

THE LIVING ROOM IN YOUR LIVING ROOM



WHAT IS THE LIVING ROOM IN YOUR LIVING ROOM?

Throughout the 2019/20 Season, each show has featured an interactive audience space called “The Living Room,” where we’ve provided hands-on experiences meant to deepen audience connection to the plays on our stages and to encourage broader conversation about the social themes they raise.

For *Where We Stand*, because we won’t be able to curate that space in our home, we’re doing it in yours! The Living Room in Your Living Room includes resources to facilitate conversations, opportunities to dig deeper into the play’s questions, and ways to take action here in Baltimore.

Our team is located in Baltimore City (traditional Piscataway Lands) so our focus is connecting *Where We Stand* with conversations and work going on in our community. That said, the story of *Where We Stand* will resonate in many communities beyond Baltimore, and we’re curious what connections you might make from wherever you’re experiencing the play!

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

We believe in the power of stories as a catalyst for conversations and that *Where We Stand* provides many fertile opportunities for conversations resonant in Baltimore today. In this document, you’ll find:

- **BCS Dialogue Starters:** a list of conversation starters to use with your friends and family
- **BCS Intersections:** a few of our favorite podcasts, articles, and videos that intersect with *Where We Stand*
- **Take Action Corner:** featuring some of the many Baltimore-based organizations doing work related to *Where We Stand*
- **AfterThoughts:** Pre-recorded and livestreamed post-show discussions

BCS DIALOGUE STARTERS

The dialogue starter questions below are an offering from BCS to you. Feel free to generate your own dialogue questions as well.

- What is an individual resident’s responsibility to the community in which they live?
- What is any community’s responsibility to the individuals who make up that community?
- In a time of uncertainty, how might our concepts of accountability and compassion need to transform or expand to adapt to new realities?
- How do we care for one another and for those made most vulnerable by social structures in which we live?

BCS INTERSECTIONS

BCS Intersections is an online platform featuring multimedia dramaturgical content around our shows, spotlighting the intersections between the worlds on our stages and the world at large. We've chosen three of our favorites from the *Where We Stand* Intersections page to share directly with you here.

For more content recommendations, see bcsintersections.tumblr.com

LISTEN



[FUTURE CITY](#)

It's easy to talk about what's wrong in Baltimore. The challenge is to talk about what's next. Wes Moore takes on the challenge, with WYPR's Future City. In each episode, Wes looks at bright ideas that are working in other cities. And he asks the question: Can those ideas work for Baltimore?

WATCH



[BALTIMORE RISING](#)

In the wake of the 2015 death of Freddie Gray in police custody, Baltimore was a city on the edge. Peaceful protests and destructive riots erupted in the immediate aftermath of Gray's death, while the city waited to hear the fate of the six police officers involved in the incident, reflecting the deep divisions between authorities and the community -- and underscoring the urgent need for reconciliation. Directed by Sonja Sohn, who appeared at Baltimore Center Stage in 2017's *White Rabbit/Red Rabbit*, and starred on the HBO series *The Wire*, *Baltimore Rising* follows activists, police officers, community leaders and gang affiliates, who struggle to hold Baltimore together, even as the homicide rate hits record levels, and explores how to make change when change is hard.

READ

**AMERICAN
SHORT FICTION**

[BALTIMORE AUTHORS RESPOND TO THE DEATH OF FREDDIE GRAY](#)

Artists are, among other things, adept observers and interpreters of culture, so who better to ask for an on-the-ground view of Baltimore in May of 2015 than the city's writers? The voices here—Jane Delury, Michael Downs, Derick Ebert, Kenneth Morrison, Kiki Petrosino, Lia Purpura, Deborah Rudacille, D. Watkins, and Khaliah Williams—represent just a thimbleful of the many poets, journalists, fiction writers, and memoirists who call Baltimore home, and we hope that their insights add something vital to the discussion we've seen in recent days in major news venues and on op-ed pages.

TAKE ACTION CORNER

Every show in our 19/20 Season has featured a “Take Action Corner” in which we share resources from local direct service providers or movement building efforts related to themes and topics from the plays. Since we don’t have a physical Take Action Corner in our lobby, we’ve curated a special list for you here!

[*Click through to learn more.*](#)



[LEADERS OF A BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE](#)

Founded in 2010, LBS is Baltimore’s premier grassroots think-tank. They are a group of Baltimore residents dedicated to creating transformative public policy. Their vision is to drastically improve the conditions of Black people in the Baltimore-Metropolitan Region.



[BALTIMORE HARM REDUCTION COALITION](#)

Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition (BHRC) is a community-based organization that mobilizes community members for the health, dignity, and safety of people targeted by the war on drugs and anti sex-worker policies; they advocate for harm reduction as a part of a broader movement for social justice. They implement public health services and advocate for policies to expand harm reduction in Baltimore and across the state of Maryland. They believe in the value and dignity of all people and that we have a duty to assist in each other’s safety.



[BALTIMORE CEASEFIRE](#)

The ultimate goal of Baltimore Ceasefire 365 is for everyone in the city to commit to zero murders. They are starting by calling ceasefire weekends, where they ask everyone to be peaceful and celebrate life. Throughout the year, this movement serves as a hub for organizations and citizens to support one another, work together, and share resources with the goal of seeing an end to murder in Baltimore City.

AFTERTHOUGHTS

AfterThoughts is a series of post-show discussions in partnership with local organizations, activists, and thought leaders, and facilitated by BCS artistic staff. AfterThoughts conversations dig deeper into a production's themes and how they resonate in Baltimore today.

For *Where We Stand*, we are providing both pre-recorded discussions you can watch on your own as well as opportunities to participate in livestreamed conversations. Each AfterThoughts conversation centers on a topic within the play's central question of what we owe to each other.

To access the recorded videos and for more info about the live conversations, visit

<https://www.centerstage.org/plays-and-events/mainstage/where-we-stand>

AfterThoughts: Pre-recorded

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY IN BALTIMORE: TRANSFORMING JUSTICE AND REDUCING HARM

How can we allow for healing after harm has been caused? Harm reduction in Baltimore has looked like everything from safe injection sites to increased Narcan trainings to measures to decriminalize drug possession. BCS partners with Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition (BHRC) for a facilitated conversation about what it means to advocate for the safety and health of drug users. BCS Director of Artistic Partnerships and Innovation, Annalisa Dias, will be joined by guest facilitators Laurenellen McCann (Build With) and Estrellita Edwell (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), as well as leaders of the BHRC.

INSIGHTS: A CONVERSATION WITH PLAYWRIGHT DONNETTA LAVINIA GRAYS

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the making of *Where We Stand*. In this conversation between playwright and performer Donnetta Lavinia Grays and BCS Artistic Director Stephanie Ybarra, learn about the origins of the play, what it means to create theater without a fourth wall, and when a performance becomes a community exploration.

AfterThoughts: Live zoom event

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 AT 8PM REGENERATIVE FUTURES: HOW DO WE REBUILD?

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us safety looks like physical distance from one another. We experienced this as a collective society, but with that has also come an inherent caution around other people. As we re-enter our physical routines, how can we feel safe with one another again? How do we re-learn trust? What might a generative future centered on community and individual care look like?