

***Inviting Light* Public Art Initiative Announces Open Call for Local Creatives to Participate**

Baltimore Public Art Initiative Awarded \$90K from National Endowment for the Arts, Complements Grant Provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies

Baltimore, MD, Jan. 30, 2025 – Baltimore City’s highly-anticipated public art project, *Inviting Light*, which was awarded a \$1 million grant through the [Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge](#), has also received coveted support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The project was awarded a \$90,000 Arts Project Grant specifically to fund the project’s community arts programming component this year. To extend more opportunities for local creatives to participate, organizers have launched an open call to artists and other creatives to propose ideas to be a part of the *Inviting Light* series of events in 2025, a year of light in Station North.

Those selected will receive support both for their participation and to cover production expenses, ensuring their creative visions come to life. Submissions are being considered on a rolling basis, with a final deadline for consideration of March 31, 2025. Baltimore City residents and groups with relevant experience, including emerging artists and community-based groups, are encouraged to apply at <https://invitinglight.org/submissions/>.

“*Inviting Light* is set to infuse a vibrant glow of cultural activity into the Station North Arts District this year with five site-specific public art installations and complementary monthly arts programming,” said Ellen Janes, Executive Director of Central Baltimore Partnership. “We are honored and thrilled to be awarded such generous support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and now the NEA to help us integrate even more local artists and creatives to be a part of what’s to come in the neighborhood.”

Inviting Light’s Organizers Seek:

- Innovative projects by artists and creatives with backgrounds in performance, multimedia interventions, community workshops, or food-based activities that foster connection.
- Proposals that explore the visual and metaphorical aspects of light, emphasizing themes of social and civic engagement.
- Flexible approaches for evening events that adapt to site, weather, and duration, including multi-sited or series-based programming.

Over the past decade, stakeholders in [Station North](#) have identified poor quality or lack of lighting as a challenge to cultural activity, street life, and investment. Informed by the [Station North Public Space Plan](#) and [Signal Station North](#), a two-year community engagement, planning, and prototyping project, *Inviting Light*’s five distinct artistic light installations will enhance the nighttime environment and accelerate the inspiring revival of Station North.

"Light is a crucial element of our public spaces that we often take for granted — it's most noticeable when it's missing," said Mayor Brandon Scott. "Planning documents frequently cover transportation, green spaces, or streetscapes, but few focus specifically on lighting infrastructure. Light shapes our experience in public areas in both obvious ways, like guiding our path, and in more subtle ways — it helps us track time, serves as a landmark, and creates a unique sense of

place. We're incredibly grateful for the generous support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the National Endowment for the Arts to bring this bold vision to life in Baltimore. We look forward to seeing people 'bring their light' to Station North, visiting local businesses, exploring arts and culture, and reflecting the vibrant community spirit of our Arts District."

About Station North Arts District: Station North, designated as one of the country's first Arts and Entertainment Districts, has long been a hub for creative expression and cultural innovation. Through *Inviting Light*, the district continues to connect artists and audiences in meaningful ways. Follow @invitinglightbaltimore on Instagram or visit invitinglight.org to sign up for updates.

About the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge: The Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge brings together mayors, residents, and artists to develop temporary public art projects that address important civic issues in their communities. In 2022, Bloomberg Philanthropies invited mayors of U.S. cities with 30,000 residents or more to apply for up to \$1 million in funding to create temporary public art projects that address important civic issues and demonstrate an ability to generate public-private collaborations, celebrate creativity and urban identity, and strengthen local economies. More than 150 cities from 40 U.S. states applied. Bloomberg Philanthropies selected eight winning cities to develop projects focused on challenges related to climate change, equity, food insecurity, gun violence, homelessness, public health, and revitalization. Since launching in 2014, the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge has spurred more than \$100 million in economic benefits for participating cities and action across a range of civic issues. For more information, please visit publicartchallenge.bloomberg.org.

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