



OSI 25 BALTIMORE YEARS



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This report highlights the meaningful work undertaken by OSI-Baltimore and our amazing grantees and partners during 2022; however, I am writing it in the context of the announcement early in 2023 that Open Society Foundations made the difficult decision to close OSI-Baltimore. We are simultaneously reporting on and celebrating work that was planned and implemented with an eye toward a long-term future while accepting the reality that our future is not what we anticipated. Although we are saddened that our beloved Baltimore will no longer benefit from funding and staffing dedicated exclusively to our community, we are proud of OSI-Baltimore's 25 year legacy, including all that we accomplished during 2022.

This year, we began shifting our programmatic approach to a more integrated and holistic frame. As a result, you'll see some changes to the names of our portfolios and exploration of new areas of investment. This nuanced, but intentional, pivot was based on input from our stakeholder engagement outreach and strategic planning as well as learnings gleaned during the pandemic. Importantly, based on these insights, we doubled down on our commitment to racial justice and the need to address the many insidious ways that structural and systemic racism cut across all programmatic areas. We reaffirmed our key areas of focus and continued our exploration of emerging areas for investment.

Our grant making, coalition building and partnerships remained grounded in the intertwined issues that have challenged Baltimore communities for decades. These included efforts to promote harm reduction interventions, implement restorative practices and improve community safety. Wherever possible, we moved toward more flexible and intersectional funding that more appropriately meets the demands of the moment by allowing grantees to address a wide range of related issues.

Several critical investments were responsive to an immediate issue while laying the ground work for longer term impact. For instance, following the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, in partnership with colleagues in Open Society–U.S., we helped ensure access to reproductive care. While a vitally important resource to protect the bodily autonomy of pregnant people, access to abortion services is just one component of reproductive justice and we saw this response as a component of a broader agenda to ensure health equity.

Efforts to address the crisis within the fiscal sponsorship landscape is another important area of focus with both short- and long-term strategic approaches. The repercussions resulting from an under-resourced system were long-brewing but reached crisis proportions with the closure of one fiscal sponsor. OSI-Baltimore partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to fund a study of the ecosystem, which provided valuable insights and significant recommendations for long-term solutions. In an effort to rebuild trust and catalyze aligned investments, we acted on the recommendations by allocating resources to address a portion of the harm caused by the closure of the fiscal sponsor and by committing future resources toward the implementation of the longer term interventions.

In addition to responding to emerging issues, we continued to provide 'patient capital' to seed and test innovative approaches. A key exploratory area is the Economic Justice portfolio launched in 2021. This year, we renewed investments in innovative approaches that increase access to capital for communities of color and other historically under resourced people and groups and looked for ways to broaden the impact. Our Narrative Change and Civic Engagement program sought to ensure that all voices are heard. In partnership with Baltimore's Promise, we continued to manage and facilitate the learnings from the B'More Invested initiative and supported the cohort of grantees as they explore options for sustainability. All these efforts represent new ways of achieving OSI-Baltimore's enduring mission to build an equitable and inclusive society.

OSI-Baltimore's work in 2022 was strong and meaningful and helps to solidify the legacy that OSI-Baltimore will leave after its closure. We deeply value and respect the commitment, expertise and energy of our grantees and community partners. We are confident and proud that the efforts we supported this year and throughout our 25 year history will contribute to our legacy and will continue to bear fruit into the future.

In solidarity,

Danielle Torain

Director

Well-Being and Systems Change

OSI-Baltimore's focus on well-being and systems change is an evolution of the Addiction and Health Equity Program. While continuing support for core drug policy and harm reduction grantee partners, the new focus expanded to include resources to address broader social determinants of health for marginalized communities, including housing access and mental health interventions, along with support for community-led participatory grantmaking processes. This new approach began laying the groundwork for a broader focus on systems change and integrated work across multiple programmatic areas. In partnership with colleagues in Open Society–U.S., the program responded rapidly to address the impact of the Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* by investing in local organizations that support reproductive health and justice.

Baltimore Abortion Fund ²	\$300,000	1 year	To provide general support.
Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition ²	\$250,000	36 months	To provide general support.
Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition ¹	\$24,000	7 months	To conduct educational visits to overdose prevention sites in New York.
Black Mental Health Alliance	\$100,000	2 years	To provide general support.
Charm City Care Connection	\$150,000	2 years	To provide general support.
Communities United 1,2	\$90,000	1 year	To support policy advocacy on drug decriminalization in Maryland.
Homeless Persons Representation Project	\$100,000	2 years	To provide general support.
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative ¹	\$60,000	1 year	To support work on prescription drug affordability in Maryland and other states.



Maryland Peer Advisory Council ²	\$160,000	2 years	To provide education and support to certified peer recovery specialists in Maryland.
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Maryland Chapter ^{1,2}	\$130,000	1 year	To support policy advocacy on drug decriminalization.
Progressive Maryland Education Fund ²	\$100,000	1 year	To provide general support.
Power Inside ^{2, 3}	\$150,000	2 years	To provide general support.
Youth As Resources ³	\$90,000	2 years	To provide general support.

¹Funded through the Open Society Policy Center, Open Society Foundations' advocacy organization.

²Co-funded with programs within Open Society-U.S. and/or Open Society Foundations.

³Co-funded with the Safe and Just Communities Program.

Safe and Just Communities

The Safe and Just Communities portfolio reframes the focus of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program to be community-centered and intersectional. It funds organizations that seek to reduce the use of incarceration and its social and economic costs without compromising community safety. Grantees promote justice systems that are fair and reflect community values and priorities. The Safe and Just Communities portfolio supports advocacy, public education, research, grassroots organizing, and demonstration projects that focus on reforming racial and social inequities at critical stages of the criminal and juvenile justice systems—from prevention to reentry into the community.

American Civil Liberties Union	\$100,000	1 year	To provide general support.
Baltimore Action Legal Team ²	\$200,000	1 year	To provide general support.
CASA	\$100,000	1 year	To support CASA's diverse justice and community organizing work in Baltimore.
Citizens Policing Project	\$50,000	1 year	To educate and engage Baltimore residents most impacted by overpolicing.
Jews United for Justice	\$50,000	1 year	To provide general support.
Job Opportunities Task Force	\$100,000	1 year	To provide general support.
Justice Policy Institute	\$100,000	1 year	To educate communities in Baltimore and Maryland broadly about inequities and disparities in the state's criminal justice system and to support reform efforts through research, capacity-building, communications, and organizing.

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Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle	\$150,000	1 year	To engage in community organizing, community education, and research that supports civic engagement of Black residents and builds Black institutions.
Life After Release ¹	\$50,000	1 year	to engage in policy advocacy, community engagement and education to reform Maryland's justice systems.
Maryland Justice Project	\$50,000	1 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.
No Boundaries Coalition	\$50,000	1 year	To provide general support.
Organizing Black ^{2,4}	\$150,000	1 year	To engage in education, organizing, and outreach to increase civic engagement and to bring about policing reforms in Baltimore.
Out for Justice ^{2,4}	\$175,000	1 year	To provide general support.

¹ Funded through the Open Society Policy Center, Open Society Foundations' advocacy organization.

⁴ Funding includes investment due to being part of the B'More Invested cohort.



²Co-funded with programs within Open Society-U.S. and/or Open Society Foundations.

Baltimore Community Fellows

This year, the Baltimore Community Fellowships Program selected its 25th cohort of social innovators and dynamic activists. Community fellows are individuals who are committed to implementing projects that address problems in underserved communities in Baltimore City. Launched in 1998, the Community Fellowships Network is now a corps of 233 committed and engaged advocates.

This year's cohort of fellows includes the inaugural Lois Blum Feinblatt Community Mental Health Fellow. This special fellowship was created in 2021 in recognition of Lois Blum Feinblatt's 100th birthday and honors her 60-year career as a social worker and mental health counselor.

In addition to supporting individuals, the Baltimore Community Fellowship Program partners with and supports organizations that strengthen the network of social entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership programs.

Baltimore Entrepreneurship and Leadership Network	\$25,000	1 year	To convene and strengthen the network of leadership, entrepreneurship, and social change programs in the Baltimore area in order to bolster collaboration and grow their communal impact.
Black Women Build-Baltimore	\$5,000	3 months	To provide general support.
Student Social Venture Fund	\$15,000	1 year	To support a fund at the University of Maryland Health and Social Innovation Program that aims to provide seed capital to early-stage development of student-led initiatives that seek to solve complex health and social challenges.

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2022 FELLOWS



Alanna
Taylor
The Bronze Girl Collective

Alanna is leading the program The Bronze Girl Collective, a secured space to provide resources for housing security, mental and physical health, career and financial stability, educational growth, and cultural enrichment to Black women over 40.



Anisah Best ED x Tech Literacy

Anisah is establishing the ED x Tech Literacy program to help increase basic digital literacy for returning citizens and senior citizens so that they can access information in a digital world.



Anthony Roberts
Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor Program

Anthony is creating the Registered Apprenticeship Sponsor program, in which underemployed residents in Baltimore City will be trained through a pre-apprenticeship and placed into high-wage elevator repair careers.



EvansFresh Start
Mobile Services

Bria is launching Fresh Start Mobile Services, which will provide showers and a hot meal to people without homes.



Christopher Johnson
Gentleman's Graffiti

Christopher is establishing Gentleman's Graffiti, a collaborative space for Black male youth in Baltimore to learn about art and engage in leadership development.



Devan A. **Southerland**

Brown on the Spectrum

Devan is starting the program Brown on the Spectrum, a community-focused, person-centered, vocational, and employment resource for individuals with autism and other intellectual disabilities in Baltimore City.



Eric Sorrell Fernway Outdoors

Eric is expanding Fernway Outdoors, an initiative that uses outdoor adventures to encourage young people to grow by facing challenging new environments.



Jessica
Smith

Mindful Ministries Collective
Lois Blum Feinblatt Mental Health Fellow

Jessica is establishing the Mindful Ministries Collective, a train-the-trainer program to guide youth mentors in the Greater Baltimore region on how to identify signs of mental illness and how to teach mindfulness practices.



Michael Rosenband

The Carver House

Michael is launching a pilot program in partnership with the Carver Vocational-Technical High School to build career opportunities by giving the students the opportunity to renovate a home in Baltimore.



Monique
Bess
The SQueeGie ProJect

Monique is creating the SQueeGie ProJect, a workforce development program that will help connect Black people to skills in technology and social media.



Terry "Uncle T"
Williams
Challenge to Change

Terry is developing Challenge 2 Change, a youth mentoring initiative targeted to youth at risk for committing acts of violence in the east Baltimore community.

Education and Youth Development

OSI-Baltimore's 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. Grantees promote equitable distribution of resources and restorative practices that provide positive learning environments for young people. These efforts counteract inequitable practices that push children out of school and into the school-to-prison pipeline.

Attendance Works	\$100,000	15 months	To advance student success by highlighting the racially disparate impact of truancy policies and developing solutions to close the equity gap.
Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition	\$50,000	1 year	To bridge the digital divide for underrepresented and historically underserved communities in Baltimore by providing residents with a stable internet connection, digital devices, technical support, and digital literacy training.
Maryland Philanthropy Network	\$15,000	3 years	To support the Education Funders Affinity Group in its work to educate funders about education-related issues and facilitate collaborative and aligned investments.
Positive Schools Center	\$100,000	12 months	To train educators and students in Baltimore City public schools to use restorative and complementary practices to improve school climates.

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Restorative Schools Maryland 1,2	\$200,000	2 years	To support building capacity regarding restorative practices in Maryland schools.
Strong Schools Maryland ¹	\$200,000	1 year	To support policy advocacy on the effective, equitable implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

¹ Funded through the Open Society Policy Center, Open Society Foundations' advocacy organization.

²Co-funded with programs within Open Society-U.S. and/or Open Society Foundations.

Economic Justice

OSI-Baltimore launched its Economic Justice portfolio in 2021 with the goal of increasing access to capital for communities of color and other historically underresourced people and groups in Baltimore and beyond. By providing seed funding that supports innovative approaches, this strategic investment area seeks to leverage Baltimore's local and regional economy and creative market-based solutions in order to close the racial wealth gap. The funded initiatives will create mechanisms for social justice that will transform Baltimore's economic and financial systems.

Black Butterfly Initiative	\$100,000	1 year	To implement a publicly accessible technical platform that aims to promote collaboration, expand resources, and increase supports for Baltimore Black-owned businesses by providing free resources, training, educational materials, and one-on-one and peer support.
CLLCTIVLY ²	\$300,000	1 year	To support Black-led organizations by expanding opportunities and access to financial resources, increased exposure, and enhanced collaboration.
MD CASH Campaign	\$100,000	1 year	To support the implementation of the guaranteed income pilot program in Baltimore City, which aims to address income inequality compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and to enhance the stability and well-being of families in the community who have been hit hardest by the crisis.

Revolve Fund	\$100,000	1 year	To provide patient, interest- free catalytic capital and expert partnership to Black/African American, Latinx, and Native American-led businesses, nonprofit organizations, financial intermediaries, and venture funds in order to support historically marginalized and underinvested communities, and to mitigate the effects of systemic barriers and economic discrimination in the Baltimore community.
Women Entrepreneur Leadership Lab	\$100,000	1 year	To support a membership network of Black women entrepreneurs.

 $^{{}^2\}textit{Co-funded with programs within Open Society-U.S.} \ and/or \ \textit{Open Society Foundations}.$



Narrative Change and Civic Engagement

OSI-Baltimore's focus on narrative change, which is an extension of its Strategic Communications program, seeks to radically shift local and national narratives about Baltimore, our movements, and our communities. It ensures that the narrative is shaped by authentic people and anchored in accuracy and truth. Civic engagement efforts increase voting rates and enhance voter knowledge, ultimately promoting the power of communities in the electoral and political process.

OSI-Baltimore partnered with the Baltimore Museum of Art to host Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson in conjunction with the museum's exhibit about the Great Migration. This event continued OSI's commitment to bringing leading thinkers and thought-provoking discussions to the community to promote understanding of issues of race and to foster open dialogue.

In partnership with Maryland Public Television and the BRIDGES Coalition, OSI-Baltimore hosted a screening of "Love in the Time of Fentanyl." This documentary explores the operation of an overdose prevention site in Vancouver.

Baltimore Beat	\$100,000	1 year	To provide general support.
Baltimore Reform Documentary LLC	\$92,000	1 year	To support the production of "Breaking the Blue Wall," a documentary film that tells the story of Maryland's landmark police reform and aims to educate Baltimore residents and wider community about the struggle for meaningful police reform.
Baltimore Votes	\$50,000	6 months	To educate the Baltimore public, particularly marginalized communities, on local election administration and information in order to strengthen democracy in Baltimore City.
Black Girls Vote	\$50,000	6 months	To provide general support.



B'More Invested

In 2021, OSI-Baltimore partnered with Baltimore's Promise to conceive and facilitate the B'More Invested initiative, an innovative model of community-led grantmaking designed to address and reverse the legacy of under-investment in BIPOC-led organizations, leaders, and communities. As the initial investment and demonstration phase of the initiative wound down in 2022, OSI-Baltimore allocated additional resources to ensure that support tapered off responsibly and that grantees had sufficient resources to explore and develop options for sustainability.

Baltimore's Promise/ B'More Invested Management ²	\$200,000	1 year	To aid in facilitating B'More Invested, an initiative focused on supporting BIPOC-led institutions implementing alternative approaches to community safety and well-being.
A Revolutionary Summer	\$75,000	1 year	To support the academic and personal growth of young Black girls by educating them about Black women in literature, arts, and culture in order to improve their critical thinking skills and counteract the impact of negative biases.
Black Male Yoga Initiative	\$75,000	1 year	To provide general support.
Black Yield Institute	\$75,000	1 year	To serve as a think tank and collective action network that addresses food apartheid and insecurity.
Bloom Collective ²	\$175,000	1 year	To provide holistic support to birthing persons throughout their pregnancy and postpartum journey.
Bmore Empowered	\$75,000	1 year	To provide general support.
BYKE Collective	\$75,000	1 year	To develop personal and professional skills in young people in the Baltimore area through learning bicycle mechanics, practicing safe ridership, and building community.
Fight Blight Bmore	\$75,000	1 year	To remediate blight in Baltimore City by implementing a mobile application to track and report hazards, educating the community about the impacts of blight and supporting homeowners to remain in their homes.
MOMCares ²	\$175,000	1 year	To carry out its mission to provide doula care to underserved women who are at risk of a negative birth outcome or have already experienced a negative birth outcome.

²Co-funded with programs within Open Society-U.S. and/or Open Society Foundations.

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Special Opportunities Fund

When resources permit, OSI-Baltimore allocates flexible funds to support grants that address emerging circumstances and new opportunities.

In partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, we engaged consultants to study the fiscal sponsor landscape and make recommendations for short- and long-term interventions to stabilize and enhance the capacity of the organizations that offer this important resource.

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs ²	\$75,000	14 months	To support efforts to welcome Afghan arrivals in Baltimore.
Baltimore Corps ²	\$400,000	1 year	To provide general support.
Baltimore Fiscal Project Stability Fund Grant Review Committee. ²	\$388,800	1 year	To enable the Baltimore Fiscal Project Stability Fund Grant Review Committee to provide financial support to under- resourced grassroots organizations that were disproportionately financially harmed upon terminating a fiscal sponsorship agreement with Strong City Baltimore in order to ensure their stability and capacity to meet the needs of the Baltimore community.
Wildseed Society ²	\$100,000	6 months	To provide general support.

²Co-funded with programs within Open Society-U.S. and/or Open Society Foundations.



Baltimore Equitable Vaccination Initiative

Using funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, OSI-Baltimore anchored the Baltimore Equitable Vaccination Initiative (BEVI), which is a collaboration with Baltimore-based stakeholders to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines in Baltimore City. The efforts of the 22 community-based organizations that received funding in 2021 continued into 2022. These final grants in 2022 allocated the remaining funds.

B Mom	\$60,000	6 months	To provide COVID-19 health information to people in Baltimore City and assist in removing barriers to access to COVID-19 vaccinations.
Baltimore Corps	\$40,000	6 months	To provide health information to families and young people in West Baltimore communities and assist in removing barriers to access to COVID-19 vaccinations.

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THANK YOU DONORS

OSI-Baltimore deeply appreciates the generous contributions of our community of supporters who enable us to bring real solutions to the problems facing Baltimore residents. Their gifts inspire us and enhance our efforts to drive reform and achieve our goal of a racially just and inclusive society in Baltimore.



We are pleased to acknowledge the following donors who made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2022.

*indicates donor to Lois Blum Feinblatt Community Mental Health Fellowship

\$50,000-\$99,000

The George A. Murnaghan Fund
Mary Catherine Bunting Foundation

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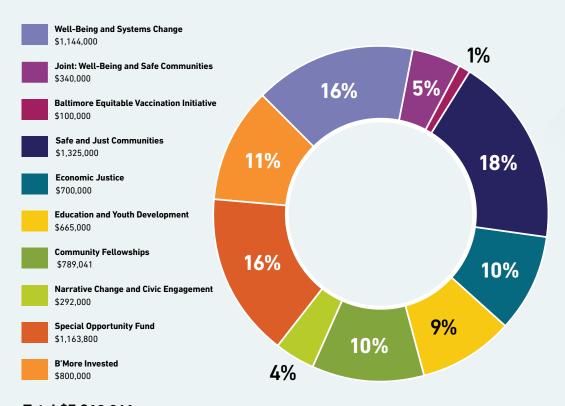
Also, we wish to acknowledge the following donors who contributed early in 2023:

The Foundation for the Promotion of Individual Opportunity, Inc. McGregor Grimm Fund Tony Gussio Jennifer Zito William Carlson

We have done our best to list all our supporters accurately, but sometimes we make a mistake.

We apologize for any errors. If there is any problem with your listing, please contact Deputy Director Tracy Brown at Tracy.Brown@opensocietyfoundations.org

WHERE OUR MONEY WENT IN 2022



Total \$7,318,841

Note: These totals reflect grant making expenditures only, including grants funded by all sources of revenue. The reported amounts do not include other expenses such as personnel costs, operational costs, consultants, and additional in-kind support from Open Society Foundations for human resources, legal, grants administration, finance, and information technology services. This financial report presents expenses that reflect the programmatic impact during 2022 and is based on unaudited figures. An audited financial statement is available upon request.

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Director, Education and Youth Development Program

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^{*}Left OSI-Baltimore in June 2022

⁺ Assumed a different role in Open Society-U.S. in April 2022



