

## BOPA RETAINS BALTIMORE CITY ARTS COUNCIL DESIGNATION

### ALSO ANNOUNCES NEW ARTS COUNCIL DIRECTOR

Baltimore, MD, December 5, 2024 — The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) will retain its designation as Baltimore City’s Arts Council for Fiscal Year 2026. Senior members of Mayor Brandon Scott’s administration have been actively engaging with BOPA’s leadership and its Board of Directors to strengthen its relationship with the City and the broader arts community. “We are elated to continue as Baltimore City’s Arts Council Designee,” says Board Chair and Interim CEO Robyn Murphy. “BOPA has been dedicated to carrying out this work for over two decades, and with stronger collaboration moving forward, we are excited to continue working with the Mayor’s Office on a renewed arts ecosystem.”

The organization also announces the new Director for the Baltimore City Arts Council, Lou Joseph. A 10-year veteran of BOPA, Joseph started at the organization in 2014 as the Visual Arts Specialist before moving into his more recent role as the Arts Council’s Prizes & Competitions Manager, which most notably administers the prestigious Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize. “I’m excited to lead the arts council into this next chapter,” says Joseph. “And I look forward to collaborating with the City, arts organizations, and the great artists and cultural producers of Baltimore to do this essential work.”

Prior to joining BOPA, Joseph was Senior Preparator of Exhibitions at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). From 2012 to 2022, he directed the Institute of Contemporary Art Baltimore, a collaborative artist-run organization, which he founded. Joseph is a working artist, focused on painting, printmaking and installation. He earned his BFA from Ohio Wesleyan University and his MFA from Indiana University.

“It just makes sense that we appoint Lou to lead the arts council — he exemplifies professionalism and a deep care for Baltimore’s artist community,” attests Murphy. “This is his life’s work, and the citizens of Baltimore are the lucky beneficiaries.” As Director, Joseph will oversee all Arts Council programming, including grants, exhibitions, workshops, and seminars, among other programs.

Learn more about the work of the Baltimore City Arts Council by visiting [promotionandarts.org/artist-resources/grants-and-prizes/](https://promotionandarts.org/artist-resources/grants-and-prizes/) and following BOPA on social media ([@promoandarts](https://twitter.com/promoandarts)).

### MEDIA CONTACTS

For media inquiries, contact Communications Manager Barbara Hauck at ([bhauck@promotionandarts.org](mailto:bhauck@promotionandarts.org)).

*Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which serves as Baltimore City’s arts council, events center, and film office. By providing funding and support to artists and arts organizations, as well as producing cultural events across the city, BOPA’s goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative place to live and work.*