

**NO BOUNDARIES
COALITION**
OF CENTRAL WEST BALTIMORE

*Deconstructing Boundaries.
Reconstructing Community.*

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings, No Boundaries Coalition Family!

I must begin with my most sincere “Thank You!” Initially believing we were making temporary adjustments for a health emergency, it has now been two years. However, despite the many challenges, we continue to progress toward our vision of realizing a strong, united community void of boundaries by addressing racial and economic inequality, empowering our youth, implementing violence reduction programming, emboldening a qualified workforce, eliminating barriers to fresh and healthy foods, registering new voters, and holding our elected officials accountable.

With the support of our dedicated members and devoted supporters, we continue to improve the quality of life for Central West Baltimore

residents as we adapt to our new normal while launching, expanding, and improving new and existing programs and initiatives.

So, thank you for your unwavering commitment to No Boundaries Coalition! Together, we have realized the truest form of our resiliency and fungibility like never before. We will continue in this spirit as we embrace new challenges and envision new opportunities for 21217 and beyond.

In service,

Ashiah Parker

ASHIAH PARKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Beloved Members, Supporters, and Friends:

While 2020 and 2021 have been ripe with challenges due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, No Boundaries Coalition adapted to the new normal while still serving the residents and communities of Central West Baltimore and beyond. From delivering fresh produce through our buying club to hosting a virtual fundraiser and birthing our Block Captains Bootcamp, we successfully expanded our reach and elevated our exposure.

Regardless of how COVID-19 impacts us in the weeks, months, and years to come, No Boundaries Coalition will remain committed in our efforts to advocate for health and food justice while empowering the next generation of engaged voters and civic leaders.

Upward and Onward,

Yinka Bode-George

YINKA BODE-GEORGE
BOARD PRESIDENT

HEALTH AND FOOD JUSTICE

Food Desert v. Food Apartheid

A DESERT IS DEFINED AS A BARREN LAND WHERE LIVING CONDITIONS ARE HOSTILE TO PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE.

While our communities lack healthy grocery stores, they are not desolate areas where food cannot grow and sustain. To the contrary, our communities are rich with life and potential, and home to several urban gardens and farms. Race, socioeconomics, and geography have disenfranchised us from healthy, fresh food options. So, we embrace the fact that 21217 is not a food desert, rather the communities and the residents are in the midst of a food apartheid. However, together, we will find our way to food health and wealth.

FRESH AT THE AVENUE

OPEN EVERY SATURDAY 9:00 AM — 4:00 PM & THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 10:00 AM — 4:00 PM



Although temporarily interrupted by COVID-19, Fresh at the Avenue remains a staple for the Historic Pennsylvania Avenue Market, offering locally grown fresh organic produce for affordable prices to residents within 21217 and neighboring areas. In February 2021, we celebrated our 5th anniversary with a party at the market and our 2nd annual “Kale Cook-Off.”

Under the leadership of Sache Jones, Fresh at the Avenue generated nearly \$37,500 in revenue and donations despite closing our doors for nine months.



CENTRAL WEST BALTIMORE BUYING CLUB

When we were forced to suspend operations at Fresh at the Avenue because of COVID-19, we faced a difficult dilemma. We recognized the need for healthy food options in our community remained. To combat this persistent need, in June 2020, we launched the Central West Baltimore Buying Club for residents in 21217 to stand in the gap for our interrupted in-person service at the market.

For only \$6.99 a month, members enjoy a diverse selection of fresh produce, as well as a selection of baked goods, toiletries, herbal solutions, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE),

and other household goods from community-owned vendors through a no-contact, socially distanced community platform. By September 2020, we expanded our membership, allowing other city residents to benefit from online ordering, free delivery, and shared learning opportunities.

In addition to club membership, we also offer flat rate distribution boxes, allowing people to purchase individual and family boxes on demand week to week without subscribing to a monthly membership.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Both Fresh at the Avenue and the Central West Baltimore Buying Club (CWBBC) accept SNAP benefits and sweat equity payment options. [Join CWBBC Today!](#)



WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT

In November 2020, we hired our third cohort of young adults—ranging from 18 to 24 years old—interested in foodservice for our workforce development program.

Participants received hands-on training with an experienced chef on operations management, food safety, food preparation, and knife-handling & care skills, among other service-related skills

and techniques. Upon completing the program, participants were certified as ServSafe Food Managers, making them marketable in the food and hospitality career field.

One member of the third cohort, Ashaunti Young, excelled in her training and finished at the top of her class. After graduation and certification, she worked at Fresh at the Avenue as an assistant before later being promoted to be our first market manager.

Maintaining Clean and Healthy Communities

Focused on the wholeness and health of our community, we hosted a Community Clean-Up on April 24, 2021 and the first of our ongoing vaccination clinics on May 22, 2021 and June 19, 2021.



CIVIC CULTURE

No Boundaries Coalition is committed to increasing voter engagement and social awareness. To that end, we coordinate and organize various efforts to realize an active constituency that can advocate for the needs of 21217 through our Civic Saturday discussions, voter registration and mobilization efforts, community organizing, and more.

Eean Logan, 2021 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Fellow for Adolescent Health, leads these efforts.



BOUNDARY BLOCK PARTY

On May 22, 2021, we hosted our 14th Annual Boundary Block Party in collaboration with Jubilee Arts, during which we honored the lives lost because of illness and despair since the start of the pandemic. It was an inspirational presentation of love, gratitude, and hope for the future for all who attended.

BLOCK CAPTAINS BOOT CAMP

In June 2021, we received a three-year, \$600,000 grant through the Johns Hopkins University Innovation Fund for Community Safety to fund our Block Captain Boot Camp.

At least twice a year, homegrown leaders will have the opportunity to participate in our 12-week Leadership Academy, where they can earn up to \$600 to learn fundamental tools and tactics for community organizing, advocacy, and mobilization. After graduating, students will also be eligible for a mini-grant of up to \$1,500 to fund a community-supported project. Additionally, they can apply to get paid for an entire year to serve their community through the "Block Captain Year of Service" initiative.

Since launching the Block Captain Boot Camp, we have successfully graduated three cohorts of the Leadership Academy. Recruitment for our first cohort of the expanded program will begin in the first quarter of FY 22.

Interested in earning up to \$600 to learn the fundamentals of community organizing?

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR BLOCK CAPTAIN BOOT CAMP!

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE (VIOLENCE REDUCTION)

No Boundaries Coalition aims to unify and empower our communities by deconstructing boundaries and reconstructing community. To effectively realize this vision, we must change the narrative associated with many of our neighborhoods by addressing the disinvestment in them and the consequential violence that plagues them.

With that in mind, No Boundaries Coalition has ventured to take an active role in the City's efforts

to reduce violence. In October 2020, we received a \$50,000 grant from Open Society Institute to fund our Gun Violence Narrative Committee, which convened for the first time in February 2021.

In July 2021, we released a survey titled "Changing the Narrative" to measure the perspectives, impact, and trauma associated with gun violence in our community. Through the responses, we endeavor to work alongside community residents, law enforcement partners, as well as elected and government officials, to reduce violence in our footprint and beyond.

NO BOUNDARIES YOUTH ORGANIZERS (NbYO)



Our youth were truly impacted by the social isolation that resulted from COVID-19. Therefore, it was essential to sustain our No Boundaries Youth Organizers (NbYO) programming and engage our 13- to 19-year-old changemakers.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, NbYO was able to successfully host the 5th Annual Youth Issues Assembly on a virtual platform. Through our hybrid program model,

we hosted an Attendance Bus Tour, Participatory Budgeting Session, and other engagement opportunities for our youth organizers to explore their communities, education, careers, and overall existence through meaningful, hands-on experiences.

DID YOU KNOW? NbYO PARTICIPANTS CAN EARN CASH INCENTIVES, SERVICE-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, AND A \$250 SCHOLARSHIP.

[MORE HERE.](#)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

EXPERIENCE BALTIMORE VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

COVID-19 prohibited us from safely convening for our 2020 Fundraising Gala, but we adapted and raised \$18,799. In true No Boundaries Coalition fashion, we hosted a 3-week virtual fundraiser—Experience Baltimore—through which we highlighted and supported several local, black-owned, and women-owned businesses. Participants had the option to choose from six box options that took each patron on a uniquely curated experience of Baltimore.

One box, in particular, featured a signed copy of Enoch Pratt Free Public Library's 2020 One Book Baltimore Selection, *We Speak for Ourselves: A Word from Forgotten Black America*, by 3x New York Times Bestselling Author D. Watkins. On February 18, 2021, we hosted a VIP Book Club Meeting, where attendees could pick the Baltimore-born author's brain about topics covered in the book.

Additionally, we invited members and supporters to join us for a virtual champagne toast on December 8, 2020, commemorating another year of service to Central West Baltimore.

OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Fresh at the Ave: \$23,581.52

No Boundaries Youth Organizers: \$15,150.27

Fresh Workforce Development: \$21,792.57

Leadership Academy: \$3,000

Total Stipends placed in the hands of community members: \$63,000.00

We also supported community partners, homegrown consultants, and powerful trainers in the amount of \$31,747.93.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

"Nothing about us, without us!"

No Boundaries Coalition served as Fiscal Sponsor to four organizations in FY 21, including Baltimoreans for Transparent and Accountable Law Enforcement (BTAL), RowdyOrb.it, Sandtown South Neighborhood Alliance, and Step Up Maryland.

No Boundaries has been supporting small community groups for years. Every day, organizations, groups, and individuals who desire to serve our community face obstacles that prevent them from attaining the funding they need to sustain their much-needed work. Yet, large organizations and institutions claiming to serve us without significant input from us successfully access funding with ease. As a fiscal sponsor to organizations rooted in 21217 or with missions to uplift our residents, we can say, "Nothing about us, without us!"

Through fiscal sponsorship, No Boundaries expands our service to the community while producing greater abundance for our members. We have the solutions to our problems, and fiscal sponsorship provides access to the resources so we can begin to solve them together.

FUNDERS

Abell Foundation
Baltimore Children and Youth Fund
Baltimore Community Foundation
Baltimore Ravens & Stephen & Renee Bisciotti Foundation
Clayton Baker Trust
Continental Realty Corporation
Enoch Pratt Library
Fund for Change

Goldseker Foundation
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Lockhart Vaughan Foundation
Open Society Institute
T. Rowe Price Foundation
UMBC
Verizon

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$129,869 raised from 134 donors

AS OF 6/30/20

2020: CASH ON HAND: \$503,771

INCOME: \$666,901

EXPENSES: \$663,259

AS OF 6/30/21

2021: CASH ON HAND: \$418,686

INCOME: 843,307

EXPENSES: \$657,060

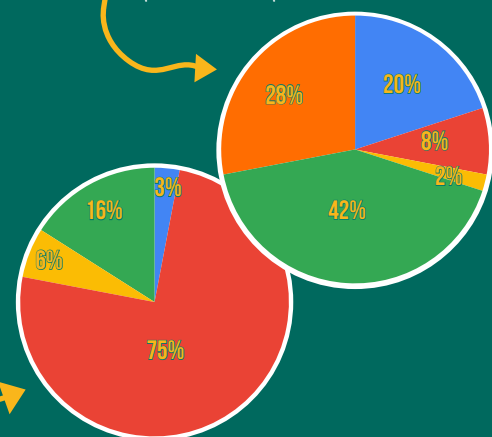
REVENUE IS UP: 26.45%

2021 INCOME

Individual Donations: 20%
Corporate Grants & Donations: 8%
Fresh at the Avenue: 2%
Foundational Grants: 42%
Government Grants: 28%

2021 EXPENSES

Fundraising: 3%
Programs & Services: 75%
Ave Engagement Center: 6%
M+G 16%



BALTIMORE SUN
MORE BAD APPLES? BALTIMORE CONFRONTS YET ANOTHER ALLEGATION OF POLICE ABUSE.
JULY 11, 2020

BALTIMORE SUN
BALTIMORE GROUPS RACE TO REACH 'HARD TO COUNT' COMMUNITIES AFTER CENSUS DEADLINE CHANGE
AUGUST 14, 2020

BALTIMORE SUN
BALTIMORE POLICE OFFICERS LARGELY REFUSED TO RESPOND TO SURVEY ON THEIR VIEWS OF MISCONDUCT, DISCIPLINE, GTTF COMMISSION SAYS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

WMAR-TV
STRONG CITY BALTIMORE PARTNERS WITH THE NAACP AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
OCTOBER 16, 2020

THE AFRO
NO BOUNDARIES COALITION TAKES VOTER EDUCATION TO THE STREETS
OCTOBER 26, 2020

BALTIMORE SUN
WHAT BRANDON SCOTT FACES AS BALTIMORE'S NEXT MAYOR: A PANDEMIC, BUDGET WOES AND CRIME-WEARY RESIDENTS HOPING FOR CHANGE
NOVEMBER 6, 2020

BALTIMORE SUN
BALTIMORE TO SEND SOME 911 CALLS TO COUNSELORS; POLICE REFORM ADVOCATES SEEK FURTHER, COMMUNITY-CONNECTED STEPS
APRIL 26, 2021

BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL
ROWDY ORB.IT WILL EXPAND FREE WI-FI PROJECT TO MORE UNDERSERVED BALTIMORE NEIGHBORHOODS
APRIL 27, 2021

WJZ-TV
BALTIMORE BLOCK PARTY CELEBRATES LIVES LOST OVER PAST YEAR
MAY 22, 2021

WBAL-TV
SOUND TRUCK DELIVERS MESSAGE TO BALTIMORE RESIDENTS: GET VACCINATED
MAY 26, 2021

WTOP
MD. HEALTH DEPARTMENT URGES VACCINATION FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, COMMUNITY LEADERS CALL FOR MORE RESOURCES
MAY 28, 2021

WBAL-TV
PUSH RENEWED TO ALLOW SUPERMARKET LIQUOR SALES IN EFFORT TO LURE GROCERS TO BALTIMORE
JUNE 3, 2021

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

DONATE



OUR MISSION

The No Boundaries Coalition is a resident-led advocacy organization building a unified and empowered Central West Baltimore across the boundaries of race, class, and neighborhood.

OUR COMMUNITY

The No Boundaries Coalition community includes everyone who lives, works, or worships in the Central West Baltimore neighborhoods of Sandtown, Druid Heights, Upton, Madison Park, Penn North, Reservoir Hill, and Bolton Hill.

P.O. BOX 12825, BALTIMORE, MD 21217