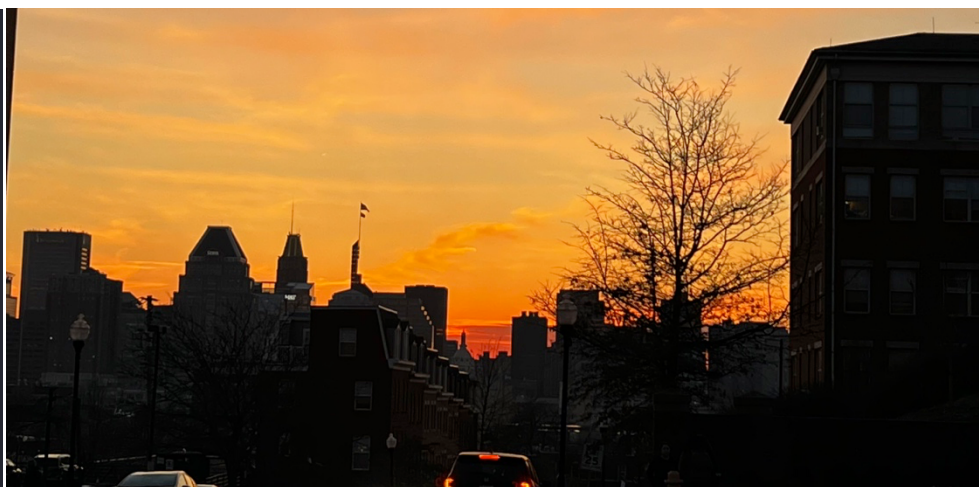




VOLAR - 2022



VOLAR

Village of Love and Resistance

Co-creating a cooperative community in East Baltimore owned by Black and Brown people, to create opportunities for historical residents to acquire, co-own, rehab, and sell/rent property to generate alternative sources of income.

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VOLAR in 2022



Own Our Hood

Between December 2021 and December 2022, VOLAR offered a series of six workshops conducted as part of The Own Our Hood (OOH) Program to residents in East Baltimore. OOH is a free, innovative Political Financial and Social Education Program that VOLAR designed for residents from 6 zip codes surrounding the VOLAR Hub. Residents who complete the workshop are invited to become community co-investors and co-owners of VOLAR's buildings. For as low as \$10 a month community co-investors can earn annual dividends from commercial and rental activities at VOLAR, once the

buildings are renovated and fully occupied. To date, 26 people have participated in at least one class; of whom 20 have completed all classes. In early 2023, lessons learned from the first year of implementing OOH will be shared with workshop attendees, the program's Community Advisory Council, and other stakeholders for their feedback. OOH has been generously supported by donors and grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and PNC. Additional funding will be sought to sustain the program beyond 2023 and expand its reach to additional East Baltimore residents.

Board

VOLAR received its federal non-profit tax exempt status in July 2019. It is officially a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization.

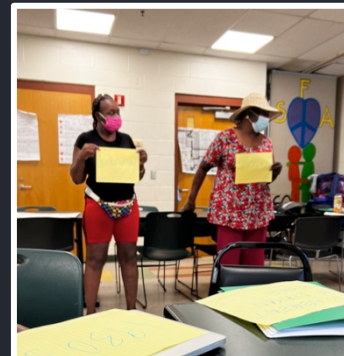
DONATE HERE:

<https://www.volar.site/donate>

VOLAR Board 2022

Marisela Gomez, President
Dominic Moulden
Lenora Knowles, Secretary
Pam Jordan
Katherine Williams, Treasurer





2022

Redistributing resources

VOLAR continues to receive resources in many different forms. Again in 2022, University of Baltimore Community Development Clinic, under the direction of Jamie Lee, continued to support us with organizational development work. The Community Law Center in late October started supporting VOLAR with pro bono legal support in addressing some tax lien challenges. Some members started to provide monthly dues in the middle of the year. We hosted a Go Fund Me campaign to support the People's Meditative Garden (which is being developed at the Ensor street land) and raised approximately \$7,800.00. Our end-of-2021-year major donor appeals raised \$22,000 and we are so grateful. Our regular monthly subscribers ranged between 12-14 over the year with a range of \$10-100 in monthly donations, thank you for being there. Below is a summary of our financial fundraising outcomes for 2022.

Donate here:

<https://www.volar.site/donate>

2022 in Brief

Total dollars in grant application	\$ 3,607,000.00
Total dollars received from grant applications	\$ 47,800.00
Total number of grant applications submitted	21
Total number of grants awarded	3
Approximate recurrent monthly	\$ 400.00
Total number of recurrent monthly donations	12
Total one-time donations	\$ 33,500.00
Go Fund Me Campaign (People's Meditative Garden)	\$ 7,800.00
Total Membership dues	\$ 120.91





Caption
Month 2022

Caretaking Council

VOLAR's Care-Taking Council ("CTC") is a nonhierarchical decision-making body that has the powers of making the day-to-day decisions in operating the organization.

Marisela Gomez
Dominic Moulden
Lenora Knowles
Pam Jordan
Katherine Williams
Sabriya Linton
Kenneth Clemons

Ensor Street Organizing: Healing the People; Freeing the Land

The public green space at the corner of Ensor Street and Monument Street is a special and sacred space for VOLAR members. We secured over 450 petition signatures in support of VOLAR purchasing the land and creating a community green space for meditation, relaxation, art and cultural events, gardening, wellness and exercise events. We are stewarding and maintaining this public space abandoned by the city, as best we can with limited resources. We are practicing our commitment to land stewardship by doing political education on how we can collectively own the land through a Community Investment Trust Fund and Community Land Trust. VOLAR's first action with members and the community was our September 30th

Day of Action and Celebration. We rallied at Ensor Street and marched through the streets to Vacant to Value to demand a clear process for VOLAR to acquire the public land. One of the results of our collective action included a meeting with the Department of Housing and Community Development and Councilmember to discuss the steps for VOLAR to acquire the public land. We thank all our neighbors and supporters who signed the petition and participated in the Day of Action. VOLAR is living into its mission of organizing for public land for public benefit.

<https://www.volar.site/about-1>



Mutual Aid

I normally do not go to food pantries. I appreciate the kindness of those donating food but a lot of times the quality of the food leaves more to be desired. However, I felt compelled to check out VOLAR and I was pleasantly surprised with the quality of food and how kind all the workers were; so I decided to become a volunteer. During my time volunteering with the food mutual aid, I learned the true meaning of being a part of community building and that true service means putting the needs of others before my wants. See it was the first organization that I've heard of that didn't allow volunteers to get first choosings. I didn't get anything extra that wasn't offered to anyone else and I had to wait my turn. I could not just grab my food first. Through VOLAR, I learned selflessness in servitude, equality, maintaining integrity, and how to be the change I want to see. VOLAR was in Mutual Aid with more than 600 different families during 2022.

Base Building



Leaders from the Grassroots

VOLAR's Base Building Committee is a committee of members who move forward the work of resisting uneven development with love by listening, learning, and organizing with East Baltimore residents. We are focused on membership and leadership development. The committee members, with the support of other VOLAR members, do outreach, door knocking, phone banking, organize membership recruitment, facilitate new member orientations and membership meetings, and conduct 1-on-1 relationship building. Together this is creating a path toward building a base of powerful neighborhood leaders and a stronger VOLAR. We are all learning these skills in order to be leaders in our organization. We are stepping into various roles and leading in many different ways.

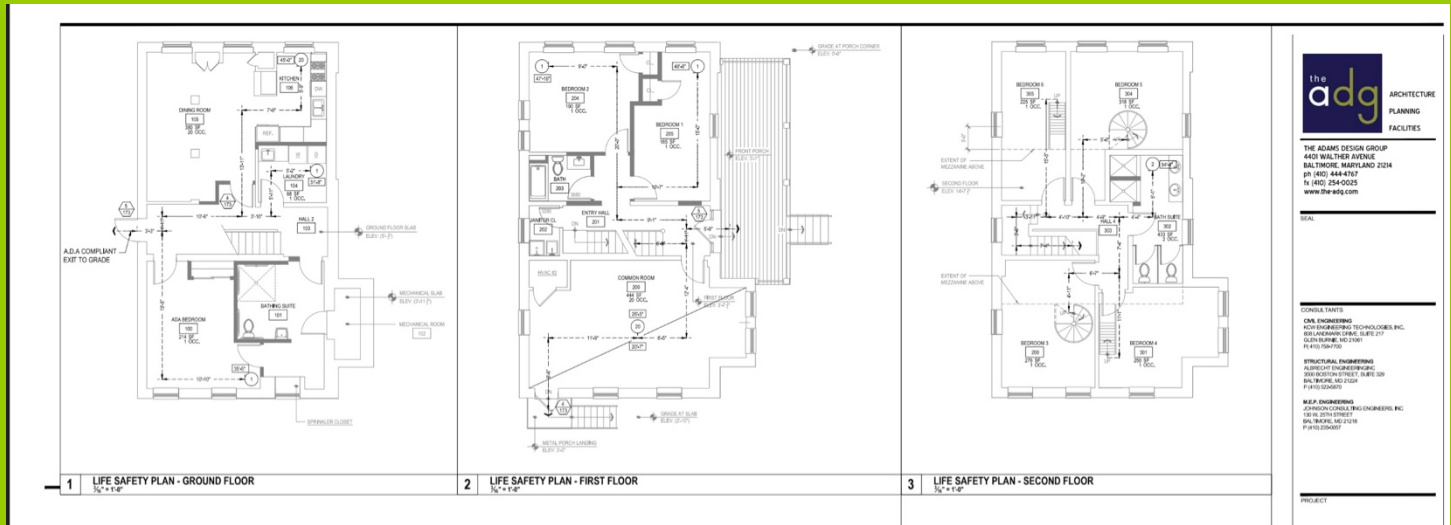
The Base Building Committee is composed of members from Latrobe, Monument East, Ashland Mews, and other East Baltimore communities. We ask questions like: What types of leaders are we trying to build for VOLAR and our larger neighborhood? What types of relationships do we need to build among neighbors to make our movement stronger and successful? Join VOLAR and become a leader and organizer in our East Baltimore community.

Radical Organizing School

New member Ms. Lisa Francis reminded us during one recent membership orientation that "knowledge is power." As we grow our collective knowledge and skills we are growing our collective power. With the Radical Organizing School we are working to create inclusive learning spaces for dialogue, healing, skill-building, and consciousness raising.

This year we explored key topics like Black love, Black women's leadership in movements for social change, locally and beyond, wellness and healing, relationship building through 1on1 conversations, the historic problem of uneven development, community control of land and housing, and collective land ownership models, through our monthly Learning Circles and Political Education Series, "We Free the People, We Heal the Land: Unite and Organize for Community Control."

We even hosted a Black August Learning Circle that featured the teachings and reflections of Ms. Sonia Eaddy, a resident and organizer of Poppleton and a November Song Circle facilitated by D.C. based song leader and organizer Luci Murphy.



VOLAR's Future
Community Hub and
Cooperative Housing



Building Renovation Update

Wow what a year!

We completed design and construction documents for the co-op housing and currently awaiting construction permits from the city of Baltimore to begin construction. The former rectory will be renovated into seven affordable cooperative homes. We hope to begin construction by March 2023.

We are nearly finished with the design of the Community Center. Thomas Brokaw with 7th Street LLC, began working with VOLAR as our project manager this year and we happily continued working with The Adams Design Group as our architectural firm. After advertising a Request for Qualifications/Proposal for the construction of the rectory, we selected Bristol Custom Construction, a Black-led firm, to begin the rectory renovation in March 2023.

We are on our way. See the final design of the housing above!

Land Stewardship



Ensor Street Clean Up

As the newest members of the Community, VOLAR'S Volunteer Land Steward/Caretakers Committee tries to organize monthly maintenance for not only VOLAR'S Property, but the adjacent neglected Ensor St. Property as well. Our monthly Clean-ups help to Improve, and **strengthen our new community**. We try to show our appreciation by Cleaning, Protecting, and Preserving the Land for Future Generations. So that everyone else (government/developers), no longer see us as blighted, dilapidated, and neglected, BUT, instead, see US, as we see ourselves, 'A Healthy, Vibrant, and Powerful Community.'



Our Artist in Residence

VOLAR’S artist in residence Kenneth Clemons is originally from the westside of Baltimore, now living just across the street from VOLAR. Kenneth recently completed his masters degree in Community art at MICA. He created our beautiful logo, our black and white sketch of VOLAR buildings, our banner, and yard sign.

In a short interview with Kenneth:

What made you excited about creating art for VOLAR?
Using my creative knowledge and skills in order to

showcase my abilities for a greater cause within VOLAR.

Why was it important to create a sign for the yard?
The VOLAR sign is to inform the public to know that we exist within the community that wants to help, encourage, and heal

What inspires you to be in co-leadership with VOLAR?
Not only an opportunity to co-lead; in addition, to participate in making a difference and giving back to the community I live in.

Village of Love and Resistance (VOLAR) is a 501c3 nonprofit.

Village of Love and Resistance (VOLAR)

Baltimore, MD

<https://www.volar.site/>

@volarbmore on IG, Facebook, and Twitter.



To: _____

Are you free enough to resist with love? -Zenju Earthlyn Manuel