



IMPACT REPORT

2025



The merger of the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) and the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB) was driven by the desire to create a single, comprehensive organization with a clear vision for the Baltimore Region.

With seven decades of leadership, a leap of faith, and a fair share of risk, both organizations approved what would undoubtedly become the most transformative reshaping of our region's premier business organization in a generation.

There was no guarantee that the effort would yield success or deliver a greater impact.

The issues America's regional economies face are complex, requiring long-term thinking and coalitions of both private and public sector resources. Yet, too often we depend solely on the public sector as the architects for solutions to our challenges or to set the boundaries of our economic opportunities.

Our leadership matters and has never been more critical.

Throughout America, successful regional economies depend on a high level of collaboration between business and civic organizations to provide the expertise, talent, and coordinated partnership necessary to ensure that they're best positioned to compete in an interconnected and hyper-competitive global marketplace.

In my first few months, we listened to our partners across the business, civic, and faith communities, including the wide array of elected officials who are invested in the region's long-term success.

With a clear vision of where we could have the most impact in providing regional leadership, GBC launched our Multi-Year Agenda in 2023. This guiding strategic framework outlines 12 key initiatives that position our work for the greatest impact, on issues ranging from securing high-quality economic development opportunities to paving the way for transformative transportation and infrastructure investments. The initiatives outlined in our Multi-Year Agenda are designed to catalyze the tremendous collective impact, know-how, willpower, and passion that exists among our 300+ partner organizations.

Two years is not a long time, but I'm incredibly proud of the work our team and partners have done thus far. As we celebrate our 70th anniversary, this Impact Report provides an overview of the significance of each initiative outlined in our Multi-Year Agenda, and the work that's either underway or planned around these key areas.

We're proud to present this overview of our achievements and the vision for our future.

Thank you!

Mark Anthony Thomas

President and CEO, Greater Baltimore Committee



GBC BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

As we reflect on another year of progress at the Greater Baltimore Committee, I am both inspired by what we've achieved and energized by what lies ahead. In a time marked by transition and transformation, GBC has continued to serve as a vital force in shaping a more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous economic future for the Baltimore Region.

Since our merger with the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, GBC has embraced its expanded role with urgency and clarity. We are not only building on a 70-year legacy of civic and economic leadership—we are reimagining how public and private sector partners can work together to catalyze lasting, sustainable change.

This year's report highlights the meaningful strides we've made across transportation, public safety, housing, and infrastructure—areas foundational to a thriving region. From advancing the Baltimore's Transit Future campaign to playing a pivotal role in the Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Alliance, GBC is demonstrating what it means to lead with purpose.

Equally important is our determined vision for long-term impact. Through the launch of All In | 2035, GBC is rallying more than 300 partners around a shared economic opportunity plan for the decade ahead. By identifying key strategic growth areas, leveraging federal designations like the Tech Hub, and uniting around a new regional brand identity, we are laying the groundwork for sustainable investment and job creation across every community.

As President and CEO of the University of Maryland Medical System, I understand the transformative power of institutions that commit to economic growth and impact. GBC's work—anchored by data, driven by collaboration, and focused on measurable outcomes—mirrors that same commitment. Our shared future will be shaped not just by vision, but by the strength of partnerships we build today.

Thank you for your continued support of GBC. Together, we can ensure that the Baltimore Region not only competes—but leads—in the global economy, and that every resident has access to the opportunities they deserve.

Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA

President and Chief Executive Officer of the University of Maryland Medical System

Multi-Year Agenda Items



1 Creating the Baltimore Region's first ever 10-Year Plan

GBC led the creation of a 10-year regional economic plan to identify high-growth industries and unify support for long-term priorities. We selected TIP Strategies from 13 local and national firms based on the firm's success in shaping economic strategies for major markets, including the Houston and Miami regions, as well as Montgomery County, Maryland. Over a 12-month period, TIP engaged more than 200 of GBC's partner organizations, toured the region's strategic economic development sites, and convened conversations with our county leaders.

All In | 2035 sets a dynamic and comprehensive vision for advancing regional economic opportunity, outlining a clear set of strategies for driving innovation and industry growth, creating vibrant, connected communities, and nurturing and retaining talent.

Key Highlights

- Identified creativity and culture, life sciences and predictive technologies, and logistics and light manufacturing as three opportunity growth sectors for the region.
- Identified strategies for further catalyzing major regional centers of employment opportunity, including Columbia Gateway, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Tradeport Atlantic, and the Downtown Baltimore entertainment district.
- Identified regional and global markets where the Baltimore Region is best positioned to compete and attract investment.



2 Creation of the Baltimore Region "BOLD MOVES" Economic Brand

The release of the Bold Moves regional economic brand marked the culmination of nearly two years of dedicated work aimed at showcasing our region's economic opportunities and amplifying strategic regional priorities.

In launching this initiative, 23 global firms applied to partner with GBC. We selected Resonance, Ipsos, and Timbre Strategies to work with our 70-member steering committee to discover the unifying and connecting approach to telling our story.

The Baltimore Region can now leverage this brand to communicate an authentic, clear, and compelling message that presents the full scope of our region's strengths, untapped potential, and the progress we've made to tackle our most long-standing civic challenges.

Baltimore will always remain Charm City and the Greatest City in America in public memory. However, to attract the next generation of entrepreneurs and capital investment, we must make a case that builds on the **BOLD MOVES** our current entrepreneurs, artists, and institutions are making today.



"The launch of the Baltimore Region economic brand is a transformative step in elevating our region's profile. A strong, unified identity is key to attracting investment, fostering innovation, and driving sustainable growth. Built on two years of collaboration and data-driven insights, this initiative presents a compelling narrative of our region's talent, industries, and opportunities."

—Augie Chiasera

Co-Chair, Branding Steering Committee; President, Greater Baltimore Region, M&T Bank

3 Strategic Investments for the Baltimore Region

Through All In | 2035, GBC and its partners identified the Baltimore Region's most critical economic hubs—sites that anchor commerce and job growth:

- **Anne Arundel County:** National Business Park
- **Baltimore City:** Downtown Baltimore entertainment district, the University of Maryland BioPark, and the Science and Technology Park at Johns Hopkins University
- **Baltimore County:** Tradepoint Atlantic
- **Cecil County, Harford County:** Aberdeen Proving Ground
- **Howard County:** Columbia Gateway, Downtown Columbia, and the Merriweather District

Private investment, strong business attraction, and development will be essential to sustaining these hubs—supported by aligned city, state, and federal resources, and reinforced through community engagement.



Key Highlights

- Guided creation of a new governance structure and long-term financing plan for the Baltimore Convention Center.
- Drove investments and policies for key regional hubs, including Tradepoint Atlantic, Columbia Gateway, and Aberdeen Proving Ground.
- Promoted transit-oriented development and major transportation investments through the Downtown RISE Masterplan.
- Aligned the All In | 2035 regional plan with the Governor's Executive Order to boost economic competitiveness.
- Formed an Air Service Advisory Steering Committee to help BWI Thurgood Marshall secure flight expansions.
- Championed Opportunity Zones as a bipartisan tool for strategic regional investments.

4 Pursue Game-Changing Opportunities

The federal Tech Hub program is a \$10 billion, five-year initiative established under the CHIPS Act, originally proposed in 2019 as the Endless Frontier Act. The program aims to drive investment in metro areas where innovation can advance technologies vital to U.S. competitiveness and national security.

Baltimore's designation as a federal Tech Hub marked a major milestone. In contrast to previous bids—like Amazon HQ2 and the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, which saw multiple competing applications from the region—Baltimore submitted a single, unified proposal that stood out from among nearly 400 and secured one of just 31 federal Tech Hub designations.

Our consortium of 48 partners identified the intersection of biotech and artificial intelligence as a focus area, focusing on biomanufacturing and startup commercialization projects to position our region for more than 30,000 jobs.

The recognition has helped Baltimore's assets shine: we've been recognized as a top market for tech talent, an emerging biotech hub, a competitive center of cutting-edge industries, and a top innovation hub to watch.

- More than \$21 million has been invested in regional tech hub investment projects.
- The Baltimore Region aligned more than \$800 million of investments from 100 institutions and partners to catalyze life sciences and AI.

Leading this effort gave GBC a chance to signify a major step forward in our organization's transition.

Our Regional Innovation Office will continue to pursue additional federal funding through future phases of the Tech Hub program, as well as other economic development, research, and commercialization initiatives.



“Securing the federal Tech Hub designation affirms the strength of our innovation ecosystem and our ability to align public, private, and community partners. It's a powerful model for future opportunities to support the region's economic growth.”

—Jeff Cherry

Co-Chair, Tech Hub Designation Committee, Founder and Executive Director, Conscious Venture Lab





5 Establishing the Region's Business Investment Program

Since 2023, GBC has partnered with the U.S. Department of Commerce to host the Baltimore Region Investment Summit—an official SelectUSA spinoff and the nation's premier foreign direct investment event. The Summit reflects broader efforts to position the Baltimore Region as a destination for business growth and capital investment, the core role of a regional economic development organization.

Maryland and the Baltimore Region must aggressively attract private capital while tackling barriers to competitiveness. Priorities include creating a Certified Sites Program to accelerate site selection and reviewing state business tax credits, incentives, and financing tools.

As a first step, GBC launched the region's first economic scorecard, capturing \$3.7 billion in private investment in 2023 and \$4.4 billion in 2024. To build a stronger pipeline, we engaged Bloomberg Associates, studied national best practices, and, through the integration of UpSurge Baltimore, added a database of the region's most promising startups.

National visibility has also grown. GBC's partnership with the Site Selectors Guild and appointment to the Board of Directors of the International Economic Development Council strengthen the region's connectivity to leading site consultants and global investors.



“The Greater Baltimore Committee has driven sustainable growth. In the Merriweather District, we've seen increased interest from market-leading companies. We look forward to continuing our work with GBC to realize our shared vision for a thriving, prosperous region.”

—Greg Fitchitt

Co-Chair, Business Retention and Expansion Committee, EVP, Government Affairs & Business Development, Howard Hughes

6 Baltimore's Transit Future

A reliable transit system is essential for regional mobility and economic growth. Through the Baltimore's Transit Future Campaign (BTF), a collaboration with the Greater Washington Partnership, GBC has mobilized the private sector to push for new transportation funding and infrastructure improvements.

We've advocated for restoring Maryland Transportation Authority funding, advanced policies for transit-oriented growth, and rallied more than 70 business and civic partners to address structural revenue shortfalls, expand bus service, and strengthen long-term transit investments.

GBC's leadership has helped secure partner appointments to key bodies including the Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs, the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission, and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

Building on this foundation, we launched an annual fall series on the future of transportation and economic development—bringing together elected officials, business leaders, and cultural voices to highlight transformative projects such as the Red Line East-West Connector, Lutherville Station redevelopment, and Downtown RISE.



“To quote Governor Moore, ‘you can't have economic mobility without physical mobility.’ GBC's leadership in Baltimore's Transit Future coalition is essential to securing the improved transit system our region's residents and businesses need.”

—Jon Laria

Co-Chair, Baltimore's Transit Future Campaign, Special Counsel, Ballard Spahr LLP



7 Our Response: Key Bridge Collapse

In response to the Key Bridge collapse in March 2024, GBC partnered with the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), Governor Wes Moore, and regional leaders to form the Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Alliance—uniting more than 130 partners and raising over \$16 million for relief.

BCF has already disbursed nearly \$8 million to support direct relief, small business recovery, community resilience, and remembrance efforts. This reflects a comprehensive approach that addresses both immediate needs and long-term recovery.

The collapse underscored the port's central role in the regional economy. Manufacturing—one of the Baltimore Region's top growth priorities in GBC's 10-Year Plan—depends on efficient port access to compete globally. Restoring the Key Bridge is critical to sustaining our manufacturing base and long-term competitiveness.

GBC reinforced this priority by joining state and local leaders at the collapse site and elevating the bridge's reconstruction as a core infrastructure project. To sustain momentum, we have also established an Infrastructure Committee to champion major investments vital to the region's economic future.



8&9 Improving Public Safety

Over the past few years, Baltimore has seen a significant drop in crime across nearly every category—a testament to the collective leadership of city, regional, and state officials, and strong collaboration with private, nonprofit, and philanthropic partners.

In close partnership with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD), GBC identified two areas where the business community can drive meaningful change: reducing gun violence and strengthening police recruitment and retention—challenges facing cities nationwide.

Additionally, our partners have been critical supporters of community violence intervention efforts, which have contributed to this progress and helped position historically disinvested neighborhoods for broader investment.

In 2023, GBC developed data dashboards and reports to keep our board and stakeholders informed on public safety trends, and we continue to work with BPD and regional leaders to implement targeted strategies that support officers and help rebuild the force.



“After years of decline, Baltimore is making major inroads in public safety—with a 39% drop in homicides since 2022 and a 33% decrease over the past year. GBC and its members have supported this momentum through collaboration, recruitment efforts, media partnerships, and convening experts to ensure we stay on this path. Baltimore is ready to shed its outdated reputation and show the world it is open for business.”

—William Moore

Co-Chair, Gun Violence Steering Committee,
President, Southway Builders



“Our police recruitment task force brought together HR experts from top Baltimore organizations to support the City's recruitment efforts. The Commissioner and BPD were receptive to our suggestions, and we continue working together to help the force grow and better serve Baltimore City and its citizens.”

—Gary Attman

Co-Chair, Police Officer Recruitment and Retention
Committee, President and CEO, FutureCare



10 Vacant Housing

In July 2023, GBC partnered with the Mayor's Office and Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) to tackle Baltimore's vacant housing crisis—the first collaboration between our organizations since creating the CollegeBound Foundation in 1988.

Our partnership focuses on four priorities:

- Securing public and private funding.
- Establishing governance to drive redevelopment.
- Supporting developers and community organizations.
- Expanding workforce opportunities.

PFM Financial Advisors quantified the scale: 70,000 vacant or at-risk properties requiring an estimated \$3 billion in public funding and \$5 billion in private capital over 15 years. Their analysis showed the return would far exceed the public commitment, delivering long-term value for the city and its residents.

With support from the Weinberg Foundation, we engaged Forsyth Street Advisors to analyze Baltimore's lending market, identify financing gaps, and design new funds to fill them—drawing on national best practices.

Since launching this work, GBC has helped secure more than \$1.2 billion in public funding and is raising at least \$100 million in private capital to stabilize housing markets and revitalize communities. By aligning public and private resources, we are laying the foundation to reverse decades of disinvestment.



“Addressing Baltimore’s vacant housing crisis is about restoring hope and opportunity in our communities. Through my role with GBC’s Vacant Housing Committee and at Associated Black Charities, I’ve seen how collective action turns long-standing challenges into real progress. GBC’s role in convening diverse voices and building consensus is moving Baltimore forward.”

—Crissy M. Thornton

Co-Chair, Vacant Housing Committee, President and CEO, Associated Black Charities

11 BLocal

Launched by Johns Hopkins University after the Freddie Gray tragedy, BLocal was a groundbreaking commitment by Baltimore's anchor institutions to spend more locally and expand job opportunities. The initiative generated over \$1.4 billion in local procurement and opened new career pathways for thousands of city residents.

That early momentum was real, but sustaining it required stronger coordination. Over time, the framework behind BLocal weakened even as the brand retained recognition. In 2023, GBC made the strategic decision to pause the program—not to step away, but to rebuild it with greater clarity and long-term purpose.

Over the past year, GBC engaged partners, studied peer models in cities like Los Angeles and Philadelphia, and assessed what it would take to create a platform with staying power. The conclusion was clear: BLocal should become GBC's signature initiative for local hiring, procurement, investment, and community engagement—with a modern, scalable structure.

In July 2025, Johns Hopkins formally transferred stewardship of BLocal to GBC. With support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, we are conducting a feasibility study to define the program's next phase and establish clear goals and measurable outcomes. Our renewed vision is anchored in four pillars: Hire Local. Buy Local. Invest Local. Live Local.

We will begin with Hire Local—creating intentional talent pipelines, strengthening community-based recruitment, and aligning employer demand with local workforce strengths. In the year ahead, we will also analyze procurement trends to identify high-impact opportunities for local businesses to participate in regional growth.

B LOCAL

BUSINESSES PARTNERING
FOR BALTIMORE

In building this next chapter, GBC is learning from prior initiatives—including the Baltimore Integration Partnership, UpSurge's procurement pathways, the Bridging the Gap Awards, and the Mayor's Business Recognition Awards. These efforts demonstrated the importance of intentional design, sustained leadership, and measurable outcomes—lessons we are carrying forward into BLocal's future.

Rebuilding trust and transforming fragmented efforts into a cohesive movement will take discipline and commitment. But with sharper focus and renewed leadership, GBC is ready to move BLocal forward—and we invite the entire Baltimore Region to move with us.



“After nearly a decade of leadership, commitment and collaboration, we are pleased to see BLocal advancing into its next phase. Since its inception, our goal was simple: how can we partner together to do better for Baltimore? We’re proud to have played a role in its beginnings and are equally proud to support the transition alongside GBC as we continue our commitment as a BLocal member institution.”

—Maria Harris Tildon

Vice President of Government, Community and Economic Partnerships for Johns Hopkins University and Medicine

12 UpSurge & Increasing Entrepreneurship

The Baltimore Region has a thriving startup scene, supported by a growing network of capital providers and anchored by one of the nation's strongest pipelines of federal and higher education R&D funding. UpSurge's 2025 Ecosystem Report shows that local startups are attracting significant venture capital investment—evidence of both momentum and untapped potential. Yet, a core finding of GBC's All In | 2035 plan was that the region must do more to connect its world-class science and technology assets with its entrepreneurial ecosystem. GBC's partners consistently underscored the need to expand entrepreneurship and reduce barriers to growth as part of our Multi-Year Agenda.

In December 2024, GBC announced its merger with UpSurge Baltimore, an ecosystem-building organization dedicated to advancing

a thriving tech environment for innovators, founders, and talent in the Baltimore Region. UpSurge will continue the work it started — connecting capital with talent, surfacing the region's most investable startups, and building the infrastructure that enables founders to scale in and from Baltimore.

The integration of GBC and UpSurge unites missions around a shared commitment: to strengthen Baltimore's innovation ecosystem and center collaboration as the driver of inclusive economic growth. Together, we will build the engine for innovation-led growth by developing a real-time ecosystem database to identify high-growth entrepreneurs and firms, setting clear regional goals for new company creation and scaling, and leveraging GBC's communications platform to elevate Baltimore's national profile as a tech hub.



This work will focus on four immediate priorities:

- Measuring and tracking the region's startup activity.
- Setting clear goals for new company creation.
- Reshaping convenings to accelerate founder growth.
- Building a national identity for Baltimore's tech ecosystem.

Ultimately, the integration of GBC and UpSurge is about more than building startups—it is about building the systems, stories, and strategies that unlock generational opportunity for the Baltimore Region.

UP SURGE BALTIMORE



Hopes for the Future

Three years ago, we set out to define a new standard for a level of regional leadership that was sorely needed—one rooted in collaboration, grounded in data, and ambitious in scope.

Our Impact Report captures the significant progress we've made standing up new strategies, forging deeper regional partnerships, and aligning the public and private sectors around a bold, shared vision for inclusive economic growth. The report also reflects the kind of vision this moment in the future of our region and state demands—leadership willing to take risks, challenge long-standing assumptions, and pursue impact at scale.

We've focused our efforts where they matter most—on issues with the greatest potential to shape the region's future. From unlocking investment and driving innovation to strengthening infrastructure and reimagining our neighborhoods, each initiative has been designed to create lasting, measurable value.

As we mark 70 years of impact, we are focused firmly on what's next. The foundation has been laid. The momentum is real. Now, we invite you to join us as a partner in shaping a Baltimore Region positioned for sustained growth, expanded opportunity, and long-term prosperity. To learn more, contact us at partner@gbc.org.

Thank you!

Thank you!



Partners & Board Members



A photograph of four people standing in a row against a blue background featuring white transit maps of Baltimore. From left to right: a man with dreadlocks in a black jacket, a man with glasses in a black jacket with a Baltimore Orioles logo, a woman in a grey zip-up top, and a man in a dark suit and tie. The background maps include labels like 'NEW UNION TUNNEL', '321 UNION TUNNEL', 'BALTO', 'BALTIMORE', 'ODENTON', 'S.M.OFF WASHN', 'A.T.M.OFF W SHN', 'BIDDLE ST', '22S', '22N', '1A', '1TRK', '2TRK', '3TRK', '213', '2003', '2002', '2001', '2004', 'CANT', 'NHS M', 'WASHN', 'ATM', 'WILT', 'B9', '213', '2003', '2002', '2001', '2004', 'NEW UNION TUNNEL', '321 UNION TUNNEL', 'BALTO', 'BALTIMORE', 'ODENTON', 'S.M.OFF WASHN', 'A.T.M.OFF W SHN', 'BIDDLE ST', '22S', '22N', '1A', '1TRK', '2TRK', '3TRK', '213', '2003', '2002', '2001', '2004'.

Greater Baltimore Committee | **IMPACT REPORT 2025** 21

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*Listing reflects GBC Board membership as of August 2025

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| Cecil County Chamber of Commerce | Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC) |
| Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce | Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland (RMI) |
| Downtown Partnership of Baltimore | Urban Land Institute Baltimore |
| Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance | Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Inc. |
| Maryland Chamber of Commerce | World Trade Center Institute (WTCI) |

History of GBC

GBC was officially born on January 5, 1955, when 83 Baltimore business leaders gathered at the ElkrIDGE Club with a shared purpose: to unite the private sector in addressing the region's most pressing civic challenges and pursuing its most promising economic opportunities.

The concept for GBC began in 1952, when Frances H. Morton of the Citizens Planning and Housing Association met with a young mortgage banker, James W. Rouse, to discuss Baltimore's mounting problems—aging infrastructure, declining property values, and a shrinking tax base. Those conversations sparked a movement to create what founders described as “a voluntary citizen-arm of government; non-sectional, non-political, and non-profit making,” an action-oriented coalition that could mobilize resources and ideas where government alone could not.

From its earliest days, GBC focused on projects that would reshape Baltimore's physical and economic landscape. Early priorities included accelerating the Jones Falls Expressway, building a civic center, modernizing port and mass transit facilities, and advancing urban revitalization. The organization's first major triumph was Charles Center—a bold downtown redevelopment plan conceived in 1956 with One Charles Center being completed in 1962. The success of the Charles Center inspired an even more ambitious project: the revitalization of the Inner Harbor. In the 1960s, GBC and city leaders championed a 30-year, \$260 million plan to transform the waterfront into a vibrant destination, culminating in the opening of Harborplace in 1980 and the development of world-class assets and attractions, including the Baltimore Convention Center (1979) and the National Aquarium (1981).



This era included the construction of the ‘Highway to Nowhere,’ a 1.4-mile stretch of U.S. 40 built in the early 1970s that displaced over 1,000 residents and disrupted West Baltimore communities. Built during Mayor Donald Schaefer's administration as part of a larger interstate network that was never completed, the project highlighted the risks of poorly planned development and reinforced for GBC and other civic leaders the importance of pursuing projects—like the Inner Harbor—that unite rather than divide communities.

While these mid-century projects revealed both the promise and the pitfalls of urban redevelopment, GBC's roots extend much deeper—part of a 170-year continuum of organized business leadership in Baltimore. That lineage began in 1853 with the founding of the Baltimore Corn and Flour Exchange, created to bring structure and fairness to grain trading when Baltimore was among the world's most important export ports. Over the next century, it evolved into the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce (1896), the Baltimore Association of Commerce (1924), and ultimately the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Baltimore. In 1977, GBC absorbed that Chamber, consolidating the legacies of every major business institution that preceded it and inheriting their commitment to Baltimore's economic future.



1980S–1990S

As Baltimore entered the 1980s and 1990s, GBC played a leading role in major civic projects such as Oriole Park at Camden Yards (opened in 1992), securing the team's long-term future and bringing the Ravens to Baltimore in 1996. During this same period, the organization launched The Leadership program (1983) to cultivate future civic leaders, created the Development Credit Fund (1984) to expand financing for minority-owned firms, and—together with Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD)—established the CollegeBound Foundation (1988) to expand college access for Baltimore City students. These efforts reflected GBC's broader commitment to regionwide economic participation and opportunity.

Building on this momentum, GBC established the Greater Baltimore Alliance (GBA) in 1996 to market the region nationally and internationally, attract new investment, and showcase its quality of life, talent, and industry strengths. GBA later became the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), which continued this focus on regional marketing and business attraction.

2000–2021

A Period of Broad Civic Leadership

In the early 2000s, GBC expanded its influence across economic, cultural, and infrastructure priorities. The organization championed biotech growth, life sciences development, and cultural revitalization, leading projects such as the restoration of the historic Hippodrome Theatre and the creation of a life sciences park near leading research institutions.

GBC played a central role in retaining the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course, established the Bridging the Gap initiative to increase minority and women-owned business participation in the regional economy, and remained a steadfast advocate for infrastructure and transportation solutions. It created the Baltimore Transit Alliance (BTA) in 2004 to push for transformative transit projects like the Red Line and Green Line extension. In 2007, BTA became the independent Central Maryland Transportation Alliance (CMTA), continuing to champion regional mobility.

During this period, GBC also advanced education reform, downtown redevelopment, and neighborhood revitalization, ensuring that economic growth was linked to quality of life improvements across the region.



2022–PRESENT

Unifying for Regional Competitiveness

A pivotal moment arrived in January 2022, when GBC merged with the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), reuniting two organizations with intertwined histories. The decision addressed a critical need for a unified, competitive regional economic growth system capable of enabling Baltimore to compete nationally and globally.

Following the merger, GBC adopted an ambitious Multi-Year Agenda centered on economic opportunity, transportation and infrastructure, and collective impact. Working with TIP Strategies and more than 200 regional partners, the organization launched All In | 2035, a ten-year economic strategy to position the Baltimore region as a global center of innovation and creativity. GBC also convened the consortium that secured a federal Tech Hub designation for the Baltimore MSA, uniting 48 partners and 170 supporters to accelerate the region's tech ecosystem, and introduced Bold Moves as the Baltimore Region's economic brand—signaling to national and global audiences that the region is primed for investment.

GBC hosted the first-ever Baltimore Region Investment Summit as an official SelectUSA spinoff event. It championed downtown revitalization through the Inner Harbor and Convention Center redevelopment plans,

as well as the Downtown RISE action plan. GBC also partnered in the Baltimore's Transit Future campaign, uniting business and civic voices behind a world-class regional transit system—helping to secure \$150 million to sustain bus service and advocating for up to \$350 million in long-term transit funding.

Public safety and community revitalization have also been central to GBC's recent work. The organization partnered with the Baltimore Police Department and Bloomberg Innovation Team to support officer recruitment and retention, developed real-time public safety data analysis to inform collaboration among government and nonprofits, and worked with Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) and the Mayor to address more than 70,000 vacant or at-risk properties—quantifying the \$3 billion in investment needed to catalyze private redevelopment. Additionally, GBC secured record state funding for Project C.O.R.E. (\$50 million annually) to support community redevelopment and established the Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Alliance, rallying 120 members to commit more than \$16 million to Key Bridge recovery efforts.

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

For seventy years, GBC has been defined by its ability to adapt while staying true to its founding principle: that Baltimore's success depends on visionary leadership from the private sector, working in partnership with public sector and civic leaders to address the region's greatest challenges and seize its most promising opportunities. From Charles Center and the Inner Harbor to today's innovation-driven strategies, GBC's history is one of persistent action, strategic partnerships, and a steadfast belief in the region's potential.

As it enters its eighth decade, GBC continues to champion bold ideas, unite diverse stakeholders, and harness the power of collective leadership—building not only on a legacy of achievement, but on a renewed commitment to inclusive growth and lasting prosperity for the Baltimore region.



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MARYLAND THE DAILY RECORD UPCOMING EVENTS

INFLUENTIAL
MARYLANDERS

September 18, 2025

Influential Marylanders was created in 2006 to honor people who have made significant impacts in their field and continue to be leaders in Maryland.



October 13 - 17, 2025

Reader Rankings is a unique event that celebrates and recognizes the best our community has to offer through a nomination round, voting round and our final celebration revealing the top winners.

WOMEN'S
Leadership Summit

October 30, 2025

Join The Daily Record for our annual Women's Leadership Summit convening Top 100 Women, Leading Women and women professionals from across the state to learn from each other and build a network to create change.



October 30, 2025

The Daily Record's Empowering Women awards recognize companies and organizations that have shown a strong commitment to supporting and elevating women in Maryland.



November 3, 2025

Most Admired CEOs honors talented business CEOs, higher education leaders and nonprofit executive directors throughout Maryland whose leadership and vision are admired by those around them.



December 8, 2025

The Icon Honors awards recognize Maryland leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen field.



January 14, 2026

The Daily Record hosts Maryland's leadership for a live conversation in Annapolis on the opening day of the legislative session, discussing the most prominent issues facing the state of Maryland.



April 2026
Nomination Deadline:
January 9, 2026

The Daily Record and the Maryland State Bar Association are proud to honor Maryland's legal leaders. These awards pay tribute to the ways in which legal professionals are serving businesses, clients and individuals across Maryland and making our businesses and communities stronger.



May 2026
Nomination Deadline:
January 9, 2026

Maryland's Top 100 Women recognizes high-achieving Maryland women who are making an impact through their leadership, community service and mentoring. Winners are selected by past Top 100 Women and business leaders. Three-time winners are inducted into the Circle of Excellence.



June 2026
Nomination Deadline:
February 27, 2026

Home to several renowned medical and federal institutions, Maryland is a national leader of health care research and development. The Daily Record will be honoring those organizations and individuals who have made an impact on the quality of health care within our state.



August 2026
Nomination Deadline:
May 8, 2026

Leading Women identifies women who are 40 years old or younger for the tremendous accomplishments they have made so far in their careers. They are judged on professional experience, community involvement and their commitment to inspiring change.



September 2026
Registration Deadline:
April 2026

Best Companies to Work for in Maryland is a celebration of the state's elite employers, who have proven that they know what it takes to create an environment where people love to come to work.

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We'd especially like to recognize Dr. Mohan Suntha for his leadership and dedication.



Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA
President & CEO,
University of Maryland Medical System
Board Chair, Greater Baltimore Committee



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