Role as Baltimore’s Data Intermediary

• “Democratization of Data” Overcome the resistance of local public agencies to sharing data

• Established in 2000 as a project within Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers (ABAG)

• “Taking the Pulse” through continuous monitoring of Baltimore’s neighborhoods

• Advanced information systems with integrated and recurrently updated information on neighborhood conditions in their cities

• Baltimore one of the first partner-cities
  • Now 36 partners

• Moved to the Jacob France Institute in 2007
Baltimore City CSAs

2010 - - -

Number - 55

Based on 2010 Census boundaries

Aggregations of Census tracts (respectful of neighborhoods)
Vital Signs 13
Long Term Housing Trends in Baltimore

Housing Indicator Trends in Baltimore City, 2000-2013

Sources: First American Real Estate Solutions (FARES), Baltimore Housing Tidemark Permit Data, Baltimore City Circuit Court, Maryland Judiciary Case Search System
Positive Measures for Baltimore’s Youth

Teen Birth Rate in Baltimore City 2000-2013

From 2000 to 2013, the teen birth rate in Baltimore City has decreased from 83.3 per 1,000 to 36.1 per 1,000.
Positive Measures for Baltimore’s Youth

Percent of Students Chronically Absent By School Type
Baltimore City, SY2005-2013

- Elementary (1-5)
- Middle (6-8)
- High (9-12)
Sustainability: In 2013, there were 6,194 trees planted in Baltimore, which is helping the City reach its goal of 40% tree canopy.

Five Highest CSAs Trees Planted:
1. Allendale/Irvington/S. Hilton
2. Loch Raven
3. Greater Charles Village/Barclay
4. Belair-Edison
5. Southwest Baltimore
Justice
• https://vimeo.com/132902415
Vacant & Abandoned Housing

8% of City residential properties have a vacant house notice

Highest CSA: Oldtown/Middle East (35.2%)
Map of Regional Housing Submarkets

Regional Planning Districts - Housing Clusters

Cluster Categories:
- High End, Exurban
- Fast Growing, Job/Activity Hub
- Growing, Rural/Suburban
- Stable, Suburban/Urban
- Stagnant, Urban/Suburban
- Stressed, Urban

Source: BMC, U.S. Census, ESRI, Maryland Department of Planning

Map created by BNA-JFI, 2013
Baltimore Regional Housing Submarkets

- High End, Exurban
- Fast Growing, Job/Activity Hub
- Recent Growth, Rural/Suburban
- Stable, Suburban/Urban
- Pivotal, Urban/Suburban
- Stressed, Urban

* Extreme Outlier (3 box-lengths from the median)
* Outlier (1.5 box-lengths from the median)
The rate of housing voucher use is highest in the region’s *Stressed* and *Pivotal* submarkets.
• Education opportunity scores steadily decrease from the *High End* to the *Stressed* submarkets.
The Right Investment?

MARYLAND TAXPAYER SPENDING ON CORRECTIONS IN BALTIMORE

Annual state spending on corrections in each Community Statistical Area

- Less than $2 million
- $2 million – $5 million
- $5 million – $10 million
- $10 million – $15 million
- More than $15 million

THE COST TO INCARCERATE ONE PERSON FROM BALTIMORE COULD BUY 1 MONTH OF HOUSING FOR 30 FAMILIES
$1252/yr
$37000/yr

JusticePolicy.org/TheRightInvestment
New Indicators in Vital Signs 13

Workforce & Economic Development: In 2013 the percent of adult population under community supervision such as parole or probation was 5.3%; this indicator is highly correlated with the unemployment rate by neighborhood.

Five Highest Parole/Probation:
1. Madison/East End
2. Greenmount East
3. Southwest Baltimore
4. Clifton-Berea
5. Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park
Equity
Accessibility

20.2% of City Residents commute more than 45+ minutes

Highest CSA:
Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (35.2%)
What made you want to live where you live?

- good public school
- lower taxes
- lower insurance
- lower home cost
- pool
- planned community
- drivability
- racial diversity
- park
- cleaner streets
- privacy
- green space
- transportation
- no rats
- parking
- grass
- family friendly
- access to thoroughfare
- quiet neighborhood
- sense of community
- convenient amenities

Source: Focus Group of Movers out of Baltimore 2014, Schaefer Center, University of Baltimore
Connecting People to Place
Culture, social wellbeing, and neighborhood change

Mark J. Stern
Social Impact of the Arts Project
University of Pennsylvania
July 2015
Two propositions

- Tracking arts and cultural resources is a critical element of a neighborhood’s “vital signs.”

- It takes a neighborhood. Community groups, academic researchers, and advocates—all have a role to play to discovering the community impacts of the arts and culture.
Why measure neighborhoods’ cultural assets?

Often we have a one-sided view of low-asset communities.

- Not just an aggregation of a set of social problems.
- Community-based cultural providers offer a more balanced view of a neighborhood’s assets and challenges.
- Neighborhood cultural resources are often “hidden” — a cluster of small groups can have a big impact.
Placing the arts in space & place

The cultural sector is not just individuals & organizations. The clustering of cultural resources—what we call its cultural ecology—has a strong influence on the internal structure of art worlds & their impact on neighborhoods & regions. “Natural” cultural districts are critical to the arts’ social impact.
How SIAP measures cultural resources

Four types of cultural resources:

- Nonprofit cultural programs (whether 501c3 orgs or not)
- Commercial cultural firms
- Resident artists
- Cultural participants
A right to culture: a public responsibility

Although many neighborhoods with few cultural resources have high poverty rates, the “fit” between poverty and cultural resources is far from absolute.
The “spill-over” effect of “natural” cultural districts

Philadelphia neighborhoods with concentrations of cultural resources—including many low-income areas—enjoyed non-economic benefits including lower morbidity and better school outcomes. Developing cultural indicators for Baltimore would allow researchers to estimate their impact here.
SIAP has been developing measures of social displacement. “Education churn” measures the extent to which residents with a high-school diploma or less are leaving a neighborhood and residents with at least a college degree are moving in.
It takes a community to integrate culture into “vital signs.”

Until government takes on the task of documenting cultural engagement, it will require cooperation between:

• community organizations
• researchers and
• regional funders

to develop evidence of equitable access and opportunity in the arts and culture and their role in building community and revitalizing neighborhoods.

http://impact.sp2.upenn.edu/siap/docs/civic_engagement/CE_Arts_FieldGuide.jul2009.v7toAD.pdf
Two approaches to community-based data development

• *Organizational data gathering*. Individual organizations can contribute to understanding the relationship of culture to community vitality by developing systems for tracking program participation and using qualitative methods to document the broader connection of culture and wellbeing.

• *Regional database development*. Once a system is in place to gather participant, artist, and institutional network data, a regional entity (a funder, arts council, government agency, or university) can develop a means of integrating these data into a unified database.
From data to policy impact

An integrated database provides the opportunity to examine the aggregate impact of cultural engagement on region-wide measures of social wellbeing. In addition, through the use of a geographic information system (GIS), this approach allows policymakers to link data on cultural engagement to other socio-economic and neighborhood data.
Encouraging organizational-level data gathering

- Much participant data is already being collected (subscribers, student registration)
- Need incentive for sharing data at regional level
- List cooperative provides structure to bring many organizations’ data together
It doesn’t have to be fancy

Free events (or small groups or embedded programs) could incorporate sign-in sheets (with address) into their procedures. Over time sign-in can provide important clues about who is involved and where they live.
For analysis, we aggregate individual observations to some standard geography (typically block group) to link to census and other data sources.

Sometimes it’s helpful to use slightly fancier procedures to reduce the noise in the data (above).
Tracking neighborhoods—changing cultural ecology—instead of individuals over time

Although an ecological approach doesn’t allow for longitudinal estimates at the individual level, it does provide stable estimates of how the geography of participation changes over time.
We found that participation in a community arts initiative greatly expanded the range of organizations with which grantees interacted.
Artists serve as often-invisible connectors between community-based organizations

We interviewed 60 artists about the places they worked during the previous year. The red dots represent artists and the blue and green dots their organizational contacts.
Bottom line

- Cultural resources are an important dimension of community assets. The arts provide opportunities for cultural and creative expression, stimulate social connection and community engagement, and build networks within and between neighborhoods.

- A combination of bottom-up and top-down efforts can develop the data needed to incorporate cultural assets into community policy and planning.
Data Users Survey
Assessing Data Use and Access

- Examine current successes in data usage
  - Which indicators are most useful?
  - How is the *Vital Signs* data being used?
- Gain a better understanding of gaps
  - What data is needed but not currently accessible?
  - What skills/resources are needed to better utilize data for community benefit?
Data User Survey

Vote [www.govote.at](http://www.govote.at)

Code 90 81 00
Strengthening Communities Through Neighborhood Data

Baltimore Data Day 2015

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BALTIMORE NEIGHBORHOOD INDICATORS ALLIANCE
Jacob France Institute

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