
BALTIMORE OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS ANNOUNCES UPDATES TO ARTSCAPE 2023: CELEBRATING THE COMEBACK YEAR

Performing artists include Grammy Award-winner Kelly Rowland, Nile Rodgers & CHIC, Dr. Madd Vibe, featuring Angelo Moore

(Baltimore, MD) -- August 7, 2023 -- The [Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts \(BOPA\)](#) is thrilled to make the following announcements for the return of [Artscape](#), one of the nation's largest free arts festival, from **Friday, September 22 to Sunday, September 24, 2023**. This highly anticipated event is making a triumphant comeback after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Artscape 2023 promises to be an extraordinary celebration of art, culture, and community – featuring an incredible lineup of artists, vendors, and organizations – with exciting new additions and beloved classics.

"Artscape is one of Baltimore's most iconic events, and its return this year is a marker of how our city is bouncing back after the pandemic," **said Mayor Brandon M. Scott**. "Baltimore is a town full to the brim with incredible artists and a rich history supporting our arts community. There is simply no better way to showcase their talent and their importance to our city than through Artscape. I cannot wait to welcome the incredible lineup of artists, performers, and vendors and the thousands of Baltimoreans and visitors who will get to enjoy this experience."

This year, Artscape received an overwhelming response with over 1,000 applications from artists, vendors, and organizations eager to be a part of this spectacular event. The festival will once again take place in the traditional footprint in the Bolton Hill and Mount Royal neighborhoods. However, in an exciting development, **Artscape is expanding across North Avenue into the Station North Arts & Entertainment District**. Festivalgoers will be able to explore the areas along North Avenue between Charles Street and Maryland Avenue, as well as Charles Street up to W. 20th Street.

"We are absolutely thrilled to bring Artscape back to Baltimore," said **Todd Yuhanick, interim CEO for BOPA**. "The level of effort and dedication from our team and partners behind the scenes has been extraordinary, and we continue to work tirelessly to curate an exceptional lineup of artists and programming for this comeback year. We look forward to showcasing how the power of the arts can bring people together September 22-24."

"Public art has an incredible ability to bring people together and promote social change. There's something about seeing beautiful works of art that sparks conversation and helps people connect," said **Tonya R. Miller Hall, senior advisor of Arts & Culture for the Mayor's Office**. "That's why I'm excited about this year's Artscape in Baltimore. It has the potential to make a lasting impact on the community, encouraging civic engagement and helping bring people together in a really powerful way."

Artscape 2023 will feature **four outdoor performing stages**, including the newly added "North of North" stage, located at North Avenue and 20th. These stages will showcase local, regional, and national musical acts, as well as a variety of performances. **Grammy Award-winner Kelly Rowland** has been named the headliner for Friday evening of the Festival with Saturday night's headlining act **Angelo Moore of Fishbone performing with his band Dr. Madd Vibe. Multiple GRAMMY-winning composer, producer, arranger, and guitarist Nile Rodgers & CHIC** will perform on Saturday afternoon as headliner. The **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra** will headline Sunday.

New Festival highlights include:

- **Project Artscape:** A captivating runway experience that will shine a spotlight on local emerging and professional designers, bringing their fashions to center stage.
- **Public Art Projects:** An outdoor photo gallery featuring the work of Erin Douglas, founder of the Black Burner Project and Contemporary Artist, Derrick Adams and intriguing mural installations by Jaz Erenberg will grace the corridor along Charles Street, providing visually compelling works that promise to leave a lasting impression.
- **B_23:** Artscape's new signature indoor exhibition, featuring the work of the best artists based in Baltimore City and the surrounding region.

Returning programming will include:

- **The Artists' Market:** A juried exhibition featuring over 100 artists presenting original, professional-quality work.
- **The Emerging Artist Program:** Supporting artists participating in their first outdoor art show by providing a free space, tent, and tables – this year exclusively featuring Baltimore-based artists.
- **Sondheim Semifinalists Exhibition:** A group show showcasing the work of 11 semifinalists for the prestigious Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize will be on view at MICA's Meyerhoff Gallery.
- The **Maryland Film Festival Shorts Festival** returns to the Parkway Theatre, which will reopen for the weekend.
- **Artscape After Hours:** Starting at 9 p.m. after the official Artscape programming ends, festivalgoers can keep dancing to the beats of various DJs and laugh out loud to comedic performances hosted by Baltimore Improv Group at LOL Artscape.

In addition to the artistic showcase, Artscape 2023 will be a family-friendly experience. On Saturday, September 23, festivalgoers can enjoy:

- **Kidscape:** A dedicated children's area, featuring family-friendly organizations, entertainers, craft ideas, hands-on activities, workshops, demonstrations, and creative dance and music performances.
- **Teenscape:** Exciting programming tailored for Baltimore City youth from makers, speakers, bands, musicians, and organizations passionate about the arts.

Culinary enthusiasts will rejoice the bounties of the Chesapeake region with a variety of **local food and beverage** vendors offering a diverse range of culinary delights from festival favorites to innovative treats. Festivalgoers will get to experience the region's best flavors – with at least 95% of Artscape food vendors hailing from the state of Maryland. **New this year will be the addition of a Beer Garden** at the Y NOT LOT on the northwest corner of North Avenue and Charles Street.

To enhance the festival experience, BOPA is creating an **interactive online map**, available at artscape.org beginning September 1, showing the locations of stages, food and beverage vendors, ATMs, bathrooms, first aid stations, and more. The interactive map will also include details on the scheduled acts for each stage and performance space.

Artscape is a rain-or-shine event, promising an unforgettable celebration of art and community. Produced by BOPA, the presenting sponsors of Artscape 2023 are the City of Baltimore, the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, and the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). Artscape 2023 is generously supported by AARP, Kaiser Permanente, ATAPCO, PNC Bank, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Aetna Better Health of Maryland, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), NRG, and the Maryland Vehicle Administration (MVA). WJZ-TV CBS Baltimore is the media.

Information on navigating and parking at Artscape 2023, programming, logistics, and more can be found and will continue to be shared at artscape.org and on social media (**@promoandarts**).

ABOUT ARTSCAPE

Artscape is one of **AMERICA'S LARGEST FREE** arts festival, rocking the cultural heart of Baltimore since 1982. It was designed as an Arts Fair and marketed Baltimore as a cultural hub. The newly developed Meyerhoff Symphony Hall was underway, and to draw community support and stimulate economic development and investment in the area, Artscape was born.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

All media inquiries, contact:

Barbara Hauck (bhauck@promotionandarts.org); 443-263-4315

Amy Burke Friedman (afriedman@profilespr.com); 410-382-5496

Carson Rehfield (carson@profilespr.com); 443-641-3371

Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which serves as Baltimore City's arts council, events center, and film office. By providing funding and support to artists and arts organizations, as well as producing cultural events across the city, BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative place to live and work.