

100 YEAR SYMPOSIUM



In 2019, Afro House used the funding Scott Patterson received through the Creative Baltimore Fund Project Support Grant to hold 100 Year Symposiums. 100 Year Symposium aims to serve neighborhoods in Northeast Baltimore through a unique experience that involves a futuristic opera and a robust discourse in homes/community gathering places about what 100 years into the future would look like.

In partnership with Belair-Edison Neighborhood, Inc. (BENI), Astronaut Symphony, a contemporary ensemble led by pianist and composer, Scott Patterson, performed excerpts of Afro House's opera-ballet. Through facilitated civil conversation, neighbors engaged in a meaningful discussion about what it means to be a steward of the future, in the intimate and familiar setting of a home/community gathering place. Thus, lifting up and closely examining existing conversations being held in their neighborhood about the future of their community. The story and music of *Cease and Desist Ballet* served as an entry point and source of inspiration to delve into areas yet to be explored by the participants.

The 100 Year Symposium served the neighborhoods that make up Belair-Edison and Hamilton-Lauraville. Both Belair Edison and Hamilton-Lauraville are Healthy Neighborhoods and Main Street communities.



Image credit: Theresa Keil