

## BOPA ANNOUNCES INTERIM MEMBERS OF BOPA/BFAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore, MD, March 27, 2024 — The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) announces its **2024–2025 Interim Board of Directors**, who were approved on Wednesday, March 27, at the quarterly board meeting for BOPA and Baltimore Festival of the Arts, Inc. (BFAI). A dedicated search committee, which factored in feedback and recommendations from BOPA staff, key stakeholders, and community partners, **selected 11 accomplished individuals** who have agreed to serve a one-year term. In addition to their stewardship, fiduciary, and ambassadorial responsibilities, the Interim Board is tasked with reviewing the organization’s governance structure and function as well as providing recommendations to update and improve BOPA’s bylaws.

BOPA’s Interim Board spans several sectors and includes a variety of local creatives and community leaders who touch on arts and culture from different angles. They include:

- **Lady Brion** — Executive Director of the Black Arts District, international spoken word artist, poetry coach, activist, and educator
- **Derrick Chase** — educator, author, producer, activist, and Founder of Stand Up Baltimore
- **Andy Cook** — Executive Director of Made In Baltimore, a program of the Baltimore Development Corporation
- **Tonya Miller Hall** — Senior Advisor in the Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Arts & Culture
- **Adam Holofcener** — Executive Director of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, practicing musician, and sound artist
- **Ellen Janes** — Executive Director of the Central Baltimore Partnership
- **April Lewis** — artist, organizer, curator, and Director of Community + Culture for Open Works
- **Robyn Murphy** — CEO of JRM Consultancy and former television host, reporter, and anchor
- **Sarah Scott** — Counsel for Venable, LLP
- **Angela Wells-Sims** — Principal at Durant Bailey Group
- **Lu Zhang** — multidisciplinary artist, researcher, organizer, and Executive Director of A Blade of Grass

These 11 talented and brilliant professionals join **Andrew Chaveas**, who is an architect and Senior Project Manager at Brailsford & Dunlavey, and **Jeffrey Kent**, visual artist and Curator-in-Residence at The Peale. “This interim board is truly representative of the depth and breadth of talent and insight Baltimore City has to offer,” says **Rachel D. Graham**, **BOPA’s new CEO**. “It is the result of deep thought and consideration of both the need for guidance on improved governance for the organization and our responsibility to incorporate the views and perspectives of the arts and culture community as we chart a course ahead. I look forward to working with them.”

After voting in the Executive Committee, the Interim Board also approved the creation of the following special committees that will perform the work to fulfill their mission: Finance and Development Committee, Bylaw and Governance Review Committee, and the Mission and Community Outreach Committee.

The next meeting of the BOPA/BFAI Interim Board of Directors is **Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Clipper Room at 7 Saint Paul Street. To see the full schedule of BOPA/BFAI’s 2024 board meetings and minutes from past meetings, visit [promotionandarts.org/about-us/board-of-directors/](https://promotionandarts.org/about-us/board-of-directors/)

### MEDIA CONTACTS

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*Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which serves as Baltimore City’s arts council, events center, and film office. By providing funding and support to artists and arts organizations, as well as producing cultural events across the city, BOPA’s goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative place to live and work.*