



A photograph of a man with a shaved head, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned shirt and dark pants, holding a large, round, beaded basket. He is looking down at the basket. In the background, other people are visible, some wearing similar patterned clothing, suggesting a cultural festival or dance event. The scene is outdoors on a dirt path with a brick building in the background.

"Rhythm is more than just beats; it's the heartbeat of a community, the unspoken language that brings us together, uniting our souls in a harmonious dance of life."

- UAL Cohort '24

2023 Rhythm Festival
Baltimore, MD

Community as Canvas

A PUBLICATION BY
URBAN ARTS LEADERSHIP COHORT '24

Urban Arts
Leadership

A program
of GBCa



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UAL!

COVER DESIGN BY KION LUMFORD

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**"To build an effective
community, everyone
must realize that their
community is bigger
than them"**

-Idowu Koyenikan





Graffiti Alley
Baltimore, MD

MEET THE



Rhythm Ajanku

Rhythm Ajanku is focusing on marketing strategies, branding, and content creation. He believes his participation in the fellowship presents an exceptional opportunity to engage in valuable networking and collaborative endeavors with like-minded individuals.

Gloria Badmos

Gloria Badmos is a disability advocate and founder of A.S.K. Foundation, a visionary organization that serves the homeless, youth, the disabled, as well as people interested in employment and entrepreneurship. She joined the fellowship to amplify leadership qualities.



Khari Harrison

Khari Harrison is an independent and self-motivated emerging leader with proven skills in marketing, leadership, time management, and customer service. Khari plans to meet stakeholder needs and shape the strategies surrounding communications for the arts sector.

COHORT

Tracie Jiggetts



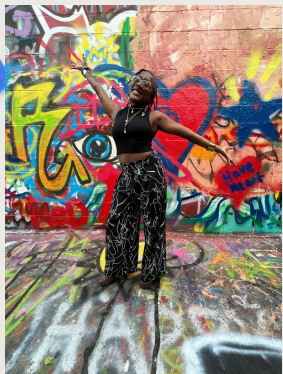
Tracie Jiggetts is a critically acclaimed Interdisciplinary Artist from Baltimore Maryland who specializes in Dance, Acting, Musical Theatre, Movement for Actors, Acting for Dancers and Solo Performance. An award winning Arts Educator, Playwright and Director. Ms. Jiggetts is a graduate of Coppin State University and founder of the Art of Truth, an arts organization committed to Human and Community Development, through the Performing Arts. Tracie believes that making and experiencing ART is Revolutionary!

Kion Lumford

Kion Lumford is a recent Coppin State University alum who is an aspiring graphic novelist. Kion believes Urban Arts Leadership will present opportunities to network with new people and foster new opportunities.



Faith McCorkle



FAITH McCorkle is a fine artist and cultural producer who represents resiliency and transformation. FAITH aims to generate community healing and elevate Black expression through curating shows, hosting community workshops, and creating art that reflects the spirit and love of the Black community. As an Urban Arts Leadership Fellow, FAITH is working to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to grow as an arts leader and inspire others through curated immersive experiences.

MEET THE COHORT



Melvin "Sage" Trusty

Melvin Trusty plans to help Artists to be Entrepreneurs build future-proof and purpose-driven organizations as a positive impact to the economy, community, and beyond. Urban Arts Leadership will help him build connections to people and organizations.

Sierra Smith

Sierra Smith is an experienced arts marketer and administrator. Sierra actively works to amplify the voices of artists and small cultural organizations, demonstrating her dedication to fostering innovation within the arts landscape. Sierra has a passion for storytelling and enjoys curating the bigger picture. Recognizing the challenges many creatives face with shaping their vision she started a dynamic creative marketing agency, ShapeShifter. Sierra joined Urban Arts Leadership as an opportunity to lead and participate in projects and initiatives in diverse and inclusive environments.



WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

...the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of those people. It is a powerful vehicle for bringing about environmental and behavioral changes that will improve the health of the community and its members. It often involves partnerships and coalitions that help mobilize resources and influence systems, change relationships among partners, and serve as catalysts for changing policies, programs, and practices.

Community engagement can take many forms, and partners can include organized groups, agencies, institutions, or individuals. Collaborators may be engaged in health promotion, research, or policy making.



ART, LOVE & BALTIMORE

Chin-Yer's Quest to Elevate Baltimore's Arts with Love

Khari: Thank you for coming to the interview, I'm honored. So first question to start with is what inspired you to become involved in community engagement and hosting in the Baltimore area?

Chin-Yer: Well, you mean like Baltimore in particular? Mm hmm. Baltimore For me, I have a strong spiritual connection. I've been to a lot of places. I'm Jamaican, born in England. I've been to many places across the world. But there's something about the energy of Baltimore that just really moves me as a spiritual calling type of thing. But it seems like a lot of rich history vibrations and a lot of genius, a lot of talented artists. I just want to bring all that together. So I'm going a lot of different scenes within the scene. So in the poetry scene, the music scene, the love and the hip hop scene. But when I would be in all these scenes talking about the other people in the other scene, they didn't know each other. So I wanted to do something that can bring all these people in the same room.



I just love people.

Khari: That's really cool. I'm actually interested in doing something similar because I feel like that's a big need.

With that being said, how do you prioritize diversity and inclusivity in the events you organize, particularly in a city as diverse as Baltimore?



Chin-Yer: I think the main diversity is multi-generational. I love doing events where you can see babies to elders. Like I think it's important. All my events, you can bring your children. I love it! I raised my children in the Baltimore scene and now they're both amazing artists and creatives and curators, and that's because they weren't left home.

I feel like it's important to have a place where people of color can come together because some of these spaces where white folks can come is more comfortable for them, but it's not as comfortable for people that look like us.

So there's diversity in that aspect in terms of different types of black people across the diaspora. Like I mentioned, I'm Jamaican, so people from different aspects of the diaspora have different facets of the arts. From hairstylists to the music producers.

So I think in that way that's another kind of diversity that I'm really passionate about bringing together through this.

Khari: Can you speak about some of your most memorable moments from an event or something that you participated in?

Chin-Yer: We've lost some people over the years and it moves me to see that. So first of all, beyond Baltimore kind of was the idea of spreading love to the people, giving people their flowers now and their crowns and other things. So my most memorable moments are those times that we were able to do that for people while they were here to be recognized.

Other memorable moments is seeing people grow as artists.

Seeing generations and generations and generations of amazing artistry and watching that unfold and being able to be a part of that is the memorable moment.

Khari: That's cool! What impact do you feel your events have on the Baltimore community?

Chin-Yer: I feel like it has trained and developed artists. Like the amazing Blake. I remember him as a youth poet, coming to the slams and doing so well that he kept going back to back to back. And I don't know if you know Blake?

Khari: No





Khari Harrison interviews
Chin-Yer at
The Bun Shop in
Baltimore, MD



Black to the Future
2023

Chin-Yer: Well, he's an amazing, amazing spoken word artist, international slam champion. And there's so many stories of that, like being able to be the unofficial "University of Art", the Baltimore scene, like people come up in this space to open mics and showcases and competitions to grow.

The other impact is love. It's all a fake out here. The real thing is love.

People being able to take the opportunity to spread love for each other like the Crown Awards and affirm each other, encourage each other and be together. I think it inspires people to do what they can with what they have.

When the Baltimore scene first started, I really had nothing, no money and whatever. So the first thing was, all right, what can I do? Like, don't wait, don't procrastinate, don't let me get a grant. What can you do, what do you have to do, what do you want to do?

Khari: How can members of the Baltimore community keep in touch with you?

Chin-Yer: My motto is business is personal. You know, it's not a business, but, you know, anything I do is personal. Meaning I'm very one on one so they can text me. Our number is (443) 243-2596 and of course the website.

Khari: One last question. Do you have any community engagements that you're currently working on?

Chin-Yer: The Black Mall. It's a one stop shop for us to support black businesses, and it features youth entrepreneurs. It's multi multigenerational and it includes talent shows and panel discussions about business. So it's a gathering place and also a marketplace.

Also, the Baltimore Crown Awards. It's our 17th year! On December 2nd at Arena Players in all purple!

LOOK FOR MORE ART
BY KION LUMFORD
AT

@KIONLUMFORDART



A CONVERSATION ON COMMUNITY: SERVICE AND THE ARTS

AN INSIGHTFUL CONVERSATION BETWEEN URBAN ARTS LEADERSHIP
FELLOWS GLORIA BADMOS AND FAITH MCCORKLE ON THE TOPICS
OF ART, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND SERVICE WORK.

FAITH: In terms of community engagement being used to build audiences in the arts sector, I feel like it's a really important part of my responsibility as not only a creative but someone who cares a lot about the community and the youth to take what I know and bring it to the community.

And I think it's really special that you also do that. But in your own way and you're now bridging it to art.

Gloria: Yes. I also think that it's all of our responsibilities as people to bring the community or, you know, have the community as a part, a huge part of whatever it is that we do, whether it's the work that we do or just making sure that we incorporate it in our lives. Because we would not be here without community. And we have to keep it going.

FAITH: we're all a piece of this puzzle!

Gloria: I am so inspired by our group and what we're doing and I love it when we go out in the community to see the different arts and the different museums. And it's very interesting because they all really tell a lot of the same stories, but in their own unique ways and with different types of art...

A CONVERSATION

It really reminds me that the reason for the need and the to be relentless with making sure that these ideas come to life and these services and resources that are needed in our community, then I make sure that I do what I can to bring them to life.

Seeing those things helps me to be more inspired and more relentless in my work to know that I can't just stop it at me being comfortable and me and my family being well, because there's so many people in this world that don't have that comfort and should. It should be.



GLORIA

HUMAN SERVICES WORKER,
ASK FOUNDATIONS FOUNDER

"There are some basic human rights that are often neglected and people don't realize that many in the world are still missing and don't have that luxury.

And what a beautiful way to express that then through art, right?"

-Gloria Badmos

ON COMMUNITY



FAITH

ARTIST, CURATOR, AND
ARTS EDUCATOR

FAITH: Also in your service work because I feel like it's all in the same boat. Like, you know, you even like thinking of gift boxes, bags, and, packages to deliver to people who do not have homes and people who don't have access to an art-making session and like they can still feel supported by their community.

I love that we are having this conversation about how community engagement looks different, seeing how it's an important tool to use to inspire and uplift our community as a whole.

I see what we're both saying here is how community engagement and being these leaders- training to be leaders in the art sector, we are also training to be a voice for the voiceless and give them these opportunities to grow their voice to express and tell their stories.

And you having a crucial role [in service] is really very beautiful and inspiring because you are a pillar of the resilience of the community and together we all can learn to become a voice for the voiceless and give back through community engagement.

A CONVERSATION ON COMMUNITY: SERVICE AND THE ARTS



UAL COHORT 24 AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE IN D.C.

Gloria: Yes, yes, yes. Because building the arts, that is important, but not forgetting that the purpose of building the art, is to build human lives as well as community.

SCAN HERE TO WATCH
THE WHOLE
CONVERSATION!



KHRYSALYS

Creativity/Innovation/Lifestyle



Khrysalys is the Convergence of Creativity, Innovation and Lifestyle. By bridging these gaps we hope to inspire by showing the path others have taken to accomplish their dreams. This will be done by immersive engagement through media, technology and events.

We're committed to sharing the voices of today with tomorrow!



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THISISKHRYSALYS

EVENT CALENDAR

JULY

**CHERRY HILL
ARTS AND
MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

AUGUST

**NEW NEXT FILM
FESTIVAL**

SEPTEMBER

**ARTSCAPE
&
BALTIMORE
RHYTHM
FESTIVAL**

OCTOBER

**BIBFF:
BALTIMORE
INTERNATIONAL
BLACK FILM
FESTIVAL**

NOVEMBER

**THE BLACK
ARTIST FAIR**

DECEMBER

**STATION
NORTH
HOLIDAY
MARKET**

one in four

RHYTHM SALIM

RHYTHM SALIM





#LORINGCORNISH

How Great Thou Art
Baltimore, MD



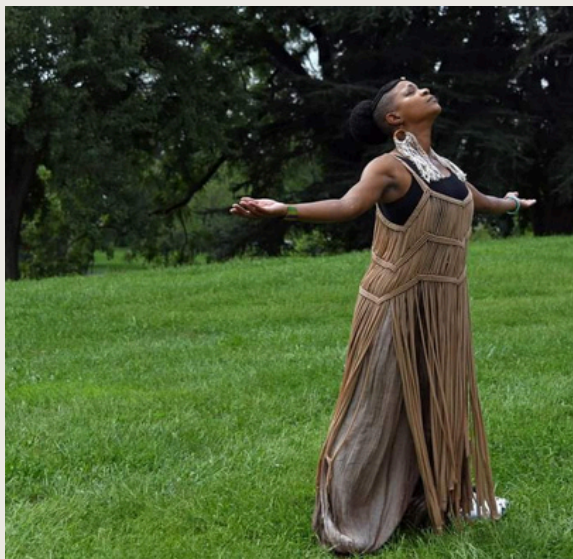
THE ART OF TRUTH

Discover the transformative power of art with The Art of Truth, founded by the renowned Tracie Jiggetts. As the creative director, Tracie takes a deeply honest approach to understanding the human experience, tackling individual and communal challenges, and helping to overcome societal hardships. The art of Truth is committed to healing, self-love, and empowerment through the performing arts.

Experience award-winning performances in dance, theatre, musical theatre, and social justice theatre. Our classes and workshops cover a wide array of interests, including audition preparation, mindfulness, meditation, personal development, and so much more. We cater to all ages, ensuring a space for everyone to explore their artistic capabilities.

Join us at The Art of Truth, where we believe making and experiencing art is revolutionary.

www.theartofTruth.org



CONTRIBUTORS

- **Rhythm Ajanku** Interview Photographer
- **Gloria Badmos** Co-Creative Director
- **Khari Harrison** Reporter
- **Tracie Jiggetts** Photographer, Copy Writer
- **Kion Lumford** Graphic Designer
- **Faith McCorkle** Co-Creative Director
- **Melvin "Sage" Trusty** Researcher, Scribe
- **Sierra Smith** Project Manager, Copy Editor,
Highlight Photographer



ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY!

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Next Community Event!*



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Urban
Arts
Leadership

10

YEARS

Leadership in the Arts Sector

GREATER BALTIMORE CULTURAL ALLIANCE

Now in its tenth anniversary year, GBCA's Urban Arts Leadership works toward greater equity in the arts, culture, and heritage sectors. Through a training and placement fellowship program, UAL helps instill equitable practices in the workplace and forwards the careers of promising emerging leaders of color.

The Fellows accepted into the program (up to ten annually) are mostly college graduates, some of whom have completed advanced degrees. UAL includes an intensive training and placement program, designed to develop a range of skills and a keen understanding of equity and inclusion in the workplace, including the ability to recognize racial bias. Following four months of intensive workshops, Fellows are placed in part-time paid positions with Host organizations for a period of six months, where they lead a clearly defined project that is of importance to the organization's mission. Skills developed by UAL Fellows are replicable and may be carried with each into their respective placements and throughout their careers.





Little Amal visits
Love Groove Fest 2023
Baltimore, MD



JEANNIE L. HOWE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeannie L. Howe is Executive Director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, a leading nonprofit provider of services to artists and cultural organizations in the region. Whether they are emerging or established, mainstream or underground, grassroots or institutional, GBCA believes in unifying and strengthening all members of the creative community.

Since 2012 she has led GBCA to a significant increase in membership and innovative programs which include artists awards, a fellowship for emerging arts leaders of color, and is currently working to increase earned income opportunities for artists and cultural organizations. Howe has an eclectic background including in professional theater, as well as in the fields of adult literacy, statewide child care advocacy, and stem cell transplantation.

Prior to joining the GBCA, Ms. Howe was founder and president of BayCliff Associates and provided management and fundraising consultation. At that time, she led a successful \$17.7 million capital campaign at Everyman Theatre in Baltimore .





KIBIBI AJANKU

DIRECTOR OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Kibibi Ajanku curates and guides the elements of the Urban Arts Leadership Fellowship for the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance where she serves as Equity and Inclusion Director. Under her leadership, the Fellowship has increased racial inclusion within arts sector leadership and has positively altered workplace best practices through actively training, placing, and referring an annual cohort of emerging professionals.

Additionally, she holds space as the Resident Curator for a small gallery in the Fells Point area of Baltimore, Maryland, and is also the Urban Arts Professor for a rotating cohort of students at Coppin State University. Furthermore, Ajanku is excited to administer the evolution of a new Urban Arts Field School project with UAL fellows and community folklorists, recently funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.



RENZ BALAGTAS

EQUITY MANAGER

Renz Balagtas is the Equity Manager for Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. He is primarily responsible for the management of Urban Arts Leadership. When he was five years old, Balagtas moved from the Philippines to San Diego, California. From San Diego City College, he transferred and graduated from Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in 2014. As a fellow of UAL Cohort 2017, Balagtas accepted a position with GBCA as their Assistant Program Manager.

His worldly experience as a leader in the arts sector has earned him the honor of providing leadership and support in the professional development of over 35 arts administrators.

Balagtas' experience as a professional muralist and community based artist has fostered his passion for protecting the voice and freedom of artists and arts administrators to equitably earn leadership opportunities for the community they are committed to serving.



Urban
Arts
Leadership

10

YEARS

Leadership in the Arts Sector

URBAN ARTS LEADERSHIP

Urban Arts Leadership (UAL) is an example of change in action. A program of the GBCA, UAL is a fellowship program designed to increase diversity in the management of cultural and artistic organizations by building a pipeline for high achieving emerging leaders, focusing on those of color.

UAL offers professional development and network building opportunities to develop and empower tomorrow's leaders. UAL Fellows engage in a rigorous training program and are matched with host organizations where they contribute to the organization's culture, and additionally, manage projects that are core to the thrust of the organization.

The development of UAL has been guided by community input and the participation of more than 30 administrators from partnering cultural organizations. It is an immediate response to the needs of early career professionals and is meant to strengthen the cultural field.

ASK SEEK KNOCK



ASK

We collaborate with organizations, individuals and businesses to serve communities in need

Our Monthly Care Drive provide resources, care packages, and hygiene products to the homeless. On the coldest days, we serve them warm beverages and meals.



SEEK

- Art and Music Festival
- Pop up Community Art
- Research and Education
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Youth Community Workshops



KNOCK

Community Resource for:

- Health and Human Services
- Homeless services
- Disability Services
- Youth Services
- Workforce Development



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