

OUR HOUSE

H A B C H I G H L I G H T S

QUARTER 4

Leadership Update

The holiday season is among us and there's a lot to celebrate! The Housing Authority of Baltimore is closing out the year with new initiatives and finalizing old ones. The agency just celebrated the ribbon-cutting of **The Ruby** at Somerset which is a part of our Perkins, Somerset, Old Town Transformation (PSO) plan. Next month, we will be participating in the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of **The Ella** at Somerset - finalizing the Somerset portion of the PSO project. We look forward to completing construction at our Perkins Homes development property, so residents can return to their homes, as well as begin construction of Old Town!

This year, we've also kick-started the transformation plan for **Poe Homes**.

We're excited to provide our West Baltimore residents with the neighborhood they need. At HABC, we make promises that we keep!

This year, I have been extremely satisfied with the way that HABC has handled unexpected and expected events. Our Mission and Vision continues to be successfully accomplished as the year has moved along. Every department from the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) has gone above and beyond to cater to the needs of HABC residents.

Let's keep up the great work through 2024.



Janet Abrahams
President and CEO

Onward,



It's abundantly clear there is a need for affordable housing in Baltimore. We want individuals and families to have an equal opportunity to gain access to a housing unit as soon as they are made available.

- Janet Abrahams



Event Turnout

The **Kazakhstan** delegation visited HABC's Somerset site to tour on Thursday, September 28th, 2023. The delegation consisted of a minimum of 15 and probably up to 20 people including HUD and the US Agency of International Development (USAID) employees. The delegation started at USAID offices where **Luci Blackburn**, Director of Choice Neighborhoods provided an overview of the Choice Neighborhood Program and general grant information.



HABC News | **CLICK** the **LINKS** for more information

Janet Goes to New Orleans

In September, HABC CEO and President **Janet Abrahams** and other staff members went to New Orleans to attend and participate in The NAHRO leadership. The NAHRO leadership is comprised of the Board of Governors, the Board of Ethics and Credentialing Trustees (BECT), standing committees, advisory committees, and additional leadership groups. The NAHRO Board of Governors has a distinguished record of public and professional service that represents the broad diversity of the affordable housing and community development industry. It is the policy-making body of NAHRO and is responsible for all major decisions of the association. At HABC, we are always looking for opportunities to obtain skills needed to serve our residents.

HABC Collaborates with Bmore Together

HABC's President and CEO, **Janet Abrahams** joined Baltimore Together - A Platform for Inclusive Prosperity is a culmination of a two-year process to develop the city's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

(CEDS) for the next five years – to discuss the progress of Perkins, Somerset, Old Town Transformation Plan. During this process, **Abrahams** gave insights, feedback, and recommendations. This effort represents a commitment to driving economic growth in an inclusive and equitable manner to ensure everyone has the opportunity for success. Click [HERE](#) to learn more!

HCVP Waitlist Results

HABC's Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) opened application submissions to get onto the waiting list for a HCVP voucher. HABC received nearly 13,516 applications in one day on October 2, the first day the online application period opened; In the 12 days that the waiting list was opened, 28,000 applications were submitted. From the applications submitted, all 28,000 applicants will be accepted. Applications have not been selected for placement on the waiting list yet. Emphasys will conduct a randomization to place applicants on the waiting list in a random order. Click [HERE](#) to learn more!

Top Stories

— 1 —

Lidl Supermarket Coming to East Baltimore

As part of the Perkins-Somerset-Oldtown (PSO) Transformation Plan the East Baltimore community is getting a new grocery store. Lidl is set to become an anchor tenant in the PSO project.



— 2 —

Security at All HABC Sites

As of September 18, all HABC's properties have security services. HABC welcomes Metropolitan Security Services.



— 3 —

HABC Hosts Employee Appreciation "Sneaker Ball"

HABC staff joined together to dance, eat, and mingle for the agency's employee appreciation party! This event was thrown to show HABC employees how much they are valued.



— 4 —

ORS Hosts Mental Health Event

The Office of Resident Services (ORS) hosted a free mental health event. Attendees got to learn yoga techniques, stress management techniques, and speak to therapists.



INITIATIVES turned into RESULTS

HABC & Coppin State Launch Maryland's 1st Housing Program

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) and Coppin State University (CSU) launched the Student Housing Initiative, a first-of-its-kind program in Maryland to provide low-income college students with vouchers to live in tenant-based housing. The Student Housing Initiative will provide 10 time-limited vouchers to students who will be identified by CSU and must meet eligibility requirements.

HABC Celebrates the Grand Opening of the Next Phase of PSO

The development team of Mission First Housing Group, The Henson Development Co. (THC) and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) celebrated the Grand Opening of The Ruby at Somerset at 420 Aisquith Street. Next month, HABC will be participating in the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of The Ella at Somerset - finalizing the Somerset portion of the PSO project.

Pay for Performance

Last Fall, HABC conducted a study through an outside source of the agency's compensation structure to ensure that employees' salaries are competitive with the market. Through HUD's requirement, the comp study compared the agency's salary scale with similar organizations within a 50-mile radius and was reviewed by an internal evaluation group. Since September, the salary structure has enhanced flexibility and provides a salary range structure that is set up in 4 groups. Please note, no one was negatively affected by the comp study.



Social Corner

We need **YOUR** help to **GROW!** Take a look at our stats below and make sure to follow so we can make a bigger impact for everyone we serve!



Twitter

2,270 Followers
@bmoreHABC



Facebook

8.7k Followers
@bmoreHABC



Instagram

2,215 Followers
@officialHABC



**HABC Strategic
Plan Survey
Results**

611
Surveys Sent
307
Submitted

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Savings Plan
TODAY!**

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for More Information!

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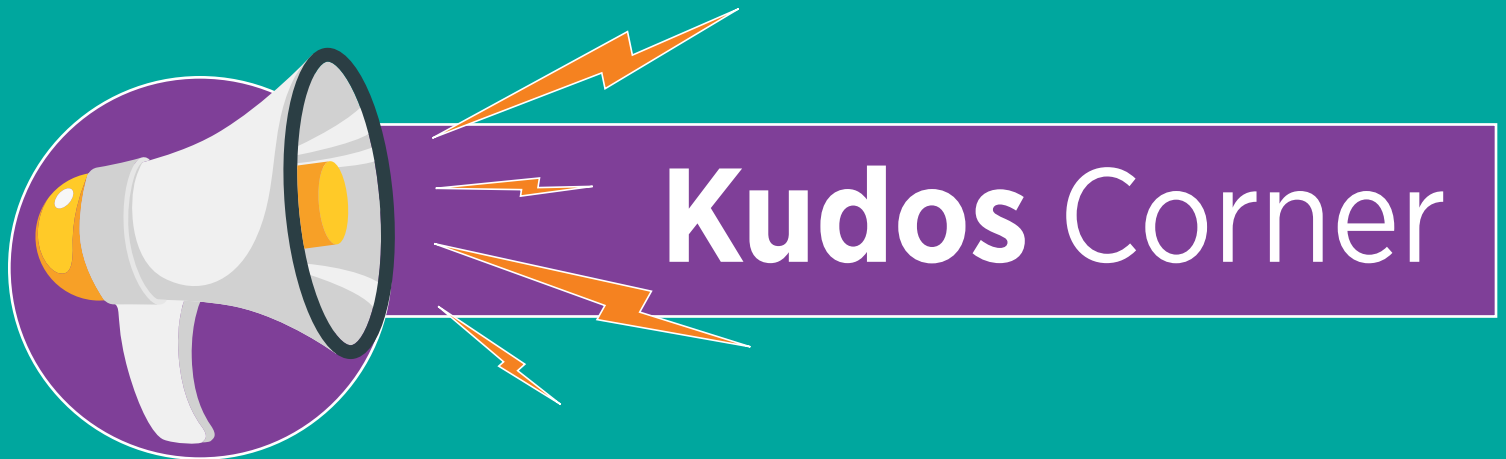
Employee Spotlight

SVP of HCVP, Corliss Alston

The Senior Vice President of the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), **Corliss Alston** has been busy during last quarter of the year! In October, Alston and her team opened their HCVP waiting list which received 28,000 applications during the 12-day period it was open. After that, Corliss participated in launching Maryland's 1st Housing Program by collaborating with Coppin State University. This program will provide low-income college students with vouchers to live in tenant-based housing. Lastly, Alston participated in one of many videos to come, discussing the on-going strategic plan that her and her team has worked on called The Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP). Click [HERE](#) to view it.



Congratulations!



HABC Softball Update

The softball season is now over, and we'd like to congratulate HABC's softball team, who completed this season and represented the agency out on the field. HABC's VP of Public Housing, **Henry Johnson** organized the HABC CoEd Softball team. The team started practice twice a week beginning in early August and competed in two games weekly for eight weeks until mid-November. HABC snagged 1 victory and 2 tied games. Johnson says, he's "excited about next year and we're looking forward to building and improving our team." Next season, we're coming in HOTT!

