

# Impact Report

## The Roadmap Ahead



**B**altimore  
**U**rban  
**B**aseball  
**A**ssociation





# Who is Buba?

## Our Mission & Values

The Baltimore Urban Baseball Association (BUBA) offers **scholarships** to Baltimore City youth, providing them with **free baseball and softball training**, full facility access, and educational programming. Dedicated to developing young athletes, BUBA combines sports training with character-building and academic support to foster life skills, leadership, and resilience. By promoting inclusivity, diversity, and community, BUBA creates a nurturing environment that empowers youth to succeed both on and off the field.

## Our Mission

To transform the lives of Baltimore City youth facing adversity, by providing a nurturing and supportive environment, through baseball and softball training, education, and personal development.

### Empowerment Through Education

Utilizing baseball as a tool to foster both academic and personal growth, preparing youth for success in and out of the classroom.

### Inclusive Excellence

Celebrating diversity and creating an environment where all athletes, regardless of background, can thrive and feel valued.

### Character Building

Promoting teamwork, leadership, respect, and perseverance to instill life-long values and empower youth to become responsible citizens.

### Community Collaboration

Strengthening connections with families, neighborhoods, and local partners to uplift both individuals and the broader Baltimore community.



## The Values That Guide our Work

### Inclusion



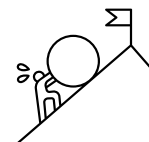
### Community



### Empowerment



### Character Building





# Urban Baseball

## Challenges in Access & Funding



### Challenges & Roadblocks

Urban Youth Are  
**30-40%**

Less likely to have access to organized sports programs due to financial limitations in their communities.

*Aspen Institute, 2023*

Annual Cost of  
**\$3,000**

For a child to participate in sports program – The high cost of baseball participation (fees, equipment, travel) limits access for many families.

*Sports Strategy, 2022*

Decline of  
**16%**

In youth participating in baseball programs during the years of 2016-2021

*Sports & Fitness Industry Association, 2021*

Years ago  
**24**

The last Baltimore City Public School student drafted by and MLB team

*Baltimore Sun, 2023*

Less Than  
**7%**

MLB Rosters are African American

*Society for American Baseball Research, 2022*

### Why BUBA's Work is Important

The challenges and barriers below present the urgent need for initiatives like Baltimore Urban Baseball Association (BUBA). Here are some challenges and roadblocks that youth in Baltimore face:

- **Funding Issues:** Baltimore schools and community groups often cut baseball programs due to financial strain. Schools in low-income areas spend 40% less on sports than wealthier districts (Aspen Institute, 2023).
- **Unsafe and Poorly Maintained Fields:** Poor field conditions limit opportunities for youth play and development. 60% of youth quit sports due to inadequate facilities (Sports & Fitness Industry Association, 2021).
- **High Costs of Equipment and Training:** Baseball's average season cost exceeds \$500, making it unaffordable for many families. Families earning under \$50,000 are three times less likely to afford competitive baseball (USA Baseball, 2021). In Baltimore, the median household income is \$58,349, and a significant portion of families earn less than \$25,000 annually, which leaves little room for extracurricular activities like baseball (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022).
- **Disparity with Wealthier Suburbs:** Suburban programs have better funding, facilities, and coaching, disadvantaging Baltimore youth. Suburban areas spend 2-3 times more on youth sports (Journal of Applied Research on Children, 2022).
- **Closure of Youth Centers and Programs:** The shutdown of youth centers and community baseball programs further limits access to organized sports.
- **Limited Access to Quality Services:** Economic challenges make it difficult for skilled instructors to remain in urban areas, reducing access to experienced coaches. Urban programs report a 30% turnover rate among coaches due to low pay (National Alliance for Youth Sports, 2021).
- **Transportation Challenges:** Lack of safe transportation makes it difficult for youth to reach fields and facilities, especially in underserved neighborhoods.
- **Reduced School Sports Participation:** Many Baltimore City schools no longer offer robust baseball programs, with some struggling to form complete teams. The number of high school baseball teams in Baltimore has dropped by 15% over the past five years (Maryland High School Athletic Association, 2023).
- **Decreased Exposure to Baseball:** Limited access to local programs prevents many youth from engaging in baseball at a young age, reducing long-term interest.



# BUBA Programs

## 2023-2024 Projects & Initiatives

### Scholarship Program

- Baltimore City youth can receive scholarships for free baseball and softball training, gear, and educational programs.
- Open to students from early elementary through college.
- Active participation creates pathways to college opportunities and long-term success.
- Earn rewards for their engagement, including gear and support.

### Personal Development

- Guidance from coaches and volunteers.
- Life skills: code-switching, emotional resilience, communication.
- Peer mentorship between college players and younger athletes.
- Confidence, team-building, and leadership development.

### College & Career Prep

- Workshops on college readiness and financial literacy.
- Career series with guest speakers from various fields.
- College tours to inspire higher education ambitions.
- Guidance on FAFSA and scholarship applications.

### Baseball Training Facility

- Baltimore City youth can receive free access to baseball and softball training facilities, and educational programs.
- Developing skills in batting, pitching, fielding, and game strategy.
- Training for athletes from elementary to college level.
- Focus on fundamentals and physical fitness.



DEVELOPING LEADERS THROUGH SPORTS



# BUBA Programs

## 2023-2024 Highlights & Impact



### Youth Reach

**2,500**

Registered youth

**650+**

Scholarship athletes

### College Prep Success

**100%**

12th grade student accepted  
into college

**200+**

Students took part in  
college prep workshops

### Community Engagement

**30+**

Local youth  
leagues involved

**20+**

Partner organizations

### Mentorship Impact

**150+**

College athlete mentors

**75%**

Of participants report  
increased confidence

### Scholarship Support

**\$160K+**

Scholarship programming  
awarded in 2023-2024

**90%**

Increase in youth  
participation due to  
scholarship incentives





# Community

## Impact & Feedback

# Testimonials

“

Before joining BUBA, I never thought I'd be able to play baseball because of the cost of equipment. Now, I get to learn from great coaches, play with friends, and even dream about playing in college someday. BUBA has given me confidence I didn't know I had.

*Youth Player, Middle School*



”

“

Being a mentor at BUBA has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. Seeing younger athletes grow in skill and confidence makes me grateful to give back. I know I'm making a difference for Baltimore youth.

*College Athlete Mentor*



”

“

As a single parent, BUBA's scholarship program has been a blessing. Not only has my son received baseball training, but he's also getting help with college applications and FAFSA. This program has changed our lives.

*Parent of Scholarship Recipient*



”





# Partnerships

## Building a Vision Together: The Role of Our Partners



Our vision for expanding our impact in the community relies heavily on the strength of partnerships. We are fortunate to collaborate with a diverse network, including corporations, other nonprofits, and local universities. These partners bring invaluable expertise, resources, and support that help us move closer to achieving BUBA's goal.

As we look to the future, continued collaboration will be critical in transforming our vision into reality. We invite our existing partners, as well as new supporters, to join us in this next phase, ensuring that we can create even more opportunities for those we serve. Together, we transform the lives of Baltimore City youth facing adversity, by providing a nurturing and supportive environment, through baseball training, education, and personal development. stronger, more inclusive learning environment that meets the needs of our community.

Over  
**5,000**

Volunteered hours from  
coaches mentors and partners

## Our Partners:





# A New Chapter for BUBA

## New Ownership and Expanded Impact

We're excited to announce that the Baltimore Urban Baseball Association (BUBA) facility in Pigtown has been acquired by local stakeholders passionate about baseball and community development. The facility will now be known as The Diamond Collective, ensuring that BUBA's legacy of empowering youth through sports and community work will continue to grow. With expanded programs and a permanent home for youth education, sports, and civic engagement, The Diamond Collective is poised to serve Baltimore for years to come.

In addition to expanding existing programs like baseball, softball, academic support, and personal development, The Diamond Collective will create new spaces for classrooms and collaborative work areas, encouraging greater community and partner engagement. This growth will strengthen local partnerships and deepen our impact, providing Baltimore's next generation with more resources and opportunities.



### Pigtown Baseball Facility Sells to New Ownership, Collective of Nonprofits Planned for Building

Written by [Kevin Lynch](#) October 24, 2024

"Elshazli and Jones, who have a passion for baseball and community work, hope to utilize the building to support a collective of nonprofits that not only help Baltimore baseball players on the field, but also in the classroom and in their future careers."



***SouthBMore.com, 2024.***



### BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL Real estate firm buys Pigtown baseball facility

By [Garrett Dworkin](#) - Reporter, Baltimore Business Journal  
Oct 30, 2024



"Two former teachers have acquired a Pigtown baseball facility.. to create an elite training center that will also be a hub for sports nonprofits."

***Baltimore Business Journal, 2024.***



# Expansion Plan

**Empowering our young athletes  
on and off the field**



This year, the Baltimore Urban Baseball Association (BUBA) is expanding with new classrooms, training spaces, and collaborative work areas for our partner nonprofits, enhancing the second half of the BUBA building. These upgrades will help us better meet the growing needs of our athletes and community. As we expand, our commitment to providing a comprehensive environment for youth development, both on and off the field, remains strong.

Along with this expansion, we are launching new curriculum programming to equip our young athletes with the skills needed to succeed beyond baseball. This includes career development, entrepreneurship, and higher education. Through targeted workshops and mentoring, our new curriculum will provide the guidance our athletes need to unlock their full potential and build brighter futures for themselves and their communities.

## Building Champions On and Off the Field

Currently, half of our facility features state-of-the-art training areas, while our educational and leadership sessions are conducted in makeshift classrooms on the AstroTurf. This new phase of development will transform the second half of our facility, dedicating space specifically to education and leadership training. This expansion will include classrooms, a weight room, and specialized training areas.

We're also thrilled to welcome **Diamond Collective** as a partner on this journey. This partnership, with other non-profits through the **Diamond Collective**, will enrich our community offerings by sharing the new learning space and supporting some of our free training programs.

### Our Partners:





# How To Support

## Securing BUBA's Future

### How You Can Help:

#### Volunteer

Join us as a mentor, coach, or event volunteer to inspire and guide Baltimore's youth

#### Donate

Your contribution directly funds scholarships, facility expansions, and essential equipment.

#### Corporate Sponsorship

Join us in making a lasting impact on Baltimore's youth by providing resources, mentorship, and opportunities that empower their growth, success, and future potential.

#### Spread the Word

Equipment, facility maintenance, and workshop materials make a huge difference.

#### In-Kind Donations

Share BUBA's mission with your network to help us reach more families and potential supporters.

The Baltimore Urban Baseball Association (BUBA) offers scholarships to Baltimore City youth, providing them with free baseball and softball training, full facility access, and educational programming. More than 500 Baltimore City youth and 100 college athletes regularly walk through BUBA's doors to take advantage of BUBA's training and programming.



## SCAN HERE





# BUBA's Upcoming Initiatives



## 2024-2025 Vision and Objectives

### Complete and Launch New Programs

Finalize the BUBA's new programs to reach 500+ youth with expanded services.

### \$500,000 Fundraising Goal

Support the expansion efforts, including the development of new classrooms, training areas, workspace for partner nonprofits, and enhancements to the second half of the BUBA building.

### Secure \$150,000 Additional Funds

Fund free training programs, educational sessions, and ongoing facility maintenance.

### Start After-School Initiative

Introduce an after school initiative for Baltimore youth, providing a safe and enriching environment that promotes academic and personal development.

## 2030 Long-term Goals - Expanding our Impact

### Expanding our Reach

Expand Reach to Over **5,000** Baltimore Youth through state-of-the-art facilities and strong partnerships with local organizations.

### Secure Long-Term Funding

Establish a scholarship endowment to provide annual support for athletic and academic programming.

### Open New Hubs

In Baltimore City, making BUBA's high-quality baseball and educational programming accessible to even more youth in the community.

### Grow the Programming

Expand academic and enrichment programming with more partnerships and initiatives to further transform the lives of Baltimore youth.



# Impact Report

## The Roadmap Ahead

Thank you for supporting BUBA and helping us empower the youth of Baltimore through baseball, mentorship, and life skills. Together, we're building a stronger community for future generations.



### Contact Us

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