the **vision** is yours.

A Regional Placemaking and Placekeeping Conference

Baltimore, MD
May 6–7, 2027

HOSTED BY
the Neighborhood DesignCenter

partnership opportunities



the spark: aligning ideas, power, and possibility

If we want more communities to become healthy, thriving places, we must strengthen the ecosystem of funding, technical assistance, and support that communities depend on to build and maintain thriving neighborhoods.

Yet opportunities for generative, cross-sector collaboration are rare.

IN A 2024 SURVEY OF NDC'S NETWORK:

67%

called for stronger collaboration between community leaders, artists, planners, and local governments

70%

said peer connections are critical to moving their projects forward

The Vision is Yours connects community leaders with the systems, relationships, and resources that make local, place-driven investment possible.





the approach: ideas and action, rooted in place

The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) invites you to join The Vision is Yours, a transformative regional placemaking forum.

This multi-day gathering will connect the people, ideas, and systems that shape our communities and explore innovative approaches to re-imagining public spaces across Baltimore and the mid Atlantic.

CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE:

- ➔ Anticipated dates: May 6-7, 2027, 9AM- 5:30PM
- ➔ Anchor Location: Creative Alliance in Highlandtown, with Friday closing activities held in tandem with the neighborhood's First Friday Art Walk
- ➔ Mobile Workshops featuring additional sites in Downtown Baltimore and other local neighborhoods





Featuring inspiring keynotes, hands-on workshops, lively networking events, and mobile workshops, the forum is:

- **Rooted in place:** The Vision is Yours is produced in collaboration with the people and organizations that make place meaningful.
- **Partner-informed:** A cross-sector steering committee helps shape the program, bringing together perspectives from community leaders, practitioners, private-sector partners, and Maryland's community development ecosystem.
- **Community-driven:** At every opportunity, we collaborate with – and hire – local businesses, artists, and organizations, rooting the program in the local creative economy and local knowledge, talent, and cultural identity.
- **Designed for connection and action:** Hands-on learning labs, breakout sessions, networking, and community projects create opportunities for participants to build relationships and apply what they learn.
- **A platform for shared learning:** Cross-disciplinary ecosystem leaders learn from one another and share the strategies, challenges, and lessons that rarely fit neatly within a single sector.









forum themes

1.

Investing in Whole Blocks and Existing Communities

How can renewed investment strengthen whole blocks and neighborhoods while ensuring current residents shape and benefit from investment?

Baltimore offers a powerful place to share strategies for connecting housing, public space, community-generated plans, neighborhood leadership, and investment at the scale of the community block.

2.

Arts and Culture as Civic Infrastructure

Artists make neighborhoods more vibrant, culturally expressive, and connected, and sustain community identity and cultural memory. But bringing a creative vision into the built environment often requires navigating complex systems of planning, permitting, engagement, and funding.

How can we equip artists and communities with the relationships and knowledge they need to move from creative vision to implementation?

The Vision is Yours will connect artists with community leaders, developers, government agencies, and other partners who can help unlock new pathways for place-based cultural investment.

3.

Maintenance and Stewardship

New investment is visible and exciting. Long-term care is less visible, but essential for clean, healthy and sustainable communities.

Long-term success depends on clear responsibility, sustained funding, community capacity, skilled labor, and strong relationships among residents, artists, property owners, and public agencies.

How do we build the relationships, resources, and practices needed to steward the places we have already created?

Through hands-on projects and cross-sector learning, Vision is Yours will elevate maintenance and stewardship as essential components of equitable placemaking and placekeeping.

designing for **connection**

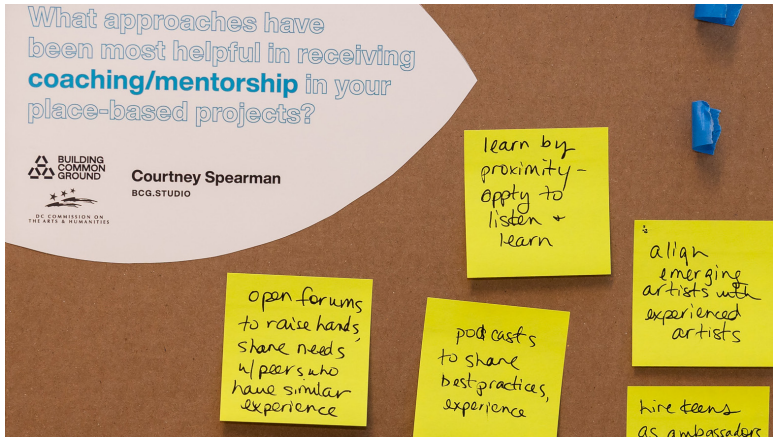
The conference networking track brings 200+ artists, designers, planners, community leaders, municipal partners, and creative practitioners together to spark meaningful cross-sector relationships and collaboration.

Participants move through a series of small-group conversations led by practitioners, each offering a different perspective, skillset, or approach to place-based work.

FOR ALIGNED PARTNERS, IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO:

- ➔ Put your firm's expertise in the room alongside leading practitioners and community leaders
- ➔ Build meaningful relationships across sectors, disciplines, and jurisdictions
- ➔ Connect with potential collaborators, clients, and partners in an informal, relational setting
- ➔ Be recognized as a leader and contributor to the field







format and program

THE CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE:

- **Keynote & plenary program** highlighting emerging trends from preeminent regional leaders
- **Workshops and learning labs** designed to facilitate co-learning, innovation, and exchange as we collectively address topics such as equity, tactical urbanism, and sustainable community development.
- **Community walks** guided by local leaders, where participants will explore the challenges and successes of placemaking initiatives on-site.
- **Build day,** in which participants will collaborate on live projects, installing placemaking elements like murals, plantings, and signage.
- **Networking and celebration** that brings together community leaders from across the region to share perspectives and approaches.

Prior Keynote Speakers

2026 **JAY PITTER, MES**
Author, Black Public Joy

2025 **BREE JONES**
Founder, Parity Homes

2024 **BRITTANY YOUNG**
Founder, B-360

Sample Build Day Projects



COMMUNITY MURAL
At the Mount Rainier Nature Center
Mural & Workshop by Mas Paz



POLLINATOR GARDEN
At the Mount Rainier Nature Center
Design & Workshop by NDC



DIY SEATING
At the Mount Rainier Elementary School Reading Garden

the audience:
a trusted network of change-makers

NDC has spent nearly six decades building relationships across the people and institutions that shape our communities.

Our team collaborates with **80-100** community organizations each year, spanning neighborhoods across Baltimore City.

In our history, we've completed over **4,500** community design projects in collaboration with local communities, artists, designers, and municipal agencies.

The Vision is Yours brings that network into one room.

And demand is growing — Placemaking Week (2024) and The Vision is Yours (2025 & 2026) have sold out each year!

Attendees by Field

30% **ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN**

19% **COMMUNITY + URBAN PLANNING**

15% **ART + CULTURE**

13% **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

7% **ENVIRONMENT + GREENSPACES**

11% **OTHER FIELDS**

A Wide Regional Audience

350 **ANTICIPATED PARTICIPANTS**
in 2027

45 **MUNICIPALITIES**
Attended or presented in 2026

54 **ARTISTS CONTRIBUTED**
To the 2026 program, while others attended as participants



sponsorship **opportunities**



$500 — Exhibitor

- One registration to attend the conference
- Opportunity to facilitate a featured conversation during the conference networking event, OR host a traditional exhibitor table in attendee welcome area

$1,500 — Bronze

- Two full registrations to the conference
- Logo placement on the event webpage, program, and onsite signage
- Professional event photography for your firm's use after the conference
- Branded presence: facilitate a conversation table during the conference networking event, OR host a traditional exhibitor table in attendee welcome area

$4,500 — Silver

- Four registrations to the conference
- Logo placement on the event webpage, program, and onsite signage
- Professional event photography for your firm's use after the conference
- Branded presence: facilitate a conversation table during the conference networking event, OR host a traditional exhibitor table in attendee welcome area
- Sponsor spotlight in NDC social media and marketing emails
- Underwriting credit for coffee break or other hospitality experience

$7,500 — Gold

- Six full registrations to the conference
- Logo placement on the event webpage, program, and onsite signage
- Professional event photography for your firm's use after the conference
- Branded presence: facilitate a conversation table during the conference networking event, OR host a traditional exhibitor table in attendee welcome area
- Sponsor spotlight in NDC social media and marketing emails
- Spoken sponsor acknowledgement during the conference plenary
- Exclusive naming rights for a conference program component such as a mobile workshop, learning lab, or networking session

join us! let's shape the future of public spaces together.

By supporting The Vision is Yours, you will help foster connections, spark innovation, and build the foundation for a more inclusive and arts-driven future.

CONTACT US TODAY TO EXPLORE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Briony Hynson, Deputy Director, can be reached via telephone at (301) 830-5219 or by email at bhynson@ndc-md.org to discuss donation and sponsorship opportunities.




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