



[Station North Arts District](#)

[Highlandtown A&E District](#)

[Bromo Arts District](#)

[Black Arts District](#)

Station North Arts District

Originally designated in 2002, we see Station North Arts District (SNAD) as a space to experiment, learn, create, build, share, play, push boundaries, and imagine. 2019 brought many opportunities and challenges for SNAD. We spent much of the year reflecting on our mission, our focus areas, and the value we bring to the district and to the city, while continuing to support the Ynot Lot and launch new initiatives. In the last year we strengthened our board of directors with new members and administrative structure and launched our new website and brand identity. As the landscape in our city continues to shift, we recognize the need to adapt in a manner consistent with our mission. SNAD will fully integrate with Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP) in July 2020. CBP has served as a longtime partner and ally, providing strong operational support as well as having mission alignment. This alignment allows SNAD and CBP added capacity to more fully engage in our focus areas and use our operational resources more effectively and efficiently. We see our work in three interconnected categories: District Promotion, District Activation, and Artist Support and Outreach. Our programs, events, investments and initiatives all support those three focus areas.

In 2019, Station North Arts District...

- Supported over 40 days of public events at the Ynot Lot, including music and arts festivals, dance performances, improv shows and volunteer clean-ups, while continuing to retain the highly accessible quality of the space.
- Made significant physical improvements to the Ynot Lot, including: installation of new perimeter sidewalks; and electrifying the lot, adding plug in capability to the storage container and stage, and powering overhead string lights. This further supports the range, type and scale of programming available on the lot.
- Hired a skilled Ynot Lot coordinator, a hands-on position that is designed to help build capacity for programmers while making it as accessible and easy as possible to host events at the lot. The coordinator leads informational sessions and handles permit requirements and day-of needs. This year, a small daily usage fee was implemented to help offset coordination costs and purchase/replace new equipment.
- Organized and supported two Art Walks in 2019 with plans to continue into 2020. With over 15 participating venues, galleries, and businesses the walks help to elevate local businesses, and connect gallery openings and exhibits with new audiences.
- Advancing some district physical improvements such as new district banners with updated branding, Jones Falls Valley Mural Project, and North Avenue median clean-up.

COVID-19 Response

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, CBP developed a very easy-to-use [summary](#) of the federal and state loan funds and have assembled a very strong team of people who are ready to help anyone who needs it to apply for these funds, including small businesses, artists, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, etc. In addition, we've focused on the restaurants in Central Baltimore via the Square Meals Initiative raising almost

\$50,000 in less than two weeks by contracting with them to provide two meals a day for the 100 emergency and critical care employees at Medstar Union Memorial in Central Baltimore. CBP is also reprogramming existing funds so that we can also open up some funding to give arts groups, businesses, etal, working capital. In addition, CBP's Station North staff are developing a weekly series of virtual "art walks" and performance platforms to promote and support District performance venues, artists and restaurants. This outreach will also allow us to build the Station North artists and venue directory for future resource sharing, programming and organizing. CBP is committed to continuing to refine and secure resources and critical COVID-19 support for District artists and businesses as long as necessary.

Highlandtown A&E District

Originally designated in 2003, the Highlandtown Arts & Entertainment District (ha!) is the largest district in the state. In the last 15+ years of the district's development, strong partnerships have emerged among area institutions to support multi-discipline arts and entertainment programming and businesses. As the coordinator for the arts district, Southeast CDC integrates arts district activities into the core of its neighborhood and commercial revitalization projects and programs, and in particular through Highlandtown Main Street. The district is anchored by Creative Alliance's Patterson Theater and the Enoch Pratt Free Library's Southeast Anchor branch--both in the Highlandtown Main Street district--and is supported by artists and gallery owners who collaborate with Southeast CDC to host monthly Art Walks.

In 2019, we convened a committee of artists and business to produce monthly Art Walks throughout Highlandtown Main Street. The Highlandtown Art Walks highlight local landmarks and the neighborhood's cultural amenities by featuring live music, art demos, dance performances, food and drink specialties, and art galleries. Art Walk themes reflect the area's artistic heritage, such painted screens, and newcomer cultural traditions with mariachi performances and traditional dances. The 2019 themes included Pride, Summer Camp, Literary Night, State Fair, and Nocturne (open air painting); over 1,000 visitors and residents attended.

Additionally, Southeast CDC has many years of experience partnering with artists to improve the condition of our public spaces and create an identity for the arts district; we've sponsored artist-designed murals, bus shelters, sculpture, street lighting and crosswalks. A recent example is a collaboration with community residents, local business Felco Packaging Co., and artist Mauricio Ramirez to install the district's largest mural - a four sided, three-story mural at the intersection of Baltimore and Haven Streets. Titled "You Belong/Tu Pertenecer," the work highlights the area's manufacturing history and cultural diversity, featuring a panel depicting a worker at the Felco warehouse, mariachi musicians, and Latinx dancers.

COVID-19 Response

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Southeast CDC is focused on supporting small business owners, including artists, with completing grant and loan applications. We send regular communications via email and a new WhatsApp group to a contact list of 200+ businesses. We've created COVID-19 business response pages on our www.ihearthighlandtown.com site, and established a SE/E Baltimore Business Success Task Force with 20 area partners. Lastly, the Art Walk committee successfully moved the April 3rd Art Walk to a virtual platform, incorporating Facebook Live artistic demonstrations, pre-recorded videos featuring gallery artists, and live performances at seven venues.

Bromo Arts District

2019 was a year of transition as the Bromo Arts & Entertainment District hired a new Executive Director and the organization that was at one time a stand-alone non-profit was fully embedded within Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB). Bromo receives ongoing support and resources through DPOB's commitment to the growth of the District and the creation of a staff position focusing on arts initiatives. The transitions prompted greater board development and a renewed focus on Bromo's strategic plan to provide artist resources.

In 2019, the District focused on public art, signage and branding, and festival support.

In the first quarter of 2019, partnering with DPOB, we commissioned two large murals and installed street pole banners. The first mural is located at 318 N. Howard Street and is a branded Bromo mural by local muralist Megan Lewis. The second is an interactive mural at the corner of Fayette and Eutaw, across from the Everyman theatre, by international muralist Kelsey Montegue. Bromo branded banners were installed on street poles along Howard Street.

Bromo supported two major annual festivals, Charm City Night Market and Fringe Festival, which collectively drew over 20,000 thousand visitors to the area. In May 2019, Bromo hosted an outdoor concert at the historic Mayfair theatre in partnership with Sofar Sounds and Baltimore Development Corporation. The concert was a sold-out show, with over 200 people in attendance for the evening.

Bromo has been acting as the fiscal agent for the Maryland Bond Bill of \$800,000 for the COPT development in their redesign of the plaza at 250 W. Pratt Street. While outside the tax-benefit boundaries of Bromo, this project is a gateway to the entire district and now features public art and landscaping designed to foster events and other activities. In exchange, COPT sponsored the commissioning of a 90 second animation video by Next Day Animations to explain in layman's terms what the tax benefits are of the Bromo Arts District.

COVID-19 Response

Our organization has adapted our programming to fit the rapidly evolving needs of our artists during the pandemic. In response to COVID-19, the Bromo District repositioned funds to create an artist relief fund for artists living or working in the District. Artists who have been financially impacted by COVID-19 are eligible to apply for microgrants of \$500. In partnership with DPOB and Maryland Art Place, we launched the Art of Baltimore campaign to feature local artists' artwork on large format digital advertising channels in the City. Artists receive \$250 if their artwork is selected. Applications are rolling and the first artists were selected on April 6th to be featured for two weeks. The campaign will extend for ten weeks. We are developing plans to create virtual gallery tours, artist workshops, and performance opportunities. We are sharing these opportunities and more through our social media channels, emails, and our partner networks.

Black Arts District

In July of 2019 the Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts And Entertainment District was designated as the first and only A&E district in the state of Maryland designed to support, promote and celebrate Black creatives. A coalition of community organizations, residents and creatives organized to bring the arts district into fruition to be a stand alone non profit focused on bolstering the arts ecosystem in west Baltimore via creative place making, training and development, programming and events, and cultural advocacy.

Since its inception, the Black Arts District has been incubated by Upton Planning Committee (UPC), which also manages the Historic Pennsylvania Avenue Mainstreet. As of 2020, the Black Arts District has become an incorporated nonprofit and filed for 501c3 status, but continues to work closely with UPC. As the arts district works to concretize a strategic plan we are prioritizing alignment with the streetscape plan developed by Historic Pennsylvania Avenue Mainstreet and the UPC Masterplan adopted by the Department of Planning in 2018. These plans are being realized through the UPC Westside CDC, which is the development arm of UPC.

Events:

- In 2019 the Billie Holiday Music And Arts Festival and Cadillac Parade was hosted by the West Baltimore Gateway, which is comprised of the three communities bordering the Pennsylvania Avenue commercial corridor, Upton, Druid Heights, and Penn North. The festival attracted over 1000 attendees and Tony Award winning actor, Andre DeShields, was the Cadillac Parade's Grand Marshall.
- The Historic Pennsylvania Avenue Mainstreet attracted hundreds of guests collectively at their annual events: Small Business Saturday, Miracle on Mainstreet, and Kwanzaa Celebration. The Mainstreet also established a small business artist collective which has been providing popup shops in the Avenue Market on weekends. It is envisioned the collective will work seamlessly with the Black Arts District.
- In 2020, the Black Arts District officially revealed its brand and hosted a Brand Launch at the newly renovated Shake and Bake Family Fun Center. Mayor Young and other elected officials were among the 200 people that attended.
- The Black Arts District raised \$45,000 to produce signage and community branding within the community footprint and to curate an outdoor event series on the fourth Saturday of every month from May-October. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these efforts have been postponed.

COVID-19 Response

In response to the COVID-19 crisis the Black Arts District created digital programming to pay artists to produce work during this time. Earlier this week we selected a winner to receive a \$250 prize for our James Baldwin inspired online poetry slam. We are gearing up to launch a digital art competition where 20 finalists will be selected to receive cash prizes, an open mic series with paid feature performers, and a partnership with Centerstage to host an online viewing and virtual Happy Hour for their newest play "Where We Stand." The district is currently raising money to launch an artist relief fund for Black Creatives that will disperse micro grants of up to \$500. We are also seeking sponsors to host a city-wide concert series on the Zoom platform featuring local artists called the "May Mini Concert Series."