In Baltimore, the neighborhood where you are born determines the conditions of your housing, schools, work, and built environment; it even predicts how long you will live. Widespread disparities between neighborhoods have resulted in a twenty-year life expectancy gap across the city. This exhibit elevates the story of Baltimore’s neighborhoods through data to spark a dialogue about policy and action that can reverse the city’s growing inequalities. We believe a better Baltimore is possible. We believe understanding our data and asking the right questions will lead to lasting change.

BNIA-JFI annually releases the Vital Signs report, which is a compendium of community-based indicators for all Baltimore’s neighborhoods. These issues are complex, but based on open data of neighborhood change over time in Baltimore, BNIA-JFI has identified three goals that every neighborhood can focus on as starting points: reducing vacancies, increasing housing diversity, and decreasing households commuting over 45 minutes to work. We will highlight these throughout the exhibition because they represent essential conditions for neighborhood health. READ MORE: bit.ly/BNIAreport
What is a Neighborhood?

Why Do Neighborhoods Matter?
Neighborhood context impacts the social, economic, and political life of its residents. Where you live determines the schools your children attend, the quality of nearby jobs, and your access to public transportation, banks, grocery stores, green space, and stable housing.

Neighborhood
\nā-bər-,hud\n
1. A district or area with distinctive characteristics
2. The people who live near one another or in a particular district or area

Source: American Heritage

Why Is Neighborhood Context Important?
Knowing your neighborhood and its specific needs lays important groundwork for building solutions that match their context. Community-based indicators provide insights for leaders working to strengthen a neighborhood about the overall direction of that community.

Find Your Neighborhood:
https://livebaltimore.com/neighborhoods/

What Is a Community Statistical Area?
Community Statistical Areas, CSAs, are clusters of Census tracts used to present a wide range of neighborhood data consistently over time. There are over 270 Baltimore neighborhoods with shifting boundaries and names, which often differ from CSAs, but these clusters enable data-driven organizations to be consistent across sources and time.

How might our neighborhood context inform our growth strategies?
Baltimore’s current population is 619,500 residents. At its peak in 1950 the city was home to 949,708. Due to the decline in industry and investment, segregationist housing policies, and the growth of the suburbs, Baltimore experienced a population loss of 330,208.

SOURCE: Baltimore Sun

In Baltimore City some neighborhoods are growing and thriving, while others are shrinking. Population growth has a real impact on the lives of people, and is intertwined with the state of housing, jobs, and transportation.

How might we create conditions for growth in all Baltimore neighborhoods?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAMPLE NEIGHBORHOODS</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downtown/Seton Hill</td>
<td>4,767</td>
<td>6,446</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>The Waverlies</td>
<td>8,011</td>
<td>7,753</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canton</td>
<td>7,010</td>
<td>8,100</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>Greater Charles Village/Barclay</td>
<td>17,151</td>
<td>16,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn/Curtis Bay*</td>
<td>13,342</td>
<td>14,243</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>Penn North/Reservoir Hill</td>
<td>11,213</td>
<td>9,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medfield/Hampden*</td>
<td>17,030</td>
<td>17,388</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem*</td>
<td>17,495</td>
<td>14,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belair-Edison</td>
<td>17,346</td>
<td>17,416</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>Greenmount East</td>
<td>11,561</td>
<td>8,184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: * indicates an incomplete CSA name, due to space

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, Analysis: BNIA-JFI

PROJECT BY: Impact Hub Baltimore, Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance & MICA
Filling Vacant Homes

WHAT WORKS:
Reduce or maintain vacant and abandoned housing rates below 4% in your neighborhood.

(Percent of residential properties that are vacant and abandoned)

From 2000-2010, most neighborhoods that attracted new residents had residential vacancy rates at or below 4%. Learn how many units your neighborhood needs to fill, refurbish, or demolish in order to reach the tipping point for growth.

READ MORE ABOUT THE CITY STRATEGY AT:
baltimorehousing.org

How might we adapt our community’s vacancy strategy to the scale of the issue?

EXAMPLE NEIGHBORHOODS

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<tr>
<th>Neighborhoods</th>
<th># of Total Residential Properties</th>
<th>% Vacant or Abandoned</th>
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<td>Medfield/Hampden/Remington</td>
<td>6,810</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Greater Charles Village/Barclay-Village</td>
<td>3,681</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belair-Edison</td>
<td>6,296</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Pt.</td>
<td>4,249</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorchester/Ashburton</td>
<td>3,422</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Washington Village/Pigtown</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson Park North &amp; East</td>
<td>6,377</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Penn North/Reservoir Hill</td>
<td>2,984</td>
<td>15.8</td>
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<td>4.5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park</td>
<td>6,057</td>
<td>35.0</td>
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SOURCE: Maryland Property View & Baltimore City Department of Housing (2014), Analysis: BNIA-JFI

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How might we create diverse housing options in all Baltimore neighborhoods?

The most stable housing markets in Baltimore are characterized by housing diversity. Increasing housing diversity means providing realistic housing options for a range of household incomes in one neighborhood.

Neighborhoods with high income residents benefit from increasing affordable housing, and neighborhoods with predominantly low income residents benefit from housing options rented or sold at market rate.

**WHAT WORKS:**
Increase housing diversity in every Baltimore neighborhood.

(Calculated by: Percentage of housing units that are owner occupied, Affordability index- spending more than 30% of income on rent, Rate of housing vouchers per 1000 rental units)

**WHAT CAN I DO?**
As a resident you can:
- Advocate for land trusts and affordable housing vouchers, contact city council members.
- Support affordable housing and hold developers accountable.
- Get involved in your neighborhood association, make sure the housing plan invites diverse renters and owners into the neighborhood.
- Connect your neighbors to home buying programs like Vacants to Values and Neighborhood Housing Services.
- Encourage your friends and family to invest in Baltimore neighborhoods.
- Welcome new arrivals to your neighborhood.

**SOURCE:** BNIA-JFI, Vital Signs 14 (2016)

**SOURCE:** HUD, Analysis: BNIA-JFI (2016)
Travel Time to Work

WHAT WORKS:
Reduce the percentage of households traveling more than 45 minutes to get to work.
(Percent of employed population with travel time to work of 45 minutes and over)

Long commute times lead to shrinking neighborhoods. In Baltimore, the unemployment map mirrors the map of households traveling more than 45 minutes to get to work.

If an employed resident cannot reliably get to their job on time, they may either 1) lose that job or 2) move out of their neighborhood to be closer to work. Neither outcome helps to build healthy neighborhoods.

How might we intentionally train new workers in industries that are accessible within 45 minutes of their homes?

What is Affordable Housing?

There is an affordable housing crisis in Baltimore City.

53% of city renters, 40% of homeowners pay more than one-third of their income in housing, putting them at risk for housing instability and even homelessness.

3,000 people including children, are homeless in Baltimore, on any given night.

25,000 Baltimore City households are on the waiting list for federal housing assistance, where they will wait for as much as ten years.

Policies and Programs that Support Affordable Housing:

Inclusionary Housing Law: A 2007 Baltimore ordinance that aims to require developers to include 10% - 20% affordable units in a new project. Affordable housing is defined as costing one-third of a family’s income, however the ordinance is based on a scale correlated to median income of an area (Area Median Income, or AMI). Due to loopholes, this policy needs strengthening.

Area Median Income (AMI): In Baltimore, AMI is often calculated for the Baltimore-Towson-Columbia, where AMI is $76,666 per year. If a new development calculates affordable housing at 60% of AMI, basing rent payments on earnings up to $46,000 a year, or $22.12 per hour, it is out of reach for many Baltimoreans, particularly Black households where the median household income is $33,610.

$104,481.9
$76,666
$73,538
$60,550
$41,385
$33,610
$14,105

Greater Roland Park
Baltimore-Towson-
Columbia
Maryland
Whites in Baltimore City
Baltimore City
African Americans in Baltimore City
Oldtown/Middle East

SOURCE: Bnia-Jfi/CNN

Read more about other programs and mechanisms, such as low income housing tax credits, the housing choice voucher program, and the affordable housing trust fund: baltimorehousingroundtable.org
Take Action:
Complex problems require collaborative solutions

**KNOW YOUR CONTEXT**
- Invite BNIA-JFI to present at your neighborhood association meeting.
- Check to see if there is a master plan for your neighborhood and the status of implementation. The City Planning Department and local neighborhood association are good resources.

**KNOW YOUR CITY**
- Meet your City Council member and let them know what is important to you.
- Learn about policy initiatives impacting neighborhoods, especially housing transit, and jobs.
- Learn about citywide initiatives for change.

**KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS**
- Plug into your neighborhood association and attend meetings.
- Get involved in local projects.
- Meet your neighbors and build a local network.

**KNOW YOURSELF**
- Create your personal vision for change.
- Identify how your own skills fit into the bigger picture.
- Activate your interests: What are you excited to work on? How does your existing work fit into neighborhoods?

To learn more about this document please contact:
Smile Indias, Graphic Designer (sindias@mica.edu);
Molly Reddy, Content Designer (mreddy01@mica.edu);
Michelle Geiss, Executive Director of the Impact Hub (michelle@baltimore.impacthub.net);
Seema Iyer, Associate Director of BNIA-JFI (siyen@ubalt.edu).

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