FY27 ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Create Baltimore convened its FY27 Annual Board Meeting on September 15, bringing together Board and organizational leadership to review governance, development and fundraising, facilities, finance, programs, and the organization's priorities for the year ahead.

The meeting reflected an organization entering FY27 with increased institutional confidence, stronger partnerships, improved visibility, and clearer organizational priorities. Following several years focused heavily on stabilization, rebuilding relationships, and strengthening internal infrastructure, Create Baltimore is increasingly focused on translating that momentum into sustainable and measurable impact for Baltimore's artists and broader cultural ecosystem.

$311,833

Formally committed development support

4

City cultural facilities under review

50 YEARS

Baltimore Farmers' Market milestone in 2027

FY27 BOARD LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

The Annual Meeting included the ratification of Board leadership for FY27:

- Scott Tucker — Chair
- Dana Henson — Vice Chair
- Alyssa Domzal — Secretary

- Becky Smith — Treasurer
- Tanika Davis — Chair, Governance & Trustee Committee
- Danielle Brown — Chair, Development Committee

Veronica Dunlap, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee, was also ratified as a voting member of the Board, strengthening the connection between community representation and organizational governance.

The Governance Committee is continuing its assessment of the size, composition, and future recruitment needs of the Board. Additional meetings are planned this fall to advance Board onboarding and recruitment and strengthen alignment with City leadership.

Create Baltimore is also implementing standardized committee reporting and strengthening the flow of information between staff and Board members. Financial and committee reports will be made available in the Board drive by the final day of the month preceding each meeting, creating greater consistency around preparation, oversight, and decision-making.

FY27 Governance Calendar

Meetings of the Class II Board Members have been established for the following dates in accordance with the governance calendar for voting and key planning milestones:

- November 10, 2026
- February 9, 2027
- April 12, 2027

The annual Board Retreat is scheduled for June 15, 2027, in accordance with the organization's bylaws.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT: INVESTING IN BALTIMORE'S CREATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Board Chair Scott Tucker outlined a vision for Create Baltimore centered on strengthening Baltimore as a city where artists can create, build businesses, own workspaces and homes, earn sustainable incomes, contribute to neighborhood development, and participate meaningfully in shaping the future of the city.

Drawing from his experience as a professional artist, business owner, investor, and community partner, Tucker emphasized the opportunity to build stronger infrastructure around Baltimore's creative community and connect artists to resources and opportunities that allow creative practice to become sustainable.

His priorities for Board leadership include strengthening partnerships, identifying new corporate and institutional relationships, expanding investment in Baltimore's creative economy, and continuing to position Create Baltimore as a connector among artists, advocates, investors, communities, and opportunity.

CEO REPORT: STRENGTH, STABILITY & INSTITUTIONAL CONFIDENCE

CEO Robyn Murphy reflected on the significant organizational work undertaken over the past two years to stabilize Create Baltimore, rebuild relationships, strengthen internal infrastructure, restore confidence among

partners, and establish a clearer vision for what the organization can and should be for Baltimore.

One significant marker of that progress is Create Baltimore's preparation for its FY28 renewal through the Maryland State Arts Council County Arts Development program.

After three consecutive years of completing MSAC's more intensive annual application process—including expanded planning, performance measures, and reporting requirements—Create Baltimore is returning to the standard multi-year application cycle.

The transition represents an important milestone in the organization's relationship with the State and follows sustained work by Create Baltimore's leadership and development team to strengthen accountability, reporting, planning, and institutional relationships.

The City is also exploring opportunities for a longer-term agreement with Create Baltimore, creating the potential for greater continuity and long-range planning.

The CEO Report positioned FY27 as a year to build upon this stronger foundation: moving from stabilization toward deeper investment, stronger programs, expanded partnerships, and increased opportunity for Baltimore's creative community.

DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

Create Baltimore enters the fall with $311,833 in formally committed development support and a significant fundraising mandate ahead as the organization works to close an approximately $900,000 private fundraising responsibility associated with Artscape and FY27 programming beyond the City contribution.

Development strategy is increasingly focused on expanding the organization's base of corporate, philanthropic, and institutional partners and growing private-sector investment in Baltimore's creative economy.

Recent development activity has included a broader institutional funding pipeline, significant submitted proposals, and partnerships across Baltimore's corporate, philanthropic, and media communities.

The organization has also launched a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform, including the migration of historical development data. The system is designed to strengthen data accuracy, relationship management, institutional knowledge, fundraising strategy, and reporting.

Together, these efforts reflect a larger shift toward building a diversified and sustainable funding ecosystem around Create Baltimore and the artists, programs, and communities it serves.

FACILITIES & CULTURAL ASSETS

Create Baltimore is undertaking a portfolio-wide review of its four City cultural facilities—The Cloisters, School 33 Art Center, Top of the World, and Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower—with a focus on operational efficiency, programming potential, partnerships, revenue generation, and long-term sustainability.

The Cloisters continues to experience significant booking activity while Create Baltimore explores partnerships and opportunities to further activate and sustain the historic property.

At School 33 Art Center, approximately $300,000 in additional investment was identified to address roof repairs and associated interior and cosmetic needs. With the roof project moving toward completion, the organization is preparing for the relaunch of its artist-in-residence and studio program.

Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower continues to serve as an important cultural destination, with recent reporting documenting more than 1,600 visitors alongside continued investment in the historic facility.

At Top of the World, new partnership opportunities, including educational programming, are expanding the ways the facility can connect visitors with Baltimore's history, communities, and cultural identity.

The broader portfolio review will help determine how each property can most effectively contribute to Create Baltimore's mission while ensuring responsible stewardship of these significant City cultural assets.

PROGRAMS, ARTISTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Program activity continues across Create Baltimore's portfolio as the organization expands opportunities for artists, young people, residents, and visitors.

Art@work remains a major youth workforce development initiative, connecting young people with professional artists, creative practice, mentorship, employment, and Baltimore neighborhoods. The program has also attracted dedicated philanthropic support as Create Baltimore works toward its continued growth.

The Open Studio Tour, scheduled for October 10–11, will provide another opportunity for the public to engage directly with Baltimore artists and their creative spaces.

On October 3, Create Baltimore will partner with Waterfront Partnership and others to produce the final Baltimore by Baltimore event at the Inner Harbor before redevelopment. The event will celebrate Baltimore's artists, performers, communities, and cultural identity as the Harbor prepares to enter its next chapter.

Free Fall Baltimore continues to provide opportunities for residents to experience arts and culture throughout the city, with planning also looking toward the program's 20th anniversary.

Create Baltimore continues to advance mural and public art partnerships, including major recent installations and collaborations that increase the visibility of artists and creative expression throughout Baltimore.

Planning is also underway for Artscape 2027, building upon the festival's role as a major platform for artists, performers, cultural organizations, and Baltimore's creative economy. Previous economic-impact reporting has estimated Artscape's impact at approximately $8.8–$9 million, with the organization focused on continuing to expand the festival's reach and impact.

BALTIMORE FARMERS' MARKET: APPROACHING 50 YEARS

Create Baltimore is preparing for the 50th anniversary of the Baltimore Farmers' Market, which begins in 2027.

Current work includes expanded Market programming, partnership development, and efforts to position the anniversary for broader regional and national visibility.

Recent reporting showed approximately 85% vendor occupancy for the April–December 2026 Market season, demonstrating the Market's continued importance as a platform for farmers, food entrepreneurs, makers, and small businesses.

Rather than treating the milestone as a single anniversary event, Create Baltimore is developing opportunities to celebrate the Market's legacy throughout the year while telling a larger story about its role in Baltimore's cultural, culinary, entrepreneurial, and community life.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY VOICE

Community representation remains an important part of Create Baltimore's evolving organizational structure.

The Community Advisory Committee was established following significant public interest, with 12 members selected from 92 applicants. With Committee Chair Veronica Dunlap now serving as a voting member of the Board, that community perspective has a direct connection to the organization's governance structure.

This work reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that organizational decision-making remains informed by the artists, cultural workers, residents, and communities Create Baltimore exists to serve.

LOOKING AHEAD

The FY27 Annual Meeting marked more than the beginning of another governance year. It reflected an organization entering a new phase.

Create Baltimore begins FY27 with increased institutional confidence, stronger public and private partnerships, improved internal systems, greater visibility, and clearer priorities for its future.

The challenge ahead is to turn that momentum into lasting infrastructure and measurable impact.

That means strengthening the organization's financial foundation, expanding corporate and philanthropic investment, stewarding Baltimore's cultural facilities responsibly, deepening community relationships, strengthening major programs, and continuing to create meaningful opportunities for the artists and cultural workers who make Baltimore distinctive.

The work will require continued collaboration among the Board, staff, City leadership, artists, funders, corporate and philanthropic partners, cultural institutions, and Baltimore communities.

At the center of that work is a shared goal: building the infrastructure, investment, opportunity, and relationships necessary for Baltimore's creative community not simply to participate in the future of the city, but to help shape it.