Civic Works

At a Glance
Founded in 1993, Civic Works is Baltimore’s leading urban service corps and an AmeriCorps program. Its mission is to strengthen Baltimore’s communities through education, skills development, and community service. Key program areas include community improvement, workforce development, education, and green programs.

Civic Works accomplishes its goals by forging strong partnerships among local government agencies, community-based organizations and private and public funders.

Chair, Board of Directors  Marc G. Bunting
Executive Director  Dana M. Stein

An AmeriCorps Program
As an AmeriCorps program, each year Civic Works engages about 200 AmeriCorps members who transform communities by tutoring and mentoring children, building community parks and gardens and rehabilitating houses for low-income residents. In exchange for their service AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance, an education award that can be applied to college or vocational school and the job readiness and life skills needed to secure and maintain employment.

National Recognition & Accomplishments
Civic Works has earned numerous accolades over the years including the prestigious Standards for Excellence designation presented by the Maryland Association of Nonprofits. The Standards for Excellence Seal is awarded to a select few nonprofits that are deemed to be ethical and accountable in their program operations, governance, human resources, financial management and fundraising. Less than 1 percent of all Maryland non-profits are certified.

In addition, Civic Works has been recognized nationally as an “Innovative AmeriCorps Program” by Innovations in Civic Participation, an international social change non-profit that focuses on using community service as a solution to a wide range of social issues.

Through the commitment of its volunteers and community partners, Civic Works has made numerous major accomplishments including:

- Converted 198 vacant lots into community gardens and green spaces
- Rehabilitated 55 houses, repaired 253 houses, and weatherized 275 houses for low and moderate income families
- Made energy efficiency improvements in more than 4,570 households resulting in projected savings of more than $3 million in utility costs
- Tutored and mentored 36,809 students
- Provided service opportunities for 2,900 AmeriCorps members
- Engaged 34,949 volunteers in community service projects
- Assisted 157 people in earning a GED
- Placed 552 people in healthcare and environmental remediation jobs
- Grown more than 45,000 pounds of fresh produce for sale to local communities

Volunteer Opportunities
Each year Civic Works organizes more than 1,500 volunteers to work alongside corpsmembers and make lasting improvements in Baltimore neighborhoods. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available for individuals and civic and business groups. The annual Day of Service in honor of Ricky Myers, which is held in October, draws 500 volunteers each year to participate in community-based projects. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Sue Brooks, Volunteer Coordinator at (410) 366-8533 or volunteer@civicworks.com.

Financial Support
With an operating budget of $4.9 million Civic Works is responsible for generating income to provide programs, training and support of volunteers. Funding is provided through a variety of sources including individual donors, cash and in-kind donations from businesses and community associations, grants from the state and private foundations and support from several federal agencies including the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Department of Labor and the Environmental Protection Agency.
Our Programs
Civic Works’ program areas reflect the organization’s overarching ideal vision for Baltimore as a safe, clean and physically attractive city of thriving neighborhoods and stable families who are prepared for the future and have the resources they need to nurture children.

Programs include:

Community Revitalization and Workforce Development

- **Baltimore Conservation Leadership Corps:** A six-week summer program for Baltimore City high school students offered in partnership with Johnson Controls and the Student Conservation Association. Participants work on outdoor conservation projects while learning job readiness and leadership skills.
- **Community Lot Team:** AmeriCorps members transform vacant city lots into parks and community gardens and make improvements to other public spaces. They work with neighborhood residents to identify, plan and maintain projects.
- **Healthcare Careers Alliance:** A partnership between Civic Works and four leading Baltimore hospitals that prepares youth, ages 18-21, for entry-level jobs in the healthcare industry.
- **Neighborhoods for All Ages:** Operated in partnership with the communities of Coldstream Homestead Montebello and Belair-Edison, this program assists older adults (ages 65 and older) in accessing social services and home repairs, allowing them to remain in their homes and active in the community.
- **YouthBuild:** Young adults, ages 18-25, are provided with construction skills training and GED preparation while rehabilitating abandoned houses in Baltimore City. Participants also work with Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity.

Education

- **Baltimore County A.V.I.D.:** A partnership with the Baltimore County Public School system, A.V.I.D is a college-prep curriculum that encourages high school students to prepare for and succeed in college. AmeriCorps members provide in-classroom tutoring; promote advanced placement classes and college awareness; help students develop time management and note-taking skills; and develop strategies to improve math, language arts and critical thinking.
- **Goodnow Community Center:** After school and summer programs at the Goodnow Community Center serve 300 2nd through 10th grade students each year. Through the program, AmeriCorps members provide a variety of academic and enrichment activities that promote respect, honesty, cultural diversity, civic responsibility and teamwork.

Green Programs

- **EnergyReady:** Provides home improvement services that make a home safer, more comfortable, and more energy efficient, while creating green jobs in Baltimore. Building Performance Institute certified energy audits, cool roofs, whole house air sealing and insulation services are offered.
- **Baltimore Center for Green Careers:** A program that is making Baltimore’s economy more equitable and sustainable by training residents for jobs in the emerging green economy. Training is provided in brownfields remediation and home energy efficiency. Participants earn industry-recognized certifications and receive job placement assistance.
- **Baltimore Energy Challenge:** Teaches energy savings practices to Baltimore residents. AmeriCorps members help find ways to solve energy problems and connect residents with resources that can help improve quality of life and reduce energy use at the same time.
- **Project Lightbulb:** Promotes energy conservation for low-to-moderate income homeowners in Baltimore communities. AmeriCorps members conduct energy efficiency assessments and install energy-saving fixtures.
- **Retrofit Baltimore:** Helps community members realize the benefits of home energy efficiency, while ensuring that their investments create family-sustaining jobs for underserved Baltimore residents. This program provides information about the potential for energy retrofits to dramatically lower energy bills, while making homes healthier, safer and more comfortable.
- **Real Food Farm:** An innovative urban agricultural enterprise engaged in growing fresh produce on six acres of land in Clifton Park. The Farm works toward a sustainable food system by improving neighborhood access to healthy food, providing experience-based education, and developing an economically viable, environmentally responsible local agriculture sector.

Clifton Mansion Restoration

- **Clifton Mansion Restoration:** Civic Works is headquartered in the historic Clifton Mansion, former home to famed philanthropist Johns Hopkins and War of 1812 Captain Henry Thompson. Restoration of the building is currently underway. The Clifton Mansion features an 80-foot tower and exhibits on the War of 1812, philanthropy and the life of Samuel Hopkins.

REACH! Partnership School

- **REACH!:** This Baltimore City transformation school, serving grades 6-12, provides a comprehensive educational experience centered on careers in healthcare and construction. Partners include Johns Hopkins Medical Systems, Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland, Stevenson University, Johnson Controls and Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition (HEBCAC).