

Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Station North Receives Arts & Entertainment District Outstanding Achievement Award

Baltimore (March 30, 2011) – In recognition of significant contributions made to Maryland’s economy through art and culture, the Station North Arts & Entertainment (A&E) District was presented today with the *Arts & Entertainment District Outstanding Achievement Award* by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED).

“The Station North Arts and Entertainment District demonstrates the power of Maryland’s greatest asset: the talents, skills, ingenuity, education, and creativity of our people,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “The support and promotion of artists and arts organizations has helped rejuvenate existing properties and improve local business viability in the District as part of the continuing development of the neighborhoods north of Penn Station in Baltimore. And as we transition into the new economy, one of the biggest competitive advantages we have is the creative capacity of our people, whether it is the creativity of scientists who work every day to advance healing and discovery or the creativity of artists who advance the possibilities of expression.”

DBED Assistant Secretary Hannah Byron presented the award to Station North Arts & Entertainment District Executive Director David Bielenberg during the annual meeting of A&E District managers held at the Frederick Cultural Arts Center. The Station North Arts and Entertainment District is an independent non-profit organization that oversees the management of the district.

The award recognizes Station North’s success in marketing and promoting events within the district as well as the district’s role in economic and community revitalization. The district, which was featured in the New York Times Travel section, promotes events and organizations through a weekly newsletter and radio segment on Baltimore’s WYPR. Station North hosts spring and fall music festivals, a monthly Second Saturday event and a significant portion of Artscape, America’s largest free arts festival. City Arts, a space that provides low-income artist housing, was featured on CNN as an example of how federal Recovery Act money spurred development and was visited by the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Located in the heart of Baltimore, Station North was the first area in the city to receive state designation as an A&E District in 2002. Spanning the communities of Charles North, Greenmount West and Barclay, Station North is a diverse collection of artist live-work spaces, galleries, rowhomes and businesses - all just steps away from Penn Station and Mount Vernon. Arts and Entertainment enterprises within the district include: the Charles Theater, Maryland Institute College of Arts Studio Center, Single Carrot Theatre, City Arts Apartments, the Metro Gallery, Load of Fun, Baltimore Print Studios, the Windup Space, Area 405, Everyman Theatre, Hexagon Space, Strand Theatre Company and the Schuler School of Fine Arts.

In accepting the award, Bielenberg commented, “We are honored to be recognized in this way. Since Station North was established nearly 10 years ago, many artists and entrepreneurs, along with community associations and public and private partners have contributed to creating the vibrant area that Station North has become. While there is still much to be done, we are grateful for this recognition of the work so many have done to date.”

The Outstanding Achievement Award is presented annually to a district board chair or executive director for excellence in one or more areas: marketing, public art, economic development, special events and festivals, and A&E outreach and education. Past winners of the award include the A&E Districts in Cumberland and Frederick.

Maryland’s Arts and Entertainment District Program was one of the first in the country and since 2001 has grown to include 19 districts located across the state, from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore. The program provides state incentives to help Maryland localities organize special zones that harness the power of their cultural resources.

The Arts & Entertainment District Program is administered by the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), an agency of Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development under the direction of the Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts. The latest economic impact report shows that Maryland State Arts Council grantees’ activities support more than 12,000 jobs and generate \$1.4 billion in local economic activity and \$41.4 million in state and local taxes.

For more information about the Arts & Entertainment program, contact MSAC Program Director Jesse Rye at 410-767-8851 or visit <http://www.msac.org/artsandentertainment>. For information on MSAC visit www.msac.org or call 410-767-6555, TTY 410- 333-4519.

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STATION NORTH ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT FACT SHEET

Location: Baltimore City
Year Designated: 2002
Managing Entity: Station North Arts & Entertainment, Inc.
Website: www.stationnorth.org
Contact: David Bielenberg, Executive Director

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Publicity/Public Relations:

- Weekly E-Newsletter that features links to all local organizations, news stories, and calendar of events for the upcoming weekend.
- WYPR Baltimore weekly segment “Spotlight on Station North”
- Promotion through Charm City Circulator
- District [website](#) and [facebook](#) page
- District featured in [New York Times Travel Section](#)

Public Art Projects & Installations:

- North Avenue Sculpture Project
- Station North Bike Racks

Economic Development:

- Completion of [City Arts Apartments](#)
- Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) purchase and rehabilitation of former Jos. A Bank sewing plant on North Avenue. MICA Studio Center now serves as both studio space for M.F.A. students and office space for the community.

Special Events and Festivals:

- [Artscape](#) – 2011 will be 30th annual festival with +350,000 expected in attendance
- Spring Music Festival
- Fall Music Festival
- Second Saturdays (Monthly)

Education and Outreach:

- 2010/2011 Strategic Planning Process will provide education about the district and have opportunities for community outreach.
- Strong partnerships with Central Baltimore Partnership, Charles North Neighborhood Association, Jubilee Baltimore, Greenmount West Neighborhood Association.
- Planning for [City Design High School](#)