



Baltimore Sister Cities
Esprit de Corps
 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
For volunteers, committee members, and leaders



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**Serving on the BSC as Ex-Officio for
 Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young in
 carrying out the mission of Baltimore
 Sister Cities in a local and global
 capacity is an honor.**



**by Geri Royale
 Byrd,
 BSC Vice President
 -Diversity &
 Outreach**

A native to
 Baltimore, and a
 graduate of

University of Maryland College Park, I received a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Journalism in 1988, and started my career in publications as a writer with NASA. I ventured north bound to discover my talent as an independent technical writing consultant. Over the past few decades, from Boston to Baltimore, I have worked both entrepreneurially and within the non-profit community as a writer, promoter and marketer, holding a scope of management and board of trustee roles in both the private and non-profit business sector. Leveraging my extensive communications and marketing experience throughout the years, my career as a public servant began in 2009, as a Correspondence Analyst and Investment Board Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Treasury during the Obama Administration.

Baltimore Sister Cities Food Drive

Our fundraising goal is \$5,000 by May 15.

<https://baltimoresistercities.org/bsc-fooddrive/>
 links to our fundraiser on Maryland Food Bank site:

<https://mdfoodbank.fenly.org/drive/baltimoresistercities-fooddrive/>

Please donate and help spread the word by sending an email blast to your committee's network and posting social media.

When I returned to my home town of Baltimore in 2016, I was selected by Waterfront Partnership as Marketing Manager for the Harbor Commuter Connections Initiative. In 2017, I was appointed to actively serve as the Director of Logistics and Special Assistant to the Mayor for the Pugh Administration, where I was responsible for logistical scheduling and oversight for the Mayor's public engagements, functioning as the primary communications strategist by interfacing with key City agencies and external stakeholders. I was promoted as Deputy Chief of Staff and continued in this role during the Young Administration. As key team member of Mayor Young's Executive Team, I work to support and facilitate administrative goals and strategic priorities in collaboration with the Mayor, Chief of Staff and Mayoral department leaders.

Serving on the BSC as Ex-Officio for Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young has been an overwhelming honor and privilege. I am inspired by the opportunity to play such an instrumental role in carrying out the mission of Baltimore Sister Cities in a local and global capacity. Through building solid and fundamental relationships, we foster fragments of humanity that allow us to bridge gaps that can be divisive and futile. The productivity of connections that BSC allows gives us inspiring avenues toward an appreciation of our differences...differences that bind us as a global community. I look forward to advocating as a champion promoter of BSC within City government and as an ambassador and diplomatic representative. During this unprecedented time of challenge and crisis in combating COVID-19, I see this as an opportunity for BSC to work in tandem with the City of Baltimore, creating an even stronger bond and partnership as we work diligently apart but undeniably together onward toward a common purpose, goal and mission in helping our communities thrive.

VOLUNTEERING – by Tharwat Abouraya

It's been a kaleidoscope of emotions, with this disruption we are facing. What are your thoughts on giving, while being under lockdown in Baltimore?

Volunteering: Yes, volunteer. Doing something nice for someone with no expectations of getting anything back is such a wonderful way to feel good about life in general. And, let's face it, we all need to feel good about ourselves in this unknown time of Coronavirus. So, what can you do? Contact your local agencies to learn their needs. Here are a couple links:

[Volunteer Match Baltimore](#)

<https://www.meetup.com/Central-Maryland-Volunteers/>

[How to Get Involved: COVID-19](#)

Perhaps your own committee has projects or unmet needs that could be completed during these days when some people may be feeling bored. Maybe it's making masks, providing monetary donations, organizing a scavenger hunt for the neighborhood kids (you can do this through social distancing!), or something else. Be creative, and know the community always needs great partnerships. We're all in this together, from our local communities to our states to countries around the world. Keep on keepin' on by doing what feels right for you, your family, and our BSC. There's no judgement, and there's no one size fits all. Just know that I believe our BSC will flourish again because of what each of us contributes to Baltimore City and our surrounding cities. Stay well, be safe, and live a life you love.

Getting to Know You: Kawasaki Committee



Kathleen Shiota & Yoshinobu Shiota

Kathleen Shiota was born in Minneapolis and resides in Owings Mills, Maryland.

Kathleen attended the University of Pennsylvania for a Master's in Educational Linguistics and met her husband, Yoshinobu, as an exchange student in 1980. In 1996 the couple moved from Manhattan to the center of Tokyo for 7 years, where her husband worked in the financial sector and Kathleen worked as an Associate Relocation Specialist while raising their 2 year-old daughter. In her free time she roamed museums and galleries in Tokyo, fascinated with Japanese arts and absorbing areas of ceramics, woodblock prints, and sumie drawings.

Upon a return state-side to Baltimore, Kathleen continued to be involved in arts education at her daughter's school. In 2017 she became a Co-Chair of the Baltimore Kawasaki Sister City Committee with her husband. Together they have locally sponsored several Japanese artists in exhibits and performances including musician Sumie Kaneko in 2017 and artist Setsuhi Shiraishi in 2018. The couple supports wider Asian artists as well, including Taiwanese curator Fang Yu Lee in her inaugural show at Towson University. In 2010, the couple founded a Visiting Artist Fund at Jemicy School in Owings Mills.

Kathleen has a *magna cum laud* B.S. and M.S. in Educational Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania and an MSW from Yeshiva University with a minor in community relations.

Yoshinobu Shiota

Yoshinobu Shiota was born in Tokyo, raised in Tokyo and Akita, and currently resides in Owings Mills, Maryland. He is a long time investment banker with positions in New York, Minneapolis, Tokyo and Maryland.

Yoshinobu has supported local cultural organizations in Maryland since 2003. From 2014, he has been President of the Advisory Board to the Asian Arts and Culture Center at Towson University, and is currently Co-Chair of the Baltimore Kawasaki Sister City Committee. Together with his wife, Yoshinobu founded the Visiting Artist Program at the Upper School of Jemicy School in Owings Mills which will celebrate a 10-year anniversary in helping students with art career development, in 2020.

Yoshinobu has a B.A. and M.A. in Economics from Keio University and has pursued further graduate study at the University of Pennsylvania.



Teamwork

Hosea Chew



Our own Xiamen Committee, Baltimore Sister Cities Board Members Hosea Chew – Baltimore Government , his non-stop volunteering contributions in serving as a solid relationships connector among the three concinnities is being recognized by Baltimore Sister Cities, Inc. for his notable performance. Last December 2019 when was approached by BLASCC's to help identify a venue to accommodate 1000 people at a reasonable rental rate to promote the city of Baltimore by brining-in the world renowned Egyptologist Dr. Zahl Hawass to give a lecture on the collaboration between Baltimore and Egypt for tourism and travel. Hosea contacted BLASCC's planner with a positive result by securing Baltimore War Memorial Museum which accommodates 1000 participants – including a fabulous rate of \$ zero.

Hosea Chew was recognized by BSC, Inc. President Tharwat Abouraya

*Stay at home,
stay inspired,
tell us your favorite stories.
Let' s keep the spark of BSC
spirit alive,
Together.*

