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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCILWOMAN ODETTE RAMOS, OTHERS JOIN GBCA AND THE BALTIMORE CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO LAUNCH NEW PARTNERSHIP

The event recorded 50 attendees, including stakeholders of each host organization, members, volunteers, businesspeople, and entrepreneurs in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, MD –The [Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance \(GBCA\)](#) and the [Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce](#) held a happy hour reception on Thursday, March 30, at Urban Reads Bookstore on Greenmount Ave., Baltimore to launch their partnership, which provides reciprocal membership benefits between the two organizations, such as access to networking and educational opportunities, member directories, special discounts, funding, and other curated benefits from each service organization.

Present at the partnership launch were [Carla Du Pree](#), Executive Director for [City Lit Project](#) and GBCA Board Member; Baltimore City [Councilwoman Odette Ramos](#); Tia Hamilton, Owner of [Urban Reads Bookstore](#); [Jeannie Howe](#), Executive Director of GBCA; [Lenora Henry](#), Executive Director of the Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce; and dozens of GBCA and Chamber stakeholders, volunteers, businesspeople, and entrepreneurs in the city.

"GBCA is excited about the ways in which our new partnership with the Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce will benefit its members and create stronger connectivity with the business community," said Jeannie Howe, Executive Director at GBCA. "The comments of our passionate speakers, Carla Du Pree, Executive Director of City Lit Project, and Tia Hamilton, owner of Urban Reads, perfectly demonstrate the ways in which arts and culture lead, strengthen, and build communities, and we are so grateful to them and to City Councilwoman Odette Ramos for joining us to show their support."

"...This partnership between Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce and Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance is a promising affair," said Carla Du Pree, Executive Director at City Lit Project. "GBCA is the

pulse of the arts community. We can't afford to separate art from the business of our city; we make it our business to understand the challenges and triumphs, the breaking point and impact of the arts."

In addition to Carla Du Pree's remarks on the literary history and artistic prowess of Baltimore creatives and artists, Urban Reads Bookstore owner Tia Hamilton spoke about her mission and efforts to provide support to incarcerated individuals in prisons across the U.S. through her book donations.

The goals of the partnership between GBCA and the Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce are to create value for each service organization's members, catalyze the exchange between business professionals, creatives, artists, and arts organizations in Baltimore, and to teach skills across sectors and drive innovation in the workplace.

To learn more about the partnership between GBCA and the Chamber of Commerce, please visit www.baltimoreculture.org/GBCAchamberpartnership or www.baltimorecitychamber.org.

About GBCA

The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA) creates equity and opportunity In, Through, and For arts and culture in Greater Baltimore. A leading nonprofit provider of services to artists and cultural organizations in the region, GBCA believes in unifying and strengthening all members of the creative community. We do this through marketing, education, financial support, and developing innovative programs that increase equity in the cultural sector and beyond.

About The Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce

The Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce serves as an engine for business and economic development that promotes both members' and the City's core value propositions. The activities and programs of the Chamber are envisioned, designed, and executed to build a vibrant and prosperous community through business leadership.

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