

68th Annual Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2009
5:30 - 8:00 pm

Highlights of 2008-2009
Accomplishments
Housing
Transportation
Neighborhoods

REnew!

CPHA

REinvent!

REenergize!

Citizens

Planning

and

Housing

Association

From the President and Executive Director



Mel Freeman
President



Dan Pontious
Executive Director

Dear CPHA Members and Friends,

This brief report shows how your support, a small staff, and scores of active volunteers combine at CPHA to make sure that the citizens of Baltimore are informed, organized, and engaged on the issues that affect the quality of life for all Baltimore residents. We thank you for taking part in these efforts and encourage you to tell your friends and associates that CPHA is the place where citizens can make a difference for Baltimore.

Housing

On housing issues, this past year CPHA pushed for smart and fair growth at the state level, urged reforms to make a proposed City land bank more accountable to citizens, and worked through several avenues to connect families — who had been locked in poverty in segregated neighborhoods — to areas with greater access to job opportunities and better schools.

Transportation

On the transportation front, CPHA helped community groups participate in decisions about transit-oriented development, and we advocated for changes to both state and federal transportation policy that currently favor highway development over mass transit and other options.

Neighborhoods

Working with neighborhood leaders, CPHA organized the Economic Recovery for Neighborhoods Initiative (ERNI) to assure that federal stimulus funds are spent to benefit communities, and it helped neighborhood “sparkplugs” develop fresh ideas to make a difference in their communities.

Over the past year, CPHA Board engaged in many months of thoughtful strategic planning. As a result, CPHA is renewed, reinvented and reenergized as a 68-years young organization dedicated to bringing about a healthy, inclusive Baltimore. We see CPHA well positioned to build on its strengths in housing, transportation, neighborhoods, and community planning.

We also invite you to participate in our new “Activate Your Inner Citizen” series of mini-tours and issue forums throughout the coming year. These regular events will showcase compelling initiatives here in Baltimore and provide regular citizens more knowledge and tools to make Baltimore an even greater place for everyone. Go to www.cphabaltimore.org for more information on this and other CPHA initiatives.

We will keep you up to date as our work continues over the coming year. Thank you for your interest, involvement and support, which make it all possible.

Sincerely,

Mel Freeman
President

Dan Pontious
Executive Director

Housing

CPHA and the Urban League called for changes to the proposed land bank legislation to ensure that the new entity will be more transparent and accountable to citizens.

The City's Inclusionary Housing law requires that affordable housing is a key component of new developments.

The Housing Mobility Program has enabled more than 1,500 Baltimore families to move to housing in high-opportunity areas.

City Land Bank

CPHA board member and Housing Committee Co-Chair Josh Civin served on the task force charged with creating a city land bank intended to address Baltimore's proliferation of vacant properties by streamlining city policies for acquisition and disposition of these properties. In February, CPHA and the Urban League called for changes to the proposed land bank legislation to ensure that the new entity will be more transparent and more accountable to citizens. City Councilman Bill Henry, a former CPHA board president, drafted and submitted amendments based on the recommendations, which are pending before the City Council.

Smart and Fair Growth

CPHA was active in the Campaign for Smart and Fair Growth, an alliance of environmental, smart growth and housing advocates, which pressed the General Assembly to set performance standards for smart growth. While these standards were not adopted in the 2009 session, we did support Gov. O'Malley's successful proposal to add housing — "residential options for citizens of all ages and incomes" — to the state's visions for effective smart growth. At the urging of CPHA and our partners, the state is also exploring new "indicators" for the success of smart growth that include the presence of affordable housing in new growth areas.

Inclusionary Housing

Following up on our successful 2007 campaign for a City inclusionary housing law, CPHA is spearheading efforts with our partners in the Inclusive Housing Coalition to track the implementation of the law and the net effect on the availability and location of new affordable housing. Already the law has had significant benefits in ensuring that affordable housing is a key component of new developments such as Westport and State Center.

Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign

On October 30, 2009, we worked with our partners in the Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign to release a report that documents the success of the Housing Mobility Program implemented through the Thompson v. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development litigation. This program has provided more than 1,500 Baltimore families, relegated to the most impoverished and segregated neighborhoods in the City, the opportunity to move to housing in high-opportunity areas of the region. These are neighborhoods with good schools that are closer to where jobs are growing. Employment among the 75 participating families in a pilot program of additional supports, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, doubled. The Open Society Institute and Ford Foundation also support the work of the Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign.

Participants in the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program meet with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary Ron Sims at the Maryland Asset Building and Community Development (ABCD) Network's Annual Luncheon in October.



Transportation

MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION



Gov. Martin O'Malley announces the selection of light rail option 4C as the locally-preferred alternative for the Red Line at the West Baltimore MARC station in August. He is surrounded by elected officials, West Baltimore MARC-area community leaders, and CPHA executive director Dan Pontious (right).



Members of Transportation for Maryland met with Congressman Elijah Cummings (center) in August to discuss federal transportation reauthorization. The group includes CPHA executive director Dan Pontious (third from left), community revitalization director Calvin Peete (second from right) and representatives of BRIDGE, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, 1000 Friends of Maryland, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

New Transit-Oriented Development Analysis

CPHA worked with the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, Reconnecting America, the Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative, and other organizations and agencies to issue a report on prospective sites for transit-oriented development in the Baltimore area, including high-priority recommendations. The report makes a strong case that transit-oriented development benefits the economy, the environment, and the quality of life for residents.

West Baltimore MARC Station

CPHA played a key role in organizing West Baltimore MARC TOD/Transportation Inc., a coalition of 10 communities surrounding the MARC commuter rail station in West Baltimore. The coalition achieved several notable successes. First, the group's Transit-Centered Community Development Strategy was approved by the Baltimore Planning Commission as the local area master plan – the official City blueprint for long-range development.

Second, because of the strength of the coalition, MTA designated nearly \$9 million in federal stimulus funds to demolish the stub of the "Highway to Nowhere", expand parking at the MARC station, and prepare the land for future development.

Third, in September 2009 the coalition successfully launched the first "West Baltimore Community Harvest," which brought farmer's fresh produce to the MARC station parking lot, along with displays about the area's new transit-centered community development plans, the Red Line, and health services.



State Center

When members of the General Assembly threatened to halt the transit-oriented development project at State Center, CPHA rallied hundreds of citizens to write public officials to express support for the project. The timely citizen action was a critical factor in the June 2009 vote by the Maryland Board of Public Works to move the project forward. CPHA also helped a new coalition of 10 communities around State Center work cohesively with the project's development team.

Red Line Moves Forward

CPHA was a key player in organizing and drafting the Red Line Community Compact, an agreement between MTA and communities along the route of the proposed Red Line rail line, outlining how it will be planned and built. The compact, signed on September 12, 2008 by Mayor Sheila Dixon, Secretary of Transportation John Porcari, MTA Administrator Paul Weidefeld, as well as many community groups and CPHA, details pledged actions each organization has to fulfill and the completion timetable. The agreement is an unusual victory for citizen inclusion and public accountability, and CPHA is an active member of the Red Line Community Compact Steering Committee that is overseeing the compact's implementation.

Another boost occurred in August 2009 when Gov. Martin O'Malley selected the light rail option "4C" as the preferred alternative. CPHA endorsed that option in November 2008, along with the local community investments outlined in the Red Line Community Compact.

Transportation for Maryland

CPHA is a founding member of Transportation for Maryland, a statewide group advocating that state and federal transportation decisions put mass transit and other options on equal footing with highway spending. The group called for Congress to refocus efforts on transit and community building as it considers reauthorizing the federal transportation bill this year.

Neighborhoods



Baltimore City Assistant Housing Commissioner Stephen James briefs community leaders on the City's application process for federal stimulus-funded Community Development Block Grant funds at a May brown bag lunch convened by CPHA as part of our Economic Recovery for Neighborhoods Initiative (ERNI).

Economic Recovery for Neighborhoods Initiative (ERNI) works to ensure that federal stimulus funds spent in Baltimore improve the quality of life in city neighborhoods, build community capacity, and spur local living-wage jobs.

Maximizing Economic Recovery Funds in Baltimore

To capture hundreds of millions of federal stimulus dollars for Baltimore, Mayor Sheila Dixon convened a coordinating group of representatives from city agencies, the Baltimore Economic Recovery Team (BERT). CPHA convened a coalition of groups under the banner of the Economic Recovery for Neighborhoods Initiative (ERNI), to ensure that stimulus funds spent in Baltimore improve the quality of life in city neighborhoods, build community capacity, and spur local living-wage jobs. A number of local organizations that attended CPHA-sponsored information sessions received special stimulus-funded Community Development Block Grant funds from Baltimore City.

Real Time Community Change

CPHA completed the second year of the Real Time Community Change program, offering small grants and coaching to community members with a "spark" of an idea and the desire to make a difference. Nine new "sparkplugs" were awarded investment in the third round, in addition to the 17 "sparkplugs" funded the first two years. Among the projects: introducing recycling to public housing in Cherry Hill for the first time, using hip-hop to engage youth in Druid Heights, and support and social networking for Latino parents in Southeast Baltimore. The program has been funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Neighborhood Technical Assistance

Working with the Baltimore Community Foundation, CPHA provided technical assistance to 50 community organizations that applied to the foundation for mini-grants to improve quality of life in their neighborhoods. CPHA continues to provide information and assistance to community groups facing a variety of challenges.

2008 Award Winners



2008 Hathaway Ferebee Neighborhood Achievement Award winners Friends of Patterson Park.



2008 Frances Froelicher Civic Statesmanship Award winner Valentina Ukwuoma.

CPHA

CPHA Vision

CPHA is the catalyst for civic action to bring about a healthy, inclusive Baltimore, with economically vibrant communities and opportunities for all people.

CPHA Mission

CPHA brings about a healthy, inclusive Baltimore by:

- Bringing together people and neighborhoods to create innovative solutions to challenging, community-wide problems,
- Empowering citizens with information and skills for advocacy and organizing, and
- Championing solutions through legislative and policy reforms.

Citizens Planning and Housing Association

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Christopher Ryer
Laurie Schwartz

CPHA Staff

Kenya Asli
Amy DeHuff
Calvin Peete Jr.
Ricky Persad
Daniel Pontious
Kelley Ray

Tonight's Panel Discussion:

Building a Green Economy for Baltimore

New Home Energy-Efficiency Campaign

Inez Robb

Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge (BNEC)

Opportunities for Green-Collar Jobs

Ken Strong

Dept. of Housing, Weatherization

Transit-Oriented Development Along the Red Line

Chris Ryer

Southeast CDC

Citizen-Led Recycling Program in Public Housing

Betty Baze

CPHA Real Time Community Change program participant



CPHA executive director Dan Pontious (right) joins Fulton Avenue community leader (and co-chair of CPHA's Economic Recovery for Neighborhoods Initiative) Inez Robb and Baltimore Community Foundation program director (and former CPHA executive Director) Cheryl Casciani at the August launch of the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge. CPHA is an investor in the Energy Challenge initiative.

Stay tuned for the "Activate Your Inner Citizen" series in 2010!

Information about the new CPHA-sponsored mini-tours and issue forums will be posted on cphabaltimore.org