



MARCH 2024

# THE ANCHOR

Newsletter of Living Classrooms Foundation

## Strengthening Communities & Expanding Horizons in 2024

An Evening of Legacy (seen below): Living Classrooms held a Legacy Award Tribute Honoring Eddie & Sylvia Brown's Educational and community impact at Living Classrooms. Later in the evening, Living Classrooms launched with First Lady Dawn Moore the documentary film premiere of "Bread upon the Waters: Baltimore's Black Maritime Legacy," which was generously supported by the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation.



PHOTO INCLUDES: FIRST LADY DAWN MOORE WITH LUCIA BOND, EDDIE & SYLVIA BROWN, LIVING CLASSROOMS PRESIDENT & CEO JAMES PIPER BOND, LIVING CLASSROOMS DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & SCHOOL INITIATIVES CARLA YEAGO AND CROSSROADS GRADUATES NAJEE ROLLINS & NIGEL CAMPBELL-CHRISTIE

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## **Our Commitment: Creating Opportunities to Transform Lives**

At Living Classrooms Foundation, we are dedicated to enhancing the lives and futures of children, youth, adults, and families while creating holistic and transformative programming with our communities.

## **Our Vision: Building Thriving Communities, Together**

Our vision is to engage our community members in forging robust, equitable, and sustainable communities together. We do this by listening and working with communities to create effective education, workforce development, health and wellness, and community safety programs that tackle deep-rooted challenges. We set ambitious goals, from academic achievement and living-wage job placement to healthy and safe communities.

## **Our Core Values: The Heart of Our Mission**

**Excellence:** We believe that every individual possesses the potential for greatness. We understand that the strength of our community lies in the resilience of each person. We are committed to being a catalyst for positive collective impact by nurturing the talents of all.

**Collaboration:** We recognize that great programs are built when communities are actively engaged in building them. We listen attentively, respond with empathy, and ensure that individuals, families, and stakeholders are central to our planning and programming.

**Integrity:** Respect and honesty are the foundational principles for our work. We maintain uncompromising standards, nurture a culture of dignity, and prioritize transparency. Our commitment to integrity is our compass, guiding us as we remain accountable to our communities, stakeholders, and supporters.

<https://livingclassrooms.org/>





## Note from the CEO

JAMES PIPER BOND

As 2024 unfolds, we are inspired by the continued journey of Living Classrooms Foundation in supporting Baltimore and D.C. communities. Our commitment to 'Create Opportunities to Transform Lives' is a guiding light for our work in education, workforce development, community safety, and health and wellness.

This year, we remain focused on disrupting the cycle of poverty, and believing in the potential and resilience within each individual we reach. Our core values of Excellence, Collaboration, and Integrity are at the forefront of what we do, driving us to engage and uplift the communities we support every day.

Our vision for 2024 is to build thriving, equitable, and sustainable communities. Through active listening and collaboration, we aim to address the root challenges faced by our communities, focusing on the areas of education, job training and placement, and overall community well-being.

Living Classrooms stands by our ethos of 'Learning by Doing.' This year, we reaffirm our commitment to justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion across all our programs. Our efforts are focused on creating access and safe learning environments for everyone, from our schools to our environmental centers, Historic Ships, and community hubs.

As we navigate 2024, I invite you to participate in this impactful journey. Your support and involvement are important as we work daily to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals and families in our communities.

With gratitude,

Community is the  
*foundation*  
for Success







# NOTABLE WINTER EVENTS









## AN EVENING OF LEGACY

Legacy Award Ceremony  
Documentary Film Premiere

LIVING  
CLASSROOMS  
FOUNDATION



WELCOMES  
YOU TO

# AN EVENING OF LEGACY

## “BREAD UPON THE WATERS: BALTIMORE’S BLACK MARITIME LEGACY”

Generously supported by the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation

**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023

**Time:** 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**Venue:** Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park & Museum,  
1417 Thames St, Baltimore, MD 21231

\*Serving signature cocktails, open bar, and delicious hors d'oeuvres donated by Ampersea

## AN EVENING OF LEGACY

Legacy Award Ceremony  
Documentary Film Premiere

### LEGACY AWARD TRIBUTE: HONORING EDDIE & SYLVIA BROWN'S EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACT AT LIVING CLASSROOMS

Living Classrooms Foundation proudly bestows this year's Legacy Award upon Eddie and Sylvia Brown for their exceptional contributions to education and community development. The Browns' generosity has profoundly benefited families and students at the Crossroads School and the "Turning the Corner Achievement Program (TCAP)," among numerous other initiatives at the Foundation, greatly enhancing educational experiences for decades.

The Founders Room at Living Classrooms has been graciously funded by the Browns and dedicated to their mothers, Carmen Erselle Thurston and Annie Mae Brown. This gesture honors their steadfast dedication to furthering the Foundation's mission and their firm belief in the transformative power of education and community engagement.

We are also immensely thankful to Eddie and Sylvia Brown for serving as Honorary Co-chairs of the Living Classrooms Tomorrow's Promise Campaign for Equity, Opportunity, and Impact. Their unwavering commitment inspires and elevates countless individuals, leaving a legacy in Baltimore and beyond.

This evening, we honor the Browns for their profound and enduring contributions to Living Classrooms and the wider community.

### “BREAD UPON THE WATERS: BALTIMORE’S BLACK MARITIME LEGACY”

Discover the stories of Black maritime tradesmen in "Bread Upon the Waters," a 23-minute documentary film generously supported by the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation. It celebrates our rich maritime history, the accomplishments of Black maritime tradesmen, and a legacy that reverberates to this day.

Join us to see how "Bread Upon the Waters" captures the spirit of Baltimore's Black maritime community and the lasting impact on the city and beyond.

Living Classrooms Foundation

# An Unforgettable Night!

Special Thanks to First Lady of Maryland Dawn Moore and our Legacy Award Winners and dear friends Eddie & Sylvia Brown





# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Government House in February 2024!

living classrooms learning by doing

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HONORING OUR HISTORY  
INSPIRING OUR FUTURE  
LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION



PHOTO INCLUDES: GOVERNOR WES MOORE, FIRST LADY DAWN MOORE, LIVING CLASSROOMS PRESIDENT & CEO JAMES PIPER BOND, LIVING CLASSROOMS PROJECT SERVE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JOHN JONES, JAMES CARTER, JAMES SCOTT.

To celebrate Black History Month at Government House, Governor Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Moore hosted a premiere screening of "Bread Upon the Waters: Baltimore's Black Maritime Legacy," a Living Classrooms documentary film highlighting the resilience and valuable contributions of Black maritime tradesmen to Baltimore's maritime history.

Governor Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Moore commemorated Black History Month with the premiere at Government House of "Bread Upon the Waters," a documentary by Living Classrooms on Baltimore's Black maritime history.

living classrooms learning by doing

Thanks are extended to Delegates Mark Edelson and Caylin Young for sponsoring legislation to preserve this legacy. Living Classrooms' seven Historic Ships in Baltimore's Inner Harbor serve as vital educational and economic resources, providing hands-on learning and job training. We are also very grateful for Senate President Bill Ferguson's important support!

Our heartfelt thank you to Delegate Mark Edelson for introducing important legislation and Delegate Caylin Young for their co-sponsorship. It's through collective efforts that we can preserve historical landmarks and the stories they hold, ensuring the legacy of Black maritime tradesmen continues to inspire future generations. Living Classrooms seven Historic Ship are more than just artifacts; they are living classrooms that teach and inspire, bridging past and present by offering hands-on education and workforce development opportunities.



PHOTO INCLUDES: DELEGATE MARK EDELSON, DELEGATE CAYLIN YOUNG, PRESIDENT & CEO LIVING CLASSROOMS JAMES PIPER BOND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LIVING CLASSROOMS HISTORIC SHIPS STEVE BOUNTRESS & OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS. \*ADDITIONALLY, JAMES CARTER WHO WORKED ON THE USS CONSTELLATION AS A PROJECT SERVE MEMBER.





# UPCOMING 2024 EVENTS





## LIVING CLASSROOMS CLASSIC AT LANGSTON GOLF COURSE MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024

Get ready for a day filled with fun, golf, and the spirit of giving back at the 3rd Annual Living Classrooms Foundation Classic! We're hitting the greens at the legendary Langston Golf Course in Washington, D.C. – a place that's not just about golf but also about celebrating the rich history and resilience of the Black golfing community. And guess what? Part of your golf adventure will take you across Kingman Island, with stunning views of the Anacostia River and Kingman Lake, all looked after by Living Classrooms since 2001.

Living Classrooms Foundation implements community-driven, research-based best practices that value the priorities and aspirations of our community members and deliver both opportunity and results. We provide hands-on experiential learning opportunities for individuals of all ages, community centers, workforce development programming, historic ships, and urban green spaces. We endeavor to create equitable access to opportunity and a sense of belonging in learning environments where students are safe, known, loved, and welcome.

So, call up your buddies and sign up as a foursome, or step up your game by becoming a sponsor. This isn't just any golf day – it's a way to connect, enjoy, and help pave the way for a brighter tomorrow. Every swing you take helps empower someone's life through crucial education and workforce initiatives.

Let's make this day a hole-in-one for change!

### SEE YOU IN MAY 2024 SPONSORS!



**Become a Sponsor or  
Register your  
Foursome here!**



### More About Langston Golf Course

Langston Golf Course is located on Benning Road in Northeast D.C., at the end of the D.C. Street Car Line. This historic 18-Hole course was named after John Mercer Langston, the first African American elected into public office. The facility is a celebrated beacon of African American golf heritage. Recognized for its support of youth and family outreach programs, Langston is popular with all age groups.





## Friends of Fort McHenry

As we bid farewell to Winter 2023-2024, Fort McHenry buzzed with the natural spectacle of migrating waterfowl along the Patapsco River. With the season's close, our fundraising efforts culminated in the success of the Star-Spangled Dogs for Fort McHenry 2024 calendar. There's still a chance to grab one of the few remaining calendars – a perfect keepsake as we march into spring!

### What's on the horizon for 2024?

**Summer Youth Program:** Our living history program is quickly booking up, and its reputation is sparking excitement far and wide.

**Defenders' Day 2024:** Mark your calendars for September 14th! To honor Baltimore's rich history and culture, we're hosting the Star-Spangled Spectacular, complete with music, food, and fireworks.

**EXPLORE Day:** During April's National Park Week, we're launching an educational adventure for local students to learn about ecology, history, and science at Fort McHenry. Thanks to our Maritime Education and Masonville Cove team for their collaboration.



**Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Concert:** Save the date for June 7th for a free evening concert at the fort. Bring a picnic and enjoy an unforgettable performance.

**Summer Evenings at the Fort:** Enjoy Fort McHenry after hours with special evening events each summer month, starting June 7th.





**MARYLAND**  
**FLEET WEEK**  
 & FLYOVER  
 BALTIMORE  
 presented by



Baltimore, MD

June 12 - 18

**2024**

[www.mdfleetweek.com](http://www.mdfleetweek.com)

## Maryland Fleet Week & Flyover Baltimore Returns

Get ready for the return of Maryland Fleet Week & Flyover Baltimore, presented by Northrop Grumman and produced by Living Classrooms, from June 12-18, 2024. The week-long celebration brings ship tours, festivals, flyovers, and educational activities to the Inner Harbor, Fells Point, and Martin State Airport.

**Arrival of the Fleet:** The fleet sails in on June 12, featuring U.S. and international naval ships, Coast Guard, NOAA, and more, docked for public exploration at various Baltimore locales. A Welcome Ceremony at the Inner Harbor Amphitheater kicks off the festivities.

**Open Ship Tours:** From June 13-17, ships welcome the public from 10 AM to 5 PM daily. Check the Fleet Week APP for the latest schedules and plan your visit.

**Sky-High Excitement with Flyovers:** Witness breathtaking flyovers by military and civilian aircraft on June 15-16. The Inner Harbor will be abuzz with the sounds of jets, complemented by live commentary at Flyover Control.

**Festivals for Everyone:** Enjoy four festival zones filled with music, food, and activities from June 14-16. Don't miss the action at Inner Harbor West Shore Park, Fells Point, and the Martin State Airport Open House.

Stay connected with us on social media @mdfleetweek for virtual tours and exclusive content, bringing the excitement directly to you!

**Become a  
2024 Sponsor!**







**36TH ANNUAL MARITIME MAGIC  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024**

Maritime Magic is the best annual benefit on the Baltimore waterfront, celebrating and supporting the important work of the Living Classrooms Foundation.

Featuring delicious food and drinks from Baltimore's top restaurants and caterers and live music by Grammy-nominated musicians and bands. Join our guests dressed in casual, festive attire and enjoy a night under the stars with a great view of the Baltimore harbor from the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park in historic Fells Point.

Become a  
2024 Sponsor!



**NEW!** ALL ACCESS SPONSOR  
TICKETS TO SPECIAL  
VIP AREA

**VIP Area Includes**

- Stanchioned area for VIP guests only
- Elevated view of the stage
- Delicious catered/passed hors d'oeuvres
- Open bar
- Access to private bathrooms
- Exclusive VIP check-in line
- *NOTE: All Access guests will be asked to please leave the VIP area with one drink at a time.*

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS INCLUDE ACCESS TO THE PARTY, DOZENS OF BALTIMORE'S BEST RESTAURANTS, BEER AND WINE, STAGE VIEWS AND DANCE FLOOR, PIER AND WATERFRONT VIEWS, AND CASH BARS.

ALL ACCESS TICKETS INCLUDE ACCESS TO ALL AREAS OF GENERAL ADMISSION + VIP AREA

**NEW**

Thank you, Sponsors!

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www.livingclassrooms.org

**THANK YOU  
2023  
SPONSORS,  
SEE YOU  
BACK IN  
OCTOBER!**





## Spotlight on Future Leaders: Let's Nominate!

### 2024 RISING STARS

Nominations are being accepted for the Living Classrooms Foundation Rising Stars Presented by the Baltimore Business Journal.

The program honors a selected group of young professionals under the age of 40 who are the next generation of Baltimore philanthropists and business leaders. During the year, Rising Stars use their professional and social networks, creativity, marketing skills, and business expertise to raise funds for Living Classrooms Foundation's impactful programs.

Rising Stars is a program aimed at engaging up-and-coming young professionals in philanthropy. Why a philanthropy program? Philanthropy can advance the quality of life and influence lasting social change. Philanthropy can be viewed as one of the cornerstones of society and can help communities grow stronger.

Rising Stars honorees are nominated and selected based on their professional achievements and philanthropic efforts. Honorees participate in philanthropic fundraising and networking activities throughout the year and are recognized in the media.

## Nominate Your Rising Star for 2024

Rising Stars 2024 culminates with an awards celebration taking place as part of Maritime Magic, the best annual benefit on the Baltimore waterfront celebration, and supporting the important work of Living Classrooms Foundation on Friday, October 4, 2024!



## READY TO NOMINATE?

CONTACT TRACY BASKERVILLE  
[TBASKERVILLE@LIVINGCLASSROOMS.ORG](mailto:TBASKERVILLE@LIVINGCLASSROOMS.ORG)

BALTIMORE  
BUSINESS JOURNAL





# LISTENING TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES





# Activating Communities

## BMORE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

### A Record-Breaking Year for BMAL Soccer Championships

The BMore Athletic League had an exceptional soccer season, boasting 22 teams (9 girls, 13 boys, including three co-ed teams) and reaching approximately 466 middle school student-athletes across Baltimore. In a thrilling girls' championship, Patterson Park debuted their first girl's team, advancing to the finals against HHA. HHA also clinched victory in the boy's championship by defeating Armistead Gardens, taking home both trophies in a display of unmatched skill and teamwork.



The season, starting in early September and concluding in mid-November, featured an 8-team playoff for both leagues. Highlighting the season was the All-Star game, where students nominated by their coaches for their hard work, leadership, and sportsmanship showcased the 5 Promises of LCF—Perseverance, Honor & Integrity, Contribution, Commitment to Quality, and No Excuses—in a friendly yet competitive match.

### Basketball Season in Full Swing

The BMAL basketball season takes center stage, with 30 teams from 19 schools engaging in weekly league play. This marks significant growth from 2019's 12 schools and 18 teams, now featuring 19 boys and 11 girls teams. This expansion reflects BMAL's commitment to reaching more students and fostering athletic excellence across Baltimore.



For more information, connect with Luke Weierbach [lweierbach@gmail.com](mailto:lweierbach@gmail.com)





## Activating Communities

### POWER HOUSE

PHOTO INCLUDES: MEDIFAST CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DAN CHARD, MEDIFAST CHIEF BUSINESS OPERATIONS OFFICER TONY TYREE, MEDIFAST CFO JIM MALONEY, LIVING CLASSROOMS PRESIDENT & CEO JAMES PIPER BOND, VP OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & EDUCATION MEG WARD, DIRECTOR OF POWER HOUSE COLIN JONES, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS NIKKI SCHIAVONE & POWER HOUSE STUDENTS

Powerhouse is proud to share a series of successful community and student-centric initiatives that have significantly enriched our community. Director Colin Jones recently convened an All-Men's Breakfast, a gathering designed to foster and deepen bonds of camaraderie and support among male peers. This event was a testament to our commitment to building a strong community and marked a real success in reinforcing mutual respect and unity.

In the spirit of February's Valentine's Day, we held a celebration of affection and appreciation among our students and staff. The Valentine's Day party was a vibrant and joyous occasion, with students dressed in red, pink, and white hues, symbolizing the warmth and care we share within our POWER House family.

Furthermore, February's observance of Black History Month allowed our students to delve into the pivotal contributions of African Americans. Our focused activities enabled students to explore and honor the legacies that have shaped the lives of African Americans today. The highlight was an educational trip to the Smithsonian Museum of African American History in Washington, D.C., where our students engaged with the rich history of African American experiences—from slavery to the celebration of visual arts and the emergence of Afrofuturism.







## HeartSmiles Partnership

NEW PARTNERS

### HeartSmiles at the UA House at Fayette

HeartSmiles is transforming lives in the community through empowerment and leadership, led by Founder and President Joni Holifield, HeartSmiles focuses on the strengths and aspirations of our young people. They offer the Heartbeats—our dedicated 14--19-year-olds—tools and opportunities to unlock their inherent potential.

Their commitment to elevating each individual's narrative, celebrating and uplifting each individual's unique talents and capabilities, aligns well with Living Classroom values and commitments. We are thrilled to have Joni and HeartSmiles be our partner with the UA House. Through the Bloomberg Year-Round Fellows program, we provide a platform for these future leaders to develop skills, gain experience, and envision a world of possibilities.

HeartSmiles is hosting the 2023-2024 Bloomberg Year-Round Fellows at the UA House during weeknights in an exciting collaboration with prominent community partners and supporters.

This year-long initiative empowers the 14 to 19-year-old Fellows to enhance their leadership and professional skills in preparation for any career path they choose. The program's highlight includes a mini-college tour during spring break, offering a glimpse into higher education and what could be their future.



Joni Holifield  
Founder and  
President  
HeartSmiles





# Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus: Embracing Nature's Classroom

## PROGRAMMING

### Engaging Young Minds at Masonville Cove

Living Classrooms Foundation's education team has engaged Baltimore City Public Schools 9th-grade biology students through an immersive exploration of local watersheds as part of their Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) unit. In collaboration with Masonville Cove educators and Baltimore's high schools- Digital Harbor, Ben Franklin, Baltimore School for the Arts, and Mergethaler- over 200 students have explored and analyzed the physical, chemical, and biological elements of the Masonville Cove Stream.

Armed with cutting-edge Vernier LabQuest equipment and traditional testing kits, these young scientists measured key water quality indicators like pH, dissolved oxygen, and nitrates. Through hands-on fieldwork, students are getting up close and personal with the environment, gaining invaluable insights into the ecological health of their surroundings.

The Chesapeake Bay Trusts Outdoor Learning Network Initiative grant made this transformative program possible. It's a concerted effort to empower our youth, many of whom are experiencing the wonder of their city's green spaces for the first time, fostering a new generation of environmental stewards.

### About

Masonville Cove is a 70-acre site featuring 54 acres of restored wetlands, nature trails, a floating dock, and an environmental education center. Masonville Cove hosts over 251 bird species, including Baltimore City's first nesting bald eagles, viewable via the Covecam. Open to the public, Masonville Cove attracts thousands annually, including students and birdwatchers, and is celebrated as a top birding location in the state, with numerous events year-round.



1000 FRANKFURST AVE, BALTIMORE, MD 21226





## Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus: Embracing Nature's Classroom

### PROGRAMMING

#### Celebrating a Decade of Urban Wildlife Conservation

Masonville Cove marked a decade as the nation's first "urban wildlife refuge partnership," a milestone celebrated with community members, students, and prominent figures like USFWS Director Martha Williams, US Congressman John Sarbanes, representatives from National Park Service, DNR, MPA, Federal Highways, and others. One of the many highlights of the event included a \$2.6 million check presentation from the Federal Lands Access Program to the Maryland Port Administration to design and build a shared-use path, the Masonville Cove Connector.

The celebration was not just about reflecting on past achievements but also setting a precedent for future conservation efforts, highlighted by Director Williams in an NPR interview on the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act.

As we look back on a year of significant accomplishments and learning, we at Living Classrooms Foundation are filled with anticipation for the continuous journey of discovery, education, and stewardship that lies ahead.





# KINGMAN ISLAND + HERITAGE ISLANDS | NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## PROGRAMMING

2023 was a landmark year for Kingman and Heritage Islands, marked by vibrant community engagement and environmental stewardship. Through partnerships with organizations like the Anacostia Watershed Society, Ocean Conservancy, and many others, we hosted hundreds of volunteers for cleanup efforts, illustrating a collective commitment to the health of our local ecosystem.

Our Green Boats program introduced a diverse array of community paddling events, welcoming participants from the D.C. Public Schools, the Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program, Girl Scouts USA, and the D.C. Women’s Sports Coalition, among others. This initiative significantly enhanced diversity and inclusion in outdoor activities.



Birdseye view of the Islands



# KINGMAN ISLAND + HERITAGE ISLANDS | NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## PROGRAMMING

The islands were also a hub for educational and celebratory events. Our collaboration with Capital City Nature to provide a FrogWatch event for families, Quick Silver Dance Group's video project, and numerous educator and ranger led field trips for district scholars from local schools highlighted the joy and learning in nature. From pollinator and bat festivals to public fishing events and environmental workshops, the community came together to celebrate and protect our natural heritage.

Winter focused on tree pruning and invasive species removal, which are crucial for maintaining the ecosystem's health.

Collaborations with organizations like Ward 8 Woods explored the islands' history and biodiversity, setting the stage for ongoing conservation efforts.





# KINGMAN ISLAND + HERITAGE ISLANDS | NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## PROGRAMMING

### 2024

Looking ahead to this current year, the engagement continues with an exciting educational initiative: 1,000 4th graders from District elementary schools will immerse themselves in the ecosystems of the Islands, thanks to the Nature Near School grant.

This hands-on exploration, coupled with a boat trip with the Anacostia Watershed Society, promises to deepen their connection to the Anacostia watershed. Over 300 students have benefited from this immersive experience, understanding how their neighborhood actions impact the watershed.

Moreover, through our high school program supported by NOAA's BWET grant, 8 District high schools will visit Kingman Island to undertake action projects addressing watershed issues. This initiative educates and opens up career pathways and real-world solution opportunities for hundreds of students.

As we move forward, Kingman and Heritage Islands remain dedicated to fostering environmental education, stewardship, and inclusive outdoor recreation, building a legacy of conservation and community connection for years to come.





# KINGMAN ISLAND + HERITAGE ISLANDS | NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## WELCOME

Erica “Go” Green has been an educator for over a decade. She received her undergraduate Education degree from the University of Maryland College Park and her Master's in Education from Walden University. Elected to serve Ward 8 as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in 2022, Erica is thrilled to be appointed to the Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency.

In her personal life, Erica is working on environmental education projects as the founder of Science in Our Parks, a free outdoor learning program with District of Columbia Public Schools, Casey Trees, Friends of Oxon Run Park, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust, bringing awareness to preserve and create green space in the district.

As a DCPS teacher, Erica was awarded multiple RiverSmart grants as part of her efforts to build school gardens in DC. She is also working on a community garden at the corner of Malcolm X and MLK, Jr. Aves. in Congress Heights, where she distributes weekly Sunday meals to District residents and serves as a community engagement partner to the Department of Corrections’ Ward 8 READY Center.



**Erica is excited to bring perseverance and passion to Living Classrooms, National Capital Region, as Director of Kingman and Heritage Islands!**





# JAMES C. DENT HOUSE | CAMP FRASER

## COMMUNITY SPACES & PROGRAMS

### Camp Fraser's Educational Adventures Return

In 2023, Living Classrooms Foundation joyfully welcomed back students to Camp Fraser for Field Trips and the Overnight MWEE programs after a three-year pause. Fifth graders from four Nature Near Schools campuses experienced a day of discovery, while another 100 students from four other schools enjoyed a 3-day, 2-night immersive MWEE experience. The return to Fraser was marked by vibrant activity, learning, and the laughter of young explorers re-engaging with the natural world.

### Dent House: A Year of Professional Growth

The Dent House stood out in 2023 for its impactful career training programs in Customer Service, Green Infrastructure, Culinary Arts, and Healthcare, celebrating 20 graduates. These cohorts highlight our ongoing commitment to equipping individuals with essential skills for successful careers.

#### Launching the SW Youth Council

A new venture in 2023 was the establishment of the SW Youth Council, with its inaugural meeting in December, attended by dedicated members Shawnise, Alexia, and Gio. This initiative facilitated engaging discussions on youth advocacy and leadership. We supported council members assembling winter care packages for the local Remora House shelter, showcasing their commitment to community service.

### In 2024

In 2024, expect an enriching and immersive outdoor experience at Camp Fraser, a 76-acre environmental education campus surrounded by the 220-acre Fraser Preserve in Virginia, near Great Falls and just a short drive from downtown DC. Managed by Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region, visitors can engage in hands-on, experiential learning programs. The Fraser Lodge offers indoor meeting space for up to 100 people, and accommodations include bunk beds for up to 48 guests. Surrounding Camp Fraser, the Fraser Preserve offers 2.25 miles of hiking trails through Piedmont region ecosystems.



Living Classrooms' D.C.-area environmental education campus, Camp Fraser, lies on approximately 76 acres of wooded land, surrounded by more than 220 acres of Fraser Preserve, an undeveloped area managed by the Nature Conservancy.

James C. Dent House is a community center that offers workforce development and education programs, including Ascend Through Music, as well as youth and community engagement activities that follow Living Classrooms' "Learning by Doing" approach.





## JAMES C. DENT HOUSE: WELCOME!

WELCOME

### **Kay Harvey-Bonham Leading Career Advancement & Community Engagement**

We're excited to share the wonderful news of Kay Harvey-Bonham's new appointment as the Director of Career Advancement and Community Engagement at the James C. Dent House in D.C.

Kay is no stranger to our community. Her remarkable contributions as the former Director of the Elementary Environmental Education Program and Camp Fraser since 2020 have left a lasting impact. Her dedication to our mission and expertise across education, community organization, healthcare, and management have prepared her well for this new challenge.

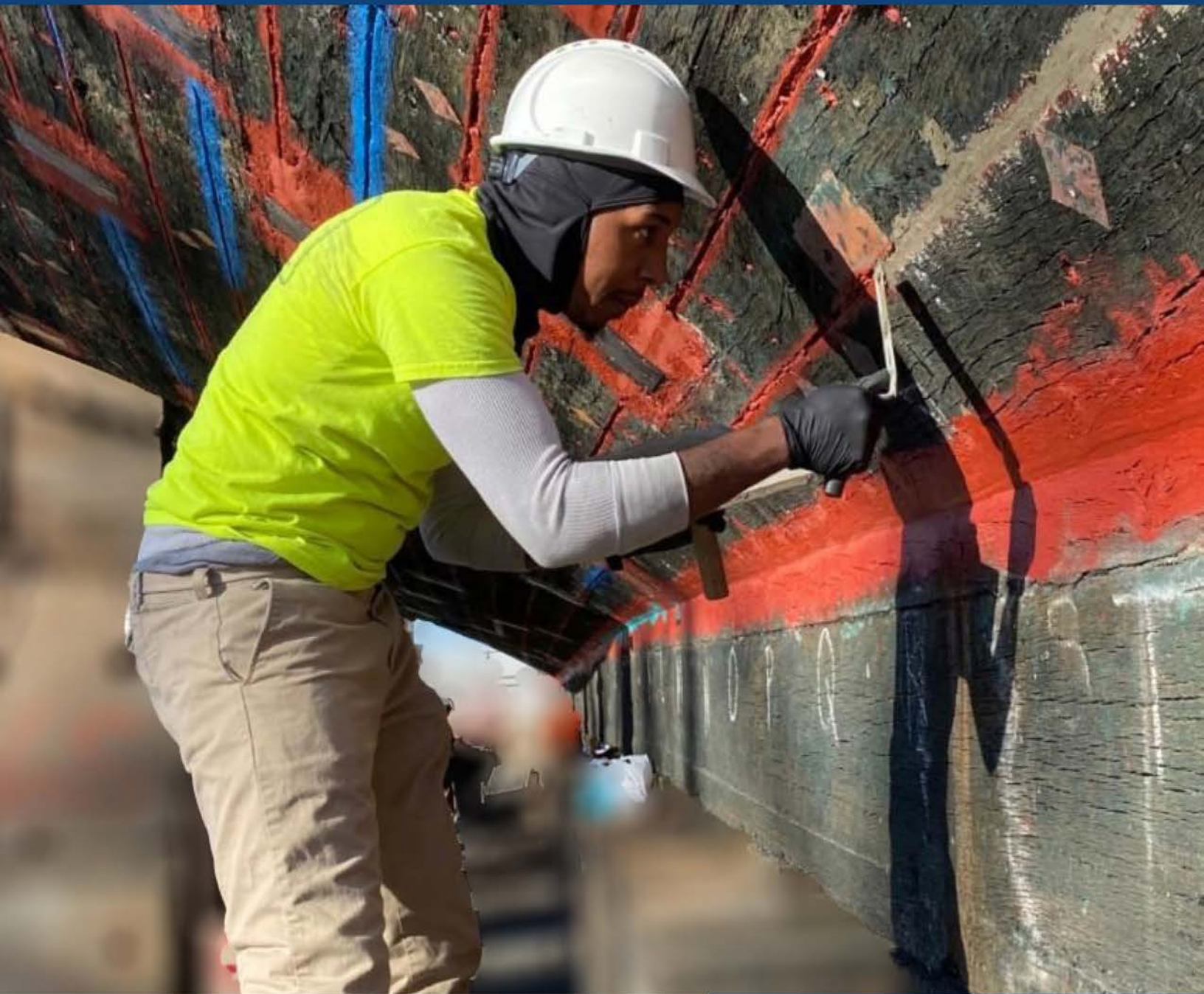
What truly sets Kay apart is her unwavering commitment to nurturing the potential of our workforce development students. She possesses a unique ability to help individuals navigate and overcome limiting beliefs and attitudes, fostering an environment where personal and professional growth can flourish.

As Kay F. Bonham steps into her role, we're energized by the promise of what's to come. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Kay; she will inspire us all and propel us toward a brighter future.



**Kay is thrilled and is deeply committed to strengthening our workforce development programs in the national capital region**





# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



# Fresh Start

## PROGRAMMING

The Fresh Start Program, established in 1989, supports and helps strengthen out-of-school youth aged 16-19 by guiding them toward meaningful careers, academic success, and the achievement of a Maryland State High School Diploma alongside industry credentials.

This nationally acclaimed initiative shines by nurturing the potential within each participant through a rich curriculum encompassing job readiness, personalized tutoring, financial literacy, and life skills training.

Participants emerge from the program not only ready for the workforce but also as rounded individuals prepared for life's challenges. Success stories include securing roles at notable companies like Royal Farms and Domino's Pizza and significant academic achievements, such as passing sections of the GED exam, highlighting the program's comprehensive support system.

The Fresh Start Program exemplifies how focusing on strengths and potentials can transform individuals and enrich communities. By investing in the capabilities of our youth, the program fosters a brighter future filled with opportunity and promise for its participants and the broader community.

Looking forward to 2024:

- Industry-recognized credentials
- CBT Workshops (cognitive behavior therapy)
- Experiential Learningwbi-Weekly Stipend
- Targeted to engage over 50 youth/families



**The Fells Point Farmer's Market Welcomes Fresh Start**



# Fresh Start

## PROGRAMMING | SUCCESS STORY

Celebrating Keyshawn W.: An Achievement through Fresh Start

Keyshawn W. embarked on his journey with the Fresh Start Program in September 2023, embodying the essence of determination and resilience. His active engagement in every facet of the program's offerings has set a remarkable example of success and commitment.

Keyshawn has conquered half of the GED exam, demonstrating exceptional academic dedication, accomplishing 2 out of 4 sections. This accomplishment places him on the precipice of earning his Maryland State High School Diploma, a testament to his hard work.

Beyond the classroom, Keyshawn has showcased his work ethic and reliability in the professional sphere. Since securing a position at Domino's Pizza on Light Street in September 2023, his manager has said he's an outstanding performer, reflecting on Keyshawn's adaptability and excellence in real-world settings.

Keyshawn's presence in the Fresh Start Program has been inspirational. His responsibility, helpfulness, responsiveness, and openness to feedback highlight his integral role within our community. As we continue to support Keyshawn on his path to achieving his goals, his story stands as a beacon of what is possible when the potential is met with opportunity and support.

Keyshawn's journey is a powerful illustration of the transformative impact of the Fresh Start Program, showcasing how dedication, combined with the right resources and support, can pave the way for a bright and promising future.







## Workforce Development: Looking Ahead

### EXCITING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS!

Mark your calendars and get ready to be a part of these enriching training programs designed to support and elevate our community. Here's a snapshot of what's on the horizon:

- ID Clinic
  - When: Every third Tuesday
  - Details: Get free assistance with vital documents at the ID Clinic. A crucial resource for those in need.
- Information Session
  - When: First Wednesday of each month
  - Details: Thinking about joining our training programs? This session is where your journey begins.
- Employer Fairs
  - Starting: March 21, then bi-monthly on third Thursdays
  - Details: A fantastic chance for trainees to meet hiring employers and for employers to connect with peers.

#### Training Programs & Celebrations

- Landscaping Training: Jan 22 - Mar 29, Graduation on Apr 1 at Bauer Workforce Development Center
- Mechanics Training: Jan 30 - Apr 18, Graduation on Apr 23 at Bauer Workforce Development Center
- CNA/GNA Training: Feb 5 - Mar 22, Graduation on Mar 25 at Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park
- Production, Warehouse & Distribution Training: Mar 4 - Apr 25, Graduation on Apr 30 at Bauer Workforce Development Center



Join us in celebrating the hard work and achievements of our participants. Whether you're exploring a new career path, seeking support, or ready to network, these events are designed to empower and support every step of your journey.





## Workforce Development:

### PROJECT SERVE

Project SERVE (Service, Empowerment, Revitalization, Validation, Employment training) addresses high recidivism rates and barriers to meaningful employment among returning citizens in Baltimore City. While still incarcerated, participants begin receiving “wrap around” services, and on the day of their release, they become full-time SERVE members.

Members spend 3-5 months in the program, where they are provided with training and resources to obtain sustainable living-wage employment. Project SERVE uses evidence-based practices for re-entry initiatives while participants revitalize Baltimore neighborhoods.







## Operation Respond

Operation Respond is an innovative by the Living Classrooms Foundation initiative to support Baltimore communities impacted by gun violence. With a custom RV, the program visits neighborhoods like McElderry Park, offering practical assistance and connecting residents with services tailored to their immediate and long-term needs. This proactive approach allows for the distribution of essentials, job training opportunities, and mental health resources where people live.

The Operation Respond team collaborates with individuals affected by gun violence through detailed needs assessments to develop strategic plans, set achievable goals, and facilitate access to the necessary tools for employment and life stabilization. The initiative embraces a comprehensive strategy for crisis management, providing services that enhance existing community mediation efforts. It aims to resolve immediate conflicts, promote sustained personal development, and reduce future violence risks.

Funded by federal and state grants, including a significant award from the U.S. Department of Justice, Operation Respond aims to impact at least 150 people and their families over three years, reducing shootings within targeted areas. The program's success is measured through various indicators, including employment rates and changes in violent incidents, supporting the broader goal of healing individuals to foster a safer community. Operation Respond is a key component of Baltimore's overall approach to addressing the needs of those most at risk of experiencing gun violence, emphasizing a holistic and person-centered methodology.



**Front Page Baltimore Sun  
Article by Darcy Costello**



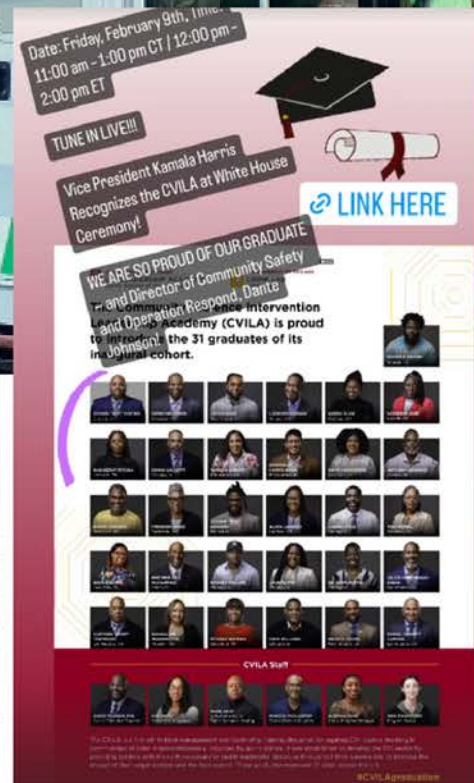
## Current Stats

- ENGAGED 2K INDIVIDUALS DURING COMMUNITY EVENTS
- 50 PEOPLE COMPLETED A RISK ASSESSMENT
  - 36% WOMEN
  - 64% MEN
  - 82% UNEMPLOYED
  - 54% EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS
  - 64% ARRESTED FOR GUN POSSESSION
  - 66% HAVE BEEN SHOT
  - 64% HAVE BEEN SHOT AT AND NOT INJURED
  - 98% HAVE SOMEBODY CLOSE TO THEM HAS BEEN SHOT OR MURDERED





## Dante Johnson, Director of Operation Respond & Community Safety, Celebrates Graduation from Prestigious Violence Intervention Leadership Academy at the White House!



In a remarkable stride towards enhancing community safety and intervention strategies, Dante Johnson, the Director of Operation Respond and Community Safety at Living Classrooms, has recently celebrated his graduation from the University of Chicago Crime Lab's Community Violence Intervention Leadership Academy (CVILA). This historic graduation ceremony, which was notably the first-ever to be hosted at the White House, spotlighted graduates from across the nation who have completed the six-month education program aimed at combating gun violence, particularly in communities of color which are disproportionately affected.

Dante's journey through the CVILA program was marked by an intensive curriculum that provided him with hands-on training in staff management, data utilization, violence prevention, and community engagement. This unique opportunity enabled him to gain practical insights and strategies that are crucial for the enhancement of public safety measures. The program, designed to address the urgent need for leadership development within the community violence intervention (CVI) sector, offered Dante and his peers immersive learning experiences in cities like Chicago, New York, and Oakland, integrating their classroom learning with real-world community safety initiatives.

Reflecting on his experience, Dante Johnson expressed gratitude for the unparalleled support and education he received through the CVILA. "This program has not only equipped me with the tools needed to strengthen our efforts at Living Classrooms but has also inspired a renewed commitment to our mission of creating safer, thriving communities," Dante remarked. His graduation is a testament to the potential impact of dedicated leadership and innovative training in the ongoing fight against gun violence. The Living Classrooms Foundation proudly celebrates Dante's achievement and looks forward to the continued positive impact of his work in Operation Respond and Community Safety, furthering our commitment to nurturing safe and vibrant communities.





# CROSSROADS SCHOOL





# Crossroads School

## PROGRAMMING

Crossroads is having another successful school year. Throughout the winter months, the students have been engaged in their academic classes while also participating in hands-on field experiences, meaningful service projects, sports teams, and numerous trips. Preliminary analysis of mid-year benchmark testing shows students are making academic growth, and our average daily attendance through mid-February is 97% (up from 94%).

This year, we hosted our 10th Annual High School Showcase Night, which was well-attended by families who were excited to talk with Crossroads alumni and representatives from nine schools to learn more about high school and the application process. Crossroads also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month where the students studied the history, culture, traditions, and foods of highlighted Latin American countries. In December, the students enjoyed visiting the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC. They also toured Coppin State University, and over the holidays, the Eighth Grade Class took a special trip to New York City where they visited Chinatown, saw the musical WICKED at the Gershwin Theater, and explored Times Square.



**Preliminary analysis of mid-year benchmark testing shows students are making academic growth, and our average daily attendance through mid-February is 97% (up from 94%).**





# Crossroads School

## PROGRAMMING

The mentoring program has also continued to expand this year. We now have 70+ mentors from local businesses and organizations working with our 6th and 7th graders. This program very successfully ran throughout the fall with volunteers from Morgan Stanley who taught the students the basics of coding and robotic construction. Crossroads students are now loving the Spring Morgan Stanley programs

As part of the Turning the Corner Achievement Program (T-CAP), the students have been participating in numerous academic enrichment clubs, including after-school tutoring, Improv, Baltimore Urban Gardening with Students (BUGS), Skateboarding, Boys and Girls Soccer and Basketball, as well as Robotics.







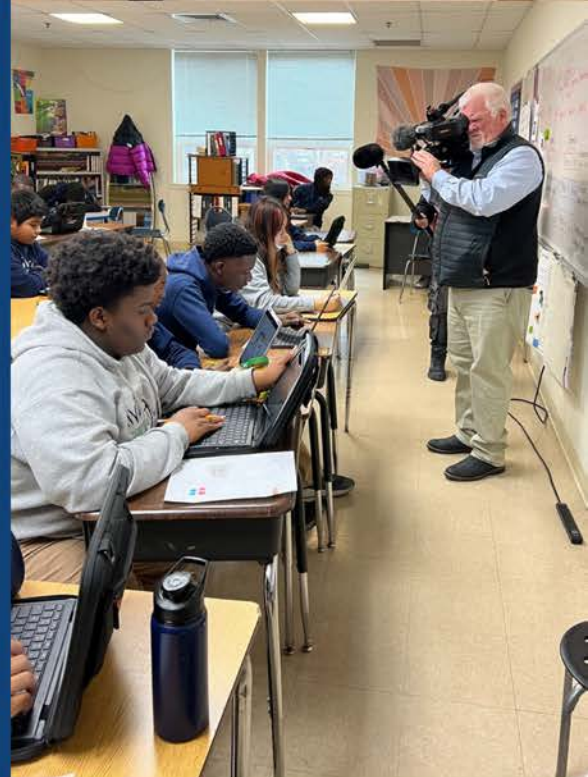
# Crossroads School

## PROGRAMMING

Looking forward, we are very excited for the airdate this spring of BET’s “America in Black” that will profile Eddie Brown. As part of the Brown Family’s long-standing partnership with Living Classrooms and their commitment to the Turning the Corner Achievement Program, the Crossroads School will also be highlighted.

On February 2nd, we were honored to spend the day with Mr. Brown, the CBS News film crew, and their news correspondent, Vladimir Duthiers, who conducted the interviews and especially enjoyed meeting our students and learning about T-CAP and the school.

We are also looking forward to once again hosting the BUGS Student-Run Farmer’s Market at the East Harbor Campus on May 18th where our Crossroads students will be selling the herbs, vegetables, and plants they have grown in the greenhouse along with creative crafts they have made throughout the school year. Everyone is invited to come out for a great day of music, food, and fun!



**This episode of “America in Black” will air on  
April 2 at 10:30/9:30c on BET**





## BUGS Program: A Winter of Wonder and Learning

### PROGRAMMING

This winter, the Baltimore Urban Gardening with Students (BUGS) Program has been bustling with activity, blending indoor learning with the beauty of the natural environment. Despite the chill, we've welcomed the season's snow and the start of a new semester with open arms and a few enthusiastic new students who've jumped right into the heart of BUGS activities.

### From Beeswax to Business Lessons

Our journey began with the expert guidance of beekeeper Mary Bammer, who introduced students to the art of clarifying beeswax from our hives. This hands-on experience led to creating sustainable products like lip balm, lotion, and beeswax wraps—innovations that our students will proudly sell at the local farmer's market. This initiative teaches valuable skills and emphasizes the importance of sustainable living.







## BUGS Program

PROGRAMMING

### A Greenhouse in Winter

Our chickens have been busy laying eggs, and our greenhouse is a testament to year-round growth, continuing to produce fresh greens even in the depths of winter. This cycle of life and sustainability serves as a daily reminder of our program's impact.

### The Science of Compost and Cooking

The Baltimore Compost Collective's Marvin Hayes brought the fascinating world of compost to life for our students. They discovered how compost contributes to a healthy garden and explored the entrepreneurial side of environmental sustainability. Meanwhile, our cooking classes have been a whirlwind of culinary creativity, from crafting the perfect grilled cheese to experimenting with homemade chocolate truffles. These sessions aren't just about cooking; they're lessons in safety, hygiene, and the joy of eating what you've made.







## BUGS Program

PROGRAMMING

### Green Leaders Among Us

Payten Mack, Cole Cummings, and Alaya Daniel-Holloway have emerged as true Green Leaders, winning the Green Healthy Smart Challenge grant. Their projects, from birdhouse construction to water quality testing, exemplify our commitment to fostering a healthier habitat for all.

### Looking Ahead: Embracing the Great Outdoors

As we move into 2024, BUGS is excited to deepen our connection with nature through longer hikes, more engagements with local entrepreneurs, and even overnight camping experiences. With summer camp planning already underway, we're gearing up to welcome a new group of 6th graders into our fold.

### Farmer's Market Excitement

Our focus on the Farmer's Market continues as we diligently prepare goods and plan for an eventful day on Saturday, May 18. Join us as we embark on another year of exploration, education, and empowerment through the wonders of urban gardening and environmental stewardship.







# MARITIME EDUCATION & HISTORIC SHIPS





# Maritime Education

## PROGRAMMING


### 2023: A Year of Record Engagement


Last year was a banner year for Living Classrooms Ships that sailed with students, reaching more students and adults than ever. With our historic vessels, *Sigsbee* and *Mildred Belle*, leading the charge, we provided a mix of on-water, on-shore, and virtual programming that reached 5,939 participants. This includes many students from Title I-funded schools, emphasizing our commitment to accessible education.

Our programming spanned from E-STEM and historical themes to hands-on environmental stewardship, like our oyster planting projects. Notably, our summer adventures took students on memorable trips, exploring the Chesapeake Bay and beyond, instilling a love for maritime history and environmental science.

### 2024

Set Sail into 2024 with Living Classrooms' Maritime Adventures! Dive into a sea of learning with Living Classrooms' maritime education programs! We're thrilled to announce that registration for our 2024 expeditions is now open. This year, we're offering various nautical experiences that will make waves.

 *Sigsbee* 3-Day Trip: Embark on a sailing journey where the classroom spans the horizon. The *Sigsbee* provides an immersive experience that teaches sailing, navigation, and marine ecology.

 *Mildred Belle* 3-Day Trip: Step aboard the *Mildred Belle* to learn about our waterways' rich maritime history and environmental stewardship.

Would you be interested in charting a course? Register your child for an unforgettable experience with nature. Contact Nick Iannacone, Program Coordinator, at 410.961.9931 or [MaritimeSummer@livingclassrooms.org](mailto:MaritimeSummer@livingclassrooms.org).

## Sigsbee & Mildred Belle Program Summary

- 3,982 students & 1,957 adults served
- 235 Virtual and In-person Programs
- 128 unique schools/groups
- 61 Title I Schools / Groups (48%)
- 2,657 students served from Title I schools (67%)

**5,939 total participants served in 2023**







# Maritime Education

PROGRAMMING 2023

## Teacher & Student Feedback

*"This was an absolutely amazing trip. The crew was extremely knowledgeable and well prepared. The activities were great, and the students loved the experience."*

-Candice Smith, teacher at Anne Frank ES



*"Our captain & crew were very knowledgeable and engaging! They had a well thought out itinerary, packed with activities that made learning so much fun! Our kids were engaged the whole time which is hard to do. THANK YOU for the adventure! 5 Stars!"*

-Andi Karick, teacher at Anchor Christian Academy

*"Fabulous trip and great crew, they were engaging, friendly, and informative!"*

-Kim West, teacher at Talbot Springs ES



*"I had a wonderful time. One thing I learned was that this sailboat is over 120 years old. Another thing I learned was that the river we were in had no salt it was all fresh water. I really enjoyed how we did the science experiments like building a boat and seeing if it would float."*

- Anne Frank ES school student

*"I had a really good time setting the sail and learning about oysters. I enjoyed the challenge of making our boat hold pennies. My team didn't come it first but, it was fun to watch everyone else test their boat. It was my first time being on the Delaware River. Seeing the Battleship New Jersey and wind in my face made me appreciate the boat ride even more."*

- Cook-Wissahickon ES school student







## More Historic Ships

### PROGRAMMING

The Historic Ships in Baltimore enjoyed a bustling year, with visitors stepping aboard daily to explore and learn. In 2023, our vessels provided a unique overnight experience for over 2,000 young explorers through our education programs.

On December 7th, the *USCG Cutter 37* held the 82nd Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration, honoring the memory of a pivotal historical moment. Additionally, the *USS Constellation* took center stage at the Baltimore Marathon, with the ship's image adorning every medal and her cannons firing to start the races.

Celebrations continued as the *USS Constellation* hosted the Navy's 248th Birthday with distinguished guests from Fort Meade. Looking ahead, the Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Heritage Authority have awarded grants totaling \$94,000 for preservation efforts, ensuring our maritime legacy endures.

On the fun side, Living Classrooms' Chessie Dragons and Pirate Ships hosted over 73,000 passengers. We proudly welcomed Tyree Brown as the inaugural hire at our new marina and celebrated the growth of our dedicated crew, promoting several returning staff to new leadership roles.

*\*Hundreds of thousands visit Living Classrooms 7 Historic Ships per year*







# VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORT





## Volunteerism

SIGN UP! FIND YOUR SPOT TODAY!

Did you know that Living Classrooms Foundation thrives because of people like you? Our amazing volunteers come from all walks of life - individuals, students, and businesses - and every bit of help add to something big.

Whether you're flying solo or have a whole crew ready to help, we welcome volunteers of all ages and group sizes. There's a spot for everyone, from high schoolers to corporate teams looking to give back.

Would you be interested in customizing a group project? Or are you looking to earn school credit as an intern? We've got you covered. And for individual volunteers, starting is as simple as filling out a quick application.

Do you have questions, or are you ready to jump in? Drop Allie Dudley a line at [adudley@livingclassrooms.org](mailto:adudley@livingclassrooms.org).

Cheers to making change, one volunteer at a time!

Living Classrooms Foundation could only do its work with thousands of committed individual volunteers and a range of student, corporate, and other groups that dedicate their time to supporting our programs. Living Classrooms accepts individual volunteers, interns (including for school credit), and volunteer groups of all ages and sizes—everything from high school student groups to corporate days of service.

There are countless ways to engage with the mission of Living Classrooms Foundation.

Volunteer projects for large groups can be customized based on interest, group size, and availability. Individual volunteers are welcome to please complete the Volunteer Application before registering for a service opportunity.



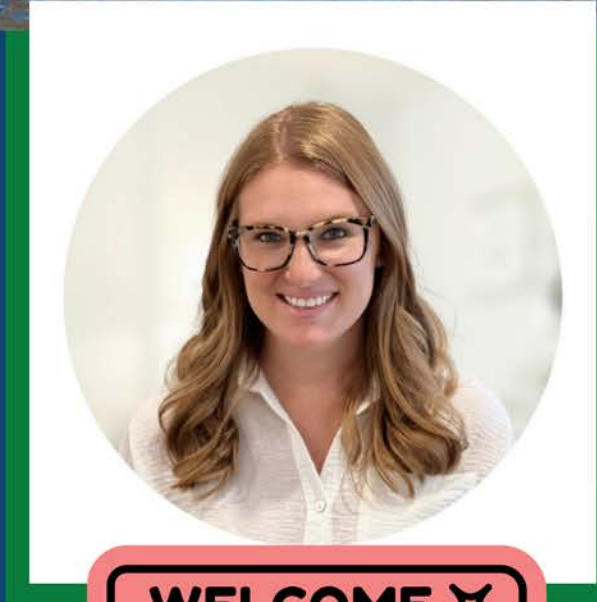


## Volunteerism

### WELCOME

Allie Dudley comes to Living Classrooms with a background in higher education and nonprofit volunteer management. Allie earned her undergraduate degree at James Madison University and a Master of Arts in Higher Education from the University of Redlands. Most recently, Allie spent four years at Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle as their Volunteer Manager and Assistant Director, striving successfully to ensure the volunteer led meal program continued to thrive during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Allie will lead our volunteer program, cultivating relationships with corporate partners, universities, and community groups to boost volunteer recruitment and support for our programs. Allie is thrilled to return to the state where she grew up and give back to the community so close to her heart.



**WELCOME ✨  
to the TEAM**





## Special Thanks to Keystone Korner!

Keystone Korner Baltimore, led by the iconic Todd Barkan, carries on the tradition of its San Francisco roots. Barkan's commitment to ensuring Keystone remains a cornerstone of jazz culture is what it's all about. The venue, a symbol of Barkan's dedication to jazz, evolved from a blues bar into a renowned jazz club. We are very grateful for Keystone Korner's support of our Ascend through Music program and the opportunity given to our students to sing at your club!



for all of your support  
Tod Barkan &  
Keystone Korner's Team!

Keystone Korner is located around the corner and across the canal from our Crossroads School. Ascend through Music fosters and promotes creativity, expression, and music skill development through access and exposure to various forms of music education, instruments, mentorship, and performance opportunities.

Check out Jazz here:







# Thank you from our Living Classrooms Team

Special Thanks to our Director of Communications, Nikki Schiavone, for writing and producing our Living Classrooms newsletter, The Anchor.

Thank you for enjoying our newsletter and for your continued interest and support to propel us forward.

We look forward to bringing you more updates and stories in future issues.

Best wishes,

James Piper Bond  
President & CEO  
Living Classrooms Foundation

