

BALTIMORE HOMECOMING ANNOUNCES HOMECOMING HERO AWARD FINALISTS

Hero Awards will highlight community leaders at Homecoming event in October

Public asked to vote on their favorites between July 23 and August 18

(Baltimore) – July 23, 2018 – [Baltimore Homecoming](#) announced today the finalists of its *Homecoming Hero Awards* program. The 11 finalists, nominated by the public and selected by the Homecoming Host Committee, will attend the first-ever Homecoming event in October where Baltimore alumni will hear their stories and celebrate each finalist's contribution to the city. Five finalists, voted on by the public, will receive a \$3,000 cash prize. Public voting opens today at baltimorehomecoming.com and continues through August 18.

"I was deeply moved by our nominees and their effective commitment to our city," said Jed Deitz, founder of the Maryland Film Festival and member of the Host Committee. "We had community leaders, doctors, artists and business leaders, all fighting every day to build a brighter future for Baltimore. The hardest part was narrowing down our list."

The *Homecoming Hero Award* finalists are:

- **Erricka Bridgeford** – a community activist fighting to reduce gun violence Baltimore and one of the lead organizers of Baltimore Ceasefire.
- **Major Monique Brown** – Commander of Baltimore's Southern Police District.
- **Alexa Gaines** - co-founder of @thebmorecreatives, an online and increasingly offline community of artists and creative people around Baltimore.
- **Dr. Panagis Galiatsatos** – co-founder of Medicine for the Greater Good, an initiative that seeks to train and educate medical residents in bridging the gap in health disparities between the hospital and the community.
- **Clayton "Mr. C" Guyton** – founder and director of the Rose Street Community Center and a long-time champion for the Rose Street community.
- **Ray Kelly** – CEO of No Boundaries Coalition and chair of the Community Oversight Task Force charged with reforming civilian oversight of the Baltimore Police Department.
- **Jabari Lyles** – executive director of the Maryland chapter of GLSEN, the leading national organization championing LGBTQ issues in K-12 education.
- **Alphonso Mayo** – former collegiate athlete and founder of Mentoring Mentors, a program training young African-American men how to mentor their peers.
- **Randi Pupkin** – founder and executive director of Art with a Heart, a nonprofit organization offering art programs to young people in underserved communities across Baltimore.
- **Mr. Trash Wheel** – a waterwheel powered trash interceptor that has been helping keep the Inner Harbor clean since May 2014.
- **Brittany Young** – founder and CEO of B360, a social venture that aims to change the dirt bike-riding culture amongst youth and encourage interest in STEM fields.

In May, Baltimore Homecoming launched the *Homecoming Hero Awards* program to recognize community and non-profit leaders, activists and other innovators who have made a significant impact on Baltimore City. The public was asked to nominate individuals. Over 100 nominations were submitted ranging from school teachers and police officers to small business owners and non-profit leaders.

The finalists were selected based on the criteria of impact, inspiration, mobilization and creativity. The Host Committee considered the following when selecting the finalists: challenges and/or issues the nominee has sought to address and their progress in doing so; capacity to transform the lives of individuals or touch the lives of many; the geographic area of impact; how each nominee has inspired others to take action; and the potential of nominee's work to break new ground or create a new model for change.

"Our finalists are models of what can get accomplished in Baltimore when creative, committed and caring citizens roll up their sleeves and get to work," said Nate Loewentheil, president and co-founder, Baltimore Homecoming, Inc. "I know that our Homecoming guests will be inspired as we have been inspired by their example."



The first annual Baltimore Homecoming is poised to mobilize investment in Baltimore by bringing back accomplished Baltimore natives from around the U.S. and connecting them with the city's remarkable leaders and doers. Over the course of the event, which will run from October 3-5, 2018, Baltimore alumni will have a whirlwind tour of Baltimore's social, economic and artistic landscape. Homecoming will expose them to social innovators and neighborhood revitalization projects; highlight entrepreneurs and small business owners; and provide a platform for our city's talented young people to engage with attendees.

About Baltimore Homecoming, Inc.

Baltimore Homecoming, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization registered in the State of Maryland. Nate Loewentheil serves as President & CEO and JM Schapiro as Treasurer of the Board of Directors. The founding Board of Directors also includes Brandon Etheridge, General Counsel at The Baltimore Ravens, and Sophia Silbergeld, Director of Membership and Member Relations at the Greater Baltimore Committee. The organization's signature event, The Baltimore Homecoming, is scheduled for October 3-5, 2018. More information is available at www.baltimorehomecoming.com.

About the Co-Founders

Nate Loewentheil is the former director of the White House Taskforce for Baltimore City under President Obama. Loewentheil grew up in the Hollins Market neighborhood in Southwest Baltimore and later in Towson. JM Schapiro is the CEO of Continental Realty. Schapiro was born in Bolton Hill and is a fifth-generation Baltimorean.

Baltimore Homecoming Honorary Chair & Co-Chairs

Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh (Honorary Chair), Julie Bowen (Actress), Calvin Butler (BGE), Josh Charles (Actor), Congressman Elijah Cummings (U.S. Representative), President Ron Daniels (Johns Hopkins University), Amanda Lipitz (Director), Wes Moore (Robin Hood), Kevin Plank (Under Armour), Joyce Scott (Artist & MacArthur Fellow).

Baltimore Homecoming Host Committee

John Angelos (Baltimore Orioles), Nichole Baccala Ward (TBC), Toby Bozzuto (The Bozzuto Group), John Brothers (T. Rowe Price Foundation), John Cammack (Cammack Associates, LLC), Tina Capetta (Fort McHenry), Jed Dietz (Maryland Film Festival), Amy Elias (PROFILES), Donald Fry (Greater Baltimore Committee), Matt Gallagher (Goldseker Foundation), Laura Gamble (PNC Bank), Tom Geddes (Plank Industries), Mike Gill (MD Secretary of Commerce), Nancy Grasmick (Center for Innovation and Leadership in Special Education), Mike Hankin (Brown Advisory), Fagan Harris (Baltimore Corps), Al Hathaway (Union Baptist Memorial Church), Samuel Hoi (MICA), Al Hutchinson (Visit Baltimore), Jeff Johnson (JJJ Communications), Joe Jones (Center for Urban Families), Kevin Liles (KWL Management), Bill McCarthy (Catholic Charities), Jamie McDonald (Generosity, Inc.), Mary Miller (former Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, U.S. Treasury), Patricia J. Mitchell (The Center Club), Lydell Mitchell (former Baltimore Colts running back), Kevin Pearson (M&T Bank), Jay Perman (University of Maryland, Baltimore), Debbie Phelps (Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools), Tim Regan (The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company), Marjorie Rodgers Cheshire (A&R Development), Dara Schnee (Baltimore Community Foundation), Marc Terrill (The Associated), Maria Tildon (CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield), Kisha Webster (Greenmount West Community Center), David Wilson (Morgan State University) and Christy Wyskiel (Johns Hopkins University).

Baltimore Homecoming Sponsors

Lead sponsors for Baltimore Homecoming include Continental Realty Corporation, Whiting-Turner, M&T Bank, and BGE; additional sponsors include Brown Advisory, PNC Bank, France-Merrick Foundation, The Aaron & Lillie Straus Foundation, and Goldseker Foundation. Partners include CareFirst, The Ravens, Abell Foundation, Joseph & Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, and Atapco. In-kind support provided by PROFILES, T&BC, WBAL, CliftonLarsonAllen, and The Baltimore Sun.