BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE



BALTIMORE BUTTERFLY SESSIONS:

HEALING CITY

MON, FEB 28, 2022
7PM



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THE BALTIMORE BUTTERFLY SESSIONS

Inspired by **Citizen University's Civic Saturdays**, The Baltimore Butterfly Sessions brings together music, poetry, literary excerpts, and thought-provoking keynote addresses to catalyze conversation and build awareness around today's most pressing issues. Tapping into some of the brightest voices around the nation and in Baltimore, each Butterfly Session will bring together artists, activists, organizers, and thinkers to unpack a civically resonant topic. Come for the music, come for the poetry, come for the conversation.

WHY "THE BALTIMORE BUTTERFLY SESSIONS"?

A symbol of growth and emergence, transformation and borderless migration, butterflies remind us that tiny shifts in one place can set profound change in motion. Butterflies also have a special resonance in Baltimore:
You may or may not know that the city of Baltimore is sometimes referred to as a "Black Butterfly and White L." According to Dr. Lawrence Brown of Morgan State University, "Baltimore's hypersegregated neighborhoods experience radically different realities." Typically, Black neighborhoods fan out to the east and west resembling the shape of a butterfly while white neighborhoods run down the center of the city in the shape of an "L."

Through the Baltimore Butterfly Sessions, BCS aims to create a space for civic dialogue & fellowship across difference and stay firmly rooted in our local community.



Inspired by Healing City Baltimore's mission, this Baltimore Butterfly Session will highlight what is necessary to build a united movement of Baltimore's communities focused on healing from trauma, violence and racial inequity. As a kickoff to the 2022 Healing City Summit, this art + civic dialogue event will help us understand our part in creating the conditions needed to make Baltimore a trauma-informed city. Featuring music, poetry and more, we'll leave energized to join the Healing City movement and inspired to commit to creating a racially, socially, and economically just and thriving Baltimore for all.

KEYNOTE
COUNCIL MEMBER
ZEKE COHEN

MUSICIAN
BE STEADWELL

POET
MECCAMORPHOSIS

CIVIC TEXT

READING 1

Translating Trauma-Informed Principles into Trauma Responsive Practices.

An issue brief released by
the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

READING 2

HOW WE LEARNED (ARE LEARNING) TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE

Article written by adrienne maree brown

From *Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement*

Edited by Ejeris Dixon and
Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

READING 3

Reclaiming Our Voice

Chapter written by Tanisha Esperanza Jarvis

From *Love WITH Accountability: Digging up the Roots of Child Sexual Abuse*

Edited by Aishah Shahidah Simmons

FEATURING



Zeke Cohen

Councilmember Zeke Cohen has represented the First District on the Baltimore City Council since 2016.

He grew up in Northampton, Massachusetts, the son of a social worker and a psychiatrist. Zeke's belief that "community comes first" was inspired by his mother's stories of marching for Civil Rights and registering voters during the Mississippi Freedom Summer. After graduating from Goucher College, Zeke taught in West Baltimore and, as a teacher, was awarded the Elizabeth Lawrence Prize for Excellence. He attained a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University. Zeke started his nonprofit, The Intersection, to help young people learn community organizing and civic leadership. He ran for office with the belief that democracy only works when everyone has a voice in the process.

Since entering office in 2016, his office has resolved over 2800 separate constituent requests for assistance. These include requests for help resolving water billing disputes, removing abandoned boats from vacant lots, and expediting the repair of broken streetlights. Zeke believes in the power of organized communities and in the past two years, his office created community-driven task forces on the topics of transportation and public safety.



Be Steadwell

Be Steadwell is a musician, filmmaker, storyteller from Washington DC. In her live performances, she utilizes looping, vocal layering and beat boxing to compose her songs on stage. Be's original music features earnest lyricism and affirming LGBTQ content. Be's goal as a musician is to make other black girls, queers, introverts and generally marginalized weirdos feel seen.



Meccamorphosis

Meccamorphosis is an author, actress, teaching artist and poet. Mecca first garnished national attention after winning Brave New Voices, the largest international youth poetry slam in the world. Since then, Mecca has won many awards and received many honors including becoming a poet ambassador for Baltimore City and being ranked 4th slam poet in the world 2019. Mecca spends her time traveling the country performing, teaching and building upon the intersection of activism and art. Mecca is an incredible voice for Black women everywhere.

BALTIMORE BUTTERFLY SESSIONS SUPPORT FROM

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