

FAQ: NAVIGATING A CULTURAL SHIFT — OUR 90-DAY TRANSITION

Where We Are/Why Was the Decision Made to Part Ways With the Former CEO?

- On November 20, 2024, the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA), under the direction of its Board of Directors, and the organization's CEO mutually agreed to part ways. This decision was reached after thoughtful consideration and a strategic review of BOPA's financial health. The board concluded that new leadership was necessary to effectively guide the organization through its transition process and towards a more sustainable objective of supporting and promoting the arts across Baltimore.

What Is Happening Now?

- The City, in collaboration with BOPA, has convened a transition team consisting of internal and external stakeholders to discuss the transition, future, and elevation of city and state owned assets. These assets include the Baltimore Arts Council designation, the Baltimore Film Office, the Public Arts Commission, the ARPA artist recovery grant, the Creative Baltimore Fund, the Farmers Market, School 33 Art Center, Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, The Cloisters, Top of the World, and events such as Artscape, 4th of July & NYE Fireworks, and the Book Festival.

What Will Happen to BOPA After the Transition?

- BOPA is a 501(c)(3) organization with an independent board, enabling it to operate as an autonomous arts entity.

What Will Happen to the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, The Cloisters, School 33, and Top of the World?

- Services will continue with no interruptions.

What About the Current Farmers' Market?

- The Farmers' Market closes for the season on December 22, 2024. During this transition period, we will announce any renewed plans for the Market before it returns in Spring 2025. At this time, there are no changes planned that would affect the application process which is currently open.

What Are Our Priorities at This Time?

- To maintain current levels of funding that are available to artists and creatives and minimize any disruption in services provided.
- To minimize disruption for BOPA employees.
- To ensure all funder-related obligations and reporting requirements are identified before the transition.
- To ensure all grantee obligations are identified before the transition.

What About the Artist Grants and the Arts Council Designation?

- The distribution of the current cycle of artist grants will remain under the management of BOPA.
- BOPA will continue to serve as the Arts Council for Baltimore City.
- The City's fiscal agency, the Baltimore Civic Fund, will oversee the distribution of \$500,000 in ARPA artist relief funding in the upcoming months.

What About the Future of Arts & Culture in Baltimore?

- After completing the initial 90-day transition period, BOPA will revisit the postponed Community Conversations and establish a secondary transition team of art and cultural thought leaders. This team will share ideas and provide vital input to help reshape and enhance Baltimore City's arts ecosystem. Our goal is to ensure that our strategies and actions align closely with the community's needs and aspirations, fostering a vibrant and sustainable cultural landscape.