

OUR HOUSE

HABC HIGHLIGHTS

QUARTER 3

Leadership Update

There's a saying that goes, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade," and that's what the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) has been doing since the weekend prior to the 4th of July. As most know, HABC has endured an unforeseen incident at our Brooklyn Homes property that has required staff members to come together as an agency to assist our Brooklyn Homes residents affected by this. This situation has shaken HABC and caused us to utilize the tools, resources, and experience everyone has, to support those in need at our South Baltimore property. You can never be prepared enough to deal with what happened at Brooklyn Homes; however, I will say HABC has stepped up to tackle this situation one day at a time. Our partners have provided many resources to our HABC residents and continue to collaborate with us to make sure our residents are taking care of.

When I took on the position as CEO & President of HABC, I knew that it wasn't going to be easy but with dedicated and committed staff members, it makes my job less difficult.

We are taking extra steps to not only create and provide quality affordable housing opportunities in sustainable neighborhoods for the people we serve, but to sustain and maintain it as well.

HABC is still maneuvering through the tragic event, however, I'm assured that we will come out stronger and better as an agency.

Moreover, our goal of rebuilding HABC communities into equitable neighborhoods progresses forward as phases for the Perkins, Somerset, Old Town (PSO) Transformation Plan moves further towards completion and Poe Homes' reconstruction plan advances.

I want to thank everyone for their efforts and hard work over the last few months.

Onward,



Janet Abrahams
President and CEO



HABC staff and I have been hard at work implementing new goals and initiatives that enhance the programs and services that we provide, while maintaining Our Vision and Our Mission



- Janet Abrahams

Event Turnout

Last month, the Office of Resident Services hosted a Rising Star Scholarship Fundraiser at Jimmy's Famous Seafood. Guest enjoyed great food and fun times for a great cause. Proceeds from ticket sales went towards the Rising Star Scholarship Program. The scholarship recipients are HABC and HCVP youth residents: Moniya Brockington, Barnabas Fuller, Tymonyai Johnson and Desteny Hunt. To be eligible for this scholarship, youth must be a current resident of the HABC Public Housing, Rehabilitative Housing or Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program, and a graduating high school senior who has been accepted for admission or is awaiting acceptance to an accredited college or university.



HABC News | CLICK the LINKS for more information

HABC President & CEO Janet Abrahams Interviews w/Fox45

In July, HABC President & CEO **Janet Abrahams** sat down with Mikenzie Frost to interview about HABC's involvement in this years 'Brooklyn Day'. During the interview, Abrahams discussed the history of 'Brooklyn Day', HABC's involvement, how events are supposed to be planned and hosted on our property, and solutions moving forward. Click [HERE](#) to watch the interview.

HCVP Waiting List Opening in October

HABC's Tenant Based Waiting List is opening Monday, October 2 to Friday, October 13. Applicants must apply online. Here's some background, in 2020 the waiting list had 20,000 applicants on it. Out of 20,000 applicants, approximately 14,161 applicants were invited to an eligibility interview. A voucher was either issued or the applicant was ineligible. There are 5,839 applicants remaining on the waiting list.

Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Heads to New Orleans

The **Resident Advisory Board (RAB)** is heading to New Orleans, Louisiana for the Annual Capacity Building Conference from Monday, September 11 to Friday, September 15. While there, RAB will learn how to successfully run their tenant council, understand changing HUD policies that impact families, and how to conduct fund raising and receive development resources to benefit their property. HABC's Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, **Monica Watkins**, HABC's Constituent Services Manager, **Faith Young**, and HABC's **Tenant Council Presidents** will be on the trip.

HABC Welcomes the Newest Member to our Board of Commissioners!

HABC's welcomes the newest Board of Commissioners member, **Marianne Navarro**! Navarro has extensive experience in senior-level real estate development. She has demonstrated success in project and program management, leadership, and public/private partnerships, land use, and economic inclusion matters. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Marianne Navarro!

INITIATIVES turned into RESULTS

Poe Homes Relocation Event

In August, HABC staff conjugated at Poe Homes for a relocation event, where residents got to ask questions about their relocation and Section 8. Residents learned about the timeline for starting their Section 8 interviews, as well as information about when to start doing interviews for the survey. There were 2 mini sessions for residents to attend.

Rental Assistance Campaign

In June, 3 million dollars in funding through Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) was made available to HABC residents who were struggling to pay rent. Eligible tenants could receive up to 15 months of rental payments.

Somerset 2 & 3 Open House

The Perkins, Somerset, Old Town (PSO) Transformation Plan continues to move along, as HABC residents attended the open house event at 1234 McElderry to sign their leases and/or update their leasing information. Somerset 2, which is called "The Ella" is due to open in November, and Somerset 3, called "The Ruby" will open this month.



HABC Staff at Poe Homes Relocation Event



Resident updates lease at Somerset Open House

Top Stories

1

Perkins Youth Tenant Council Gives Out Food

HABC's partner, Urban Strategies, Inc, took the **Perkins Youth Tenant Council** to the Franciscan Center, so they could prepare and give out meals to Baltimore citizens. Despite elevated temperatures, HABC youth residents donated one of their summer days to give back to the community.



2

Fiscal Dept. Site Tours

HABC's SVP of Budgets & Grant Administration, **Joseph Staskiewicz** and the entire fiscal department went on tours of specific HABC properties to view their conditions and have conversations with HABC asset managers to understand what it is they're making financial decisions for.



3

Brooklyn Homes is READY for Leasing

Brooklyn Homes' Asset Manager, **Abraham Wrotto**, welcomed new residents at Brooklyn Homes with a \$300.00 gift card and a window air conditioner! Resident says that she is "optimistic about the community."



4

Baltimore City Master Gardeners Rosemont/Dukeland

Through University of Maryland, and their outreach with Baltimore City Master Gardeners, staff and youth residents at Rosemont/ Dukeland planted basil, peppers, tomatoes, kale, beans, and thyme. The children helped with the soil and watering their new plants out on our playground.



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

2,262 Followers
@bmoreHABC



Facebook

8.4k Followers
@bmoreHABC



Instagram

1,743 Followers
@officialHABC

HABC TV/App Updates

Attention HABC residents, you can now stay connected with your community with the click of a button! Want to contact your asset manager? Or create a work order? Or maybe you want to subscribe to get outage alerts or updates sent directly to your phone.

You can do all these tasks and more just by downloading the new HABC app! Learn about the property managers that are committed to improving your community on the app. You can even get all property forms and information on upcoming events and services, like job training and career advancement help, all through the HABC app!



Scan QR code to download app



HABC Strategic Plan Survey Results

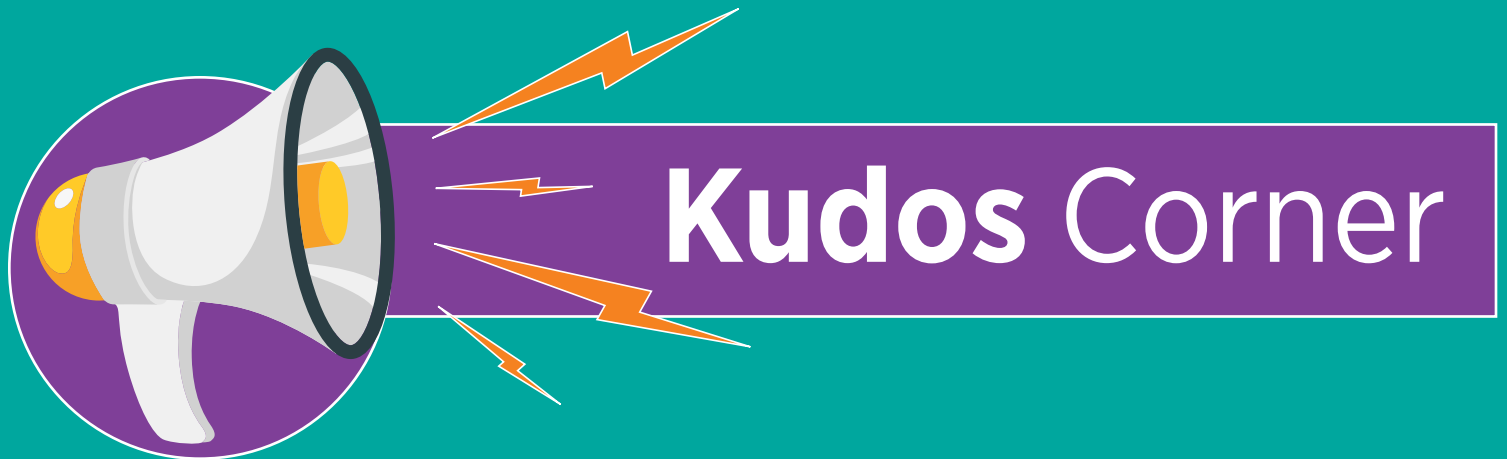
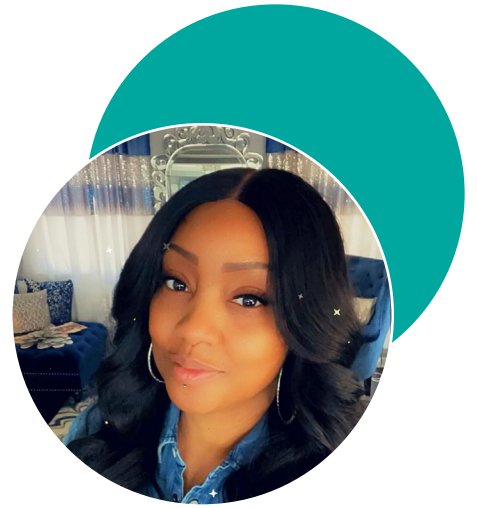
435
Starts

137
Submits

Employee Spotlight

Housekeeping Coordinator, Carolina Johnson

HABC would like to shine light on Housekeeping Coordinator, **Carolina Johnson**, who VP of Public Housing Henry Johnson says, “is a one-woman team working tirelessly to assist and direct many of our residents with their housekeeping and decluttering needs.” Not only does Carolina go above and beyond to help residents, but she is also working on a newly created pilot program that focuses on addressing and minimizing poor housekeeping. Keep up the great work, Carolina!



Waiting List Is Open

For the first time in four years, HABC opened our preliminary applications to get onto the waiting list for public housing. HABC received nearly **17,000 applications** in one day on August 1, the first day the online application period opened; In the 10 days that the waiting list was opened, **26,000 applications** were submitted. From the applications submitted, 13,000 people will be selected randomly to be placed on a new waitlist. That will start a more detailed process requiring proof of income and preferred number of bedrooms. Please note people won't see their names called from that list until our previous list, which still contains 8,900 names, is exhausted.

