



### CONTENTS

Letter from the Director	2
2019 Year in Review	4
Addiction and Health Equity Program	8
Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program	12
Education and Youth Development Program	18
Community Fellowships Program	22
Outreach and Education	26
Thank You Donors	33
Finance	36
2020 Board Members and Staff	37

Letter from the Director



### MEETING the MOMENT

The world we inhabited in 2019 seems like a totally different place from the one we inhabit now. The COVID-19 crisis and the mass protests for change in response to police killings have re-shaped our lives and shifted our perspectives on a wide range of things, including public safety, community health, work, and education. They have also opened up new opportunities for change and revealed new understandings of what it is possible to achieve.

Open Society Institute-Baltimore has seen and responded to many changes over the course of its 22-year history. The organization has always strived to be responsive to the people of Baltimore, to amplify the voices of marginalized communities, and to identify emerging opportunities to advance human rights and progressive change. In 2019, OSI saw some of the most significant changes in the organization's history, which prepared us well to meet the challenges of 2020 — some of which we anticipated and some we most certainly did not.

2 2019 IMPACT REPORT •

In early 2019, in response to ongoing and emboldened threats to open society in the United States, including more overt bigotry in the public discourse and autocratic tendencies in the federal government, Open Society Foundations reorganized its US-based work as Open Society U.S., integrating and aligning the Baltimore office with offices in New York and in Washington D.C. By streamlining resources, increasing collaboration, and integrating our diverse perspectives, OS-US will be better situated to meet this challenging moment in US history.

As part of that reorganization, OSF made the decision to renew its investment in Baltimore, and in doing so, underscored the organization's commitment to the intensive place-based philanthropy we do here, while also giving us greater financial security. As a result, OSI-Baltimore staff will not need to invest nearly as much time and resources to fundraising as we had in the past and can focus more on collaborative efforts with other funders as well as public, private, and grassroots partners.

In June, OSI experienced one of its most significant changes when founding director Diana Morris stepped down after more than 20 years at the helm. We are all so grateful that Deputy Director Tracy Brown was able to step in as interim director during this period and expertly lead the organization through these changes.

Since I joined the organization in January, 2020, I have been endlessly impressed with the thoughtfulness, insight, and passion that the organization's staff brings to its work. Through these momentous changes, my colleagues' commitment to dismantling racism, listening to community voices, and holding leaders accountable has never wavered.

As I write this, Baltimore and the rest of the country continue to grapple with a global pandemic and an ongoing fight for racial justice. I'm confident that my colleagues and I, working with our many local and national partners, will meet this moment and move towards a stronger, more just city and country.

In Solidarity,

Danielle Torain



OSI's Diana Morris and Tara Huffman publish Baltimore Sun op-ed, "Baltimore must prioritize

police reform": "To improve public safety, the city must use the consent decree to rethink the role of police in

Baltimore. This means taking specific steps to change the culture of the BPD to embrace oversight and accountability and shift to a guardian mentality that helps residents truly feel protected and valued as partners."



Thanks to fierce opposition from the OSIsupported Coalition to Reform School Discipline, the Baltimore City School Board voted

unanimously to oppose HB31, a bill that would have allowed school police to carry guns inside school buildings.



JAN 25

OSI releases Building on the Unger Experience: A cost-benefit analysis of releasing aging prisoners, which detailed OSI's support for a

group of almost 200 aging prisoners being released from the prison system and found that their release resulted in a projected savings of \$185 million to Maryland taxpayers with no impact on public safety.



More than 700 people attend OSI's Talking

**About Race event**, a conversation between Steve Luxenberg, author of *Separate: The Story* 

of Plessy vs. Ferguson and America's Journey from Slavery to Segregation, and Chief Judge Robert Bell, the first African-American chief judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals.



OSI announces that Director Diana Morris would step down in June.



OSI's Leadership Council meets with Jabari Lyles,

the Baltimore Mayor's LGBTQ Affairs Liaison and board chair and former executive director of OSI

grantee GLSEN Maryland, and Mark Procopio, executive director of OSI grantee FreeState
Justice to discuss their advocacy on LGBTQ issues in Baltimore City Public Schools.

MAR 25

### OSI hosts its second Talking About Race event of the year, a

conversation between Dr. Beverly
Tatum, author of Why Are All the Black Kids
Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other
Conversations About Race, recently released in
an expanded 20th Anniversary Edition, and
Baltimore City Schools CEO Dr. Sonja Santelises.



MAR 29 The Baltimore Sun reports that 2018 Baltimore City graduation rates rose in all demographics.

Increasing graduation rates has been a major goal of OSI investments like the Re-Engagement Center and High Value High Schools, including Bard Early College High School.



Charm City, a documentary film co-produced by 2015 OSI Community Fellow Meryam

**Bouadjemi**, featuring OSI Community Fellows Clayton Guyton (2000), founder of the Rose Street Community Center, and Alex Long (2017), who works at Safe Streets and founded the McElderry Youth Redemption Boxing Program, debuts on PBS.



The 2017 cohort of OSI Community Fellows "close the circle" on their 18-month fellowships with a

ceremony at Clay Pots, a West Baltimore community space founded by 2009 OSI Community Fellow Dwayne Hess.



OSI hosts Dr. João Goulão, the architect of Portugal's ground-breaking national drug policies,

for a meeting with local leaders, medical personnel, community advocates, and others at OSI-Baltimore's offices to talk about decriminalization and prioritizing harm reduction and public health.



A new Vera Institute of Justice report shows that Maryland incarceration rates had dropped

to their lowest level since the mid-80s. The primary goal of OSI's Criminal and Juvenile Justice Department has been to reduce incarceration rates by investing in efforts that led to the Justice Reinvestment Act and reforms of parole and sentencing guidelines.



OSI co-hosts actor Michael K.
Williams, who played Omar Little
in *The Wire*, for a screening and

discussion of Raised in the System, his

documentary about the juvenile justice system. The panel discussion included Felicia Porter, who played Snoop in the *The Wire*, OSI's Tara

2019 Year in Review

Huffman (below, with microphone), Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, and others.



Maryland enacts legislation
expanding Restorative Practices,
which OSI and partners piloted in
Baltimore City Schools and statewide.

JUNE 11

OSI hosts a farewell celebration honoring Diana Morris (below, with OSI-Baltimore Advisory

**Board Member Joe Jones) and her 21 years** of service to Open Society Foundations and to the city of Baltimore.



JUNE 27

OSI and the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) co-present a new exhibit, Slavery, The Prison

Industrial Complex: Photographs by Keith Calhoun and Chandra McCormick, which documents life in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. OSI staff worked with the BMA to provide materials for the exhibit that connect Calhoun and McCormick's work with the injustices of mass incarceration nationally and in Maryland.

JULY 18

Baltimore City Police Commissioner Michael Harrison releases a new crime plan that integrates several

**initiatives supported by OSI**, including the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program and community policing.



Mayor Jack Young commits to funding the Safe City Baltimore initiative, which OSI founded

with the Mayor's office in 2017 to provide legal support for local immigrants at risk of being deported.



OSI, the Baltimore City Health
Department, OSI grantee Bmore
Power, and other groups co-sponsor

**Naloxone trainings** at several Baltimore City locations to mark Overdose Awareness Day.



OSI's Scott Nolen publishes an op-ed in the Baltimore Sun, "The 'seatbelt' approach to the opioid

crisis," arguing that "denying harm reduction services to people who use drugs is no different than denying seatbelts to people who drive."

6 2019 IMPACT REPORT ●



Black Leaders Organizing for Change host the first of four survey design workshops to kick off the

Blueprint for Baltimore process (see page 20).





New Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Letitia Dzirasa joins OSI's Leadership Council

to discuss the Health Department's ongoing strategic planning process, including its series of Community Conversations.



Baltimore State's Attorney
Marilyn Mosby and City Council
President Brandon Scott join

OSI grantees Baltimore Harm Reduction
Coalition, BMORE Power, and Charm City
Care Connection at a press conference to
encourage city and state officials to pursue
Overdose Prevention Sites (OPSs) in Baltimore
City, a goal of OSI's Addiction and Health
Equity Program.

OSI hosts a Talking About Race event
in which poet Reginald Dwayne
Betts reads excerpts from his new

Betts reads excerpts from his new collection, Felon, and answers questions from fellow poet and 2015 OSI Community Fellow Lady Brion at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.



The UN Special Rapporteur and OSF education advocates from around the world visit Baltimore

to learn about OSI's work integrating Restorative Practices and mindfulness into the Baltimore City Public School system.



0CT 24

Community Data Fellows from Black Leaders Organizing for Change, CASA (pictured, above),

Baltimore Votes, and the No Boundaries

Coalition begin their city-wide canvass as part
of the Blueprint for Baltimore survey (see page 26).



OSI announces the 2019 cohort of Community Fellows (See page 24).



OSI and Disability Rights Maryland host two-day symposium,
Decriminalizing Disability.



Baltimore City Delegate Brooke Lierman and Baltimore County Delegate Shelly Hettleman join

**OSI's Leadership Council** to preview the 2020 legislative session.

2019 Year in Review **7** 

# Addiction and Health Equity Program

The 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 2019, the Addiction and Health Equity Program continued our work to leverage health care reforms to increase access to quality addiction treatment services. Our funding supported successful efforts to create the country's first prescription drug affordability board, which will help address the unsustainable rising costs of medications in Maryland. OSI-Baltimore also supported efforts to address gaps in insurance coverage and insurance practices that negatively impact access to treatment. The goal of our efforts is to continue to both build on the expanded access to health insurance created by federal health care reform and to make sure that hard working families are not denied services by rising health care costs.

The Addiction and Health Equity Program maintained its partnerships with a number of harm reduction organizations in Baltimore and across the state and backed 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 so that they would be able to organize, access trainings and educational resources, and provide harm reduction-based street outreach to people using drugs in Baltimore City. The program also continued to support low-barrier access to treatment and other services by funding local drop-in centers and a mobile treatment van.

### Lowering the Threshold to Treatment

With thousands of Marylanders dying each year from opiate-related overdoses, it is still far too difficult to access treatment and other resources to meet their needs. In 2019, the Addiction and Health Equity Program supported a number of initiatives to make it easier—also known as lowering the threshold—for people dealing with a substance use disorder to access community-based services.

Knowing what treatment programs and other resources exist in one's community is critical to being able to access those resources. That's why OSI-Baltimore worked with the Baltimore City Health Department to launch Charm Care, an online directory of resources for city residents, including treatment programs, housing, workforce development programs, food access, and educational support. Drug treatment providers use the system to share their capacity to accept new patients in real time, so residents can quickly and easily find a treatment program that meets their needs with immediate intake availability.

Drug use is still criminalized, so a disproportionate number of people incarcerated in the Baltimore City Jail have a substance use disorder. Studies have shown that newly released prisoners are 40 times more likely to experience an overdose than the general population, making the first days after release from jail a critical time to connect people with drug treatment and harm reduction services. That's why we supported the Behavioral Health Leadership Institute's Project Connections at Re-Entry (PCARE) van. It sits outside the Baltimore City jail to get people started on treatment as soon as they're leaving jail. This low-threshold

program accepts returning citizens regardless of whether they have insurance or even an ID, getting them immediately engaged in treatment and services so they can stay alive and receive needed supports as soon as they are released.

While increased access to drug treatment is still needed across the city, we also recognize that not everyone is ready to stop using today and harm reduction services can help to keep people healthier and safer while they are in active drug use. That's why we supported Charm City Care Connection (CCCC), a drop-in center in East Baltimore, to open a harm reduction service program in 2019. In addition to CCCC's health screenings and case management, the harm reduction service program offers overdose education and naloxone distribution, sterile syringe distribution and collection, regular drop-in hours, weekly community lunches, and other leisure activities. These resources build a supportive community that engages Baltimore residents who have typically been disconnected from treatment and other services in the city.



Behavioral Health Leadership Institute's PCARE van outside the Baltimore City Jail.

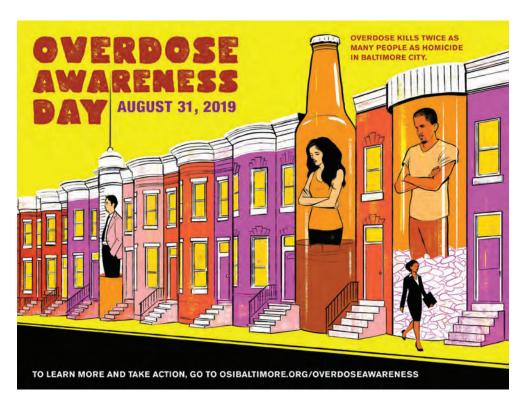


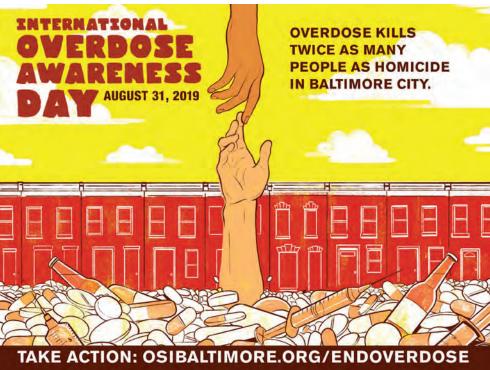
### ADDICTION AND HEALTH EQUITY GRANTS

Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition	\$250,000 over two years to provide harm reduction programming, advocate for harm reduction policies, and reduce stigma relating to drug use.
Charm City Care Connection	\$100,000 over one year to provide harm reduction programming and policy advocacy, operate a drop-in center that supports community members, and reduce stigma relating to drug use.*
Legal Action Center of the City of New York	\$100,000 over two years to protect gains made under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and expand access to behavioral health services that are desperately needed to address the opioid crisis.
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund	\$75,000 over one year to help implement the Prescription Drug Affordability Board law and work with advocates in other states to build coordinated momentum for continued state and federal policy action to make prescription drugs more affordable.
Maryland Peer Advisory Council	\$75,000 over one year, to identify and train new peer support specialists to become advocates for drug policy reform.
Mental Health Association of Maryland	\$100,000 over one year to build an alliance among key payers, providers, regulatory and consumer organizations to advance insurance policy and practice reforms for the purpose of improving access to effective mental health and substance use treatment for Marylanders.
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency	\$275,000 over two years to provide general support.
Progressive Maryland Education Fund	\$25,000 over one year to engage in a public education campaign to build understanding and support among Maryland residents for harm reduction strategies; and to train and develop community leaders to become part of the policy development conversation and be the true drivers of drug policy change.*

 $<sup>^*</sup>$ These grants were funded, in part, through additional one-time support from Open Society Foundations.

10 2019 IMPACT REPORT •





OSI commissioned these posters, illustrated by Alex Fine, to be displayed at City Hall, the Baltimore City Health Department, and other locations around the city on August 31st to mark international Overdose Awareness Day.

# Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program

**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.

2019 was a year of planning and strategizing for the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program. We continued the important work of policing reform, partnering with U.S.-based and international Open Society Foundation colleagues to convene law enforcement officers, advocates, and community leaders to share challenges and identify ways we can work together to transform policing culture, policies, and practices. These efforts included a convening in Nairobi, Kenya, which brought together stakeholders from five continents to talk about policing reform in a global context, exchange ideas and learnings, and set the stage for more coordinated efforts in 2020 and beyond.

The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program worked to convene a wide range of grantees and community advocates such as Homeless Persons Representation Project, Power Inside, Disability Rights Maryland, SWOP Baltimore, Public Justice Center, and Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition —to name just a few—to take on the ambitious project of decriminalizing race, poverty, gender, and disability in Maryland to reduce incarceration and police The program also worked to increase the use of restorative justice practices—like those provided by OSI grantee Restorative Response Baltimore—as an alternative to the criminal justice system.

We also spent 2019 thoughtfully reframing and restructuring our work to increase investments in organizations led by people of color, such as Baltimore Ceasefire, Black Leaders Organizing for Change, and those most negatively impacted by current justice systems, such as Out for Justice and Life After Release.

### 2019: A Year of Restorative Justice

With support from OSI-Baltimore, grantees
Out for Justice, Job Opportunities Task Force,
Maryland Justice Project, and the ACLU of
Maryland, helped win the restoration of voting
rights for people with felony convictions
immediately upon their release from prison.

Previously people had to complete parole, probation, and pay any outstanding fines and restitution before they got their voting rights back. In another victory for the formerly incarcerated, in 2019, OSI grantees supported the Maryland Legislature in adopting a statewide "Ban the Box" policy for employment applications. That means that employers are prohibited from asking if applicants have a criminal record on hiring applications. Finally, OSI-Baltimore's support of our grantees helped bring about a legislative mandate that the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services conduct a gender-based study to determine how to better prepare and support women who are being released from prison after years of incarceration.



Monica Cooper of Maryland Justice Project, an OSI grantee, talks to a reporter about efforts to "Ban the Box" in Maryland.



### CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE GRANTS

\$100,000 over one year to engage in outreach, education and advocacy to reduce the number of youth impacted by Maryland's juvenile justice system, with fewer young people involved at every level.
\$125,000 over one year to support its policy analysis and education efforts to decriminalize certain conduct, increase police accountability and reduce pretrial detention in Baltimore and Maryland.*
\$100,000 over one year to increase its capacity to operate a bail fund to reduce pretrial incarceration and engage Baltimore lawyers in supporting local social and racial justice movements.*
\$45,000 over one year to engage in public education, organizing and advocacy to improve school police accountability and reduce youth incarceration in Maryland.
\$65,000 over one year to support the education and organizing efforts to improve civilian oversight of the police in Baltimore.*
\$75,000 over 18 months to increase the civic capacity of Baltimore residents to confront the root causes of gun violence in Baltimore, and to uplift interventions that heal the harm done by gun violence.
\$150,000 over two years to increase civic engagement and build political power among youth and communities in Baltimore most impacted by gun violence and mass incarceration.*
\$75,000 over 18 months to engage in youth leadership development, organizing and advocacy to reform youth justice and school discipline, and address the root causes of gun violence in Baltimore.

14 2019 IMPACT REPORT •

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.
CASA de Maryland	\$30,000 over one year to enable the Grantee to engage youth in collecting community input to bring about policing reform in Baltimore.
Citizens Policing Project	\$55,000 over one year to engage youth in collecting community input to bring about policing reform in Baltimore.*
F.R.E.S.H. Fully Restoring Every Sons Hope	\$25,000 over one year to engage in outreach, education and advocacy to reduce the number of youth impacted at all levels of Maryland's juvenile justice system.
Good Kids Mad City	\$35,000 over one year to engage in public education, organizing and advocacy to reduce gun violence in Baltimore.*
Greater Baybrook Alliance	\$75,000 over one year to establish a non-punitive, community-based public health intervention model to address the needs of sex workers in two Baltimore neighborhoods.
Jews United for Justice	\$62,500 over 15 months to support grassroots organizing, education and advocacy efforts, in participation with coalitions, to bring about positive reforms in policing and pretrial services in Baltimore and Maryland.
JFA Institute	\$59,000 over nine months to provide training and technical assistance to the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services to lower prison and jail populations.
Job Opportunities Task Force	\$100,000 over one year to engage in research, communications, public education and advocacy to reduce the collateral consequences of criminal justice involvement.
Justice Policy Institute	\$146,000 over 14 months to engage in research, policy advocacy and communications efforts to support criminal justice reform campaigns in Baltimore and Maryland.
Life After Release	\$25,000 over one year to engage in outreach, education and advocacy to reduce the number of youth impacted at all levels by Maryland's juvenile justice system.

Maryland Justice Project	\$35,000 over one year to reduce mass incarceration and advance social justice, with a focus on women and girls who have had contact with the criminal justice system.*
Mile 22 Civic Labs	\$75,000 over 18 months to expand the capacity of the #BaltimoreVotes initiative to increase civic participation and leadership among young people and other Baltimoreans affected by policies that threaten their health and safety.*
No Boundaries Coalition	\$50,000 over one year to engage in public education, organizing and community engagements efforts to reduce gun violence in Baltimore.*
Out for Justice	\$65,000 over one year to reduce incarceration and collateral consequences of justice involvement through public education, grassroots organizing and leadership development of people impacted by the justice system.
Progressive Maryland Education Fund	\$50,000 over one year to support organizing and communications activities to eliminate bail and expand pretrial services in Baltimore and Maryland.
Public Justice Center	\$35,000 over one year 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.
Restorative Response Baltimore	\$50,000 over one year to provide general support.
Youth As Resources	\$100,000 over two years to support organizing, base-building, and institutional reform efforts to hold school police accountable to students and resist the presence of armed police in schools.*

 $<sup>{}^*\!</sup>T\!hese\ grants\ were\ funded, in\ part, through\ additional\ one-time\ support\ from\ Open\ Society\ Foundations.$ 

16 2019 IMPACT REPORT •

### The People's Commission to Decriminalize Maryland

Baltimore Action Legal Team	\$125,000 over one year to provide operational and administrative support to a statewide effort to decriminalize race, poverty, gender and disability in Maryland.
Center for Children's Law and Policy	\$100,000 over one year to provide expert analysis of Maryland's current criminal and juvenile laws and make recommendations for how to reduce youth contact with the justice system.
Job Opportunities Task Force	\$50,000 over one year to engage in public education and advocacy efforts to highlight and then reduce the criminalization of poverty in Baltimore and Maryland.
Justice Policy Institute	\$100,000 over two years to provide strategic communications support to help shape and advance recommendations on how to reduce the arrest and incarceration of marginalized communities.
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service	\$10,000 over one year to upgrade an automated software program and database that is used by legal and social justice organizations, among others, to better serve their clients.
Power Inside	\$25,000 over one year to connect with, educate and empower women impacted by the criminal justice system to advocate to reduce over criminalization and over incarceration.

# Education and Youth Development Program

The Education and Youth Development Program seeks to ensure that all students 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. This experience 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.

The Open Society Institute's work to integrate restorative practices (RP) in Baltimore City Public Schools has taken off. The district has integrated this work into its Blueprint for Success, nearly 60 of the district's 174 schools (over one third) have already begun implementation and all Baltimore City School Police have been trained in RP, contributing to a 79% drop in school-based arrests over a four year period.



Students at City Springs Elementary-Middle, one of the first schools in Baltimore to integrate restorative practices

Moreover, the advocacy for and implementation of RP in Baltimore City has catalyzed the state to recommend the use of restorative approaches in all school districts in Maryland. We are excited that this practice is gaining traction in Baltimore and in Maryland, but we realize that schools alone cannot change attitudes and behaviors regarding violence. As part of OSI-Baltimore's long-term vision to make Baltimore a restorative or healing city, the Open Society Institute has begun to move beyond schools and into communities.

### Safe Streets Partnership

Baltimoreans were alarmed and concerned when in 2019, Baltimore's gun violence culminated in 348 homicides, the deadliest year on record. Sadly, these numbers largely involved adolescent and young men. In response to this crisis, the Education and Youth Development Program sought to partner with Safe Streets Baltimore, an organization that has a long track record of reaching and de-escalating people who are contemplating violence. Safe Streets, like the organization it is modeled

after—Chicago's CeaseFire program—employs formerly incarcerated outreach professionals, called "violence interrupters," to de-escalate and mediate disputes in the community that might otherwise result in serious violence. Safe Streets staff have already received a two-day training in RP in partnership with OSI, the Family League, and the Positive Schools Center and have indicated that this practice is highly compatible with their violence interruption practices.

Safe Streets staff work out of offices in violence-affected communities, which puts them in contact with a variety of challenges that people living in Baltimore experience, including toxic stress, mental and physical health challenges, unstable housing/homelessness, addiction concerns, criminal/juvenile justice issues, and basic documentation needs. So in addition to addressing violence, Safe Streets staff often find themselves handling numerous problems that fall outside of their scope of work and expertise. Because of its proven track record of significantly reducing homicides in the neighborhoods that they serve, in 2019, Safe Streets prepared to create several new offices in Baltimore. OSI plans to partner with Baltimore City and Safe Streets to provide these strategically located Safe Streets offices or "community hubs" with additional training and support in an attempt to extend the reach and capacity of Safe Streets interrupters.

### **Training**

Funding in 2019 allowed all Safe Streets personnel to engage in group training in next-tier restorative practices, mindfulness, soft skills, gender awareness, and domestic partner violence. These trainings broadened the set of tools Safe Streets staff have at their disposal

to prevent and disrupt violence in their respective communities.

### **Community Assistants**

Funding will be earmarked to allow designated Safe Streets offices to provide stipends to community-based assistants who will support those offices by acting as: liaisons and organizers in the community, RP and mindfulness facilitators, neighborhood canvassers, and/or lay advocates. These Community Assistants will help support the functionality of the selected sites and invite greater participation in violence interruption from community residents.

### **Needs Assessment**

A community services needs assessment, resource mapping, and community canvassing will also be conducted in selected/if not all of the neighborhoods being served by Safe Streets. This will ensure that interrupters are well positioned to make needed referrals for the myriad concerns that community members bring to their offices for resolution. Safe Streets staff are aware that these concerns denote important risk factors for violence, and that addressing these concerns not only reduces their impact on violence, but also builds needed trust between Safe Streets staff and community members.



A restorative circle at Bard Early College High School



### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

Advocates for Children and Youth	\$160,000 over 18 months to advocate for equitable school funding and policies and practices that improve school climate and reduce harsh school discipline.
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Maryland	\$80,000 over one year to advocate for equitable school funding and school discipline reform.
Attendance Works	\$75,000 over one year to advocate for a new, more equitable Maryland school funding formula as well as restorative student discipline policies and regulations.
Disability Rights Maryland	\$87,500 over one year to address the systemic barriers that disproportionately impact students and other individuals with disabilities.*
FreeState Legal Project	\$50,000 over one year to advocate for practices and policies that protect and include LGBTQ students in their school communities.
Fund for Educational Excellence	\$262,500 over one year to support Baltimore City Schools in implementing intensive restorative practices in an additional 20 schools.
Positive Schools Center	\$225,000 over one year to enable The Positive Schools Center at the University of Maryland School of Social Work to train educators and students in Baltimore City public schools to use restorative and complementary practices to improve school climates.
Strong Schools Maryland	\$50,000 over one year to advocate for a just and equitable funding formula for Maryland's public schools.

<sup>\*</sup>These grants were funded, in part, through additional one-time support from Open Society Foundations.

# Community Fellowships Program

For over 20 years, OSI-Baltimore has invested resources to support up to 10 individuals per year to implement innovative projects that seek to improve the circumstances and address social justice problems in underserved communities in Baltimore City.

OSI-Baltimore launched the Community Fellowships Program in 1998. There is now a corps of over 200 social justice innovators working throughout the city. The program's "open valve" approach allows applicants to identify local problems deserving attention, regardless of whether they match OSI-Baltimore'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 Community Fellowships Program provides a channel for individuals to respond to the city's many needs. For example, many communities have limited access to public services, appropriate street lighting, timely trash removal, and effective public transportation. They lack thriving schools, supermarkets, recreation and after-school programs, affordable childcare, and employment opportunities.

In 2019, the program had three goals: identify the entrepreneurial talent dedicated to revitalizing Baltimore's communities; develop a strong Community Fellows Network by helping fellows to enhance the skills needed to be as effective in their work as possible; and integrate the Fellows' community experience into priority Open Society fields. Fellows are included in cross-program collaboration activities involving OSI

staff, experts, and practitioners working on informing and advancing changes in practice and policy work.

As part of goal two—developing a strong Fellows Network—the Fellows Advisory Board (FAB) worked with consultant Marianne Hughes and her team to assess the strength and impact of the Community Fellows Network. With FAB, which is made up of 11 Fellows from the program's 22-year history, the Fellowships program produced network maps, published a white paper, held several network leadership sessions, and hosted two network summits. In addition, the program contributed to a 2019 article by Didi Golderhar, "Weaving a Network for Baltimore: Five Lessons Learned with the OSI-Baltimore Community Fellows" (available at osibaltimore.org).

At its core, the Fellows' work is power building. The effective way in which the work is undertaken contributes to culture and narrative change in Baltimore City. FAB members are committed to establishing strategies to strengthen the relationships within the Fellows Network and in building a more equitable Baltimore by leveraging the talent of network members to address a shared social justice issue.

### From Weaving a Network for Baltimore: Five Lessons Learned with the OSI-Baltimore Community Fellows by Didi Goldenhar

- To build collective power, invest in network training, structure, and strategy.
- 2 For network building, convening is the glue—especially in a city like Baltimore.
- 3 Networks need to see themselves and the bigger picture.
- Engage the healthy tension in social justice networks—between relationships and taking action.
- Go deep before broad. Right action emerges from trusting relationships.























































Unified Efforts, Inc.





Logos are from some of the organizations founded by OSI-Baltimore Community Fellows.

## 2019 OSI'S COMMUNITY FELLOWS



Based at Towson University, **Elyshia Aseltine** is establishing Fair Chance Higher

Education as a Center that supports criminal justice system-impacted people in their pursuit of higher education.



Janet Glover-Kerkvliet is creating the Baltimore Job Hunters Support Group

(BJHSG) to support the long-term unemployed and under-employed. The initiative is assisting job seekers with the social, emotional, and psychological pain associated with midcareer job loss through counseling, coaching, information/referral, networking and outreach.



**Damien A. Haussling** is developing the Baltimore Furniture Bank to connect low-

income individuals and families to much needed gently used furniture and other household items by working with case managers, social workers, and similar professionals.



In partnership with the Baltimore Compost Collective, **Marvin L. Hayes** is growing the

number of youth in the Brooklyn/Curtis Bay neighborhood trained in the science and art of community composting as a non-burn waste diversion strategy –"learn so we don't have to burn." The initiative will evolve to include other neighborhoods throughout the city.



**Kanav Kathuria** is establishing the Farm to Prison Project as a means to address the

public health crisis regarding food conditions in prisons. The initiative seeks to improve all aspects of food served in correctional facilities and build alternatives to exploitive practices by food service companies.



Using the intergenerational mentoring near-to-peer model, **Alphonso Mayo** is

establishing Mentoring Mentors as a vehicle to establish long-term mentoring relationships with African American youth ages 12–18. The initiative is helping youth with social and emo-

24 2019 IMPACT REPORT •

tional development, physical wellness, as well as improve literacy and life skills.



Through a series of educational workshops and parent engagement, **Dinorah Olmos** is

establishing La Escuela, sus Hijos y Usted: Empowering Latino Parents to Support Student Success as an initiative designed to educate, empower, and inspire Spanish speaking Latino parents to effectively engage in the parentschool community.



Mariah S. Pratt Bonkowski is establishing PoP Pantries (micro pantries)

to combat food instability and hygiene poverty by increasing access to emergency food and hygiene items for families in need.



Ana Rodney is
establishing MOMCares
as an initiative to
provide prenatal and

postpartum Doula services to low-income African American women navigating highrisk pregnancy or with a child involved in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).



To address the need of housing instability for Spanish speaking residents in the

Brooklyn/Curtis Bay community, **Kendra Summers** is establishing Casa Amable
(kind home) as an initiative to support
emergency housing services, promote longterm stable housing, and help Latinx residents
learn tenants' rights through a housing-based
ESOL curriculum.

### ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIPS GRANT

Business Volunteers Maryland \$45,000 over 18
months to provide
mentors and advisors to
organizations established
by OSI-Baltimore
Community Fellows

# Outreach and Education

### Blueprint for Baltimore: 2020 and Beyond

In the fall of 2019, OSI launched the Blueprint for Baltimore project, an attempt to lift up the priorities of Baltimore's marginalized communities and ensure that our city's prospective leaders are held accountable to them. OSI partnered with five community-based organizations to conduct an on-the-ground survey, share the results widely, and hold a series of public forums where candidates in the 2020 elections would hear community concerns and explain how they would respond to them if elected.

The project evolved from the Solutions Summit in 2016, when OSI convened communities around Baltimore to talk about priorities in the areas of jobs, criminal justice, and behavioral health. That process culminated in a summit at the War Memorial Building, where more than 700 people voted on a final 16-point action plan that was presented to newly elected Mayor Catherine Pugh. Pugh accepted the plan and shared her own policy proposals in response. Several of the items in the action plan, like the creation of an online platform to identify drug treatment slots, became reality in the ensuing years.

Looking ahead to the 2020 elections, OSI and its community partners, Baltimore Votes, Black Girls Vote, CASA, the No Boundaries Coalition, and Organizing Black, wanted to take

26 2019 IMPACT REPORT ●

a more data-driven approach. Each of the community partners held survey-design workshops where Baltimore residents identified the most pressing areas they wanted the survey to address. The partners also recruited Data Fellows, who would conduct the survey with door-to-door canvassing and at community spaces and public events.

The result was the Blueprint for Baltimore Survey Report, which compiled the responses of more than 5,000 Baltimore residents from all 55 Community Statistical Areas (CSAs), including many that are rarely represented in significant numbers in traditional surveys. We were able to record these communities' priorities because trusted community-based organizations conducted the survey and will take the lead on how the data, also available online at Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance's Blueprint for Baltimore Data Portal, is used.

In February, 2020, OSI hosted a mayoral forum where moderators asked candidates how they would address community priorities identified in the Blueprint for Baltimore data. A similar forum was planned for City Council President candidates, but because of the COVID pandemic, moderators conducted remote interviews based on the Blueprint data. A third forum, co-sponsored by the Stoop Storytelling Series, also moved online.

In the months after the Blueprint data was made public, advocates have used it to push for policy changes aligned with community priorities. OSI will continue to work with community partners to identify ways the data can be leveraged to make government more accountable and we are already exploring more surveys to build on our work in 2019.





Top, participants in Blueprint for Baltimore Data Fellow Training; Bottom, A No Boundaries Coalition Data Fellow helps a city resident complete the survey at Lexington Market

Outreach and Education
 27

### **Talking About Race**

For more than ten years, OSI has hosted important, often difficult conversations about race and society. In 2019, we hosted three events in the series:

February 13: Former Washington Post senior editor Steve Luxenberg, author of Separate: The Story of Plessy v. Ferguson, and America's Journey from Slavery to Segregation, talked with Judge Robert Bell, chief judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals—the state's highest court—from 1996 to 2013 (the first African-American to hold the position) about the current-day relevance of Plessy v. Ferguson through the eyes of the people caught up in the case.

March 25: Dr. Beverly Tatum, educator, administrator, and author of Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? talked with Baltimore City Public Schools CEO Dr. Sonja Santelises about the continued relevance of this book 20 years after it was first published and the role race plays in schools today.

October 15: Poet, essayist and national spokesperson for the Campaign for Youth Justice Reginald Dwayne Betts talked about his latest poetry collection, *Felon*, with 2015 OSI-Baltimore Community Fellow Lady Brion.

### Leadership Council

OSI's Leadership Council is an eclectic and engaged group of people who share a commitment and a passion for Baltimore—and who actively want to be part of the solutions for its future. It was established to widen the network of people who know about the issues that OSI addresses and the work that we do,

and who serve as ambassadors. The Council meets for quarterly sessions to learn more about OSI's work. These were the topics and guests in 2019:

February 27: A conversation about LQBTQ inclusion in schools and beyond with Jabari Lyles, LQBTQ Liaison in the Mayor's Office and Board Chair (and former executive director) of GLSEN Maryland, Mark Procopio, executive director of FreeState Justice, and Karen Webber, director of OSI's Education and Youth Development program.

May 10: A conversation with Ganesha Martin, who had recently been appointed director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and Tara Huffman, director of OSI's Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program.

September 18: A conversation with Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, who had been appointed in February, and Scott Nolen, director of OSI's Addiction and Health Equity Program.



Dr. Letitia Dzirasa (center) meets with OSI-Baltimore's Leadership Council.

28 2019 IMPACT REPORT •

December 10: Preview of the 2020 Legislative session with Delegate Brooke Lierman, Delegate Shelly Hettleman, Shamoyia Gardiner of Advocates for Children and Youth, and Scott Nolen, director of OSI's Addiction and Health Equity Program.

To inquire about joining OSI's Leadership Council, email Evan Serpick, evan.serpick@opensocietyfoundations.org



Del. Shelly Hettleman, left; Del. Brooke Lierman, right, with Shamoyia Gardiner of Advocates for Children and Youth.

### **Special Events**

April 26: OSI, the Mayor's Office of African-American Male Engagement, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum hosted actor/producer Michael K. Williams, who memorably played Omar Little in "The Wire," for a screening and discussion of "Raised in the System," a documentary about the juvenile justice system that Williams produced and stars in. After the screening, Williams participated in a panel discussion that included Felicia Porter, Snoop from the "The Wire," and Williams' nephew, Dominic Dupont, both of whom appeared in

the film, and OSI Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program Director Tara Huffman, Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, and others.

June 11: OSI celebrated and said farewell to founding Director Diana Morris and thanked her for 21 years of service to Open Society Foundations and the people of Baltimore. Among those offering tributes to Diana were Open Society Foundations President Emeritus Aryeh Neier, Former Vice President and Director Open Society Foundations U.S. Programs Gara LaMarche, Executive Director of Open Society-U.S. Tom Perriello, OSI-Baltimore Advisory Board Chair William C. Clarke, III, Advisory Board members Andre M. Davis, Joseph T. Jones, Jr. and Nupur Parekh Flynn, and OSI-Baltimore Deputy Director L. Tracy Brown.



OSI-Baltimore Advisory Board Member Nupur Parekh Flynn, Andre Davis, and Diana Morris

Outreach and Education
 29

June through September: OSI co-sponsored a powerful exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art, "Slavery, The Prison Industrial Complex: Photographs by Keith Calhoun and Chandra McCormick," which documents life in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, known as "The Farm." On September 5, OSI and the BMA hosted a panel discussion on issues surrounding mass incarceration with prison rights advocate Norris Henderson, founder

of Voice of the Experienced, and Baltimore native Monica Cooper of the Maryland Justice Project and the driving force behind Baltimore's "Ban the Box" legislation. The event was moderated by Annie Anderson of the Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site. Tara Huffman, director of OSI-Baltimore's Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program gave opening remarks.



Chandra McCormick. Men Going to Work in the Fields of Angola, 2004. Archival pigment print. Courtesy of the artist. © Chandra McCormick

30 2019 IMPACT REPORT ●



### **2019** SURGE GRANTS

In 2019, Open Society-US invested \$25 million in multiyear grants to build power among local organizations led by, and accountable to, people of color. Following are the grants from that investment that were made in Baltimore in 2019.

### **Power Building**

Baltimore Safe Haven	\$35,000 over one year to provide general support.
Black Girls Vote 4 HER, Inc.	\$30,000 over one year to support nonpartisan voter engagement.
Sex Workers Outreach Project	\$25,000 over one year to reduce the stigma and dehumanization associated with sex work and to increase power and collaboration among sex workers.
Youth Empowered Society	\$85,000 over 18 months to provide drop-in services, leadership development and other supports to prevent and eliminate youth homelessness in Baltimore.

### **Restorative City / Violence Prevention**

\$250,000 over two years to enhance the reach, knowledge and
skills of Safe Street staff to more effectively and efficiently engage
the community in restoration, and enhance the effectiveness of
Safe Street's violence prevention strategy.

Outreach and Education
 31



### THANK YOU DONORS

OSI-Baltimore is thankful to our community of supporters who enable us to bring real solutions to the problems facing the people of Baltimore. Their gifts inspire us and provide us with the fuel that we need to continue to drive reform—helping us create opportunity, justice and economic stability for those in our city who need it most.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donors for making their investments in our work between January 1 and December 31, 2019.

### \$100,000 AND ABOVE

Ed and Ellen Bernard

Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker

### \$50,000 TO \$99,999

The Lois and Irving Blum Foundation

Mary Catherine Bunting

George A. Murnaghan

T. Rowe Price Foundation

Mark, Kathy and Katie Vaselkiv

### \$25,000 TO \$49,999

The Bunting Family Foundation Fund A

The Bunting Family Foundation Fund B

Sandra D. Hess

Osprey Foundation

Barbara K. and M. Sigmund Shapiro

The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

### \$10,000 TO \$24,999

Anonymous

Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown

Clayton Baker Trust

Marilynn Duker and Dale McArdle

Nupur and Guy Flynn

The Fund for Change

Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund

John Meyerhoff, MD and Lenel Srochi-

Meyerhoff

Moser Family Foundation

Linda Hambleton Panitz

The V.A. Reid Charitable Fund

Alison and Arnold Richman Fund

The Jean & Sidney Silber Foundation

Martha P. Stein

Lockhart Vaughan Foundation

Chip and Rhona Wendler

### \$5,000 TO \$9,999

The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund

The Crane Family Foundation

Dr. Geoffrey Greif and Dr. Maureen Lefton-Greif

Maurice and Lisa Haywood

Jeannette Hobbins

The Menemsha Family Fund

Larry Moscow

Lee and Jenny Owen

Frederick and Mary Louise Preis Charitable

Gift Fund

Nancy Savage

### \$2,500 TO \$4,999

Murray Dalziel and Elizabeth Rogers

James DeGraffenreidt, Jr.

JoAnn and Jack Fruchtman

Brigitte and Donald Manekin

David and Betsy Nelson

Southway Builders Charitable Trust

Andrew Stern and Joanne Gold

### \$1,000 TO \$2,499

Anonymous

Ann Allston Boyce

Taylor Branch

L. Tracy Brown

Marc G. Bunting

Meredith and Joe Callanan

Deborah Callard

Judy and Bill Campbell Family Fund

Veronica Cool

George Delahunty and Holly Dunn

David and Angela Diaz

Francis Gallagher

Ellen Heller and Shale Stiller

Susan Leviton

The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation

Dominiaue Moore

Elizabeth Callard Olson

Anne Perkins

Nathan and Michelle Robertson

Nancy Wertheimer Pamela P. Young

Steve Ziger and Jamie Snead

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

Peter and Mary Agre

Muriel Berkeley Leonor T. Blum Brenda Bodian

David Bogen and Patricia Ciricillo

M. J. Brodie
Maria Broom
Charles Burke
Marc Cherbonnier
Emily Clement
Sally Colella

Mrs. John C. Cooper Roger and Ellen Dankert

Fleming Family Charitable Fund

Eric Ford Dayva Frank

Marianne Freedman

Neal Friedlander and Virginia Adams

Susan Gauvey Jeffrey Gray

Cordelia Grimm and Darren McGregor

Frank D. Grosshans Jennifer Gurevich Connie Hankins Roger Hartley Michael Hayes

George and Betsy Hess

Jeffrev Hettleman

Sam and Barbara Himmelrich

Mark Hyman and Cecilia Brennecke

Joseph T. Jones

Peter Keith

Anne Lewis

Elizabeth Moser

Joanne Nathans

Jo-Ann Orlinsky

Barbara Orman

Joshua Rowe

Tricia Rubacky and Bill Merritt

Stephen Sachs

Jennifer Shannon

John W Sondheim

Laura Steele

John Stiner

John A. Talbott, M.D. and Susan W. Talbott

Carrie H. Thornbery William P. Tiefenwerth

Laura Tucker

Alex Neroth Van Vogelpoel

Emil Volcheck

Penelope and Mitchel Wald

Ellen Weber

Peter Wertheimer

Christy and Matthew Wyskiel

Jennifer Zito

### **RECOGNITION GIFTS**

Maria Broom in Honor of Diana Morris

Mrs. John C. Cooper in Honor of Diana Morris

Susan Gauvey in Honor of Diana Morris

Ellen Heller and Shale Stiller in Honor of

Diana Morris

Jeannette Hobbins in Honor of Diana Morris

Joseph T. Jones in Honor of Diana Morris

Elizabeth Moser in Honor of Lois Feinblatt

Stephen Sachs in Memory of Sheila Sachs

Barbara K. and M. Sigmund Shapiro in Honor

of Diana Morris

John A. Talbott, M.D. and Susan W. Talbott in

Honor of Diana Morris

Laura Tucker in Honor of Diana Morris

Ellen Weber in Honor of Diana Morris

• Thank You Donors 35

### WHERE OUR MONEY WENT IN 2019



Note: This financial report presents expenses that reflect the programmatic impact during 2019 and is based on unaudited numbers. An audited financial statement is available upon request.

36 2019 IMPACT REPORT ●

<sup>\*</sup> Amounts not reflected on page 22 are included as one-time support in each program's grant list.

### **2020 BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Muriel Berkeley**

Member, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners

### **Edward C. Bernard**

Vice Chair, T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.

### **Taylor Branch**

Author

### Eddie C. Brown

President and CEO (Founder), Brown Capital Management

### **Jamar Brown**

Associate, Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP

### William C. Clarke, III Chair

President.

The Osprey Foundation

### **Veronica Cool**

CEO, Cool & Associates, Inc.

### Andre M. Davis

City Solicitor, Baltimore City Department of Law

### James DeGraffenreidt, Jr.

Former Chairman of the Board and CEO, WGL Holdings, Inc.

### Nupur Parekh Flynn

Community Volunteer

### Joseph T. Jones, Jr. Vice Chair

President and CEO, Center for Urban Families

### Susan P. Leviton

Professor Emeritus of Law, University of Maryland School of Law

### Ava E. Lias-Booker

Partner, McGuireWoods LLP

### John Meyerhoff

Community Volunteer

### **Larry Moscow**

Manager, maslansky+partners

### **Chip Wendler**

Vice President, T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.

### Alicia Wilson

Vice President for Economic Development for Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Health Systems

### **2020 STAFF**

### L. Tracy Brown

Deputy Director

### **Jeffrey Burch**

Program Associate, Operations

### Katy Caldwell

Program Associate, Community Fellowships Program

### Michael Camlin

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

### Tara Huffman

Director, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program

### Jennifer Kim

Program Associate, Education and Youth Development Program

### Pamela King

Director, Community Fellowships Program

### Rachel Moler

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

### **Priscilla Newton**

**Executive Assistant** 

### **Bobbi Nicotera**

Communications Specialist

### **Scott Nolen**

Director, Addiction and Health Equity Program

### **Evan Serpick**

Director, Strategic Communications

### **Danielle Torain**

Director, OSI-Baltimore

### Karen E. Webber

Director, Education and Youth Development Program

