

# THE BALTIMORE BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 2025

## 2024 Was A Big Year For Opera House Improvements

The BDRC has been (slowly) restoring the historic Victoria Opera House for almost a decade. The building is owned by the Village, but the BDRC leases the space above the Village offices.



When restoration began, the theater, balcony, and ballroom at the top (the former meeting space for the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic Lodge) had no HVAC, plumbing, or electric. The walls were various colors and filthy. Water damage, rodents, bees, and time all took a toll over the roughly 50 years that the space was mothballed.

Thanks to many volunteers, grants, donors, members, sponsors, patrons, and contractors, this historic and iconic building is now providing a multi-use space in the heart of downtown. The theater space has been painted, and modern seats have been installed. The theater is heated and cooled. We went from zero to two working restrooms. We have lighting, audio, and outlets that work!

In addition, we have completed phase II of the window replacement project. The Village Council funded the window replacement, and has committed funding for the coming year to complete the work. Rosati Windows is performing the work. The old windows were cracked, rotted, leaky, and dangerous.

Volunteers made some repairs last fall on the ADA ramp on the south façade, then power washed and resealed the ramp. We installed new stage lighting for theater productions.

Finally, the ballroom and the lobby restroom received lighting improvements. Our thanks to People's Bank in Baltimore for donating two antique light sconces from their building to the Opera House.

So with all this done, what's left? Plenty! We hope to finish phase III of the window replacement in 2025. We plan some additional HVAC repair work, along with some electrical upgrades and a new screen to enhance theater productions.



*Thanks to the Fairfield County Foundation's Janet S. Crist Fund for supporting the ballroom floor restoration!*

Take a look at the following photos to get a better picture of the amazing progress underway!

**If you are interested in being**

**part of the BDRC, please reach out. We'd love for you to join us in restoring the Opera House, supporting children's theater, the farmers' market, or other community centered activities.**





## Holiday Market Makes Merry

The Baltimore Farmers' Market held another popular Holiday Market in December. Our thanks to the Village for allowing us to use S. Park Dr. and

Johnson Park for the event. And a huge thanks to Mrs. Claus and all our sponsors, vendors, entertainers, and customers! LUHS music students and the VPCT performed holiday tunes live.

And don't fret. The regular Farmers' Market will return in June! It will again be held Tuesdays 4 – 7 pm at Ace Hardware. Our Market Committee will be fine tuning things over the winter – let us know if you want to be involved.

[Baltimoreohiofarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:Baltimoreohiofarmersmarket@gmail.com)



# Baltimore Holiday Market

*Thank You To Our Sponsors*

**Baltimore**  
FESTIVAL

*Lew Griffin*  
INSURANCE  
GROUP

BALTIMORE FARMERS'  
MARKET

**BH** BONNET HAMILTON  
TAX, BOOKKEEPING AND PAYROLL SERVICES

*Christa Grover*

**CANDY'S TAX SERVICE**  
ENROLLED  
AGENT

**BALTIMORE**  
DOWNTOWN  
RESTORATION

*Hoffman's*  
FLOWER SHOP

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
REALTY

**MATCHEDNOTES**  
CANDLE SUPPLIES

*Tina Chipukaizer*

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays



## Victoria Players Children's Theater - Bah, Humbug!

In December, the VPCT performed four shows of *A Christmas Carol* at the Victoria Opera House. Congratulations to the talented cast and crew members who made this such a festive and spectacular show! The VPCT team always does an amazing job with casting, costumes, lighting, and preparation for every show. Sound of Victory again handled audio needs for the show.

Thanks too to the show's sponsors: [Fairfield Medical Center](#), [Christa Grover/Lew Griffin Insurance](#), [Sitterly Law LLC](#), and in memory of [Joe Jenkins](#).

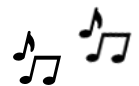
### Get ready for "A Hauntingly Great Season 8"



The second production for VPCT's season 8 will be *Beetlejuice Jr.*, coming in July. Watch the VPCT's Facebook page for information about auditions.



*Photos courtesy of Brooke Vatter*



## Thanks Lee, Jill, Mary, & Friends!

December brought another wonderful holiday show from these talented folks! Their Christmas music and spirit filled the Opera House and raised donations for the Victoria. Thank you to all who performed, donated, or attended!



Join us for an evening of Christmas music.

December 17 at 7pm - Victoria Opera House

Mary Dupler



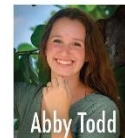
Lee Crader



Jill Henwood



WITH  
MUSICAL  
GUESTS



Abby Todd



Clayton Dutton



Dalton & Delaney



Dianne Miller



Ellie Jones



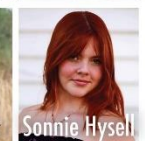
Izzy Vatter



Megan Hysell



Sam Myers



Sonnie Hysell



## Thank You to our Opera House Sponsors for 2024

The restoration of Baltimore's historic Opera House is ongoing, and would not be happening without local support. For 2024 the BDRC would like to thank

- Park National Bank
- Sherry Looney and the Loon Crew/Howard Hanna Realty
- Schaffner's Drive In
- Keller Family Chiropractic
- Landis Hometown Team/Key Realty
- VFW Post 3761

Their ongoing support of the Victoria literally helps fund operations, repairs and additional improvements coming soon.

## The Nostalgics Christmas Concert – An Annual Tradition

The Nostalgics Big Band hit the stage at the Victoria Opera House before Christmas. They filled hearts with holiday cheer. What a festive show! Our thanks to the band for gracing the Opera House stage every year.

Look for their return in June!



## Support the BDRC – Join in 2025

As a volunteer run 501 (c) 3 non-profit, the BDRC depends on revenue from donations, memberships, sponsorships, and events to operate. This is what makes all our programming and the ongoing restoration of the Victoria Opera House possible!

Watch for information soon about renewing your membership, or joining for the first time. Members are always welcome at our Board meetings (7 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Victoria). Memberships are available at different levels, and all new and renewing members score great custom swag.



This year's swag will celebrate Baltimore's bicentennial! You can't buy it in stores. In addition, anyone who



contributes \$500 or more per year has an annual recognition plaque hung in the Victoria Opera House.

Finally, annual sponsorships for the following programs and more are available.

- Farmers' Market
- Victoria Players Children's Theater
- Victoria Opera House
- Arbor Day
- Holiday Market
- Flag Fund (flags on Main & Market St.)
- Holiday Decorations



Contact us to talk further!

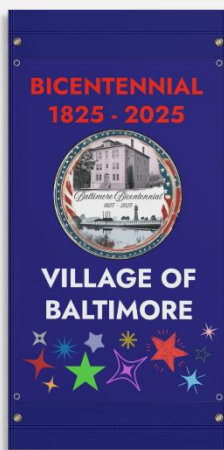
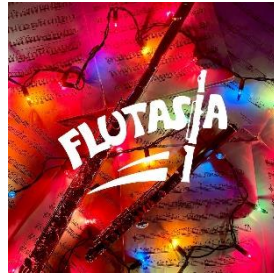




## Baltimore Bicentennial Kickoff Open House at the Opera House

Join your friends and neighbors at the Victoria Opera House Sunday, March 2 to celebrate Baltimore's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday! Speakers will include Rep. Jeff LaRe, and Mayor Rick Ellas. There will be complimentary food and drink, and live music from Lancaster's Flutasia Flute Choir.

The Village's bicentennial will be celebrated all year long, with history



Community Museum will also be open that afternoon for those who crave more history.

lectures, tours, a new park dedication, an ice cream social, street pole banners, at the Baltimore Festival, and more. Don't miss out – it only happens every 200 years!

The event will include a vintage coverlet show, and the Baltimore



## Kroger Rewards Support the BDRC

Do you shop at Kroger? It's super easy to support the BDRC, VPCT, Farmers' Market, and Opera House by signing up for Kroger Community Rewards. Just go to [Krogercommunityrewards.com](http://Krogercommunityrewards.com), sign in with your Kroger Plus card, click enroll, and designate the BDRC (#KU440) as the organization you wish to support. Then Kroger sends us a quarterly check as a reward for your purchases.



## Keep Up with Us on Social Media

The BDRC and its many programs are on Facebook at:



- Baltimore Downtown Restoration
- Victoria Opera House
- Victoria Players Children's Theater – VPCT
- Baltimore Farmers Market

And of course, our website is up to speed with current events and programs.

Questions? Email us at:

- [baltimoredowntownrestoration@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoredowntownrestoration@gmail.com)
- [vpctheater@gmail.com](mailto:vpctheater@gmail.com)
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