

Baltimore Sister Cities, Inc. Board Meeting – December 7, 2022 **(Action Items are Highlighted)**

I. Call to Order/ Opening Remarks

Teresa Leslie, called to order the regular meeting of the BSC Board of Directors at 6:00 pm on 12/07/22. This was a Zoom meeting.

Board Members

Roll call - (underlined designates those in attendance; 'V' designates voting members)

Karen Leggett Abouraya, BLASCC Rep (V)

Fontaine Bell, Director Emeritus

Geri Byrd, Director- External Affairs & DEI

William Cawthern, BDC Rep (V)

Hosea Chew, Director – City Council

Gary Davison, BRSCC Rep (V)

Jay Gordon, BKSCC Rep (V)

Lauren Green, BOPA Rep (V)

Kerry Holahan, BXSCC Rep (V)

Diane Homberg, BPSCC Rep (V)

Luana Kiandoli, BGSCC Rep (V)

Michelle Lee, BCSCC Rep (V)

Teresa Leslie, BSC President

Karina Mandell, BOSCC Rep (V)

Catalina Rodriguez- Lima, MIMA Rep (V)

Nancy Taylor, Director-Strategic Growth

Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office (V)

Alternate Representatives

Athar Bayoumi, BLASCC (V)

William Hug, BGSCC Rep (V)

Xin ('Cindy') Wang, BXSCC Rep (V)

BSC Officers

Teresa Leslie, BSC President

Fontaine Bell, BSC Secretary (Acting)

Dan Young, BSC Treasurer

Members and Others in Attendance

Members

Denee Barr, Gislin Dagnelie, Jonathan Davol, Manuel Knight, Misako Aoki, Tharwat Abouraya, Katia Pokhodnya Imus

Guests

Nancy Proctor, Chief Strategy Officer, The Peale

II. Establish Quorum - being 50% of 12 voting members (Fontaine Bell)

9 out of 12 voting members present (see above)

III. Introduction & Discussion with Nancy Proctor, Chief Strategy Officer, The Peale (Fontaine Bell)

Nancy discussed history of The Peale. The museum was founded in 1814 by Rembrandt Peal as Baltimore's (and the United States') 1st community museum. Over the years the Peale had many functions including becoming Baltimore's 1st high school for 'colored' students aspiring to teaching careers in 1930. The building was shut down in 1997 due to Baltimore City financial troubles. It was resurrected in 2017 with Nancy as Executive Director (now Chief Strategy Officer).

Teresa asked Fontaine to organize a field trip early in the new year, preferably in the evening, for any BSC members who are interested. Nancy advised that the museum hours are:

Thursday & Friday	3 pm to 7 pm
Saturday & Sunday	10 am to 4 pm

IV. Approval of Minutes from August 10 & October 5, 2022 meetings (Fontaine Bell)

Karen Abouraya motioned to approve the August 10 and October 5 reports. Nina Themelis seconded the motion. All were in favor. Approved (Unanimous).

V. Treasurer & Finance (Dan Young)

Treasurer's Report. Dan Young presented the BSC Financial Reports for 10/31/22 and 11/30/22. As of 11/30/22, year-to-date net income was \$29,626 and Total Assets were \$100,495. The full reports are posted on G Suite at BSC Shared>Financial–Reports>2022.

Karen Abouraya motioned to approve the October 31 and November 30 reports. Cindy Wang seconded the motion. All were in favor. Approved (Unanimous).

Committee Budgets for 2023. Dan reminded the committees to start working on their budget numbers for next year. He will be providing committees with a template for reporting their budgets.

Zoom Renewal. Fontaine asked for board approval of our two Zoom accounts: Basic Zoom account at \$149.90/year; Zoom Webinar at \$40.00/month.

Gary Davison motioned to approve. Jay Gordon seconded the motion. All were in favor. Approved (Unanimous).

VI. Promotion & Recruiting

- Cindy and Fontaine reported on the annual China Town Hall on November 16. This is a National Committee on U.S. China Relations ("NCUSCR") program for which BXSCC has been the Baltimore host since 2008. Former Ambassador to China, Jon Huntsman, was the speaker this year. BXSCC was recognized as a host in the NCUSCR national webcast and was the only sister city program listed. Cindy mentioned BXSCC's successful use of Eventbrite and Mail Chimp to promote this event and offered to discuss with any committee planning to use these tools.
- Tharwat Abouraya discussed his November trip to Egypt. See below 'Committee Reports' on last page for details.
- BRSCC is attending the annual WTCI 'State of the Ports' event tonight (December 7). Rachel Sengers arranged for the Dutch Embassy's participation. Nancy Taylor had also arranged participation of the Cameroon Embassy but a last minute medical emergency



prevented them from coming.

- Fontaine and Nancy met with Jeremy Rosendale, WTCI Vice President, on November 7 to discuss a BSC/WTCI collaborative event in April. Nancy suggested the event be held at Trade Point Atlantic, Jeremy will contact them. WTCI will manage this event. A nominal fee will be charged but the main purpose will be publicity, networking and attracting new BSC members.

VII. Administrative

- Management Changes - Resignations

Roger Nakazawa resigned as BSC Vice President, effective Nov. 15, 2022

Alfred Griffin resigned as BSC Secretary, effective Dec. 7, 2022

Kelsey Bista resigned as BSC Assistant Secretary, effective Dec. 7, 2022

- Management Changes - Appointments

Diane Homberg motioned to approve Fontaine Bell as Acting Secretary for the period Dec. 7, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2023 (unless replaced earlier by a permanent Secretary). Luana Kiandoli seconded the motion. All were in favor. Approved (Unanimous).

Note: both the permanent Secretary position and the Vice President position will be included in the 2023 elections in February.

- Policy re. BSC country committees soliciting other committees for donations.

Fontaine presented a draft policy for consideration. After considerable discussion it was decided to make some changes to the draft policy and to defer a final decision until the next board meeting.

VIII. Year-End Planning

- Committee chairs and officers are urged to review and follow up on Rachel Senger's October 31 email 'Instructions for 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Plan' and Fontaine

Bell's November 23 email 'Year End Planning Instructions' for member renewals, dues, committee elections, meeting schedules and Mayoral awards. If anyone needs copies of these emails or has any questions contact Rachel and Fontaine immediately.

- The Board Nominating Committee (Diane Homberg, Gary Davison and Nina Themelis) will be sending out information on open BSC director and officer positions soon. Watch for emails from Diane.
- The board discussed the dates for the 2023 Annual Meeting, first board meeting and celebration. The Executive Team recommended that the Annual Meeting and first board meeting be held concurrently by Zoom at 6:00 pm on February 15 and that the celebration be in person at the Curran Room in City Hall at 6:00 pm on February 17.

Diane Homberg motioned to approve the above dates, times and locations. Gary Davison seconded the motion. All were in favor. Approved (Unanimous)

- The Planning Committee for these events is presently Teresa Leslie, Fontaine Bell, Geri Byrd and Diane Homberg (as Chair – Board Nominating Committee). **We need more volunteers! Please let Teresa and Fontaine know as soon as possible if you can help.**

- 2023 BSC Board Meeting Dates

Based on recommendations from The BSC Executive Team, Jay Gordon motioned to approve the 2023 BSC board meeting schedule as follows (all meetings start at 6:00 pm):

February 15

April 12

June 14

August 9

October 4

November 29

Gary Davison seconded the motion. All were in favor. Approved (Unanimous).



IX. Other Business

- **Christ Church Harbor Apartments**, a senior adult community building at 600 Light Street in Baltimore, has asked for assistance in hosting an International Day for their residents to celebrate different cultures and ethnicities. This is a referral from the World Trade Center Institute. This request will be discussed and decided at the next Executive Team meeting.
- **Youth Core of Baltimore**, a non-profit located at 2208 Aisquith Street in Baltimore would like to start a sister city relationship with Accra, Ghana. This is a referral from Sister Cities International. This request will be discussed and decided at the next Executive Team meeting.
- **B4 Youth Theater/Johns Hopkins Center for Social Concern Liberia Trip**. These organizations are together sending 14 local performing art students and chaperones to Monrovia and Gbarnga next week for 10 days to participate in art and dance programs. When they return they would like to cooperate with the Baltimore-Gbarnga Sister City Committee on programs related to the arts in Baltimore and Liberia. (Note: this request came in the day after our meeting but has been included here for everyone's information)

X. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm by Teresa Leslie.

Next BSC Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 15 at 6:00 PM (following Annual Meeting)

Minutes submitted by Fontaine Bell, Acting Secretary & Director Emeritus



COMMITTEE REPORTS

(These reports are encouraged but not mandatory. Send to secretary@baltimoresistercities.org prior to meeting date)

Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee (submitted 12/7/22)

Netherlands Embassy has a table at WTCI State of the Ports today with Dutch drinks and snacks, with help from BRSCC. A rep from the embassy is speaking on a panel about reducing environmental impact in shipping.

BRSCC and friends of the committee are gathering sponsorships from companies to help fund travel costs for Morgan State University School of Architecture + Planning faculty and students to go to Rotterdam in March 2023. Students are also making laser-cut 'cityscape' ornaments and magnets to sell at holiday farmer markets to raise money and awareness.

Morgan Professor Cristina Murphy is planning a Q1 2023 webinar series with architects and urban designers from Baltimore and Rotterdam.

BRSCC is working with Joy Davis from Creative Alliance, Krista Green from The Peale and Mt Clare Museum House, and a Rotterdam exhibition venue to plan for and raise grants for an exhibit & exchange of Black artists from Baltimore and Rotterdam in 2023-2024.


Teresa Leslie introduced Farmer Chippy from Plantation Park Heights farm to BRSCC; he intends to do a cultural exchange with the Baltimore, Rotterdam, and Trinidadian carnivals. (Thank you, @ Teresa!)

BSC has applied to MSAC for a planning grant to plan the installation of sister city sculptures from Rotterdam and Odesa at sites in Baltimore. MSAC has recently informed BSC that they are in the running for the final selection of grantees. Stay tuned!

The Netherlands Embassy is doing a series of meetings in Baltimore in Nov - Dec with stakeholders to discuss the concept of doing a new collaboration with Rotterdam/the Netherlands on common challenges that the cities face - themes are still TBD but likely to revolve around climate change resilience and food resilience / urban farming. The collaboration will kickoff in April 2023 with a workshop in Baltimore.

Baltimore-Luxor/Alexandria Sister City Committee (submitted 12/7/22)

On Nov 12, BLASCC celebrated the 100th anniversary of the discovery of King Tut's tomb and the 200th anniversary of the translation of the Rosetta Stone. Between 75-100 people attended



our 3-hour family event at Enoch Pratt Library, which included presentations, activities like a scavenger hunt designed by Athar Bayoumi, and a live Zoom conversation from Luxor, Egypt. Photos, video and more details at baltimoreegypt.org. BLASCC received a \$500 Constellation Community Champions Grant for this event.

BLASCC co-chair Tharwat Abouraya traveled to Egypt to facilitate the live conversation from Luxor; he also delivered renewed MOUs to the Governors of Alexandria and Luxor and furthered potential collaborations with the Alexandria University Research Institute (nursing) and the Alexandria Rotary Club.

BLASCC has three pairs of elementary schools in Baltimore and Alexandria organizing live online conversations.