with the core pillars of Baltimore Together: invest in people, invest in places, and divest from racism. Dr. Perry provided an example of this strategy as partnering with businesses and developers to incentivize the renovation of neighborhood commercial buildings and to provide incentives for Black and brown business owners to own the commercial buildings in which they operate. He closed his remarks by sharing a story that illuminated the importance of Working Together, one of the four key pillars outlined in Baltimore Together.

“There is no way to get the kind of growth in Baltimore that we need without us working together: private sector, public sector, nonprofit sector...you have to work together.”
- Dr. Andre Perry

Four key strategies:

1 Work Together
Break down barriers, foster collaboration, and increase efficiency.

2 Invest in People and Places
Create opportunities for residents through strategic investments.

3 Build from Strength
Leverage Baltimore’s assets to strengthen the city’s economic future.

4 Compete to Succeed
Work with partners to address competitive imbalance and address major challenges.





“Baltimore Together means being able to talk about some of the challenging issues that are pressing Baltimore and being able to work together in community to solve some of those issues.”

- Joni Holifield, HeartSmiles

The remainder of Day 1 included a series of panels and presentations highlighting a series of topics all related to the work of Baltimore Together. In addition, Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman provided remarks on the importance of Baltimore Together and how she is working to improve MBE/WBE procurement at the state level. Feedback was very positive from participants (both in person and virtually) on the diversity of speakers and topics, showing the breadth and depth of Baltimore Together.

Topics included:

- Baltimore’s Shifting Population
- Community Discussion: Greater Mondawmin
- Community Discussion: Immigration in Baltimore
- Neighborhood Reinvestment
- Our Youth & Workforce Development
- Leading with Innovation
- The Future of Harborplace
- Baltimore’s Regional Impact
- A Fireside Chat with Governor Wes Moore & Colin Tarbert



Maryland Comptroller
Brooke Lierman



Panelists: Maria C. Correa-Sanchez, Rosalyn Vera and Eral Rojas



Vaki Mawema, Co-Managing Director of Gensler Baltimore, unveils the plans for a reimagined Harborplace.

In the afternoon, Dave Bramble of MCB Real Estate and Vaki Mawema of Gensler led a segment entitled, “The Future of Harborplace,” where they revealed for the first time **initial concepts and plans** in detail for the redevelopment of Harborplace. The work of redeveloping this critical piece of Downtown was explicitly outlined in the **Baltimore Together Action Matrix** in several places: “Invest in Baltimore’s Downtown” (2.20 - 2.23), “Hospitality and Tourism” section (3.27 - 3.35) and Compete to Succeed section (4.4) “Market Baltimore’s Downtown Center as a place to live, work, and play.”

The Summit also engaged Baltimore’s youth through a **spoken word performance** from a Coppin State University student and Heartbeat Young Elder. Videos produced by Wide Angle Youth Media highlighting individual stories and community impact were shown throughout the day.



Regional Impact Panel: Maryland Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson, Brian Pieninck of CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Megan Rivers of WBAL News, Stephanie Linnartz of Under Armour and Mark Anthony Thomas of GBC

The following videos may be viewed on the Baltimore Together website:

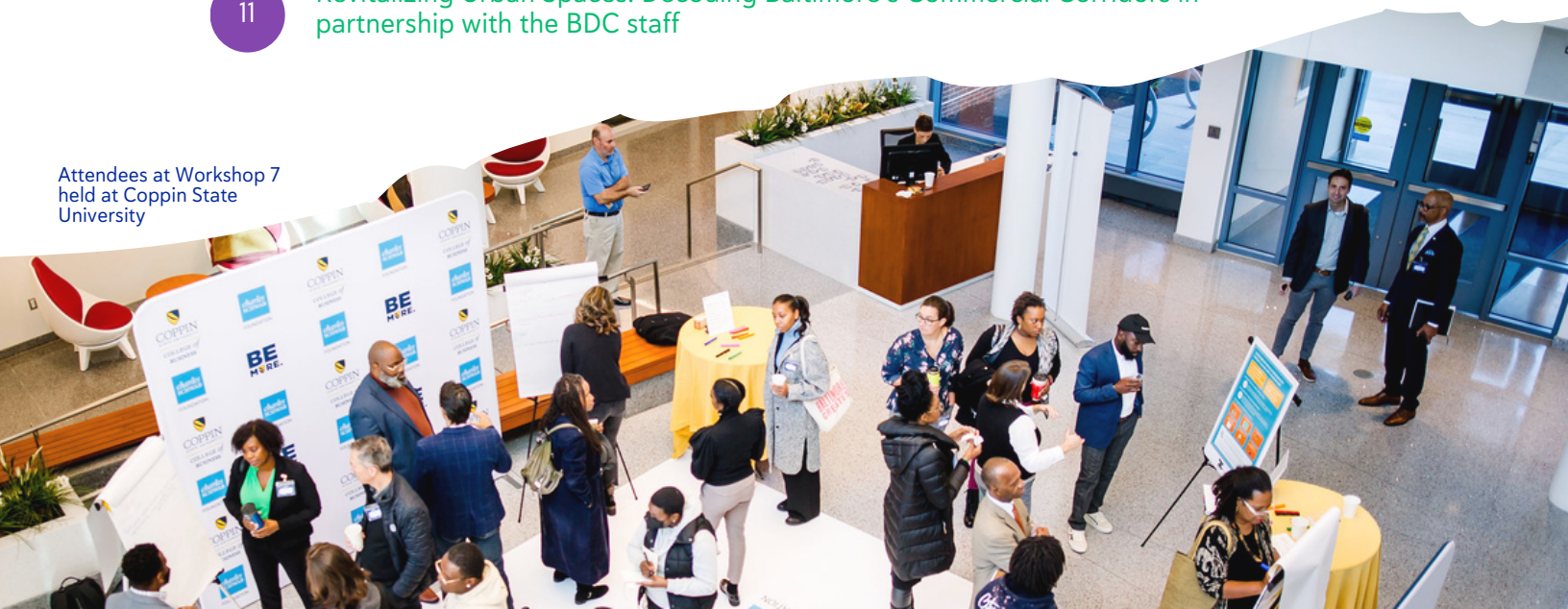
1. [The Village at Mondawmin](#)
2. [Dr. Sam Scott & JuneBrain](#)
3. [Christopher Schafer Clothier](#)
4. [Perkins-Somerset Oldtown with Janet Abrahams](#)
5. [The BASE Network: Incubating Industries](#) (produced by Early Light Media)

Workshops & Breakout Sessions

In 2023, Baltimore Together partnered with 10 organizations to host 11 workshops throughout the week. Events were held in all corners of the city, from Baltimore Peninsula to Hampden, from Greater Mondawmin to Yard 56. Workshops created opportunities for smaller groups to delve into specific topics and connect with likeminded community members who share common goals and interests. 716 people total attended the 11 workshops listed below:

- 1 The Procurement Economy & Inclusive Economic Growth with the Maryland Comptroller's Office
- 2 Creative Spaces: Real Estate Strategies to Support Baltimore's Creative Economy in partnership with leaders in the Creative Industries
- 3 Navigating Downtown Baltimore's Transformative Urban Landscape in partnership with the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore
- 4 Narrative Change & Storytelling in partnership with the #MyBmore Project
- 5/6 Storytelling & skill sharing followed by a Community Celebration in partnership with the BASE Network (2 sessions)
- 7 Excellence in Entrepreneurial Learning (EXCEL) Research Project: Youth Entrepreneurship with Coppin State University & The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- 8 Making Matters: Open Works Collaborative Model for Inclusive Economic Empowerment with Coppin State University & The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- 9 Serving the Needs of an Untapped Workforce in partnership with BMoreBio Buzz
- 10 Community Feedback Forum: The New Harborplace in partnership with MCB Real Estate and the Our Harborplace team
- 11 Revitalizing Urban Spaces: Decoding Baltimore's Commercial Corridors in partnership with the BDC staff

Attendees at Workshop 7 held at Coppin State University





“ This [Baltimore Together] is so wonderful to see all of you here recognizing that the best days of our City are still ahead of us, and that if we all work together we really can achieve these magnificent goals. ”

-Former Mayor, President of University of Baltimore Kurt Schmoke

Key Takeaways

The Summit, along with implementation progress to date, has led to identifying several key areas of focus moving forward:

- Formation of strategic oversight and accountability structure of the Baltimore Together initiative.
- Industry Sector work, with a focus on Life Sciences, Manufacturing & Logistics, and the Creative Industries
- Small Business Support and Engagement in partnership with the BASE Network
- Workforce Development in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development
- Talent Attraction and Retention in partnership with the GBC
- Crafting and sharing our collective narrative and brand on both local and national platforms



Where We Go from Here



The 2023 Baltimore Together Summit underscored how important the work of building a more equitable and inclusive economy is for our city. The level of participation and diversity of engagement continues to increase year over year. In the year ahead, Baltimore Together, with the BDC as the primary convener, will continue to advance the goals outlined in the Implementation Matrix, using this year's updated Matrix as the benchmark for areas of focus and attention.

The work of Baltimore Together relies on a connected and collaborative model that engages stakeholders from a wide-range of entities in our City. We are grateful for all sponsors, partners, participants, and supporters who make this work possible. If you are interested in getting involved or want to learn more please email us at baltimoretogether@justeconomy.com.

“ In order for it to be Maryland’s decade, it has to be Baltimore’s time. So we have made it very clear in this moment that we are going to invest unapologetically. We are going to partner with love. And, we are going to build out a foundation where we know that as Baltimore continues to grow that the State of Maryland is going to do the same, and Maryland cannot be stopped.”

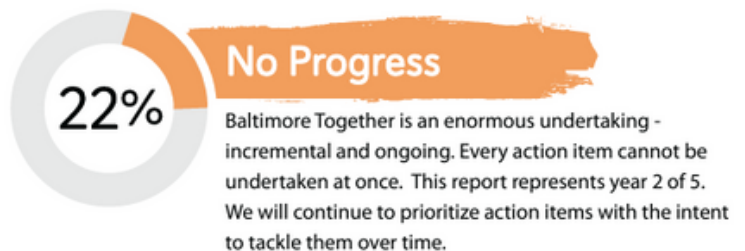
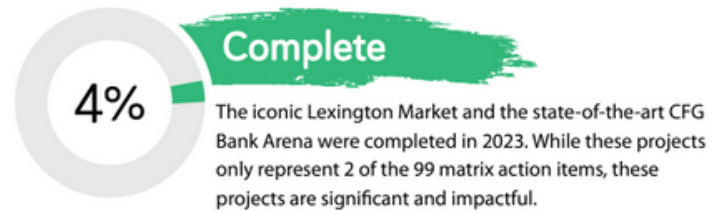
- Governor Wes Moore

Appendix

In addition to the previously-listed activities and videos, we published a [Baltimore Together Progress Report](#), highlighting the progress made on each of the 7 key goals of Baltimore Together.

At the end of Year 2, and as part of this progress report we also published an update to the [Implementation Matrix](#). This update shows positive progress on 48% of the 99 action items outlined in the original matrix. The Annual Summit serves as a touchpoint and key gathering space for the community, but the work of Baltimore Together continues all year through big and small initiatives led by a wide-range of partners. The update reports help provide accountability and collective buy-in towards our shared goals (as outlined in sub strategies 1.1 - 1.3 in the implementation matrix).

The full recording of the Day 1 Summit may be viewed on the [Baltimore Together website](#).





“ An event like this is really important because it showcases a lot of the great things that are going on around the City and the region, but it also gives people an opportunity to get to know each other which creates more collaboration for activities going forward. ”

- Tim Regan,
Whiting-Turner

Press Coverage

[Baltimore Development Corporation unveils 2023 progress report](#)

The Daily Record provided a detailed account of the Baltimore Together 2023 Progress Report, emphasizing how the city's progress toward its Strategic Plan was celebrated at the annual summit. The coverage highlighted photos from the event, including speakers, legislators, and community members.

[Armchair analysis: Orioles are out of the ALDS, and fans have thoughts | READER COMMENTARY](#)

In a reader commentary featured by The Baltimore Sun, Colin Tarbert draws parallels between the city's support for the Baltimore Orioles and the broader mission of the Baltimore Together ahead of its annual summit. This piece uses the Orioles' season as a metaphor for the city's economic and communal development, urging Baltimore to rally behind its successes and challenges as a unified community.

[Baltimore Development Corporation holds Baltimore Together Summit as the city makes headway in economic development](#)

The Afro's coverage of the Baltimore Together Summit focused on celebrating progress in the city's economic strategy, equitable development, and revitalizing key areas like West Baltimore and the Inner Harbor. The article spotlighted the collaborative efforts of BDC's president, Colin Tarbert, and Mayor Brandon M. Scott, along with a notable fireside chat with Governor Wes Moore, presenting the summit as a critical moment for Maryland's prosperity.



Press Coverage

Brennan Murray of BDC on Westside Plans

In an interview with Brennan Murray, Assistant Managing Director of Business and Neighborhood Development at BDC, Bmore News highlighted the organization's initiatives for West Baltimore, specifically the move of Charm TV to Pennsylvania Avenue. This interview shows how this strategic relocation aligns with broader economic development plans, emphasizing its potential to invigorate the Penn-North area and underscore BDC's dedication to fostering community growth and supporting small businesses.

A new strategic plan for ETC Baltimore has been released

Technical.ly Baltimore highlighted the Baltimore Development Corporation's announcement of a new strategic plan for the Emerging Technology Centers (ETC Baltimore). Shared on the morning of the summit, the announcement aligns perfectly with the broader Baltimore Together strategic plan, and it underscores the city's efforts to reposition ETC as a key player in enhancing Baltimore's tech sector. The coverage delves into the collaborative strategies to revitalize the city's commitment to innovation and economic growth.



Lead with Innovation Panel with moderator Alanah Nicole Davis and panelists Nia June, Dr. Samantha Scott and Rebecca Rosenberg

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