25 YEARS

A LASTING LEGACY AND SHARED IMPACT
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Dear Friends, Partners, Colleagues, and Supporters,

It is with deep and competing emotions that we provide this final report of OSI-Baltimore’s activities. We are saddened that the office is closing and we will no longer have the honor of working beside our many valued partners who are striving to make Baltimore a better place. At the same time, we are immensely proud of the profound impact the organization has had on the social movements and communities across Baltimore.

Throughout OSI-Baltimore’s 25-year presence in Baltimore, our goal has been to create and foster a more equitable, just, and inclusive community for all residents, supporting them to grow and thrive without societal and historical constraints. OSI-Baltimore staff—current staff and every one of the more than 70 people who have been employed over 25 years—have an intense commitment to and pride in our city. We have felt privileged to be the stewards of resources that fueled the work of our partners and resulted in transformative change. We have invested in, supported, and collaborated with a remarkable group of skilled and tenacious advocates who have inspired and motivated us. We are proud to have been a part of OSI-Baltimore’s indelible and positive impact on Baltimore.

As the remaining staff, we implemented a closure strategy envisioned and launched by OSI-Baltimore Director Danelle Torain before she departed at the end of April. We felt a deep sense of responsibility to manage the final months with integrity and fidelity to the values of the organization. We were humbled to be in a position to play this critical role and grateful for the grace and support we received from the community during this period.

A section of this report reflects our history and impact, including examples of accomplishments. In addition, it includes a list of all organizations that received grants, a list of the social entrepreneurs selected as Community Fellows, and acknowledgment of the many people who supported the work over the years. These organizations and individuals are OSI-Baltimore’s lasting legacy. Although the work is far from done, we are confident that the roots of progressive change are deep and broad, and the progress toward social justice will not be thwarted. We look forward to seeing the many individuals, organizations, and movements we have supported continue to flourish and build on the legacy for years to come.

With gratitude,

Tracy Brown, Michael Camlin, Pamela King, Priscilla Newton
OSI-Baltimore Staff

Dear Esteemed Grantees, Partners, Donors, and Stakeholders,

It is with a heavy heart and a hopeful spirit that I write this letter to all of you. My heart is heavy because OSI-Baltimore’s closure marks the end of an important era for our grantees, our partners, our broader social justice community, and our beloved city of Baltimore. In spirit, I remain hopeful that OSI’s closure is not the end, but instead a gateway into a new, exciting, and necessary chapter in local social justice philanthropy and community-led movement. The journey we have shared, marked by collaboration, dedication, triumph over the odds, and transformative impact, has been nothing short of remarkable.

As OSI’s last director, I find myself reflecting on the incredible milestones we achieved together and the lives we touched through our collective efforts.

Since OSI’s founding 25 years ago, we have strived to make a meaningful difference in the areas that matter most to us all. From criminal justice reform to education, health equity to economic justice and everywhere in between, our grantees, community fellows, and public and private philanthropic partners have consistently tackled Baltimore’s toughest challenges and have been the stewards of our city’s most groundbreaking advancements, innovations, and opportunities. The initiatives we supported, the partnerships we forged, and the relationships we have all nurtured have left an indelible mark on the communities and people we aimed to uplift. While the decision to close was one that none of us would have wished for, we end this journey immensely proud of the accomplishments we have achieved hand in hand. Your unwavering commitment to the shared vision of a more equitable, more just Baltimore for all our valued residents has been the driving force behind our successes, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

Let us be determined and reassured that the impact of our work will endure far beyond this moment. The relationships and bonds we have formed will continue to serve as the foundational fabric of transformative change, and the spirit of collaboration we cultivated will inspire movement for years to come. Our grantees, partners, donors, and stakeholders have been the heart and soul of this foundation, and your passion will continue to ripple through the causes we cared deeply about.

In closing, I personally extend my heartfelt gratitude for your trust, dedication, partnership, and care throughout OSI’s journey. OSI may be formally coming to an end, but the legacy we leave behind will forever remind us of the extraordinary potential that arises when we come together inspired by purpose and a desire to serve. May our paths continue to cross, and may the values and achievements of our time together continue to shine brightly in all your future endeavors.

With deep thanks and appreciation,

Danelle Torain-Victor
Former Director, OSI-Baltimore
In February 2023, Open Society Foundations (OSF) announced the difficult decision to close the OSI-Baltimore office and discontinue intensive place-based funding and local engagement in Maryland. OSI’s wind-down is part of OSF’s global shift toward greater consolidation and focus, allowing it to most effectively address the battle for democracy, pluralism, and individual rights around the world. Following the announcement, our immediate priority became ensuring a responsible transition plan that honors the 25-year legacy of change achieved by our grantees and partners.

Guided by the leadership, vision, and deep commitment of the director, Danielle Torain, we developed and implemented a strategy designed to minimize the negative impact on the community and sustain positive momentum for social justice efforts. Elements of the wind-down strategy included:

**Leveraged funds:** Supported by generous allocations from Open Society Foundations and Open Society—U.S., OSI-Baltimore secured $20 million to support our grantees’ near-term stability and make transformative investments in CLLCTIVLY to launch the Maryland Black Futures Fund and continue support for local leaders.

**Tie-off grants to current grantees:** OSI-Baltimore issued final grants to all current grantees. The grants were equivalent to at least one to two years of funding and were as flexible as possible. (See pp 8-17 for a list of all grantees.) The goal was to support near-term financial stability, allowing organizations to plan for longer-term sustainability.

**Sustainability-focused technical assistance:** Recognizing that many grantees have a long-term partnership with OSI-Baltimore and are highly dependent on this source of funding, we awarded a grant to Progressive Multiplier to provide bespoke trainings and technical assistance to OSI-Baltimore’s grantee cohort. Resources include monthly training sessions, fundraising tools and templates, and up to 16 hours of one-on-one strategic assistance.

**Transparency:** We hosted several informational briefings for members of the grantee community to ensure they were fully aware of the wind-down plan and available support and resources. We offered regular communication through a video announcement, postings, and emails about the grant making process. In addition, OSI-Baltimore director Danielle Torain engaged in a mix of proactive and responsive engagements with local and national media to raise positive awareness of OSI’s responsible wind-down effort.

**Local funder engagement:** We partnered with the Maryland Philanthropy Network to host a briefing for local foundation leaders. The purpose was to share an overview of the wind-down strategy, to explore implications for the nonprofit and foundation communities, and to spur and facilitate continued investment in social justice and movement efforts.

**Opportunities to share reflections:** Recognizing that OSI-Baltimore’s closure provoked many emotions within the community, we offered our partners the opportunity to share their reflections through videos and written communications. These warm and heartfelt sentiments can be seen on our website.

**Furniture and office supply donations:** OSI-Baltimore donated all its furniture, office supplies, books, and other items to grantees and local nonprofits. These items will furnish the new office space for several grantees and many organizations collected hundreds of dollars’ worth of office supplies.

**Celebration:** On September 27, 2023, our community came together to commemorate the end of OSI-Baltimore’s presence in the community and to celebrate our shared impact and lasting legacy. (See pp 18-19 for pictures of the event.)
2023
TIE-OFF GRANTS

OSI-Baltimore’s grantmaking during 2023 was focused on providing near-term financial stability to our grantees, providing them with time to plan for longer-term sustainability. The grants were equivalent to at least one to two years of funding and were as flexible as possible. Grants were awarded to current grantees across all the programmatic areas: Safe and Just Communities; Narrative Change and Civic Engagement; Baltimore Community Fellowships Program; Economic Justice; Well-Being and Systems Change; and Education and Youth Development.

OSI-Baltimore ends its engagement in Baltimore with this cohort of vital and effective organizations that are the most recent in our long list of local partners. We hope the philanthropic community and individual donors will continue to support these organizations and others to ensure that OSI-Baltimore’s legacy endures.

A Revolutionary Summer: An intensive critical reading and writing program dedicated to shifting harmful narratives about Black women and girls through literature, art, political education, yoga, and friendship. arevolutionarysummer.com
$50,000 over one year to support the academic and personal growth of young Black girls by educating them about Black women in literature and culture in order to improve their critical thinking skills and counteract the impact of negative biases.

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland Foundation: Empowers Marylanders to exercise their rights and lead their lives without discrimination or unwarranted government intrusion. aclu-md.org
$250,000 over three months to provide general support.

The Association for the Public Defender of Maryland: The nonprofit arm of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, the statewide agency that represents indigent individuals before Maryland’s criminal and juvenile courts. apdmaryland.org
$150,000 over three months to provide general support.

Attendance Works: A national nonprofit initiative that works in Maryland to advance student success and close equity gaps by reducing chronic absence in school. attendanceworks.org
$50,000 over one year to advance student success by highlighting the racially diverse impact of truancy policies and developing solutions to close the equity gap.

Baltimore Abortion Fund: Expands access to abortion care throughout Maryland and the region more broadly by coordinating and providing practical support services like transportation, accommodations, and language translation to remove barriers to care. baltimoreabortionfund.org
$50,000 over three months to provide general support.

Baltimore Action Legal Team: A group of Baltimore lawyers dedicated to politically conscious lawyering and to using creative, collective solutions to support the Movement for Black Lives in the city. baltimoreactionlegal.org
$250,000 over three months to provide general support.

Baltimore Algebra Project: A youth-run organization with the mission to improve the socioeconomic status of youth in poverty through employment opportunities and to engage youth in advocacy efforts involving school funding, youth employment, and ending the school-to-prison pipeline. 410ap.org
$175,000 over one year to provide tutoring and youth organizing to bring about a more equitable Baltimore.

Baltimore Beat: A Black-led, Black-controlled nonprofit newspaper offering free print and digital media with a focus on service journalism and high-impact investigative work. baltimorebeat.com
$200,000 over three months to provide general support.

Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition: Connects organizations and individuals to coordinated efforts that advance digital equity and close the digital divide in Baltimore City. digitalequitybaltimore.org
$75,000 over one year to provide resources to build safe and welcoming communities for immigrants and refugees in Baltimore.

Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition: Provides public health services and mobilizes community members for the health, dignity, and safety of people targeted by the war on drugs and anti sex-worker policies. baltimoreharmreduction.org
$200,000 over three months to provide general support.

Baltimore Entrepreneurship and Leadership Network: A group of leaders of social entrepreneurship and leadership programs that help aspiring and existing entrepreneurs and leaders in underserved communities to develop their knowledge, skills, connections, and access to resources. belnmore.com
$50,000 over one year to staff and support the Baltimore Entrepreneurship and Leadership Network.

Baltimore Immigrant Community Fund: A public-private partnership and funder collaborative committed to increasing Baltimore’s capacity to better serve New Americans in Baltimore. secure.qgiv.com/for/relief4migrants
$300,000 over 18 months to provide resources to build safe and welcoming communities for immigrants and refugees in Baltimore.

Baltimore Votes Coalition: A coalition of locally rooted organizations that works to increase voter engagement and turnout across the city as a way to strengthen democracy and increase accountability among public officials. baltimorevotes.org
$150,000 over one year to educate the Baltimore public, particularly marginalized communities, on local election administration and information in order to strengthen democracy in Baltimore City.

Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition provides public health services and mobilizes community members for the health, dignity, and safety of people targeted by the war on drugs and anti sex-worker policies. baltimoreharmreduction.org
$200,000 over three months to provide general support.

Baltimore Safe Haven: Provides Baltimore City trans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer (TLGBQ) people currently living in survival mode with community space, resources, and opportunities to thrive. baltimoresafehaven.org
$150,000 over three months to provide general support.

Baltimore Votes Coalition: A coalition of locally rooted organizations that works to increase voter engagement and turnout across the city as a way to strengthen democracy and increase accountability among public officials. baltimorevotes.org
$150,000 over one year to educate the Baltimore public, particularly marginalized communities, on local election administration and information in order to strengthen democracy in Baltimore City.
Baltimore’s Promise: A citywide collaborative of public, business, higher education, nonprofit, community, and philanthropic leaders serving as a catalyst for organizing efforts and resources to provide Baltimore youth with a safe, healthy, and successful educational path from cradle to career. baltimorepromise.org

$134,000 over one 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.

Black Butterfly Initiative (Ingoma Foundation): Ingoma Foundation serves as the steward for Baltimore’s Black Butterfly Business Initiative, developed to support and elevate Black businesses in Baltimore. ingomafoundation.net

$175,000 over one year to implement the Black Butterfly Initiative, 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, one-on-one and peer support.

Black Girls Vote: A nonpartisan organization representing the concerns and interests of Black women and ensuring that Black women are empowered to advance education, economic development, quality health care, and improved outcomes. blackgirlsvote.com

$150,000 over three months to provide general support.

The Black Male Yoga Initiative: Promotes health equity and mental well-being among men of color through yoga and mindfulness and works toward a future where social determinants like gender and race do not have an impact on an individual’s health. bmyi.org

$50,000 over three months to provide general support.

Black Mental Health Alliance: Develops, promotes, and sponsors culturally relevant educational forums, trainings, and referral services that support the health and well-being of Black people and their communities. blackmentalhealth.com

$50,000 over three months to provide general support.

Black Yield Institute: A Pan-African power institution based in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of Baltimore, serving as a think tank and collective action network that addresses food apartheid. blackyieldinstitute.org

$50,000 over three months to serve as a think tank and collective action network that addresses food apartheid and insecurity.

The Bloom Collective: A coalition of experienced and passionate perinatal and reproductive health practitioners that provides holistic support to birthing persons throughout their pregnancy and postpartum journey. wearebloomcollective.com

$50,000 over three months to provide holistic support to birthing persons throughout their pregnancy and postpartum journey.

Bmore Empowered: Empowers women and girls of color through mindfulness and entrepreneurship and provides workshops, trainings, and gatherings to support Black and Brown girls in Baltimore City. bmoreempowered.org

$50,000 over three months to provide general support.

$125,000 over one year to enhance the capacity of Bmore Empowered to provide fiscal sponsorship services to Black-led grassroots organizations in Baltimore.

Bowie State University Philanthropy Fellowship Program: Provides practical skills and experience for master’s degree candidates who will be future leaders, serving as a pipeline to diversify the fields of nonprofit management and philanthropy. bowiestate.edu

$125,000 over one year to place a fellow in a management-level practicum within a nonprofit or philanthropic organization with the goal of providing hands-on experience for future leaders and diversifying the fields.

Bronze Girl Collective: Offers tailored resources, enriching experiences, and a transformative community to address the diverse needs of Black women over 40. bronzegirlcollective.org

$10,000 over one year to provide mental health resources and other support services to Black women over 40.

Business Volunteers of Maryland: Strengthens the community by making strategic connections between people, businesses, and nonprofits and serving the corporate social responsibility needs of the business community. businessvolunteersmd.org

$160,000 over three months to provide general support.

BYKE Collective: An after-school program devoted to the development of Baltimore’s kids by providing empowerment through experiential learning opportunities, community involvement, and the power of bicycles. bykecollective.org

$50,000 over one year to develop personal and professional skills in young people in Baltimore through learning bicycle mechanics, practicing safe ridership, and building community.

Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth: A national nonprofit that leads efforts to ban juvenile life without parole and other extreme sentences for children and support survivors of youth violence, those incarcerated as children, and their respective families and communities. cfsy.org

$75,000 over three months to provide general support.

CASA de Maryland: The foremost immigrant organization in the mid-Atlantic region and a national leader in supporting immigrant families and ensuring that all individuals have the core supports necessary for full participation in society. warecasa.org

$250,000 over three months to provide general support.

Charm City Care Connection: A drop-in center and harm reduction service program serving East Baltimore by promoting health, self-determination, and self-advocacy for individuals and communities affected by drug use, stigma, poverty, and inequities. charmcitycareconnection.org

$175,000 over three months to provide general support.
Citizens Policing Project: Educates and trains Baltimore residents in effective advocacy to ensure public safety and help community organizations and members leverage their voices in the process of reforming the Baltimore Police Department. cpproject.org
$150,000 over one year to educate, engage, and provide resources to Baltimore residents most impacted by over-policing.

CLCIVTY: A social change organization centering Black genius, narrative power, social networks, and resource mobilization to end the fragmentation and duplication of programs and be a resource for the Greater Baltimore community that seeks to fund and partner with Black social change organizations. clcivty.org
$6,000,000 over three years to launch the Maryland Black Futures Fund, which will deploy capital to Black power-building and movement-based organizations in Maryland.
$4,000,000 over two years to implement the Social Impact Institute to support a healthy ecosystem of Black leaders and deepen the impact of Black-led organizations.

Communities United: Organizes and empowers low-income Maryland residents to achieve transformative change by providing opportunities for policy education, discourse, and action. marylandcu.org
$180,000 over one year to strengthen organizing movements in Maryland and support leadership development and capacity building.

Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation: Serves and supports individuals and their families who are struggling with substance use and in need of mental health resources by offering charitable aid and community harm reduction services, including overdose prevention and response programs. dctfoundationinc.org
$75,000 over three months to provide general support.

Disability Rights Maryland: Advances the legal rights of people with disabilities and provides free legal services to Marylanders with all types of disabilities (developmental, intellectual, psychiatric, physical, sensory, learning, traumatic brain injury), who live in facilities, in the community, or who are homeless. disabilityrightsmd.org
$50,000 over three months to provide general support.

Equity Matters: A network of innovators who help clients and communities evolve and change in a transformative way by offering a variety of supports and organizational strategies for getting voices heard and improving their impact in a group or community. equity-matters.org
$250,000 over one year to provide thought leadership and support to criminal justice reform coalitions and to leverage capital for communities of color.

Family Support Network: Builds relationships and community among those with a strong personal stake in bringing home people serving life or long sentences in Maryland, with a central focus on racial justice and Black women and embedding this community in the advocacy landscape. thefamilysupportnetwork.org
$125,000 over one year to engage in community-building, education, and social services that aim to support people serving long sentences, particularly life sentences, and their families.

Fight Blight Baltimore: An economic, environmental, and social justice initiative led by the community and informed by data to address the issue of blight across Baltimore. fightblightbmore.com
$50,000 over one year to remediate blight in Baltimore City by implementing a mobile application to track and report hazards, educating the community about the impact of blight, and supporting homeowners to remain in their homes.

Forward Justice Maryland: A project of March On Foundation, which works to increase civic engagement; champion first amendment rights; and amplify the voices of the underrepresented, marginalized, and oppressed in order to empower and support communities. futureincubator.org/current-projects
$50,000 over one year to engage in education and organizing to reduce the number of people serving long sentences in Maryland prisons.

Fund for Educational Excellence: Works to close the equity and opportunity gaps for all students in Baltimore City Public Schools by partnering with the school district, students and parents, funders, advocates, and local nonprofits. ffee.org
$25,000 over three months to provide general support.

Fusion Partnerships: A catalyst for social justice and peace that nurtures small, innovative organizations and initiatives and works through collaborative action, including fiscal sponsorship, facilitation, and community grantmaking. fusiongroup.org
$75,000 over three months to provide general support.

Healing City Baltimore: A sustained movement of neighbors, united as a citywide community, to engage in honest dialogue, learn from diverse perspectives, embrace differences and commit to healing together as a foundation to pursuing a racially, socially, and economically just and thriving Baltimore for all. healingcitybaltimore.com
$125,000 over one year to ensure that a consistent focus on violence, poverty, and educational inequity is maintained in the execution of the Elijah Cummings Healing City Act.

Holistic Life Foundation: Improves social, community, educational, and emotional outcomes in low-income, underserved communities by providing multifaceted programming that empowers youth, families, and adults through yoga, mindfulness, and human and environmental health. holisticafoundation.org
$200,000 over three months to provide general support.

Homeless Persons Representation Project: An organization working to end homelessness in Maryland by providing free legal services, including advice, counsel, education, representation, and advocacy, to low-income persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. hprplaw.org
$50,000 over three months to provide general support.

Jews United for Justice: Mobilizes Jews and the Jewish community to move the region closer to social, racial, and economic justice by advancing campaigns for immediate and concrete improvements in people’s lives. jufj.org
$150,000 over three months to provide general support.
Job Opportunities Task Force: Works to eliminate educational and employment barriers for low-wage workers by transforming the systems and policies that create and perpetuate those barriers. jottf.org
$250,000 over three months to provide general support.

Justice Policy Institute: Develops workable solutions to problems plaguing juvenile and criminal justice systems by researching and analyzing effective programs and policies and disseminating its findings to the media, policymakers, and advocates. justicepolicy.org
$100,000 over three months to provide general support.

Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle: A grassroots think tank dedicated to creating transformative public policy and drastically improving the conditions of Black people in the Baltimore-Metropolitan Region. lbsbaltimore.com
$250,000 over one year to engage in research, community organizing, community education and leadership development that supports civic engagement of Black residents and builds Black institutions.

Life After Release: An organization led by formerly incarcerated women in the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area that organizes to build a post-conviction movement where impacted community members have the right to challenge their convictions and the system responsible for convicting them in the first place. lifeafterrelease.org
$100,000 over one year to engage in policy advocacy, community engagement, and education to reform Maryland’s justice systems.

Mandala Enterprise Corporation: Provides education and support to people serving long prison sentences and their families and opposes overly restrictive parole policies. mandalaenterprise.org
$125,000 over three months to provide general support.

Maryland Center on Economic Policy: A nonpartisan organization that advances innovative policy ideas to foster broad prosperity and help the state be the standard-bearer for responsible public policy. mdeconomy.org
$100,000 over three months to provide general support.

Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative: Home of the Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition, which works to ensure that all Marylanders have access to quality, affordable health care coverage. healthcareforall.com
$50,000 over one year to support the Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative’s social welfare activities.

Maryland Justice Project: A leader of the state’s “Ban the Box” campaign to reduce employment barriers for returning citizens and educate and inform both ex-offenders and employers about legislation relative to this cause. marylandjusticeproject.org
$100,000 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.

Maryland Peer Advisory Council: A peer-run advocacy, outreach, and training program for individuals, families, allies, faith-based community members, and supporters who advocate on local and national levels to address and influence social change related to drug policy, recovery, and harm reduction. marylandpeeradvisorcouncil.org
$160,000 over one year to provide education and support to certified peer recovery specialists in Maryland.

Maryland Philanthropy Network: A membership association that connects a growing community of donors across Maryland and partners with nonprofits and community leaders working to advance the impact of the social sector as a whole. marylandphilanthropy.org
$25,000 over one year to provide fiscal sponsorship services to programs in Baltimore.

Maryland Prisoners’ Rights Coalition: A coalition governed by the directly impacted that works to improve conditions of confinement for adults and juveniles confined in Maryland state prisons, jails, and detention centers. mdprisonersrights.org
$125,000 over one year to bring home people serving long-sentences, particularly people serving life sentences, through education, support, and service.

Mental Health Emergency Fund: Provides mental health stipends to marginalized individuals experiencing a crisis and offers a directory of vetted therapists and resource guides. mentalhealthemergencyfund.org
$100,000 over three months to provide general support.

MOMCares: A postpartum doula program that supports Black mothers in the NICU and their families by providing support, self-care opportunities, and healing experiences designed to strengthen the family unit with the matriarch at the center of its work. momcares.org
$50,000 over three months to provide general support.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Maryland Chapter: Provides education and policy advocacy to ensure persons affected by the disease of addiction and their families have access to resources, support systems, and services critical in accessing treatment and sustaining recovery. ncaddmaryland.org
$150,000 over three months to provide general support.

No Boundaries Coalition: A resident-led advocacy organization that mobilizes residents from seven different neighborhoods in West Baltimore to challenge the culture of, and the issues created by, Baltimore’s long history of racial and economic segregation. noboundariescoalition.com
$200,000 over three months to provide general support.

Organizing Black: A grassroots, member-led organization dedicated to fighting for the liberation of all Black people and building local power through transformational Black direct action organizing, political education, and participatory governance practices. organizingblack.org
$250,000 over three months to provide general support.
OSI-Baltimore Fellows Collective: Developing sustainable systems of communication among the fellows network and creating momentum for an independent network.

$50,000 over one year to focus on developing sustainable systems of communication among the fellows network and creating momentum for an independent network.

Out for Justice: An organization of individuals both directly and indirectly impacted by the criminal legal system advocating for the reform of policies and practices that adversely affect successful reintegration into society. out4justice.org

$250,000 over three months to provide general support.

Positive Schools Center: Creates positive, supportive, and mindful learning communities where students and staff connect, develop, and grow by providing coaching and staff development, community school programming, and policy recommendations for Maryland schools. positiveschoolscenter.org

$100,000 over one year to train educators and students in Baltimore City public schools to use restorative and complementary practices to improve school climate.

Power Inside: A holistic harm reduction organization for women in Baltimore that co-creates safe spaces where women celebrate their strengths, heal from violence, and work toward justice. daretobepowerful.org

$150,000 over three months to provide general support.

Progressive Maryland: A statewide advocacy organization promoting racial, social, economic, and environmental justice that leads the fight for progressive change in Maryland through grassroots organizing and public education. progressivemaryland.org

$250,000 over three months to provide general support.

Progressive Multiplier: Works to shift the progressive movement toward scale, self-determination, and sustainability by creating a high-leverage investment opportunity for philanthropy to strengthen the independent financial position of movement groups. progressivemultiplier.fund

$225,000 over one year to provide training and support to organizations in Baltimore to increase their fundraising capacity and sustainability to enable them to achieve their missions.

Public Justice Center: Uses legal tools to challenge poverty and racial inequity in Maryland and beyond by representing people who are standing up for their rights, advocating to change the systems that keep people down, and empowering communities to build a just society. publicjustice.org

$200,000 over three months to provide general support.

Restorative Response Baltimore: A conflict resolution and community building organization that provides ways for people to collectively and effectively prevent and resolve conflicts and incidents ranging from bullying to auto theft to assault. restorativesresponse.org

$200,000 over three months to provide general support.

Restorative Schools Maryland: Works to build the policy and funding necessary to implement research-based restorative practices in all public schools in Maryland, which aim to improve interpersonal and community relationships through a focus on maintaining, improving, and healing relationships. restorativeschoolsmaryland.org

$200,000 over one year to build the policy, funding, and capacity support needed to implement restorative practices in schools in Maryland.

Revolve Fund: A philanthropic initiative that uses grant funding to provide patient, interest-free capital to Black/African American, Latinx, Native American, and other people of color (POC)-led businesses, nonprofit organizations, financial intermediaries, and venture funds. revolvefund.org

$300,000 over one year to provide capital to Black/African American, Latinx, and Native American-led businesses, nonprofit organizations, financial intermediaries, and venture funds.

St. Luke’s Church on the Avenue: Runs The Avenue Drop-In Center, which provides a safe space and harm reduction services for individuals in active drug use. churchontheavenuehampden.org

$50,000 over three months to provide general support.

Strong Schools Maryland: A network of grassroots supporters that monitors the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and advocates for legislative and regulatory policy changes to further educational equity. strongschoolsmaryland.org

$100,000 over one year to support policy advocacy to ensure the equitable implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

Uplift Alliance: A fiscal sponsor host organization that supports the creation and development of nonprofits seeking to transform Baltimore and beyond and connects with community leaders for the development of local partnerships. upliftalliance.org

$50,000 over one year to support the launch of Uplift Alliance and to enhance its capacity to provide fiscal sponsorship services to organizations in Baltimore.

Women Entrepreneur Leadership Lab: A network of Black-women entrepreneurs and leaders who are building a community where they support and learn from one another, grow businesses that create wealth, and push the boundaries on their dreams. thewellnetwork.us

$175,000 over three months to provide general support.

Youth As Resources: A youth-led grant making, community organizing, and leadership development nonprofit organization that helps youth address their most critical community and institutional challenges on their terms. youthasresources.org

$75,000 over three months to provide general support.
FAREWELL CELEBRATION

On September 27, 2023, our OSI-Baltimore family spent a lovely evening at the Baltimore Museum of Industry to commemorate the end of OSI-Baltimore’s presence in the community and to celebrate our shared impact. Guests included grantees, fellows, community partners, current and former staff and Board members, and colleagues from Open Society Foundations. A short program was facilitated by 2004 Community Fellow Maria Broom and included comments from Mayor Brandon Scott and a video of grantees sharing their reflections about the impact of OSI-Baltimore. Music and drumming were provided by 2015 Baltimore Community Fellow Menes Yahudah’s group Urban Foli. 2011 Baltimore Community Fellow Maya Kosak supplied flowers.

The gathering provided an opportunity to acknowledge the significant contributions of several people who were invaluable to the organization:

- **Jamar Brown**, most recent Advisory Board Chair
- **William Clarke**, former Advisory Board Chair
- **Pamela King**, Director, Community Fellowships Program
- **Diana Morris**, former Director, OSI-Baltimore
- **Danielle Torain**, most recent Director, OSI-Baltimore

Good food, dancing, and warm camaraderie added to the celebratory atmosphere of the wonderful gathering of our friends and colleagues who have been an integral part of OSI-Baltimore’s history and purpose. A positive and optimistic spirit of gratitude and commitment helped us mark the end of an era and launch the next chapter of social justice work in Baltimore.
2023 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Muriel Berkeley
Former Member, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners

Edward C. Bernard
Senior Advisor, T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.

Jamar Brown, Chair
Partner, Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP

William Clarke
President, The Osprey Foundation

Veronica Cool
CEO, Cool and Associates, LLC

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

Joseph Jones
President and CEO, Center for Urban Families

Kenneth Jones
Chief Operating Officer, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Susan Leviton
Professor Emeritus of Law, University of Maryland Carey School of Law

John Meyerhoff
Community Volunteer

Larry Moscow
Partner, maslansky + partners

Catalina Rodriguez-Lima
Director, Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs

2023 STAFF

L. Tracy Brown
Deputy Director

Michael Camlin
Program Manager, Well-Being and Systems Change

Pamela King
Director, Community Fellowships Program

Priscilla Newton
Senior Program Administrative Officer

Evan Serpick *
Program Manager, Strategic Communications and Narrative Change

Danielle Torain +
Director, OSI-Baltimore

*Left OSI-Baltimore in February 2023  + Left OSI-Baltimore in April 2023

25 Years
OSI-Baltimore

In recognition of OSI-Baltimore’s 25th year anniversary and closure of the local office, we celebrate our lasting legacy and shared impact. The following pages capture our accomplishments and offer a well-deserved acknowledgement of, and sincere appreciation for, the many organizations and individuals who fueled real and transformative change for Baltimore.
OSI-Baltimore’s
AREAS OF IMPACT

OSI-Baltimore was created in 1997 as the only field office of the Open Society Foundations to test approaches for solving some of the most difficult and intractable challenges facing cities. As an advocate, investor and ally, OSI consistently and persistently pursued audacious ideas, bold action and strategic thinking to address the root causes of intertwined and systemic issues across a wide spectrum of programmatic areas. Early areas of focus included Workforce Development, Access to Justice, and Medicine as a Profession. The following are examples of the achievements of our long-standing and current programs.

Addiction and Health Equity
Tackled health disparities, particularly regarding drug use, to reduce inequitable outcomes for community members.
- Launched the Baltimore Buprenorphine Initiative, introducing a new evidence-based treatment for individuals addicted to opioids.
- Grew a local harm reduction movement that has spread across the state and greatly increased the availability of overdose prevention services.
- Led the Baltimore Equitable Vaccination Initiative, which reduced racial and socioeconomic disparities in COVID-19 vaccination rates by helping more than 61,000 residents get vaccinated.

Criminal and Juvenile Justice
Worked to achieve a fair and just criminal and juvenile justice system using a racial equity lens.
- Advanced policy and practice reforms that reduced Maryland’s jail and prison populations by 25%
- Created and supported networks of advocates who successfully achieved monumental police, parole, and bail reforms.
- Supported reentry programs to provide vital support services to returning citizens, including for individuals returning home after long incarceration periods.

Education and Youth Development
Worked to help youth feel that they are safe, welcomed, and supported in schools and have the resources they need to succeed in adulthood.
- Reduced school suspensions by 74% and school-based arrests by 95% by revising discipline and arrest policies and implementing restorative practices in Baltimore City Public Schools.
- Brought Bard Early College High School to Baltimore, enabling students to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate degree free of charge.
- Funded and advocated for efforts to ensure equitable funding for Maryland’s students, most recently through the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

Baltimore Community Fellows
Provided funding to individuals, enabling them to address problems in underserved communities.
- Awarded fellowships to more than 200 dynamic social entrepreneurs.
- Enabled the creation of fellow-founded initiatives, with more than 65% continuing to thrive.
- Founded the OSI-Baltimore Community Fellows Collective to foster communication within the fellowship network.

Economic Justice
Directed capital to historically under-resourced communities.
- Provided catalytic funding to the Maryland Black Futures Fund that will provide financial support to Black power-building and movement-based organizations.
- Seeded exploratory investments to implement innovative strategies to close the racial wealth gap and transform Baltimore’s economic and financial systems.
- Strengthened the local infrastructure to deploy funds by addressing fiscal sponsorship challenges and testing innovative approaches through B’More Invested.

Strategic Communications and Narrative Change
Provided opportunities for community engagement and learning.
- Engaged community members in thoughtful dialogue by sponsoring more than 40 Talking About Race events that brought notable advocates and leading thinkers to Baltimore, as well as three Big Change events.
- Facilitated community involvement in the democratic process through the Solutions Summit, the Blueprint for Baltimore survey, and support for voter engagement organizations.
- Amplified the voices of grantees and community fellows.
OSI-Baltimore’s
25 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For 25 years, OSI-Baltimore has passionately pursued solutions to the challenging and intertwined issues facing Baltimore. We have used a broad set of tools—grantmaking, education, advocacy, technical assistance, convening and investment—to support and collaborate with our grantees and partners to achieve real and transformative change. These are a few examples of some of the bold actions and strategic thinking that have made a difference in Baltimore.

01 Reduced school suspensions by 74% by advocating to rewrite the overly punitive Baltimore City code of conduct, and funding alternatives to student suspension over several years. Addressing harsh and inequitable discipline practices, this work reversed the devastating impact of out-of-school suspensions on student achievement, graduation rates, juvenile arrests, and post-graduation success.

02 Supported and encouraged community-based organizations to gather input from Baltimore residents for the Department of Justice investigation of the Baltimore Police Department, which resulted in a consent decree that requires more community engagement and input than any other in the country.

03 Launched the Baltimore Dipseaorphine Initiative, which introduced a new evidence-based treatment for individuals addicted to opioids and ensured that public and private insurance adequately cover it.

04 Reduced the prison population by 25% since 2002 by supporting advocates to advance significant reforms to sentencing, parole, and pretrial guidelines that allowed more people to be released without jeopardizing public safety.

05 Created and fostered a network of 230 social entrepreneurs—Community Fellows—who have revitalized communities throughout the city and have founded some of Baltimore’s most effective organizations, including Wide Angle Youth Media, Community Law in Action, Power Inside, Restorative Response Baltimore (formerly Community Conferencing Center), Claypots: A Place to Grow, and The Featherstone Foundation.

06 Launched the local news department of WYPR, Maryland’s largest National Public Radio affiliate, which projects a strong sense of place, introduces new voices, and adds critical analysis and depth to local broadcast news coverage.

07 As a lead supporter of Baltimore’s Safe and Sound Campaign, helped build a stable network of high-quality after-school programs that engaged more than 20,000 students, providing extended learning opportunities that improve academic, social, and emotional outcomes.

08 Worked with the Baltimore City Health Department to establish an overdose prevention program in 2000, which continues to offer training, naloxone distribution, and education about addiction and overdose, saving thousands of lives and training more than 34,000 individuals in overdose prevention and response.

09 Reduced school-based arrests by an unprecedented 95% by implementing a school police training institute that defined officer’s roles in schools, and trained officers to use restorative practices to resolve conflict and deescalate student behaviors.

10 Created programs to provide returning citizens with vital services, including transitional housing, addiction treatment, mental health care, and job training, which helped reduce recidivism rates from 50% to 36% and improved public safety.

11 Launched the Baltimore Urban Debate League (BUDL), which began with 90 students in eight public high schools and went on to engage thousands of students from more than 50 middle and high schools, helping to increase graduation and college attendance rates and fostering some of Baltimore City’s most prominent young leaders.

12 Working with the school district, fostered alternatives for students including making it possible for more than 25,000 city students to participate in lively, engaging summer programs to address learning loss, and the Reengagement Center, an innovative one-stop center that actively brings back those students who have become chronically absent or have dropped out of school altogether.

13 Fostered a movement that stopped the plan to build a Baltimore City prison to incarcerate youth charged as adults and greatly reduced the number of youth now held in adult jails, reinforcing the message that detained youth need to be in a system that focuses on rehabilitation and can be emotionally harmed in an adult facility.

14 Worked with the ACLU to document the need for new school facilities in Baltimore City and advocated for adequate funding to build them, resulting in the $1 billion 21st Century Schools initiative.

15 Collaborated to establish specialized groups within Maryland Philanthropy Network (formerly the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers) focused on workforce development, education, and addiction to foster interest, collaboration, and expertise among grantmakers in the region.

16 Established the free, public Talking About Race series in 2009 to spark crucial and sometimes difficult conversations about how race intersects with our lives. Held dozens of events with prominent guests such as Bryan Stevenson, Sherrilyn and Gwen Ifill, and Taylor Branch.

17 Provided funding and advocacy to bring the cutting-edge Bard Early College High School to Baltimore, giving students an opportunity to earn a no-cost college associate degree during their high school years. Over half of the students graduate with a Bard College Associate Degree along with their high school diploma.

18 Created and supported networks of capable, effective criminal justice advocates on a state and local level, such as the Coalition for a Safe and Just Maryland, which successfully pushed for a judicial change limiting the use of cash bail, defended the rule against a bail bond industry lobbying campaign in 2017, and advocated successfully for state funding of pretrial services.

19 Founded the Safe City Baltimore immigrant defense and education fund in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs to protect the due process rights of detained residents and provide legal defense and education services in response to aggressive immigration enforcement at the federal level.

20 Led the Baltimore Equitable Vaccination Initiative, which reduced racial and socioeconomic disparities in COVID-19 vaccination rates by assisting more than 61,000 local residents to get vaccinated.
21 Using $6 million in public funds from Baltimore City, facilitated the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Program that provided $400 pre-paid cards to 15,000 city residents who were financially impacted by the pandemic, including by engaging 13 community-based organizations to support outreach and implementation.

22 Co-led Bmore Invested, a philanthropic/community collaboration and a pooled fund that raised $2.3 million from 13 foundations and utilized an innovative and participatory process to identify and support 10 organizations led by people of color and focused on restorative approaches to community safety and healing.

23 Facilitated community involvement in the democratic process through the Solutions Summit that engaged more than 700 city residents to debate and vote on a policy plan for Baltimore’s new mayor and City Council and the Blueprint for Baltimore project, the largest issue-oriented survey in Baltimore history that asked more than 5,000 residents about their priorities for transforming Baltimore.

24 Collaborated with city officials and community partners to implement the Elijah Cummings Healing City Act, which is the first legislation in the country to require city agencies to receive trauma-responsive and restorative training to better assist residents in obtaining needed services. Healing City-style legislation has now been passed at the state level and is being expanded to other cities across the country.

25 Provided $6 million in catalytic funding to CLLCTIVLY’s Maryland Black Futures Fund that will provide financial support to Black power building and movement-based organizations.

OSI-Baltimore’s COMMUNITY FELLOWS

The Community Fellowships Program supported more than 230 committed and engaged social activists. They have inspired and driven inspirational projects that address problems in underserved communities in Baltimore City. Launched 25 years ago as OSI-Baltimore’s first programmatic initiative, the Community Fellowships Program has been a highly visual and exceptionally cherished component of our work.

OSI-Baltimore fellowships staff give special thanks to all the community members and partners who served as reviewers and selection committee members. We appreciate the great care in which their participation contributed to the selection of each cohort of OSI-Baltimore Community Fellows.

|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
2023 IMPACT REPORT

We have done our best to capture the names of all staff members but apologize if we have missed someone.

*Deceased

Afefe Tyehimba
Paul Santomenna
Jacqueline Robarge
Avis Ransom*
Tracey Oliver-Keyser
Elissa Leif
Rebekah Burgess
Tammy Pinchin Brown
2002

2006

Luisa C. Bieri de Rios
Tonya Featherston
Kenya Lee
Aisling McGuckin
2005

Peter Babcox
Michelle Blue
Michelle DeBruin
Bernard Fayall*
Najib Jammal
Bonita Spikes*
Matt Warfield
Christina Youngston

2004

Maria Broom
Alison Brown
Nancy Lord Lewin
Stanley Markowitz*
Sarah Penna
Abbie (Riopelle) Flanagan
Jay Wol Schlossberg-Cohen
Zara Urgiles
Charlotte Walters
Jodie Zisow

2003

Samuel Epps
Leon Faruq*
Shawn James
Bridget (Muller) Sampson
Dale Reid*
Betty Robinson*
Steven Rubin
Melissa Rudder
Ameriga Strache
Joseph Williams

2009

Elza Ahmed-Williams
Rhonda Elsey-Jones
Sarah Hemminger
Dwayne Hoos
Herbert Johnson*
Alexis Rundell
Tresabria Whilow
Jill Wirigley*

2010

Gary Ashbeck
Rebecca Coleman
Meshelle Foreman
Shields
Stephanie Murdock
Koli Tengelia
Sarah Toohey
Jessica Tural

2011

Emily Datoff
Andrew Gaddis
Natalie Keegan
Maya Kosok
Lara Leil
Jill Pardini
Jason Reed
La Tasha Vanzie

OSI-Baltimore's
ORGANIZATIONAL GRANTEES

Over our 25-year history, OSI-Baltimore has funded numerous organizations across its programmatic areas. We are proud to have partnered with these amazing advocates and visionaries to achieve lasting change. We have done our best to capture all our grantees but apologize if we have missed an organization.

A New Faith Community
AARP Experience Corps
Act Now
Advocates for Children and Youth
Alternative Directions
American Assembly
American Institute for Social Change
An End to Ignorance
Architects of Justice
Associated Black Charities
Associated Catholic Charities
B-Mom
B-360
Baltimore Advisors Corp.
Baltimore Black Worker Center
Baltimore Ceasefire 365
Baltimore City Foundation
Baltimore City Health Department
Baltimore City Public School System
Baltimore City Substance Abuse Directorate
Baltimore Civic Fund
Baltimore Clayworks
Baltimore Community Foundation
Baltimore Corps
Baltimore Curriculum Project
Baltimore Education Coalition
Baltimore Education Network
Baltimore Goodwill Industries
Baltimore Healthy Start
Baltimore Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (now MDHSE)
Baltimore Mayor’s Office of Employment Development
Baltimore Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs
Baltimore Medical System
Baltimore Mental Health Systems
Baltimore Museum of Art
Baltimore Office of the Mayor
Baltimore Police Department
Baltimore Urban Debate League
Baltimore Urban League
Baltimore Youth Arts
Baltimorerears for Transparent and Accountable Law Enforcement
Baltimorerears United in Leadership Development
Banner Neighborhoods
Community Corporation
Bard Early College High School
Behavioral Health Leadership Institute
Behavioral Health System
Baltimore/Bmore POWER
Bikemore
BioTechnical Institute of Maryland
Black Cherry
Black Leaders Organizing for Change (BLOC)
BmoreAwesome
Bon Secours Baltimore Health System Foundation
Bon Secours Community Works
Building Educated Leaders for Life
Center for a Healthy Maryland

Center for Applied Research and Technical Assistance
Center for Children’s Law and Policy
Center for Emerging Media
Center for Family and Child Policy
Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development
Center for Policing Equity
Center for Poverty Solutions
Center for Supportive Schools
Center for Urban Families
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Chesapeake Center
for Youth Development
Chesapeake Health Education Program
Children’s Theater Association
Citizens Planning and Housing Association of Baltimore
City Neighbors Charter School
City of Refuge
Civic Works
Clay Pots
Clergy United for the Transformation of Sandtown
Collaborative Solutions
CollegeBound Foundation
Community College of Baltimore Foundation
Community Law Center

Visit OSI-Baltimore.org to read profiles of previous Baltimore Community Fellows.

*Deceased

We have done our best to capture the names of all staff members but apologize if we have missed someone.

Visit OSI-Baltimore.org to read profiles of previous Baltimore Community Fellows.
OSI-Baltimore has been advised by an impressive and deeply committed group of leaders and stakeholders. They were unsparingly generous in sharing their time, expertise and connections in the community. We are immensely grateful for their sage advice and strategic guidance. The organization would not have grown and prospered without their involvement and commitment to our shared vision of a more equitable and just Baltimore.*

CHAIRS:
- Bill Clarke 2009–2020
- Jamar Brown 2020–2023

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:
- Will Baker
- Clinton Bamberger
- Muriel Berkeley
- Ed Bernard
- Ava Lias Booker
- Taylor Branch
- Eddie Brown
- Jamar Brown
- Deborah Callard
- William Clarke
- Suzanne Cohen
- Veronica Cool
- Andre Davis
- James DeGraffenreidt
- Nupur Parekh Flynn
- Michael Gaines
- Mireille Grangenois
- Carla Hayden
- Sherrilyn Ifill
- Joseph Jones
- Kenneth Jones
- Will Jordan
- Susan Leviton
- Donald Manekin
- Jamie McDonald
- John Meyerhoff
- Ioanna Morfessis
- Larry Moscow
- Anne Perkins
- Catalina Rodriguez-Lima
- Otis Rolley
- Herbert Sturz
- David Vlahov
- Michael Ward
- William Wendler
- Alicia Wilson
- Robin Wood

*We have done our best to capture the names of all Advisory Board and staff members but apologize if we have missed someone.

OSI-Baltimore’s STAFF

The dedicated and professional service of OSI-Baltimore’s staff members has ensured our grant making and other tools for change have been implemented smoothly, responsively and effectively. They have served our grantees as trusted resources, partners and collaborators. We are grateful to all who have supported our mission in a staff role.*

DIRECTORS:
- Diana Morris 1997–2019
- Danielle Torain 2020–2023

STAFF:
- Tatiana Beckles
- Kim Birnbaum
- Philip Brennan
- Tracy Brown
- Jeffrey Burch
- Trevor Bush
- Katy Caldwell
- Michael Camlin
- Victor Capoccia
- Tom Cargiulo
- Lindsey Caruso
- Monique Cole
- Tania Cordes
- Ellie Cox
- Patrice Cromwell
- Monique Dixon
- Brecht Donoghue
- Kiera Edwards
- Gabot Erdelyi
- Jamie Evans
- Molly Farneth
- Emily Faxon
- Joanna Fong
- Christopher Fontaine
- Vanessa Foster
- Blair Franklin
- Mieka Gillette
- Tonya Gonzalez
- Sarah Gozes
- Jessie Greenspan
- Rojani Gudlavalleti
- Terri Gurwitz
- Arie Hall
- Ruzana Hedges
- Sarah Hill
- Kevin Hirano
- Tara Huffman
- Kafiya Ismail
- Samuel Jockel
- Mildred Johnson
- Rochelle Johnson-Williams
- Jennifer Kim
- Pamela King
- Megan Kenny
- Amy Kozak
- Fran Miller
- Rachel Moler
- Kevin Griffin Moreno
- Priscilla Newton
- Thach Thao Nguyen
- Bobbi Nicotera
- Scott Nolen
- David Padrino
- Felicia Pride
- Katherine Rab
- Sharon Richardson
- Melissa Rigs
- Craig Rocklin
- Tricia Ruback
- Debra Rubino
- Lauren Sauer
- Eden Savino
- Justin Schaberg
- Daniela Schukart
- Robert Schwartz
- Evan Serpick
- Chris Shea
- Emily Smith
- Lea Smith
- Polly Stamatopoulos
- Jane Sundius
- Kima Taylor
- Victoria Vargas
- Spenser Villwock
- Karen Webber
- Jed Weeks
- Dawn Williams
- Tyrone Williams
- Shaina Wilson
OSI-Baltimore’s DONORS

We are beyond grateful to our many generous donors who have been critical partners in our work. In 2005, George Soros challenged the Baltimore community to partner with Open Society Foundations by making a financial investment in the mission to ensure an open society at the local level. Our philanthropic community and individual donor community generously heeded the call to match the organization’s contribution. Making donations ranging from $10 to hundreds of thousands, our community invested millions of dollars in OSI-Baltimore. One hundred percent of these private funds flowed to our grantees and partners. Without this financial investment, which complemented the core support from Open Society Foundations, our accomplishments would not have been attainable. It’s impossible to list every donor, but please know that we greatly appreciate your commitment to fairness and justice and the faith you placed in our expertise and strategies.

Leadership COUNCIL

First convened in 2007, the Leadership Council was an eclectic, engaged group of civic and community leaders who shared a commitment and passion for Baltimore and who wanted to be a part of solutions for the future. The Council involved participants in active discussion with experts, policymakers and advocates who were implementing strategies for change. Council members met quarterly to learn about OSI’s strategies and campaigns and served as our ambassadors throughout the region. The Leadership Council’s membership has evolved over the years, making it impossible to share a complete list. Please know that we valued and benefited from your active engagement.

Open Society Foundations COLLEAGUES

It is with tremendous warmth and gratitude that we acknowledge the unwavering support we have received from our many colleagues and friends throughout Open Society Foundations. Our hyper-local work has been unique, which necessitated extra attention and accommodations from many individuals and units within the network. We appreciate your patience with our distinctive needs and your creativity in wrangling the internal systems to help us achieve our goal of making an impact locally. You have truly been our partners and, although they haven’t always been aware of your role, our community has benefited from your invaluable contributions. We will miss you and will treasure memories of our relationships!