

Nina Albert



Nina Albert is the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development for the District of Columbia under Mayor Muriel Bowser. In this role, she is responsible for seven District agencies and coordinates with seven independent agencies to grow DC's tax base, increase economic opportunity and mobility for DC residents, ensure an affordable quality of life for DC residents, and strengthen Washington, DC's vibrancy and role as the Nation's capital.

Albert has more than 20 years of experience in public real estate, economic revitalization, and sustainable urban development. A leader with a proven track record, she prioritizes collaboration, fosters a diverse culture of high performers and encourages a growth mindset.

Albert served as the Commissioner of the Public Buildings Service at the U.S. General Services Administration in the Biden Administration, was the Vice President of Real Estate at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, was responsible for Walmart's store openings in greater Washington region, and has worked as a real estate advisor and consultant. Albert is a U.S. Army veteran. She has an MBA and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Tufts University.

Mac Campbell, Executive Director, Baltimore Convention Center



Mac Campbell, Certified Venue Executive (CVE) is the Executive Director at the 1.2 million sq ft Baltimore Convention Center.

Mac has spent his entire career in public venue operations, specifically in convention centers and performing art centers. He is responsible for the overall strategic planning, promotion, and operations for a city agency that welcomes around a half million attendees a year from all around the world.

Throughout his time with the organization, Mac worked his way up the leadership ladder. He joined the BCC in 2012 as the Director of Operations and was promoted to Deputy Director in 2017. After a short hiatus from City employment in 2021, Mac was brought back to head the organization when his mentor and industry icon, Peggy Daidakis retired in 2022.

Mac's vision for the Convention Center surrounds bringing authentic Baltimore closer to the patron visiting and encouraging them to explore all that a historic city like Baltimore has to offer. In the same lens, community stewardship plays a pivotal role in the BCC's operation with years long partnerships with organizations who help reduce waste, feed those in need, and promote the small business owner who exhibits the best of what Baltimore is.

When not employed at the Baltimore Convention Center, Mac spent two separate stints and over eight years of service at Strathmore Hall Foundation Inc. in North Bethesda, Maryland, most recently as their Vice President of Operations overseeing the operation of a world-class concert hall, historic mansion and 16-acres of beautiful grounds.

Mac received his bachelor's degree from Elon University with a major in Corporate Communications and General Music and a minor in Jazz Studies. He is heavily involved in volunteering with the International Association of Venue Managers, having served on many committees and their executive board.

Bill Ferguson, President, Maryland State Senate



Senator Ferguson was born in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is a graduate of Davidson College (B.A. 2005); The Johns Hopkins University School of Education (M.A.T. 2007); University of Maryland School of Law (magna cum laude- J.D. 2010); and Teach for America, Baltimore City Schools (2005–2007).

Senator Ferguson was elected to the Maryland State Senate in 2010, becoming the youngest ever elected State Senator in Maryland's history. He serves as the State Senator for Maryland's 46th Legislative District, located entirely in Baltimore City, including neighborhoods in south

Baltimore, downtown near and around the Inner Harbor, and southeast Baltimore. Senator Bill Ferguson has served as President of the Maryland State Senate since 2020. He previously served as Vice Chair of the Budget and Taxation Committee and Chair of the Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee.

A lifelong Maryland resident, Senator Ferguson made Baltimore City his home when he joined Teach for America where he taught U.S. History and U.S. Government to ninth and tenth graders at Vivian T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy at Southwestern High School.

Senator Ferguson is very active in the civic arena within Baltimore City and throughout the State of Maryland.

Senator Ferguson resides in Baltimore City with his wife and two children where the Fergusons attend St. Casimir Catholic Church.

Dillon Goodson, Public Spheres Projects, Principal, Community and Economic Development



Dillon Goodson (he/him) is a veteran business district leader and economic development expert who previously served as executive director of one of Chicago’s largest community economic development organizations. With a background in communications and systems change, he brings more than 15 years of experience developing strategies for thriving urban places. He serves as the editor for leading industry publications and co-authors the International Downtown Association’s Value of U.S. Downtowns and Center Cities study, the organization’s signature body of research.

Cory McCray, Maryland State Senator



Cory McCray is a Maryland State Senator representing the 45th Legislative District in Baltimore City, where he is committed to expanding opportunity, strengthening communities, and delivering real results for working families.

A proud son of Baltimore, Senator McCray began his career as an electrical apprentice and now stands as a journeyman electrician—bringing a working-class perspective to public service that is rare in legislative spaces. He is the only member of the Maryland General Assembly to have completed a registered apprenticeship, and his lived experience continues to shape his work in workforce development, education, and economic mobility.

In the Senate, he serves on the Budget and Taxation Committee and chairs the Health and Human Services Subcommittee, where he plays a key role in shaping the State’s budget and advancing policies that impact some of Maryland’s most vulnerable communities.

McCray is also the author of *The Apprenticeship That Saved My Life*, a guidebook and call to action that highlights apprenticeship as a powerful pathway to success. Through his work in the legislature and in the community, he continues to advocate for systems that provide real access, real exposure, and real opportunity—especially for young people who are too often overlooked.

He is a devoted husband to his wife, Demetria, and a proud father to his four children—Kennedy, Reagan, CJ, and Bryson—who continue to inspire his work and commitment to building a better future for the next generation.

Tom McGilloway, ASLA
Principal, Mahan Rykiel Associates (Mahan Rykiel)



Tom McGilloway has been with Mahan Rykiel since 2001 after working 17 years for LDR International in Columbia, MD. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture at the Pennsylvania State University in 1984. Tom's professional focus is master planning. He offers broad experience in downtown/neighborhood revitalization; park planning and design; and campus master planning. Tom is particularly skilled at engaging stakeholders in the planning and design process. He has worked in large cities, small towns, and "Main Street" communities throughout Maryland and the United States. Significant

projects include the Downtown Baltimore Open Space Plan (and a current update to that effort); the Lancaster (PA) Economic Development Strategic Plan; several phases of the Strategic Plan for Leonardtown, MD; Downtown State College (PA) Master Plan; and downtown revitalization charrettes/master plans for over 30 “Main Street” communities throughout the United States. He recently led the master planning effort for Ellicott City, MD, a community devastated by two historic floods in two years. Tom has spoken at several Maryland and National Main Street conferences and has conducted training sessions for Main Street programs in Maryland and Wisconsin. In addition to his professional work, he is active in park and neighborhood revitalization in his own community and has served as President/Design Committee Chair for the former Hampden Village Main Street program in Baltimore.

Aruna K. Miller, Lieutenant Governor



Aruna K. Miller is the 10th Lieutenant Governor of the state of Maryland. She is the second woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor and the first woman of color and immigrant elected to statewide office in Maryland.

Born in Andhra Pradesh, India, Miller and her family immigrated to the United States when she was 7 years old. The daughter of a mechanical engineer, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Miller has devoted her life to public service and removing systemic barriers to opportunity.

As a civil and transportation engineer in Montgomery County’s Department of

Transportation, Miller worked to improve the safety of the public and alleviate traffic by creating equitable access to transportation throughout the county. For 25 years, she oversaw programs that advanced access to schools and employment centers, and made community facilities safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and people with differing abilities.

From 2010 to 2018, she represented District 15 in the Maryland House of Delegates, where she worked with her constituents to create legislation to invest in STEM education, streamline the regulatory process for small businesses, and was a champion for working families, survivors of domestic abuse, and the environment.

Miller served on the Ways and Means Committee and its Revenue, Transportation, and Education Subcommittees. Additionally, in her second term, she served on the Appropriations Committee, where she served as chair of the Oversight of Personnel Subcommittee, vice chair of the Transportation and Environment Subcommittee, and vice chair of the Capital Budget Subcommittee.

For over 30 years, she has lived in Montgomery County with her husband David, where they raised three daughters.

As Lieutenant Governor, her policy profile includes matters relating to transportation, mental health, and STEM equity.

She serves as chair of the Governor's Work Zone Safety Work Group, dedicated to making highway work zones safer and protecting the lives of workers, motorists, and law enforcement.

The Lieutenant Governor also chairs Maryland's first Council on Interfaith Outreach, which convenes faith leaders from across religions and across the state of Maryland to bridge divides, increase religious tolerance, end hate, and better serve all communities.

Rebecca Rockey, Head of Quantitative Insights and Principal Economist at Cushman & Wakefield



Rebecca Rockey serves as the Head of Quantitative Insights and Principal Economist at Cushman & Wakefield, overseeing a new team with expertise in forecasting, data science and geospatial analytics, and commercial analytics.

She was previously the Deputy Chief Economist and Global Head of Forecasting. With over a decade of leadership, she spearheads predictive modelling, strategic research initiatives, and high-impact advisory across service lines. Her expertise bridges macroeconomics, demographics, financial markets, and commercial real estate, delivering actionable insights that inform clients, stakeholders, and executive decision-makers worldwide.

She is certified by the International Institute of Forecasters and is a member of the American Economic Association, the National Association of Business Economics (NABE) and the National Economists Club. In 2014, she was part of the forecast team that won the NABE's Outlook Award (most accurate forecaster). In 2023, she became Co-Chair of NABE's Commercial Real Estate Roundtable and in 2025, she was nominated to a three-year term on the NABE Board of Directors. Rebecca joined the National Business Economics Issues Council in 2024 and became an Executive Fellow in the Economic Club of (Washington) DC in 2025.

She previously worked as a consultant at a consulting firm engineering models to forecast agency subsidy costs and loss reserves for Fannie Mae's single-family private-label MBS portfolio. Prior to that, she was a junior analyst at the

Congressional Budget Office in the Financial Analysis Division (FAD). There, she contributed to numerous analyses related to federal credit programs, accounting treatments of federal credit, and the treatment of Fannie Mae and

Freddie Mac in the federal budget. She was particularly focused on fair value estimation of federal direct lending and guaranteed credit programs and contributed to FAD's first comprehensive estimate—of more than 100 credit programs with a portfolio value of \$3.1 trillion—for the Congress.

She is frequently cited in the media and is an advisor to the NYC Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the New York State Budget Division, and the DC Policy Center. She is also a participant in the Beige Book for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Mayor Brandon M. Scott



Brandon M. Scott serves as the 52nd Mayor of Baltimore and the youngest person to hold the position in over a century. Mayor Scott is committed to ending gun violence, investing in our youth, restoring the public's trust in government, and creating a better and more equitable Baltimore for all. In November 2024, he made history as the first Baltimore mayor in 20 years to win re-election.

During his [first term](#), Mayor Scott spearheaded historic reductions in violence through Baltimore's first-ever Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan. Under his leadership, the city also saw an 18% decrease in vacant properties, reaching the lowest number in two decades.

Growing up in Park Heights, Mayor Scott witnessed firsthand the effects of disinvestment in Baltimore's communities and youth. This experience shaped his administration's priorities, resulting in substantial investments in education and recreation, including 11 new/renovated schools, 4 new/renovated recreation centers, and \$100 million dedicated to previously stalled housing projects in underserved neighborhoods.

Five core pillars continue to guide his administration into his second term: building public safety, prioritizing youth, clean and healthy communities, equitable neighborhood development, and responsible stewardship of city resources.

Before becoming Mayor in 2020, Scott was unanimously elected president of the Baltimore City Council by his colleagues, after serving on the City Council for eight years, representing Baltimore's 2nd District. He was one of the youngest people ever elected to the Council, marking the beginning of his dynamic political career.

Mayor Scott has emerged as a political leader known for his authentic, straightforward approach that resonates with constituents. He serves as Co-Chair of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and as 2nd Vice President of the African American Mayors Association.

He is often sought after as an adviser and policy expert on violence reduction strategies by organizations and other elected officials, including the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention under former President Joe Biden. He previously chaired the National League of Cities' Large Cities Council.

Mayor Scott is a community leader, public servant, and son of Baltimore City. A proud Baltimorean and lifelong resident, Scott is a graduate of MERVO High School and St. Mary's College of Maryland. He resides in the Westfield neighborhood of Northeast Baltimore with his wife Hana, and their children Ceron, Charm, and Camden.

Kerry Watson, Executive Vice President of Public Affairs for the Baltimore Orioles



Kerry R. Watson, Jr. was named Executive Vice President of Public Affairs for the Baltimore Orioles in September 2023. He oversees the club's Government Affairs, Community Development, and Civic Engagement strategy.

Watson joined the Orioles after nearly seven years in executive roles at MGM Resorts International, including serving as Regional Vice President of Government Affairs. At MGM, he expanded the company's community impact with a focus on supplier diversity, job creation, and the responsible growth of gaming products across multiple states.

A Maryland native, Watson previously worked as a Governmental Relations Consultant for Alexander & Cleaver and served as Senior Advisor to Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker. Before entering government affairs, he spent 20 years with the Prince George's County Police Department.