



Charlestown-Sandtown Connection Newsletter

February • 1st Quarter 2024

Why Sandtown?

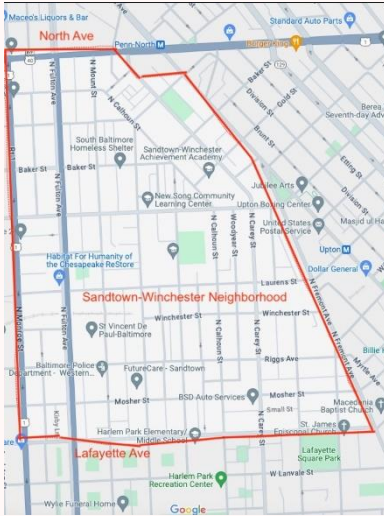
Why Sandtown? How did this Baltimore neighborhood become connected with Charlestown residents? In 2015, when Freddie Gray, a 25-year old resident of Sandtown was injured in police custody and died days later, it sparked unrest and destruction.

Phyl Lansing offers her perspective on the start of the Sandtown Connection. “A lot of us at Charlestown were upset over the Freddy Gray situation. But what could we do? We were pleased to hear that the Executive Director had sent a letter to employees letting them know there would be flexibility in attendance since transportation was erratic during the unrest.

Dave Pollitt and I were encouraged to talk with Sherry Parrish, Resident Life Director. Sherry listened and suggested we find 4 or 5 Sandtown groups we could work with as volunteers or to help with resources.

We found the New Song Academy, the Saturday food stall program with No Boundaries Coalition, Jubilee Arts and Turnaround Tuesday. These became the Charlestown-Sandtown Connection. Charlestown residents turned committees into Action Groups, and got to work. Work is still needed in these and other areas. Don't wring your hands; get to work!”

History



The Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood covers 72 square blocks and is 98.5% African-American. It shows years of neglect with a decline of good jobs, housing stock and lack of neighborhood amenities found in other parts of Baltimore. The community never fully recovered from the brutal 1968 race riots that followed the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The area was subject to redlining. In the 1930's the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) gave grades from A to D for neighborhoods based on perceived mortgage risks. Most black and brown communities received D's and were colored red, denying home owners their fair loans which as a result, negatively impacted investment in those areas.

We will explore more history in the upcoming newsletters.

Community Organizations



At the recent Board meeting we talked about the need to learn more about the history of the area and the role of community organizations. [BUILD](#) will be highlighted in this issue.

Baltimoreans United In Leadership

Development—is a broad-based, non-partisan, interfaith, multiracial community power organization rooted in Baltimore's neighborhoods and congregations. For more than 35 years, BUILD has worked to improve housing, increase job opportunities, and rebuild schools and neighborhoods, among other issues. One of the signature campaigns is [Turnaround Tuesday](#), a job skills program supported by cSc. Here is a short video a few years old that describes the program. Recent job hires are close to 1800 people.



cSc Working Groups

There are many ways to volunteer to support the SANDTOWN Organizations. The websites linked below describe the work that they do. If you are interested in more information on how you can contribute, please contact the working group leader. The links are active to view the websites or email the working group leader.

- [New Song Community Learning Center](#) - Donna Chesson
- [No Boundaries](#) - Peg Reiber
- [Jubilee Arts](#) - Nancy Fayer
- [Turnaround Tuesday](#) - Jack and Jane Anderson

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