



The Connector: Charlestown & Sandtown News May 2025

10 Years Later - Remembering Freddie Gray



Charlestown-Sandtown Connection (cSc) board members attended the community event at New Song Academy to mark the 10 year anniversary of the death of Freddie Gray. Hosted by the Associated Black Charities (ABC) in partnership with the New Song Community Learning Center (NSCLC), the theme was: ABC Community Convos in Sandtown-Winchester “10 years Later; Honoring Freddie Gray, Uplifting the Movement.”Representing cSc were **Ted Churn, Dan Matthews** (co-chairs of cSc), **Donna Chesson** and **Corinne DiStephen**. Among other attendees were Sandtown residents; several local non-profit community organizations; the Baltimore City Comptroller, Bill Henry; Baltimore City Councilman for the 7th District, James Torrence; Maryland State Senator representing Baltimore City’s 40th District, Antonio Hayes; the Executive Director for the American Red Cross in Central Maryland, Lenora Henry; President and CEO of ABC and the event’s facilitator, Chrissy Thorton; and Jayson Green, Executive Director of NSCLC.

The evening included open and frank conversations and discussions reflecting on what has changed or not changed since the death of Freddie Gray, sharing of resources, and a special moment of silence for Freddie Gray and the other victims of police violence.

cSc Co-Founder Dies



Phyl Lansing, Kevin Kamenetz, David Pollitt receiving Baltimore County Executive Director Citation 2016

Phyl Lansing, co-founder of the Charlestown Sandtown Connection died April 6, 2025 after being diagnosed with cancer in October. She leaves a legacy of service here at Charlestown including the many years as the coordinator of cSc. Along with David Pollitt, they set the direction of the cSc to focus on listening and understanding. She was full of energy and optimism in all her endeavors.

Phyl donated \$1,000 to cSc days before her death. The Board is donating a Brick in her memory for the Memory Walk. The ceremony takes place in September.

Chair Emeritus Lon Chesnutt

Lon Chesnutt will tell you he wasn’t elected to the leadership position but “fell into it.” Phyl Lansing gave the group a year’s notice that she was retiring. When the year ended, no one stepped up. The working groups were in place to keep the structure going. Lon found himself offering to chair the meetings since he had years of experience leading meetings as a pastor. He also served as the secretary putting out detailed results of discussions. Thanks, for your four years of service to cSc.



Lon Chesnutt

New Co-Chairs



Ted Churn

Ted Churn (HR 535) has been an active volunteer with cSc for a few years. He tutors reading with 3rd graders at New Song Academy.

Contact Ted



Dan Matthews

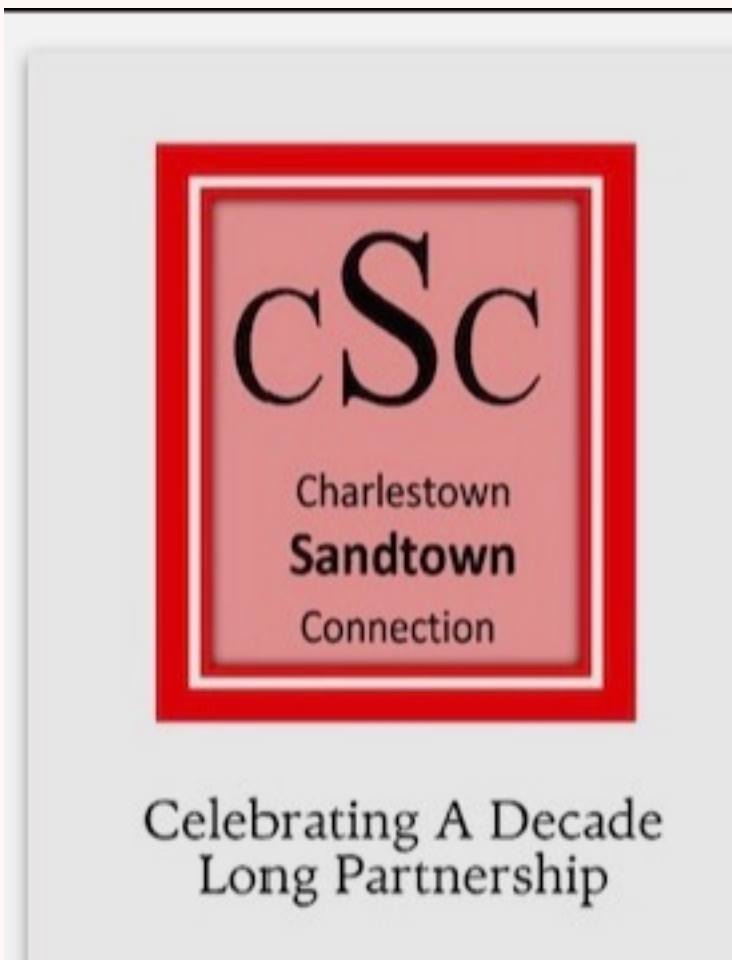
Dan Matthews (HR 513) Dan tutors math for 5th graders at New Song Academy. Ted and Dan organized the well-received ELLIC program last year.

Contact Dan

Charlestown Sandtown New Brochure

cSc has a new brochure celebrating the 10-year partnership with the Sandtown organizations. Thanks to Dan Matthews for content and Ann MacKay for the design.

Download PDF



Learn about cSc Working Groups

Contact our organization leaders below to learn how you can contribute to the work of the non-profit groups cSc supports. The email links are active:

- [New Song Community Learning Center](#) - [Donna Chesson](#)
- [No Boundaries](#) - we are looking for a working group leader
- [Jubilee Arts](#) - [Nancy Fayer](#)
- [Turnaround Tuesday](#) - [Jack and Jane Anderson](#)

You are receiving this newsletter because you are on the cSc mailing list. The newsletter is published quarterly. Please forward this newsletter to your friends and family. Others can sign up for the newsletter using the red button below.

Sign up for Newsletter

Copyright (C) 2025 Charlestown Sandtown Connection. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

