



from left: Roxana Beyranvand, Jill Pardini, Garima Bhatt, Shomari Taylor, Campbell McLean, Mayor Rawlings-Blake, Chris Merriam, Phil Garboden, Amanda Gonzalez, Cristina Duncan Evans, Jason Fair, Daniela Martinez

# BALTIMORE CITY MAYORAL FELLOWSHIP

## Shifting Into High Gear

Nothing turns heads quite like a parade of bicycles on downtown streets. The Mayoral Fellows took to their pedals this week with Nate Evans, Baltimore’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner, on a tour of Baltimore’s urban bike routes.

“Biking in the city with a guide and the fellows was a new experience and gave me confidence to do it again in the future,” said Mayoral Fellow Roxana Beyranvand. “I enjoy bike riding but have always done so either in my suburban neighborhood or at a park.”

That change in mindset is exactly what Nate Evans aims to do. Implementing the Bicycle Master Plan developed in 2006, Evans has overseen the installation of 42 on-street bike lane miles in Baltimore, a number that grows every year. An expert guide, Evans led the Fellowship on an eight-mile tour that showcased just how much change is occurring. Bikes were supplied by Light Street Cycles in Federal Hill.

“I never realized how bikeable the city was. More people should look into it as a chief means of transportation. I really enjoyed seeing

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**AUGUST 13, 2010**

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Baltimore from the seat of a bicycle,” said Fellow Shomari Taylor. Another Fellow, City Schools teacher Garima Bhatt, agreed: “Not only were we able to see the effort the city is making to eliminate cars from the road, but we also experienced firsthand how easy and efficient it is to get around the city on a bike.”

The tour included stops at a bike counter at Harborplace, a green painted bike lane on Fallsway, and an emerging bike route on Guilford St. The routes resonated with Fellows like Jason Fair, who said, “I’ve tried biking in other major cities, but I was impressed with how much distance I was able to cover on downtown streets--the Fallsway and Inner Harbor corridors are great.”

Watch for this year’s fellows in a bike lane near you.



## Featured Agency: City Schools

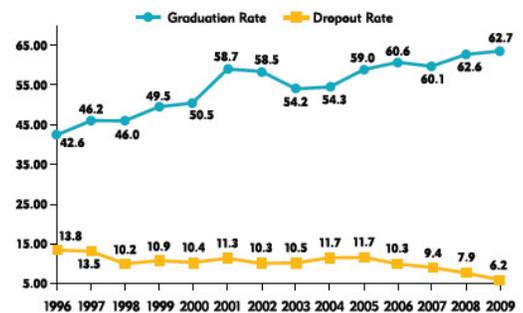
Baltimore City Public Schools are in an era of unprecedented change. For several years, the 198 schools that serve 83,000 students have seen steady gains in test scores, graduation rates, attendance, and measures of safety. Meanwhile, suspensions and the dropout rate are down.



Accompanying these improvements have been significant systemic changes. Under Fair Student Funding, budgets have been devolved from the central office to schools and principals have gone from controlling 3 percent of the budget to 81 percent. The central office has also cut 489 positions since 2009.

Scores on the Maryland School Assessment, taken by all students in grades 3-8, as well as the High School Assessment have steadily risen. City Schools students take more AP tests and SAT tests than before. Perhaps most importantly, enrollment has increased for several years after 40 years of decrease.

GRADUATION/DROPOUT RATE



Two Mayoral Fellows are placed in City Schools this year: Carver High School teacher Cristina Duncan-Evans and Afya Public Charter School teacher Campbell McLean.



## Mayoral Fellow Profile: Philip Garboden

A quick look at the credentials of 2010 Mayoral Fellow Phil Garboden demonstrates why his assignment at Baltimore Housing's Land Resources Division has been a perfect fit. Mr. Garboden is interested in the intersection between race and poverty in urban environments, specifically problems of housing and transportation equity. For him, housing and transportations are proxies for economically and racial inequalities. "They are convenient access points where I think I can have a significant impact," Mr. Garboden said. In Spring 2010, he interned at the Citizens Planning and Housing Association where he worked on projects related to citizen engagement in public transportation planning. He also recently completed an independent study with the Baltimore City Finance Department. For this project, he studied low-income homeownership and abandoned property divestment to support the City's Outcome Budgeting Initiative.

As a Mayoral Fellow, Mr. Garboden's assignment is to develop recommendations for how Baltimore City can market its vacant properties to developers, community groups, and residents. "I definitely learned that nothing is as easy as it sounds," Mr. Garboden said. "Coming from academia, we tend to say things like 'The City should do this.' It's really important that we understand how difficult that can be."

Mr. Garboden learned about the Mayoral Fellowship through his classmates at Johns Hopkins University where he is getting a Masters in Public Policy from the Institute for Policy Studies. He mentions that his favorite part of the Fellowship has been how generous everyone has been with their time, especially during the Speaker's Series. He pointed out that although the speakers are very busy people, they were all willing to give up several hours to address the Fellows.

Mr. Garboden is originally from Boston, Massachusetts . He has been living in Baltimore since 2005 and has developed great appreciation for the City. "As I have begun to know Baltimore, I have grown to love it. I think it is simply one of the most fascinating places in the country to live," he said. Mr. Garboden received his BA in Classical Greek and English Literature from Swarthmore College in 2002. After completing his master's degree, he plans to pursue a PhD in urban policy. His ultimate goal is to be in academics, but in the type of academics that has a close interaction with non-profits and city government on projects. Mr. Garboden enjoys reading during his free time. He also does freelance graphic design work and is the president of the Yuri Gagarin Fan Club.



*"Coming from academia, we tend to say things like 'The City should do this.' It's really important that we understand how difficult that can be."*

*- Philip Garboden*



## Where are they now? Q & A with a BCMF alum!

Each week we feature a former Mayoral Fellow to learn about their experience in the program and what they've done since completing their Fellowship. This week, we feature 2005 Mayoral Fellow Charlotte Owsiany who was placed in the East Baltimore Development Inc.

### Why did you choose to participate in the fellowship?

As an Urban Policy Masters' student at the time, I thought this kind of exposure to City government would be a great complement to what I was learning in the classroom – and it definitely was!

### Do you feel you made a difference in Baltimore City?

I think that's a tall order for a 10 week fellowship, but I did feel extraordinarily lucky to be part of the program, and have the kind of exposure to a range of issues that I did.

### How did the BCMF help shape your life or career trajectory?

I was hired on as a staff member at EBDI after completing the fellowship and stayed at the organization for 3 years. I had some great bosses at EBDI it was an incredible opportunity to be part of such a groundbreaking scale community revitalization. Looking back, the work I did there was extremely important to my professional development.

### What was the most important lesson you learned from your experiences as a Mayoral Fellow?

At one of our lunchtime lectures, I remember a speaker talking about the importance of attention to detail and follow up in the working world. I think back on that advice all the time – and really believe that that the importance of that kind of follow up cannot be overstated (professionally or personally).

### Do you have any advice for current or future Mayoral Fellows?

Enjoy the fellowship! And be proud that you're working for "The Greatest City in America"

### Do you have a vision for Baltimore City?

People love to say Baltimore has a lot of problems, but Baltimore also has a lot of bright people working on some really promising approaches to addressing those problems. I hope we can see those solutions scale up to meet the needs.



**Charlotte Owsiany**  
2005 Mayoral Fellow

**Fellowship Placement (Agency):**  
East Baltimore Development Inc.

**Fellowship Project:**  
Researching best practices for a potential East Side Community Benefits District

Analyzing affordable homeownership programs to attract middle-income families to the Eastside

**Degrees/Year Awarded:**  
Masters in Public Policy (Johns Hopkins University, 2006)  
Bachelor of Arts in History (Loyola University Maryland, 2002)

**Current Employer/Occupation:**  
Program Associate at the Blaustein Philanthropic Group





## NEWSLETTER STAFF

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday August 16th: Mayoral Presentations

<i>Time</i>	<i>Mayoral Fellow</i>	<i>Agency</i>
10:00 - 10:20	Roxana Beyranvand	Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts
10:25 - 10:45	Garima Bhatt	Baltimore City Parking Authority
10:50 - 11:10	Cristina Duncan Evans	Baltimore City Public School System
11:15 - 11:35	Campbell McLean	Baltimore City Public School System
11:40 - 12:00	Philip Garboden	Baltimore City Department of Housing

### Tuesday August 17th: Mayoral Presentations

<i>Time</i>	<i>Mayoral Fellow</i>	<i>Agency</i>
10:30 - 10:50	Amanda Gonzalez	Baltimore City Department of Finance
10:55 - 11:15	Daniela Martinez	Baltimore City Department of Public works
11:20 - 11:40	Jason Fair	Department of Recreation and Parks
11:45 - 12:05	Chris Merriam	Baltimore City Health Department
12:10 - 12:30	Jill Pardini	Baltimore City Department of Planning
12:35 - 12:55	Shomari Taylor	Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

### Friday, August 20th: Mayoral Fellows' Final Dinner

