This effort would not have been possible without the forward thinking of Jane Sundius and the generous investment of the Open Society Institute-Baltimore.

You can reach the Emerging Leaders and learn more about how you can get involved in their efforts to expand Youth Entrepreneurship by emailing:

emergingleaders1.0@gmail.com
What does it mean to emerge?

Emergence is an ongoing, lifetime process. The dictionary definition includes: “to move out of or away from something and come into view” and to “become apparent, important, prominent.” When we selected our first cohort, we sought authentic leaders that are ready for the next level, to have their work come more into view.

The Maryland Out of School Time Network launched Emerging Leaders to address a need in Baltimore City. Many committed, courageous individuals and organizations work tirelessly to change the trajectory of the lives of young people; however the current system of public and private funding doesn’t always offer enough footholds of support to boost their work. The challenge is the classic chicken and egg problem – a program needs infrastructure to qualify for many grants and the program needs the grants to build the infrastructure.

We designed Emerging Leaders to provide structured time for reflection to define strengths, identify gaps, and choose strategies that will support growth and scale for them as individuals and for the organizations they support. We also worked to activate these five powerful voices to advocate for changes to the big picture. The 2015 Emerging Leaders have chosen advancing Youth Entrepreneurship as their focus and have already begun to convene and provide vision.

The past six months have also been an incredible experience for MOST and the Emerging Leaders “faculty” — Rodney Foxworth and O’bette Jamison. We look forward to taking our lessons learned to our next cohort of Emerging Leader in 2016. We have been incredibly fortunate to be part of the community with our five Emerging Leaders — Cynthia Chavez, David Harris, Sabriyah Hassan, Gabriel Pickus and Mallory Wright. We know you will also value getting to know them and supporting their work.

One more note, we selected these five leaders from more than 55 applications, all of which were deserving in their own right. We look forward to adding eight more individuals to our Emerging Leaders community in 2016; however, clearly the demand for capacity building exceeds the current supply.

Ellie Mitchell

Director, Maryland Out of School Time Network

emitchell@mdoutofschooltime.org
www.mdoutofschooltime.org
@mostnetwork
During Cynthia’s first four months of teaching 7th grade science in Baltimore City, not a single day passed by without seeing a student dancing in the hallway. Recognizing the need for youth dance programs in Baltimore and eager to strengthen her relationships with her students, Cynthia decided to share her love of Hip-Hop dance by performing at her school’s holiday concert. The performance’s positive response inspired Cynthia to start an after-school dance club in January 2009.

By August 2009, Cynthia co-founded Baltimore Dance Crews Project (BDCP), a non-profit organization driven to utilize urban dance programming to strengthen student-
David Harris is a community organizer and social entrepreneur. He coached basketball and football for eighteen years in addition to mentoring youth in various arenas serving as a self-esteem counselor, a school behavioral counselor, and a residential counselor in group homes. David is currently the President of a non-profit organization called Reconstruct & Rebuild as well as the McElderry Park Community Association.

David’s early years mirror that of many of the residents of McElderry Park. He grew up in an environment where drugs and violence were prevalent and as a result of these challenges he was raised by family friends in place of his own parents. These experiences took their toll and eventually he too was engaged in illegal activity which led to incarceration.

While in prison, and with the support and guidance of his wife, David established a relationship with God that led him to his true purpose. He dedicated himself to finding additional resources and opportunities that will support members of the community so they can be both successful and self-sustaining. His work has been recognized by a number of awards and honors including Baltimorphosis, Emerging Leaders, Byrnes Criminal Justice Initiative grantee, and BMe.

As President of Reconstruct and Rebuild, David has overseen the creation of a life coaching program that assists youth 14 to 24 years. Reconstruct and Rebuild mentors work with students to improve grades and behavior in the schools, advocate for them in court, and talk to families in their homes to provide necessary resources. Anything the students need to get ahead in life, Reconstruct and Rebuild is there to provide.

David has a vision of building out more infrastructure in the McElderry Park community including a sports complex, community center programming that holistically addresses student needs, and a school that provides not just basic academics, but also focuses on critical thinking, knowledge of history, heritage and culture, and fosters youth as entrepreneurs.

Participating in Emerging Leaders has been inspiring to David by being part of a group of diverse, dedicated people who share a common interest in social change who are willing to collaborate together and not be separate in the effort.
Sabriyah Hassan

Being a product of the inner city herself, Sabriyah’s mission is to expose other inner city youth to progressive opportunities that allow/encourage them to think outside of the box and beyond their neighborhood lines. This is why she founded Team Triumphant, Inc. back in 2006. After realizing that the youth she was working with during the school day had very little options to engage in progressive activities during “out of school time” hours, she decided to do something about it. Team Triumphant’s mission is to provide supplemental educational and extracurricular services to youth that promote creative thinking, develop strong problem solving skills, build self esteem and improve physical and mental well being.

Sabriyah has recently began working with an executive coach as a way to propel her and Team Triumphant, Inc. to the next level. Ideally, Team Triumphant, Inc. would be able to set up shop throughout the city and offer 24/7 social and human service resources to those youth who are most in need.

Working with the Emerging Leaders has really motivated her to think more strategically when it comes to approaching the program’s design/model. However the biggest take away from the Emerging Leaders experience has been the power of teamwork. Sabriyah has come to foster extremely valuable, sustainable relationships with similar individuals on the ground, doing the work.

Sabriyah is a proud graduate of the University of Maryland College Park ('02 B.A., Spanish). She holds a Masters degree from Loyola University Of Maryland (09) in Educational Leadership and will receive a second Masters from Loyola in the spring of 2015 in Special Education. Her past professional experiences include working as a Special Education teacher for the Pathways Schools in Silver Spring, Maryland, as a Behavior Intervention Specialist for Baltimore’s Kennedy Krieger Institute, and as a Site Manager and Community School Coordinator for Elev8 Baltimore. Although Brooklyn, New York is her original home, over the years she has grown fond of Baltimore City and its uniqueness and is proud to call it her second home.
Gabriel Pickus has dedicated his life to transforming American education. In his adolescent and early teen years, he became involved in an international youth social justice movement and began training in martial arts—experiences that had a profound impact on his teaching and conflict resolution skills. Gabriel spent a year in Israel/Palestine facilitating co-existence curricula for Muslim-Israeli, Christian-Israeli, and Jewish-Israeli youth. Earning his degree in Religion from Goucher College, he also studied yoga, Capoeira Angola, Ghanaian drum and dance, digital music, studio art, psychology, theology, and education. Gabriel got involved in Baltimore City Public Schools through the “Read-A-Story, Write-A-Story, Enact-A-Story” program. Gabriel spent the next five years gaining invaluable teaching experience in a variety of programs. As he repeatedly encountered the same challenges, the need for a student-centered approach became increasingly apparent.

He studied energy medicine, and is now a Healing Touch Practitioner. Following his studies with Dr. Theodore Richards to earn his Wisdom Teacher Certification, Gabriel founded The Baltimore Wisdom Project. The mission of The Baltimore Wisdom Project (B’More Wise) is to re-define education via holistic programming that transforms individual, community, and world through creative expression. Utilizing community partnerships, B’More Wise programming ranges from single workshops, to yearlong intensives culminating in a rite of passage.

Building upon this holistic youth development model, Gabriel is working collaboratively with other youth-serving organizations to build the passion to profession pipeline. Over and against the school to prison pipeline, Gabriel envisions a citywide, and eventually nationwide, network that funnels disconnected youth into opportunities to become self-sufficient, rather than institutionalized.

Gabriel likens his experience as an Emerging Leader to a quantum leap. All the powers of networking, advocacy, and organizational development combined to propel him to a higher energy level as an educator, healer, artist, and activist. Just as Gabriel was coming to his own realizations, the Emerging Leaders program helped remind him that instead of climbing the mountain step by step, he could simply spread his wings and fly.
Mallory Wright

Mallory P. Wright is a supporter of Baltimore City young people in many different ways. Her activism started as a college student at Towson University. She grew intrigued by Baltimore City, being born and raised on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. While being extremely involved on campus, she volunteered at numerous schools in East Baltimore and worked for the Elev8 Baltimore after school program and Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools. After graduating from Towson, she began teaching in Baltimore City. While teaching at Hamilton Elementary/Middle School in Northeast Baltimore, she started to realize that for young people to be well-rounded individuals, they need out-of-school time programs to supplement their academic programs.

At Hamilton, Mallory is a co-advisor for the G.E.M.S. (Girls Empowering through Mentoring program). G.E.M.S. is an after school group of 5th to 8th grade girls who meet weekly to foster high scholastic standards and to mentor within the group, along with serving the school and community. The group has been a driving force in the school for the last decade that is renowned for creating young ladies who are driven and dedicated to their academics and community.

In the future, Mallory aims to make G.E.M.S. an organization that focuses on mentoring within and among the student body. The girls will have the opportunity to broaden their horizons, learning about finances, health, careers and life skills along with mentoring.

Through the Emerging Leaders program, Mallory connected with many resources that can lead to future collaboration. Mallory was the only Emerging Leader not already part of an established non-profit and learning from her fellow leaders has inspired her to consider expanding the G.E.M.S. program to the larger community and learn more about non-profit management. Mallory is grateful for having the Emerging Leaders experience and looks forward to applying her new knowledge as she explores more options for serving young people in Baltimore City.
The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide youth development organization, dedicated to more and better opportunities in the out of school hours for all of Maryland’s young people. MOST is one of 50 statewide afterschool networks made possible by the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and local matching investment.