



NO BOUNDARIES COALITION

OF CENTRAL WEST BALTIMORE

ANNUAL REPORT

22-23





LETTER FROM **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Greetings, No Boundaries Coalition Family!

This year has been transformative, both personally and professionally. A year of new beginnings, No Boundaries Coalition moved, and I got married!

Throughout these transitions, you have remained consistent, allowing us to seamlessly advance our agenda to eliminate barriers and provide access to all who live, work, and frequent Central West Baltimore. Thank you!

Together, we carry 21217 on our back—deconstructing boundaries and reconstructing community by empowering our constituents and eliminating barriers for our businesses. From Sandtown to Bolton Hill, Druid Heights to Reservoir Hill, we work to stabilize and sustain a healthy and united Central West Baltimore through advocacy, health and food justice, civic culture, and youth organizing.

As we approach 2024, pivotal elections loom, and No Boundaries Coalition will remain on the frontlines, vigorously championing the interests of our residents, shaping policies that impact our communities, elevating 21217, and taking Central West Baltimore to higher heights.

Thank you for your steadfast support and unwavering commitment to No Boundaries Coalition. Our efforts would be void without you.

In service,
Ashiah S. Parker
Executive Director

LETTER FROM **BOARD PRESIDENT**

Dear Beloved Members, Supporters, and Friends,

No Boundaries Coalition continues to thrive, engaging all residents beyond boundaries and resolving the social determinants that impact 21217 at large. This fiscal year, we successfully moved our physical offices with no disruption to programming or service delivery. In fact, we expanded our programs and services through streamlined systems and increased partnerships, and we continue to evolve and elevate!

Through your steadfast support, we will provide all who live, work, and worship in 21217 innovative programs that expand employment opportunities, enhance resources that combat food insecurity, educate on the impact of mental health and trauma, and eradicate violence.

As board chair, I am honored to be a part of this movement to eliminate barriers in Central West Baltimore and empower residents to lead and live sustained transformation. Thank you for embarking on this journey with me and the No Boundaries Coalition Board Members.

Sincerely,
Christina Ramsey
Board Chair





NO BOUNDARIES COALITION

BOARD MEMBERS

No Boundaries Coalition is commUNITY-powered! Our board members and staff come from diverse backgrounds and offer unique perspectives, but are all deeply invested in the growth and sustainability of Central West Baltimore.

CHRISTINA RAMSEY
Chair

PAUL PLYMOUTH
Co-Chair

CHRIS KINGSLEY
Treasurer

ARIANNA KOUDOUNAS
Secretary

ERIC STEPHENSON

GREG MITCHELL

JAMES TORRENCE

NO BOUNDARIES

COALITION STAFF



ASHIAH PARKER
Executive Director



NABEEHAH AZEEZ
Deputy Director



REKEA WILLIAMS
Operations Manager



SHALEECE WILLIAMS
Director of
Youth Programming



BOLON ZAHIR XI-AMARU
Director of Health
& Food Justice



MARK F. JOHNSON
Director of Civic Culture
& Engagement



KHALIA YOUNG
Community Organizer



KATHLEEN JONES
Youth Organizing
Program Manager



NEV SAKHER HAAIL 1ST
Market Manager



MARIDIAN SKYY GARCIA
Workforce Development
Program Coordinator





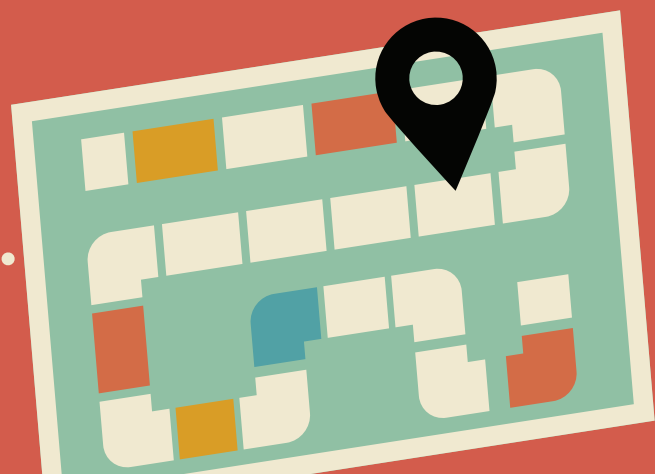
WE MOVED!

NEW LOCATION ALERT

We have moved after a decade and a half of serving 21217 from the epicenter of Central West Baltimore—Pennsylvania Avenue and Laurs Street. Now, located at Baltimore Unity Hall and out of the uncertain times of COVID-19, we have expanded training, education, and base building to deconstruct physical and imagined barriers in Central West Baltimore, empowering residents to lead and live sustained community transformation.

Visit us at Baltimore Unity Hall—a Center for Community Arts, Education, and Training!

Baltimore Unity Hall
1505 Eutaw Place
Baltimore, MD 21217



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NO BOUNDARIES COALITION

Our monthly Yoga in the Park series offers the perfect opportunity to unwind and find harmony within yourself, all while contributing to the revitalization of green spaces in our community. Once overlooked, these underused areas are being transformed into vibrant gathering spots for everyone to enjoy.

Whether a seasoned yogi or a beginner, all were welcome to participate and enjoy this free community event.

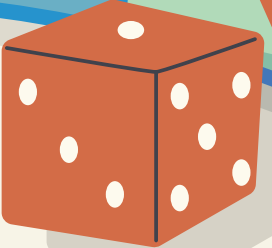


Monthly Membership Meetings
Baltimore Unity Hall
Every Second Tuesday
Begins at 6:00 PM

Fresh at the Avenue
Avenue Market
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue
Every Thursday & Friday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Every Saturday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

No Boundaries Yoga in the Park
Touring the Beautiful Green Spaces of 21217
Monthly on Saturdays
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Civic Saturday Sessions
Baltimore Unity Hall
Monthly on Saturdays
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM



ONGOING PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Our new location provides increased opportunities to connect, collaborate, and partner with other organizations committed to the residents and communities of Central West Baltimore and beyond. Seizing this opportunity, we launched partnership meetings this year to address common themes of homeownership, community engagement, partnership, and environmental justice, among others. Meeting participants have included Arts Everyday, Baltimore Public Markets, Black Arts District, Black Women Build, Bolton Hill Community Association, Center for Urban Families, Dorothy I. Height Elementary School, Optimal Wellness Community, St. Francis Neighborhood Center, and others. We endeavor to utilize these meetings to strategically tackle issues and ultimately improve the quality of life for all who live, work, and worship in 21217.

QUARTERLY ACCOUNTABILITY FORUMS

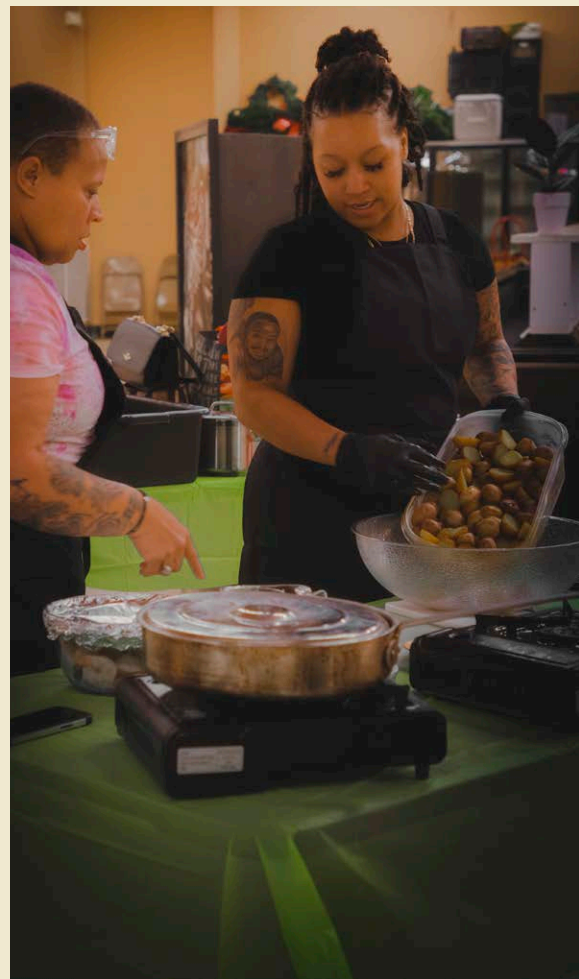
In January 2023, we convened our inaugural Quarterly Accountability Forum with Baltimore City Councilmembers John T. Bullock (District 9) and James Torrence (District 7), both of whom represent neighborhoods within the 21217 footprint. Designed to create an access point for residents and elected leaders, attendees discussed issues and resolutions impacting our communities, including education, transportation, public safety, community vibrancy, blight, public works, youth, and recreation opportunities.

We held the second forum in May 2023. This time, Councilmember Eric Costello (District 11), who also represents communities in 21217, accompanied his colleagues Bullock and Torrence.





HEALTH AND FOOD JUSTICE



Dismantling food apartheid remains a priority of No Boundaries Coalition. Therefore, Fresh at the Avenue remains a focal point of our mission.

FRESH AT THE AVENUE

Offering local, high-quality fresh produce for an affordable price at the Historic Avenue Market, Fresh at The Avenue continues to be a staple of the community. Supported by more than 50 volunteers donating more than 300 hours of their time to ensure patrons have access to fresh produce, the market continues to flourish.

Over the past fiscal year, Fresh at The Avenue completed more than 5,600 transactions, totaling **\$29,397**, while also introducing new programming, engaging new partners, and hosting several special events.

Thank you to our partners, who sustain Fresh at The Avenue, including:

- Strength to Love II
- Class Produce Market
- Black Yield Institute

In the spirit of celebrating food, community, and culture, we hosted the following special events:

- **7TH ANNIVERSARY FRESH AT THE AVENUE PARTY**
For seven years, Fresh at The Avenue has been an anchor of the community. This year's celebration featured two cooking demonstrations, offering intimate discussions and tastings, followed by our signature "Kale Cook-Off." Participating chefs shared recipes from tacos to plant-based oxtails made with mushrooms and everything in between.
- **SIP & SAUTE**
We kicked off the 7th Anniversary weekend with Sip & Saute, an interactive fundraising experience where participants cook delicious meals under the on-site instruction of talented chefs. This year, chefs Neville Henry and Juan Nance led participants through a nutritional soup and salad meal.
- **FRESH FRIDAYS**
The introduction of Fresh Fridays was ingenious! This evening series brought joy and increased foot traffic to The Avenue Market with free food demonstrations and offerings, smoothies, seed giveaways, and games accompanied by live music, dance lessons, and a book exchange. We look forward to advancing our mission to increase access to healthy food through this program.
- **SHOE GIVEAWAY**
In March 2023, we hosted a shoe giveaway at Fresh at The Avenue, and it was a resounding success, uniting community members in the 21217 area. Sponsored by Amazon and Learning to Live Organization, a non-profit dedicated to empowering Baltimore's youth through educational opportunities, the event distributed 1,400 pairs of shoes to grateful recipients. The vibrant collaboration of No Boundaries Coalition staff alongside volunteers from Amazon, Safe Streets, and Team Acorn showcased the power of collective efforts in bringing positive change to our community.

To learn more about Fresh at the Avenue and how you can get involved, contact Bolon Zahir Xi-Amaru, Director of Health and Food Justice, at fresh@noboundariescoalition.com or 667-273-0779.

Thank you for your continued support!



CIVIC CULTURE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

With Fresh at the Avenue as the backdrop, we administer a robust 12-week culinary workforce development program. Led by Chef Heather Smith and Nev Sahker Haail 1st, we facilitated two cohorts this past fiscal year, totaling 12 Black women and men between 18 and 24 years old.

The nine women and three men completed the ServSafe Manager Certification Exam at the program's culmination.

For additional information about the Workforce Development Program, e-mail wfdnoboundariescoalition.com or call 443-414-6973.

CENTRAL BALTIMORE BUYING CLUB

The Central Baltimore Buying Club (CBBC) will be a significant asset in our transition during the impending renovation of The Avenue Market.

Therefore, we will continue to nurture an emerging relationship with the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health to restart CBBC, which remained dormant this reporting cycle due to personnel matters and issues pertaining to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and inoperability of the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system. Through this partnership, we aim to restore the CBBC platform, grow membership, and collect data from customers at the market and in the 21217 community to create an equitable delivery program.



Civic engagement and advocacy are critical to the No Boundaries Coalition mission. In the spirit of the Chinese Proverb, “If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. But if you give him a fishing rod, you feed him for a lifetime,” we aim to empower our residents and stakeholders with the tools necessary to strategize, organize, and mobilize around issues that impact their communities.

For more information about Civic Culture, email civics@noboundariescoalition.com.

ELECTION MOBILIZATION:

On October 30th, we hosted an interfaith Souls to the Polls event in conjunction with Masjid Ul-Haqq and New Bethlehem Baptist Church.

BLOCK CAPTAIN BOOT CAMP

The Block Captain Boot Camp remains one of our signature initiatives and a standout leadership program for those who live, work, and worship in 21217. Funded by Johns Hopkins University’s Innovation Fund for Community Safety grant, the program graduated 25 program participants this fiscal year— eight in the Fall and 17 in the Spring.



The 12-week program consists of three one-hour sessions weekly, during which participants learn fundamental tools and tactics to effectively organize and galvanize around issues impacting them and their respective communities.

We convened an intensive daily all-day session for five weeks to best engage interested candidates between the ages of 18 and 24 during Summer 2023.



learn more about this program, visit bit.ly/nbcblockcaptain.

CIVIC SATURDAYS

We relaunched Civic Saturdays this fiscal year and have hosted five sessions. Since its resurgence, we have hosted approximately 100 people, with each meeting focusing on a specific topic, such as:

- Networking 101
- Your Power and the Press: Working with the Media
- Crossing a Red Line: A Walking Tour of the Architectural and Historical Significance of Bolton Hill and Madison Park, two Culturally Different Communities
- Peace, Poetry, and Basketball
- Importance of Jury Duty

16TH ANNUAL BOUNDARY BLOCK PARTY

For the 16th year, No Boundaries Coalition and Jubilee Arts hosted the annual Boundary Block Party, welcoming roughly 700 community members, friends, and vendors to promote community empowerment and strength.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out was a huge success! On August 2, 2022, we hosted Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and United States Attorney General Merrick Garland in 21217. During this well-attended event, Mayor Scott held a press conference, highlighting the importance of this annual national crime reduction initiative.

Meanwhile, our youth took on members of the Baltimore Police Department in a game of basketball. Of course, our youth WON. Attendees enjoyed delicious food from participating food trucks—Nacho Bangers, Brogdon's Grill, and M&M Snowballs.

Thanks to all who participated, including event host Shelah, DJ Jetta, musician John Tyler, and our volunteers.





NO BOUNDARIES YOUTH ORGANIZERS (NBYO)



No Boundaries Youth Organizers (NbYO) empowers youth leaders between the ages of 13 and 19 by developing the professional and life skills necessary for effective community organizing. NbYO participants earn cash incentives, participate in service-learning opportunities, and receive scholarships.

From October through May, NbYO provides programming to youth participants Monday through Thursday and each first and third Saturday.

During this reporting period, we offered internships to six youth participants, engaged 30 youth through daily programming, and supported more than 200 youth through house meetings and other outreach efforts.

For more information about NbYO, contact our Director of Youth Programming, Shaleece Williams, at nbyo@noboundariescoalition.com.

NBYO PARTNERS

During this reporting period, NbYO collaborated with several community partners to create and provide youth programming. These partners include:

- Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts
- Truth to Power
- Maryland Institute College of Art Community Arts & Service Program
- Optimal Wellness Community
- Youth as Resources
- ACLU Maryland



BRADFORD V. MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION YOUTH TOWN HALL

Initially filed in 1994, the lawsuit alleges that systemic underfunding of Baltimore City Public Schools violates the students' constitutional right to a "thorough and efficient" education. The case has been argued over the past three decades, often favoring Baltimore City youth and imposing remediation through increased state financial support to cure historical funding gaps facing Baltimore City Public Schools. The most recent filing in 2019 challenged the state's continued violation of Baltimore youth's educational rights.

NbYO cohosted a student-led town hall on the Bradford v. Board of Education lawsuit in partnership with No Boundaries Coalition, ACLU of Maryland, and NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in December 2022.

Subsequently, NbYO youth attended the Circuit Court of Baltimore City hearing, testifying to the impact of limited funding and resources on their experiences as Baltimore City School students. Despite the zealous advocacy of our youth, in March 2023, the Court ruled in favor of the State, finding that the Maryland Constitution requires no additional funding for Baltimore City schoolchildren.

GUN VIOLENCE: MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC AND ANNAPOLIS ADVOCACY DAY

In January 2023, NbYO engaged in two events centered around gun violence. First, youth advocates convened a meeting in response to recent shootings, including presentations by Moms Demand Action Maryland and We Responders, Inc. Additionally, attendees received mental health resources, and youth shared their experiences and the impact of gun violence on their quality of life.

NbYO then traveled to the Maryland Statehouse to testify before Governor Wes Moore and members of the Maryland General Assembly on gun laws, chronic violence, and the collateral consequences on underserved neighborhoods.

NBYO SENIOR FAMILY NIGHT

This year, all 5 NbYo seniors graduated and enrolled in college. Congratulations to our NbYO Leaders who were members of the Class of 2023!

7TH ANNUAL YOUTH ISSUES ASSEMBLY

Since 2016, NbYO has convened the annual Youth Issues Assembly—a full-day conference for youth and young adults who live, work, or worship in 21217.

Following tradition, in May 2023, we welcomed nearly 150 people to Baltimore Unity Hall for the 7th Annual Youth Issues Assembly for timely discussions on various topics concerning Baltimore youth, including police accountability, youth opportunity, and the city-wide youth curfew.

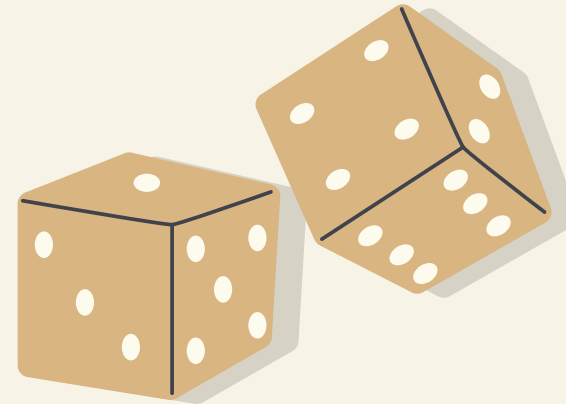
Hosted by comedian Big Fred of Lil' Laughs, the conference offered guests several workshops hosted by the African Diaspora Alliance, Fulton Bank, Grind Hard Dream Big, and Youth As Resources.

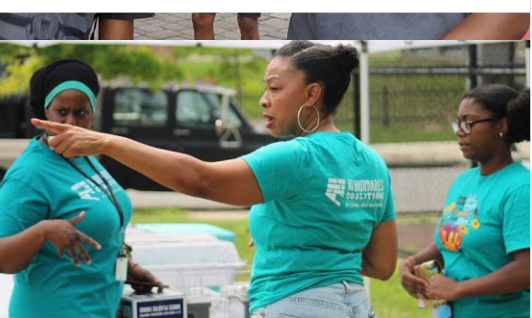
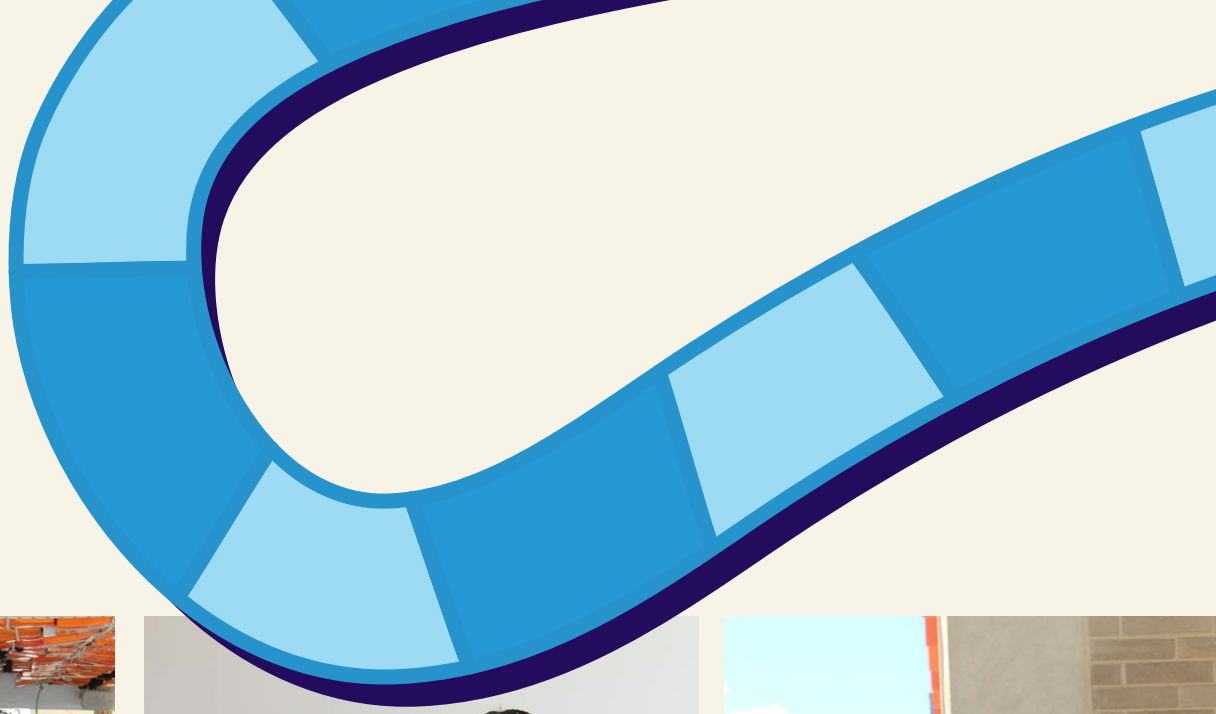


Our generous sponsors—Baltimore City Public Schools, Chic-fil-A, Fulton Bank, Taharka Brothers Ice Cream, Hoopbus, Twopoint Studio, and Tree House Project, Inc.—made this annual event possible.

During the 7th Annual Youth Issues Assembly, NbYO unveiled the Unity Wall Mural, a youth-led, youth-organized artistic expression to propel the youth voice and promote community togetherness while also capturing the past, present, and future of Central West Baltimore.

NbYo successfully raised over \$6,000 to support community design jam sessions and commissioned mural artist Comacell Brown, best known as Cell Spitfire. Donors include Everytown for Gun Safety, residents, and community stakeholders.

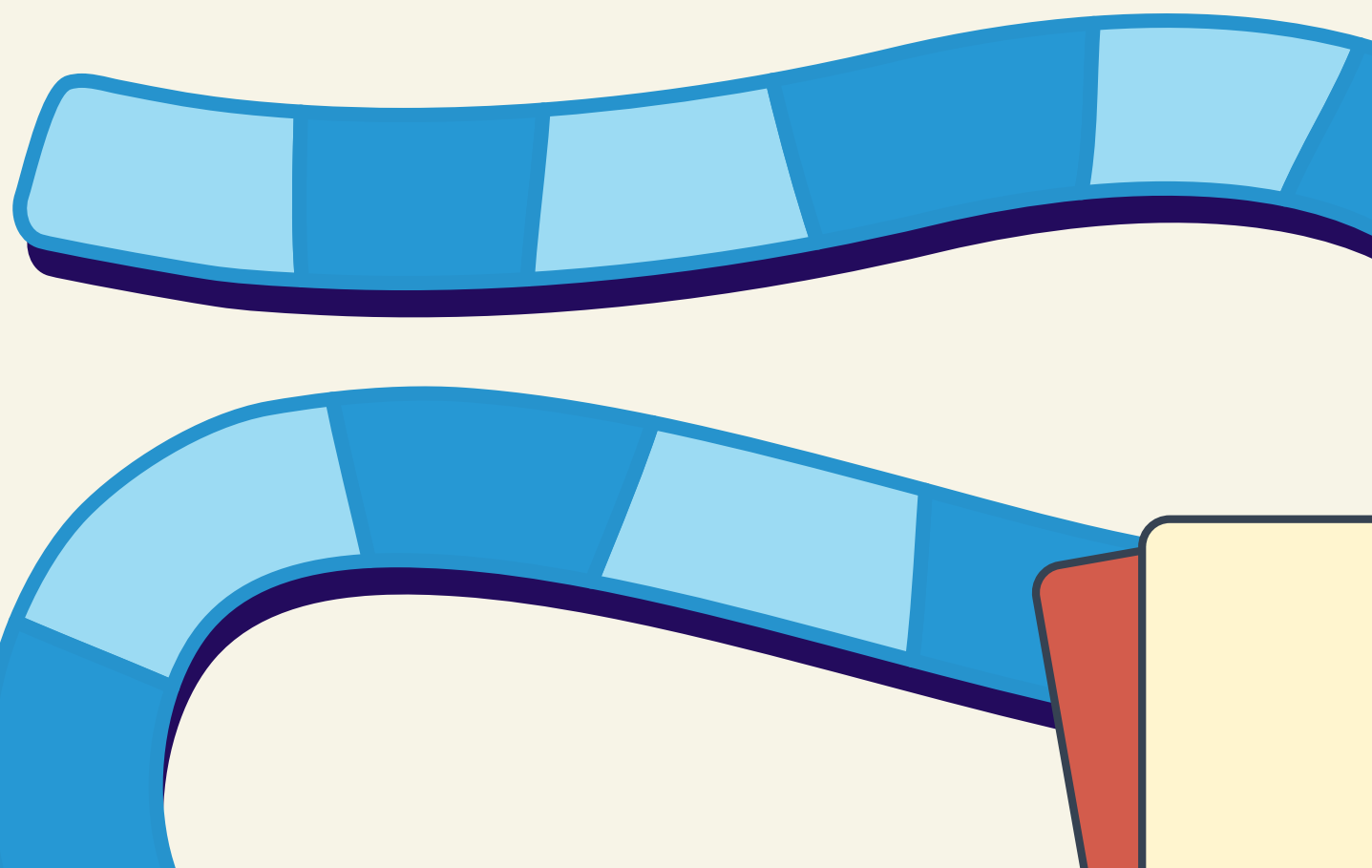




OTHER NEW INITIATIVES AND DEVELOPMENTS

NBYO OUT AND ABOUT

Throughout the year, NbYO not only prioritizes time for leadership development and enrichment but also to fellowship and engage with one another through social experiences, including field trips, team bonding activities, and celebrations.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

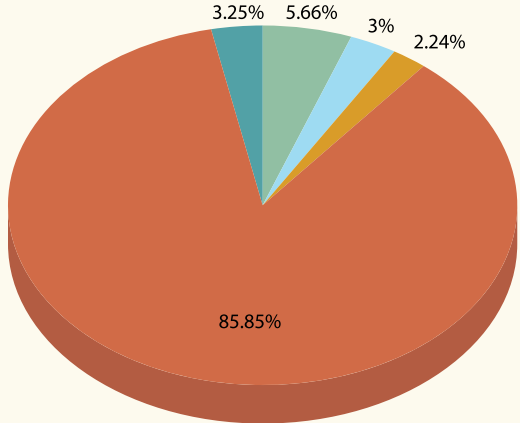
2022 - 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2021, No Boundaries Coalition engaged The V.P.I. Firm (VPI) to develop a strategic plan to synchronize the desires of No Boundaries Coalition leadership, staff, and the community as we update our vision and align our goals for the next four-year cycle. Through an inclusive approach, VPI engaged our founding members, board, leadership, staff, residents, and youth in the strategic planning process.

VPI also subcontracted Youth As Resources (YAR)—a local, youth-led non-profit—to gather youth-specific information, including their interests and needs, source of information, and awareness of youth programming provided by No Boundaries Coalition and other organizations and institutions. Through peer outreach and engagement, YAR convened numerous focus groups, deployed a survey, and presented recommendations that VPI integrated into the strategic plan.

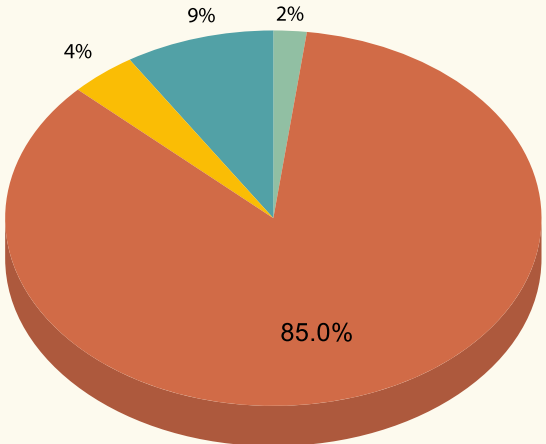
Currently, VPI is supporting us as we socialize the objectives and expectations of the plan among staff, facilitate training and development, and help staff integrate the strategies into their current work plans.

2023 Income



- Foundational Grants
- Fiscal Sponsorship Fees
- Individual Donations
- Corporate Donations
- Fresh at the Avenue

2023 Expenses



- Programs & Services
- Overhead
- Mgmt & Gen
- Fundraising

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

No Boundaries Coalition served as a Fiscal Sponsor to the following organizations this fiscal year, including:

- B-CIITY • Baltimore Votes • RowdyOrb.it
- Sandtown South • Sandtown-Winchester Harlem Park Master Plan • Step Up MD

As of 6/30/22

2022: Cash on hand:
\$370,863

Income:
\$873,695

Expenses:
\$816,236

As of 6/30/23

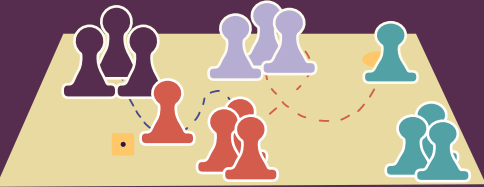
2023: Cash on hand:
\$639,572

Income:
\$1,375,557

Expenses:
\$1,142,045.58

Revenue is up: 57%

DONATE!
<https://noboundariescoalition.com/donate/>



Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 Grantors

Abell Foundation • Annie E. Casey • Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts
Baltimore Community Foundation • Byrne Baltimore Collaborative • Clayton Baker Trust
Energy Foundation • France-Merrick Foundation • Johns Hopkins University Innovation Fund
Lockhart Vaughan Foundation • Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs
Open Society Institute Baltimore • The Fund for Change
T. Rowe Price Foundation • West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation

We Truly Appreciate Your Continued Support!

OUR MISSION

Through training, education, and base-building, we deconstruct physical and imagined barriers in Central West Baltimore, thereby empowering residents to lead and live sustained community transformation.

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.

LEARN MORE!

www.noboundariescoalition.com

CONTACT US!

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VISIT US!

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