STILL LIFTING

STILL SERIOUS

STILL GROWING

STILL LISTENING

STILL LEADING

STILL STANDING

STILL LEARNING

STILL RESISTING

### STILL FIGHTING

STILL PUSHING

STILL QUESTIONING

STILL DETERMINED

STILL OPTIMISTIC

STILL DEMANDING

STILL ENERGIZED

STILL STUBBORN

STILL TAKING RISKS

STILL NOT SATISFIED

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BALTIMORE
2018 IMPACT REPORT





20 YEARS 1998-2018



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Cover: Students from 2015 OSI Community Fellow Brian Gerardo's Baltimore Dance Crews Project perform during OSI-Baltimore's 20th Anniversary Speaker Series. Photo by Colby Ware.



## THE DIRECTOR

In 2018, Open Society Institute-Baltimore celebrated its 20th Anniversary, which gave us a rare opportunity to reflect on the positive impact we've had on Baltimore during our first two decades (see page 3).

Entering our 21st year, we celebrate the resilience of our staff, our grantees, our Fellows, our supporters, our partners—indeed of the people of Baltimore. Our city continues to face very real challenges, but Baltimore's strength is its people, who continue working every day to confront the systemic issues that hold people back. And we couldn't be more proud to work alongside our fellow Baltimoreans to bring about real, lasting change.

Twenty-one years after our founding, we're still here, pushing our beloved city to live up to its true potential, and we'll be here for as long as it takes. Among our 2018 accomplishments:

- Helped the Community Oversight Task Force—mandated by the federal consent decree to review Baltimore's civilian oversight processes—release a robust report with recommendations to greatly improve civilian oversight of the Baltimore Police Department (see page 9).
- Released a critical new report, Young, Gifted, and Underfunded, which looks at
  ways funders can better support youth-led movements, and started a series of
  conversations to advance that work (see page 10).
- Supported advocacy partners to secure \$1 million in new state funding to expand
  pretrial services, which offer an alternative to the predatory cash bail system, to
  jurisdictions that do not currently have them.

- Launched the Advocacy and Leadership Training Program, a series of trainings across Maryland that provide people directly impacted by addiction with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate in their own voices on self-identified policy concerns. (see page 21)
- Expanded implementation of restorative and other complementary practices that improve school climate in city schools, leading to fewer suspensions and higher test scores and graduation rates.
- Established Baltimore City Schools' Re-engagement Center to provide opportunities for students who have separated from school to gain the credits they need to graduate.
- Worked alongside advocates to fight for long-term, adequate school funding for Baltimore City and other historically under-resourced Maryland school districts through the Governor-appointed "Kirwan Commission."

This is a small sample of our work and it doesn't mention the ten dynamic individuals in our 2018 cohort of Community Fellows (page 26), the engaging public events in our Talking About Race series (page 29), the involvement of our Leadership Council and Advisory Board (page 35), or any

of the dozens of other grants and projects you'll read about in this report.

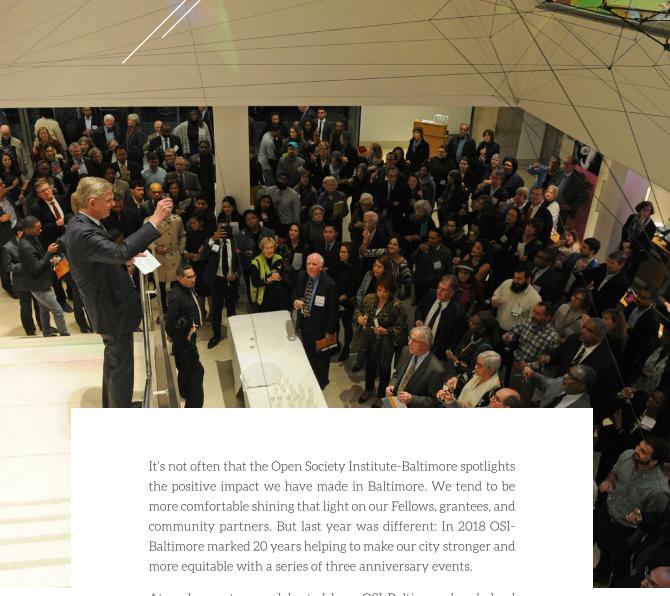
Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our donors, Baltimore residents who have chosen to join us in the crucial year-in, year-out work of building a better Baltimore (see page 31). We're still in this together.

**DIANA MORRIS** 

Director, OSI-Baltimore



Photos by Colby Ware



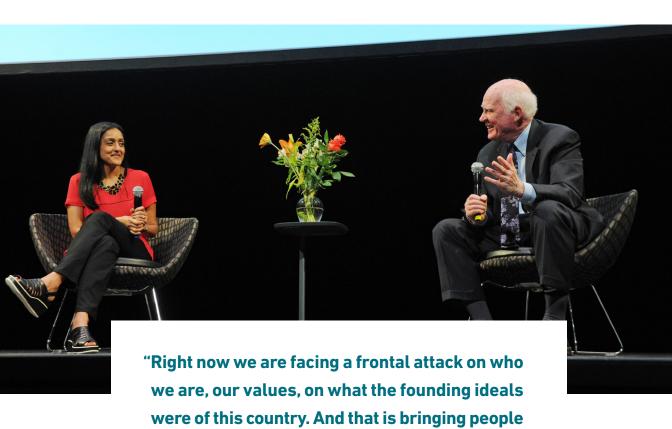
At each event, we celebrated how OSI-Baltimore has helped to solve social problems by working in community with others and making sure that every voice is heard. OSI-Baltimore has accomplished much in 20 years but there's more work to do. As social and political forces outside of Baltimore continue to threaten democracy itself, OSI is committed to being a force for positive change.

Photo: Edward Bernard, OSI Advisory Board member and vice chairman at T. Rowe Price Group, led a crowd in the lobby of the Baltimore Museum of Art in a toast to mark OSI's 20th anniversary



## BOLD THINKING ON RACIAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA

**JUNE 13, 2018** 



together in a way, recognizing that the fight for

civil rights and the fight for human rights is not

going to be won by one group alone. It has to be

Vanita Gupta

President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

waged in coalition."

Photo: Vanita Gupta and Taylor Branch, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and OSI Advisory Board member, talked about ways to advance racial justice using the judiciary despite the Trump administration's attempts to roll back previous gains.

## MAKING SURE EVERY PERSON COUNTS: THE CENSUS, ADVOCACY, AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION



**SEPTEMBER 25. 2018** 

"Democracy only works when every voice is heard, that's why the census matters."

Rashad Robinson

Executive Director of Color of Change

"Eighty-five percent of federal funds for Baltimore are based on formulas from the census."

Barbara Mikulski

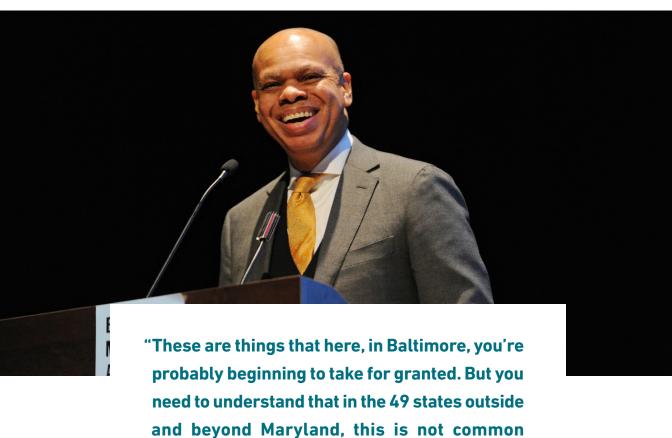
Professor of Public Policy at Johns Hopkins
University and former U.S. Senator
representing Maryland

Barbara Mikulsi and Rashad Robinson talk about the importance of the census during one of OSI's 20th anniversary events.



## CHALLENGES TO OPEN SOCIETIES AROUND THE WORLD

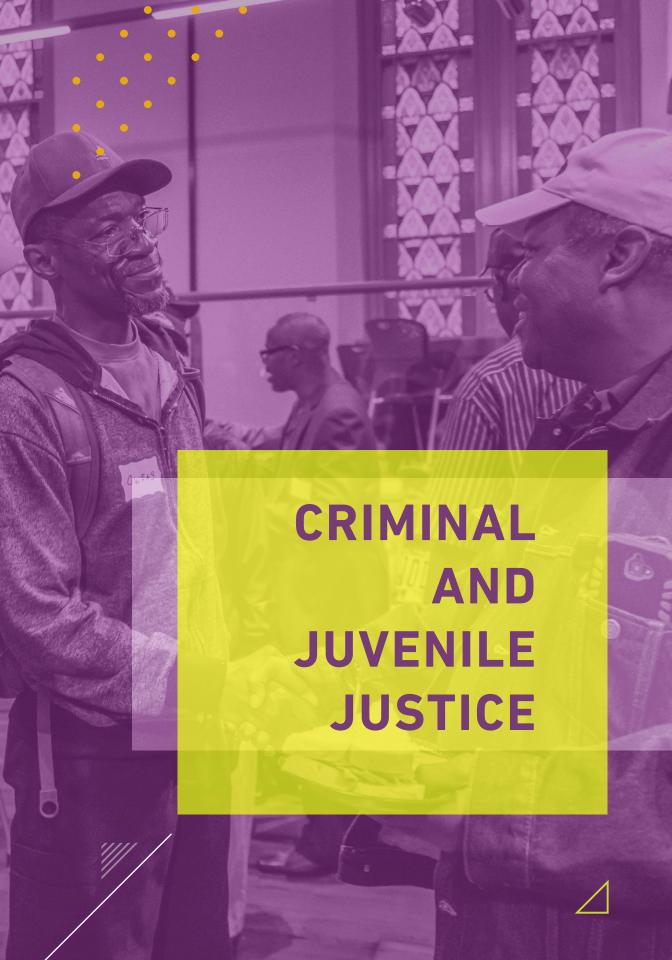
OCTOBER 30, 2018



Patrick Gaspard
President, Open Society Foundations

Photo: Patrick Gaspard, speaking at OSI-Baltimore's final 20th anniversary event about our work supporting addiction treatment, mental health care, and job training for people returning from incarceration; helping combat drug addiction and shifting attitudes away from punishment and toward health; advocating for harm-reduction policies and the use of naloxone to prevent opioid deaths; and implementing restorative practices in public schools to improve school climate and address bullying.

practice. You are leading the way."



OSI-Baltimore's Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program seeks to reduce mass incarceration in Baltimore and Maryland through strategies that dismantle structural racism in criminal justice policies and promote restorative justice as the way to achieve lasting, and widely-shared, community safety.

#### THE COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE

In 2018, we continued our work to reform policing in Baltimore to bring about greater transparency, accountability and equity. With our support, the Community Oversight Task Force – mandated by the federal consent decree to review Baltimore's civilian oversight processes — released a robust report with recommendations of how to greatly improve civilian oversight of the Baltimore Police Department and other law enforcement agencies that operate in the City. We, in partnership with Open Society Policy Center, a 501(c)(4) organization that is also a member of the Open Society Foundations network, also continued work to reform pretrial practices to reduce the number of people who remain incarcerated pending trial because they cannot afford to pay bail. In addition to protecting progress already made, Open Society Policy Center supported advocates who helped secure \$1 million in new state funding to expand pretrial services to jurisdictions that do not currently have them.

#### "THE UNGERS"

This year was also the culmination of the five-year investment we made to support "the Ungers" — the more than 200 aging men and one woman who were released from Maryland's prisons between 2012 and 2018, after serving more than 30 years. In partnership with the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, we were able to demonstrate that aging inmates, even those convicted of the most serious crimes, can be safely released into the community with the proper support. With these results in hand, we went one step further and commissioned a fiscal analysis that found that releasing the Ungers resulted in a projected savings of \$185 million for Maryland taxpayers.

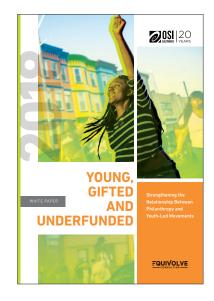
Opposite: Unger defendants and their families at a reception following their release.

#### STILL LEARNING:

## YOUTH AND PHILANTHROPY

After the death of Freddie Gray in 2015, young people in Baltimore took the lead in advocating for systemic change, and many local funders found themselves flat-footed, without the relationships or the structure to get resources to these dynamic leaders quickly. Tara Huffman, director of OSI's Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program, launched a project to confront this problem—which exists around the country—head on. She collaborated with Open Society Foundations' Youth Exchange program to conduct an analysis of funding to youth-led movements in Baltimore and held a series of focus groups with youth leaders and with foundation program officers to gauge the attitudes and barriers to increased funding.

The result was a report released in February, 2018, Young, Gifted, and Underfunded: Strengthening the Relationship Between Philanthropy and Youth-Led Movements. The report found that between 2012 and 2016, less than one percent of the grants awarded to Baltimore-area organizations were awarded to youth-led organizations. It identified feelings of mistrust and apprehension between youth advocates and program officers. The report led to a series of facilitated discussions among funders and youth leaders, and OSI-Baltimore, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Maryland Philanthropy Network (formerly the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers) are among those who have taken initial steps to address some of the report's recommendations.





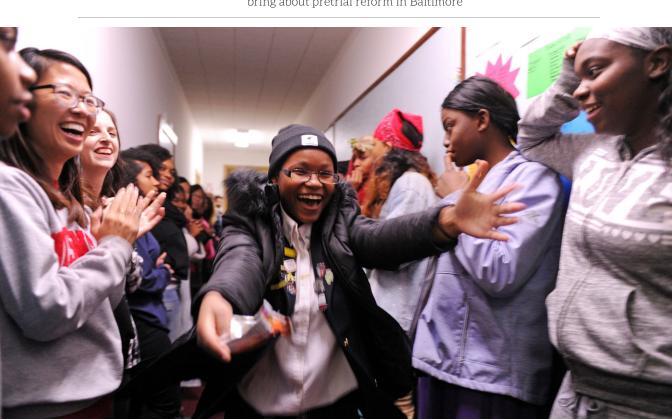
## **2018** CRIMINAL and JUVENILE JUSTICE GRANTS

#BaltimoreVotes	\$25,000 over one year to increase civic participation among young people and other Baltimoreans affected by harmful justice policies
Advocates for Children and Youth, Inc.	\$60,000 over nine months to engage in research, public education, technical assistance for agenda development, and community outreach to advance juvenile justice reform in Maryland
American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland Foundation	\$90,000 over one year to support its policy analysis, education and advocacy efforts to increase police accountability, implement the consent decree and reduce arrests and pretrial detention in Baltimore and Maryland
Black Leaders Organizing for Change (BLOC)	\$25,000 over six months to increase civic engagement and build political power among youth and communities in Baltimore most impacted by gun violence and mass incarceration
CASA de Maryland	\$100,000 over one year to support the continued activities of the Campaign for Justice, Safety & Jobs to bring about policing reforms in Baltimore and Maryland
Civic Works, Inc.	\$75,000 over one year to enable its Baltimore Center for Green Careers to create more meaningful career opportunities for individuals with criminal records and to advocate for non-stigmatizing hiring practices
Community Law in Action, Inc.	\$105,000 over nine months to engage in organizing, education, and advocacy efforts to reduce the number of youth involved in the justice system, including youth who are automatically prosecuted and incarcerated as adults

D.R. Lynes Video and Television Productions, LLC	\$10,000 over one year to support production of a film about the obstacles facing formerly incarcerated women in Baltimore in order to build support for needed policy reform
Jews United for Justice	\$50,000 over one year to support its participation in coalitions to bring about positive reforms in policing and pretrial practices in Baltimore and Maryland
JFA Institute	\$78,500 over one year to conduct analysis and make policy recommendations to reduce pretrial and prison populations in Baltimore and Maryland
Job Opportunities Task Force	\$100,000 over one year to support its communications and advocacy efforts to reduce barriers to employment for people with criminal records, and advocate for the elimination of cash bail and other criminal justice reforms in partnership with local and state partners
Johns Hopkins University	\$7,500 over three months to support a two-day workshop to bring together academics with community activists and organizers to discuss areas of collaboration around the movement to reform police culture and policies
Justice Policy Institute	\$150,000 over one year to engage in research, policy advocacy and communications efforts to support local and statewide criminal justice reform campaigns in Baltimore and Maryland
Maryland Justice Project	\$25,000 over one year to conduct a public education and engagement campaign to ensure that people with criminal records are aware of Baltimore's "Ban the Box" policy and are equipped with the tools to ensure that the policy is fully implemented and enforced
Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative	\$50,000 over one year to reform parole policies affecting prisoners serving long-term sentences in Maryland

Opposite: Students in 2015 OSI Community Fellow Brian Gerardo's Baltimore Dance Crews Project. Photo by Colby Ware.

No Boundaries Coalition	\$50,000 over one year to support public education, organizing and advocacy efforts to bring about policy and practice reforms that improve police accountability and establish effective community policing in Baltimore
Out for Justice	\$65,000 over one year to engage in grassroots community organizing, capacity building, leadership development activities, and policy reform efforts to reduce the negative impacts of pretrial incarceration and the collateral consequences of contact with the criminal justice system
Power Inside	\$100,000 over two years to strengthen its capacity to connect with, educate and empower women impacted by the criminal justice system to advocate for different responses that reduce over criminalization and over incarceration
Progressive Maryland Education Fund, Inc.	\$50,000 over one year to support its organizing and communications activities to advance pretrial reform in Maryland
Public Justice Center	\$100,000 over one year to support the continued efforts to explore, support and, where viable, pursue legal actions designed to eliminate or reduce the use of money bail and bring about pretrial reform in Baltimore





The Education and Youth
Development Program
seeks to ensure that all
student groups are fully
included in schooling
and other opportunities
that prepare them for
success in adulthood.

An overwhelming majority of youth in Baltimore City Public Schools experience the effects of concentrated and, most often, generational poverty, coupled with limited exposure to opportunities, which is further compounded by discriminatory treatment in and out of school. Equitable education is the most accessible way to break out of the crippling cycle of poverty. OSI-Baltimore believes that equitable education is best achieved by removing prohibitive barriers and inequitable practices that push children out of school and into the school to prison pipeline. The Education and Youth Development Program seeks to ensure that all student groups are fully included in schooling and other opportunities that prepare them for success in adulthood.

In 2018, we worked to advance this goal through a number of strategies. We partnered with Baltimore City Schools to implement restorative and other complementary practices that help students and educators resolve conflicts, lift up student voices, and improve instruction. We established Baltimore City Schools' Re-engagement Center to provide opportunities for students who have separated from schools to gain the credits they need to graduate. And we worked alongside advocates to fight for long-term, adequate school funding for Baltimore City and other historically under-resourced Maryland school districts through the Governor-appointed "Kirwan Commission." We also supported policies and practices that include and protect some of our most marginalized students, including immigrant students, LGBTQ students, students with disabilities, and African American students.

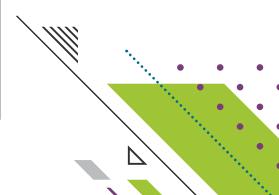
## STILL LEADING THE WAY:

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES GO STATEWIDE

Over the last several years, OSI-Baltimore has worked with Baltimore City Schools to pioneer implementation of restorative practices throughout the district, and 55 of the city's 180 schools have already begun implementation or are scheduled to do so in the next academic year. The schools that have implemented these practices have seen dramatic drops in suspensions and school-based arrests, while test results and graduation rates have increased district-wide

In 2018, OSI and its grantees, including the ACLU of Maryland, Baltimore Algebra Project, and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, developed a strategy to advocate for statewide implementation of restorative practices. These efforts bore fruit in 2019, with the implementation of a broad education package that includes a statewide professional development program for teachers on "racial awareness, cultural competency, religious tolerance and restorative practices."

OSI's Education and Youth
Development Program and
its grantees have already
begun to share resources
about restorative approaches
to positive school climate
and discipline with districts
throughout the state to ensure
that restorative practices are
as successful statewide as they
have been in Baltimore.



## **2018** EDUCATION and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Adocates for Children and Youth, Inc.	\$165,000 over 18 months to advocate for the application of a racial equity/justice framework to three policy areas: 1) school funding; 2) school climate; and 3) school discipline
American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland	\$100,000 over one year to advocate for equitable school funding; adequate school facilities; and school discipline reform
Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers	\$5,000 project support for its Education Funders Affinity Group
Attendance Works	\$50,000 over one year to monitor Maryland's adoption of chronic absence and school climate indicators in its federal accountability plan and to advocate for adequate funding for Maryland schools, with a focus on Baltimore City
Baltimore Curriculum Project	\$75,000 over 15 months to formalize City Springs Elementary/ Middle School's role as a restorative practices demonstration site
Center for Supportive Schools	\$10,000 over one year to support its Peer Group Connection mentoring program in public middle schools in Baltimore
Community Mediation Program, Inc.	\$25,000 over one year to support restorative practices implementation in up to four of Baltimore City Schools' intensive learning sites
The Education Trust	\$50,000 over one year to generate data and policy analyses that explain why addressing racial inequities should be a top priority for Maryland
FreeState Legal Project, Inc.	\$50,000 over one year to advocate for practices and policies that protect the rights of LGBTQ students
GLSEN, Inc.	\$25,000 over six months to enable it to utilize restorative practices to address LGBTQ issues, beginning with Baltimore City Schools



\$25,000 over nine months to pilot its Bridging Academics and the Mind Online Curriculum in Baltimore City Schools
\$25,000 over one year to implement a combination of recess programming, professional development and online learning tools to improve the learning environment at Baltimore elementary schools
\$40,000 over 18 months to create a grassroots statewide network of education advocates, parents, students and teachers
\$25,000 over one year to support restorative practices training and implementation by creating a series of instructional videos
\$100,000 over nine months to support The Positive Schools Center at the University of Maryland-Baltimore, School of Social Work to train principals, teachers, and students in Baltimore City public schools to use restorative and other complimentary practices that support the creation of positive school climates
\$100,000 over 18 months to support youth produced media campaigns that promote strategies to integrate restorative practices in Baltimore City Public Schools

Below: Students in 2016 OSI Community Fellow Isa Olufemi's Poet Pride Run Club. Photo by Colby Ware.

Opposite: Participants in 2016 OSI Community Fellow Isa Olufemi's Umoja Unity Run. Photo by Colby Ware.





OSI-Baltimore's
Addiction and Health
Equity Program seeks to
generate and promote
innovative ideas that
improve health equity
and increase access to
high-quality behavioral
health services, reduce
negative stigma, and
support community
engagement to improve
public health in
Baltimore.

In 2018, we continued our work to leverage health care reforms to increase access to quality addiction treatment services, but shifted more of our funding to focus increasingly on harm reduction and supporting people directly impacted by substance use to advocate in their own voice. These funding streams supported peer recovery specialists and other individuals with lived experience with addiction or substance use to organize, access trainings and educational resources, and provide harm reduction-based street outreach to people actively using drugs across Baltimore City.

This year also marked the launch of our Advocacy and Leadership Training Program, a series of trainings across Maryland aimed at providing people directly impacted by addiction with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate in their own voices on self-identified policy concerns. In 2019, we will continue supporting a growing network of people directly impacted by drug use to be at the table helping to shape policy decisions that will affect their lives.



Above: OSI-supported Community Health Outreach staff from the Baltimore City Health Department.

## STILL EMPOWERING: ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Historically, there has been a disconnect between the people advocating for policies related to drug use, addiction, and treatment, and the people who were most affected by those policies. To remedy that, in 2018, OSI-Baltimore's Addiction and Health Equity Program started holding Advocacy and Leadership Training programs for people with lived experience with addiction.

The two-day trainings are intended to help build the field of advocates around the state and increase the representation of people with lived experience with addiction in policy conversations. The first two trainings were held in Frederick and Easton, Maryland, and included sessions on the science of substance use and effective treatment, harm reduction, the history and ongoing effects of the War on Drugs, and basic advocacy tactics. OSI-Baltimore grantees from the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, the Legal Action Center, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, among others, led the sessions.

During the trainings,
participants build relationships
with trainers and other
participants that will enable
them to advocate for policies
that respond to the needs
of people most affected by
addiction at the local, state,
and national levels.



## **2018** ADDICTION and HEALTH EQUITY GRANTS

Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition	\$90,000 over one year to provide harm reduction programming, advocate for harm reduction policies, and reduce stigma relating to drug use
Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development	\$150,000 over two years to enable its members, largely Black churches, to develop community leaders to advance harm reduction approaches to address the overdose crisis
Behavioral Health Leadership Institute	\$100,000 over 18 months to support a mobile treatment van that provides buprenorphine, when appropriate, to individuals as they are released from the state-run Baltimore City jail
Behavioral Health System Baltimore	\$100,000 over 18 months to provide harm reduction outreach, education, and advocacy training to individuals who use drugs and educate community members about the effectiveness of harm reduction strategies
Communities United	\$25,000 over one year to support its Freedom to Thrive Budget, which mobilizes Baltimore residents to advocate for the reallocation of city funding for policing to overdose prevention efforts, including harm reduction approaches
Consumer Health First	\$175,000 over 18 months to provide general support
	\$10,000 over 18 months to build capacity by developing a strategic plan and a development plan
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc.	\$150,000 over one year to support public education and mobiliza- tion activities aimed at creating a statewide drug cost commission in Maryland
The Maryland Peer Advisory Council	\$75,000 over one year to identify and train new peer support specialists to become advocates for drug policy reform
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency-Maryland	\$170,000 over one year to provide general support







## COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIPS





OSI-Baltimore launched
the Community
Fellowships Program
in 1998 to identify
dynamic activists and
social entrepreneurs
looking to implement
projects that address
problems in underserved
communities in
Baltimore City.

Each year, OSI names up to 10 Community Fellows and the Baltimore Community Fellowships Network is now 200 strong and includes people behind some of Baltimore's most impactful organizations, including Thread, The Book Thing, Wide Angle Youth Media, FORCE, Fluid Movement, and so many more.

The program's "open valve approach" allows applicants to identify local problems deserving attention, regardless of whether they match OSI's existing priorities, and to define the "community" they wish to target. In a city struggling with the impact of past and present discriminatory policies and practices and chronic disinvestment, the Fellowships program provides a channel for individuals to respond to the city's many needs.

The program has three goals. The first is to identify the entrepreneurial talent dedicated to revitalizing Baltimore's communities. The second is to develop a strong Community Fellows Network by helping Fellows to enhance the skills needed to be as effective in their work as possible. The third is to integrate the Fellows' community experience into priority Open Society fields—Fellows are included in cross program collaboration activities involving OSI staff, experts, and practitioners to inform and advance changes in practice and policy work.

In 2018, the Fellowship Program named its 21st cohort of Fellows (see page 26) and continued to support the work of the Fellows Advisory Board to facilitate collaboration among the Fellowships network.

Previous: Announcement of 2018 cohort of OSI Community Fellows at 20th Anniversary Speaker Series event. Photo by Colby Ware.

Opposite: 2018 OSI Community Fellow Aarti Sidhu, right, talks to her mentor, 2013 OSI Community Fellow Lanaea Featherstone. Photo by Laura Pohl.

## STILL SHARING: PEER COACHING

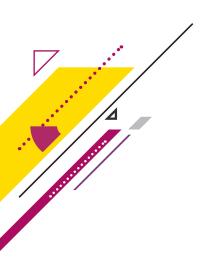
From its founding 20 years ago, OSI's Community Fellowships Program has focused on identifying passionate people with great ideas to improve the lives of people in Baltimore's underserved communities. In recent years, as the network of Fellows grew to 200, the program pivoted to think about how to leverage this network of committed activists to be a collective force for the city.

Recently, OSI launched the Fellows Advisory Board (FAB), a group of 15 Fellows from throughout the program's history tasked with working to strengthen connections among Fellows, discover and address shared needs, and explore ways to collaborate. In 2018, FAB launched the Peer Coaching Program, matching Fellows in the 2018 cohort with Fellows in the network

"Lanaea has been an ideal mentor – I run everything by her," 2018 Fellow Aarti Sidhu says of her coach, 2012 Fellow Lanaea Featherstone, who, in addition to meeting for regular coaching sessions, invited Sidhu to a special reception to meet Gloria Steinem. "Being able to learn from Lanaea's experiences has been a great help."



## MEET OSI'S 2018 COMMUNITY FELLOWS





#### **GRAHAM COREIL-ALLEN**

Graham Coreil-Allen will launch the Druid Hill Park Complete Streets Project to advocate for transportation and green space equity

through public art and creative planning. The project aims to increase access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with mobility devices to correct for the history of civic planning in the area that prioritized commuter traffic, despite the fact that about half of the local residents don't own cars.



#### **CIERA DANIEL**

Ciera Daniel will establish Young Kings Leadership Academy, an after-school leadership development

program targeting African-American middleschool boys at East Baltimore's City Springs Elementary Middle School. The project hopes to counteract negative stereotypes about black men in popular culture and help students realize their potential to serve their school and their community.



#### ERIC FISHEL

Eric Fishel's Baltimore Foodparks will convert vacant lots into mixed-use parks using native edible plants for the benefit of

both the nearby human and bird communities. Through educational events, Eric will also introduce community members to related employment opportunities. The project will conserve the city's greenspace, improve local ecosystems, and rehabilitate blighted areas.



JENNAY GHOWRAL

Jennay Ghowral will improve the experience and representation of criminal defendants facing mental health challenges

with her program, REMIND, which will train defense attorneys to understand and communicate better with their clients. This population made up 40 percent of Maryland Public Defender's clients in 2017. The goal is to improve outcomes, increase access to services, and reduce recidivism.



SHELLY HALSTEAD

Shelley Halstead's organization, Black Women Build – Baltimore, will teach black women carpentry skills as they

rehabilitate houses in the Upton community, helping them to build careers as well as wealth through home ownership.



**AVA PIPITONE** 

Ava Pipitone will establish HostHome, a communityowned online housing platform designed to address housing instability

in the transgender community. It will allow hosts to provide temporary housing for people in distress. In the future, the platform could become a national model.



**AARTI SIDHU** 

Aarti Sidhu's Represent Youth: Baltimore School Justice Initiative will provide legal representation to Baltimore school children in suspension and expulsion proceedings. The initiative will empower youth and families by educating them about their rights in schools and advocating for policy reform to decrease and ultimately end exclusionary discipline.



**EMILY THOMPSON** 

Emily Thompson will establish *PIVOT* as a comprehensive re-entry program for women

returning to Baltimore City from the criminal justice system. The initiative seeks to address the gap in gender-specific programming for formerly incarcerated people.



**FRED WATKINS** 

Fred Watkins will build Lil' Laughs as a vehicle to increase the self-esteem of students using

entertainment and programming that incorporates de-escalation and confidence-building techniques.



**BRITTANY YOUNG** 

Brittany Young's *B-360* will utilize the dirt bike culture to equip disconnected youth

and young adults with the skills to secure educational and career opportunities in STEM fields. The initiative also seeks to change the negative perception of dirt bike riders.

#### **COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP GRANTS**

Business Volunteers Maryland	\$45,000 over 18 months to provide mentors and advisors to organizations established by Baltimore Community Fellows
Clay Pots, A Place to Grow	\$3,300 over one year to provide informal venues where members of the Baltimore Community Fellowships Network can interact, deepen their relationships, and set the state for further collaboration

#### **SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY GRANTS**

CASA de Maryland, Inc.	\$25,000 over one year to provide rapid response, case management, legal assistance and safety planning services to detained immigrants and their families
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	\$50,000 over two years to support the Maryland Center on Economic Policy's research, analysis, public education and strategic communication to reduce inequality and promote economic prosperity in Maryland
Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers	\$15,360 over two years to provide general support

### TALKING ABOUT RACE

Since 2009, OSI-Baltimore
has been presenting this
free, public series as a way
of sparking sometimes
difficult conversations about
how race intersects with our
lives. In 2018, we partnered
with the Pratt Library and
Baltimore Ceasefire to
present discussions that
were particularly relevant
to current events, in hopes
that they could help guide
Baltimore residents and
leaders to policy solutions.

#### THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY IN AMERICA

In March, we partnered with the Pratt Library to present a conversation between author and Georgetown Law Professor Peter Edelman and Johns Hopkins Political Science and Africana Studies Associate Professor Lester Spence on the themes of Edelman's recent book. Not a Crime to Be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty in America. Edelman explained how money bail systems, fees and fines, strictly enforced laws and regulations against behavior including trespassing and public urination that largely affect the homeless, and the substitution of prisons and jails for the mental hospitals that have traditionally served the impoverished have effectively made it a crime to be poor and disproportionately impact African-Americans. In a wide ranging discussion and lively Q-and-A session with the audience, he and Spence talked about efforts to change the systems in Maryland and nationally, including bail reform and other criminal justice reform efforts and how to plug into them.

#### MOTHERS OF THE MOVEMENT SPEAK

In May, we collaborated with Baltimore Ceasefire on an event to hear from mothers who have lost children to police and gun violence and discuss ways to respond to the violence. OSI Director Diana Morris and Ceasefire's Erricka Bridgeford opened the event and then Bakari Kitwana, author and founder of Rap Sessions, moderated a panel discussion and audience Q-and-A with Samaria Rice, mother of Tamir Rice; Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner; and Marion Gray-Hopkins, mother of Gary Albert Hopkins, Jr. Afterwards, participants broke into smaller groups for in-depth discussions, moderated by members of Baltimore Ceasefire.



# THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

WE WANT TO
EXTEND OUR
THANKS TO OUR
2018 DONORS FOR
FIGHTING FOR
BALTIMORE TOO!

Because of the donors to Open Society Institute-Baltimore, change is happening! City school students are learning in a climate more suited to help them achieve. Teens are being diverted from the juvenile justice system and the school to prison pipeline is being systematically dismantled. People who struggle with substance use have greater access to the support and services they want. A growing network of social entrepreneurs are putting their passion and energy to work in communities across the city.

Throughout our 20 year history, our work has brought together organizations, activists, public officials, community leaders, citizens, allies, and friends—many of whom not only invest their time and talents to this work, but also their resources. Because of their donations over the years, OSI-Baltimore can still embrace BOLD THINKING, take STRATEGIC ACTION, and fight for JUSTICE FOR ALL of us.

OSI-Baltimore is thankful to our community of supporters who enable us to bring real solutions to the problems facing the people of Baltimore. Our donors make it possible for our staff to push forward in the face of negative press about Baltimore and the high stakes of the task ahead. We work with dogged determination, optimism and willingness to stretch boundaries and test conventional wisdom about what is possible, because Baltimore is still our home, and it's worth fighting for.

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### NOTE FROM A NEW OSI DONOR

#### I am proud to be an investor in OSI-Baltimore!

I love Baltimore, a dynamic city with great assets, rich in diversity and community resources, yet overwhelmed by inequities and many needs.



A recent transplant from San Francisco, I had enjoyed visiting friends in Baltimore over the years, moved here for a two-year trial, then decided to make it my home. As a social worker with a background in criminal justice and behavioral health, and an appreciation for creative arts, I knew that my interests and experience would be a good fit for my life here.

As a now full-time Baltimore resident, I was first introduced to OSI-Baltimore at their 20th Anniversary celebration of accomplishments at the BMA, featuring Senator Barbara Mikulski and Rashad Robinson discussing the importance of the 2020 census. Intrigued by that first experience, I attended other events to learn more, and became excited by OSI's focus on Baltimore and what is being accomplished in the City through their programs, and public and private partnerships. I am particularly inspired by the OSI-Baltimore Community Fellowships Program and Network, and their critical, important projects in place throughout the City.

For these reasons, I feel confident about my decision to include OSI-Baltimore in my charitable giving. I know, in doing so, I am making a valuable investment in my new city.

Martha P. Stein LCSW-C Neil and Laura Tucker
Nancy and Larry
Wertheimer
Steve Ziger and Jamie Snead

#### **UP TO \$1,000**

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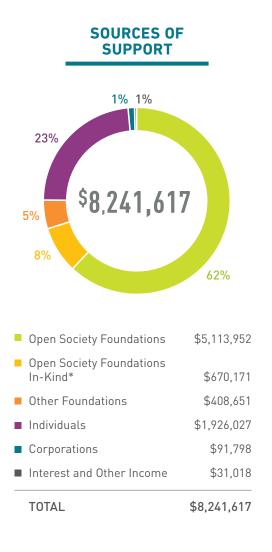
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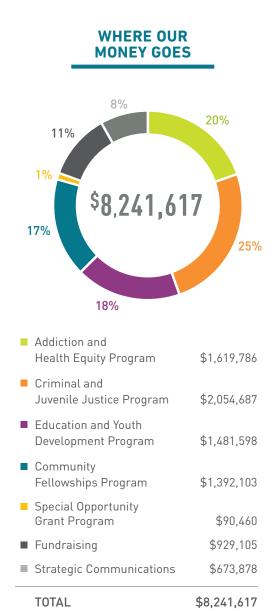
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#### **2018 REVENUE AND EXPENSES**





\*In addition to the funds Open Society Foundations provides OSI-Baltimore, it also provides in-kind resources to support operational infrastructure and complementary management operations, including human resources, legal, grants administration, finance, and information technology services.

Note: This financial report presents revenues and expenses that reflect the programmatic impact during 2018 and is based on unaudited numbers. An audited financial statement is available upon request.

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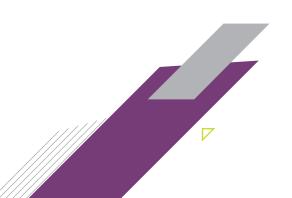
#### Ava E. Lias-Booker

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#### Robin Williams Wood

**Attorney** 

Suzanne F. Cohen (Emerita)





## OSI MOURNS THE LOSS OF SUZANNE COHEN



In November 2018, Suzanne Cohen, a fierce advocate for equity and the arts and a longtime supporter and Advisory Board member at Open Society Institute-Baltimore, died at the age of 83.

"All of us at OSI benefited from Sue's talents, passion and many contributions," OSI-Baltimore director Diana Morris said. "We will miss her."

Cohen supported many Baltimore organizations, both as an advocate and as a philanthropist, including the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and Johns Hopkins University, in addition to OSI. She often focused her support on building the capacity, leadership, and governance structure of organizations in which she believed, hoping to help them sustain themselves for the long haul. When OSI began fundraising 12 years ago, Cohen was among the first supporters and, soon thereafter, became a member of the Advisory Board.

"Sue chose carefully the boards on which she served, so it was an honor that she chose to serve on our board for so many years," says Morris. "We benefited from her rigorous thinking, experience in the non-profit world, hands-on approach, and deep commitment to Baltimore and to justice."

#### **2018 STAFF**

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Deputy Director

#### Jeffrey Burch

Foundation and Corporate Gifts Officer Development

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Program Associate Community Fellowships and Initiatives Program

#### Michael Camlin

Program Specialist, Addiction and Health Equity Program and Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program

#### Emily Faxon

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Director, Education and Youth Development Program

Below: 2015 OSI Community Fellow Menes Yahudah's students perform during OSI's 20th Anniversary Speakers Series. Photo by Colby Ware.





#### OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BALTIMORE

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