

# DISCOVER THE *Charm of the Baltimore Region* HOST COMMITTEE'S GUIDE



*The Maryland City/County Management Association and ICMA's 2018 Conference Host Committee are excited to welcome you to Baltimore for ICMA's 104th Annual Conference.*

*From the bustling Inner Harbor, where the Baltimore Convention Center is located, to the city's many historical sites, renowned museums, inspiring architecture, and diverse neighborhoods, Baltimore has something for everyone. So get out and discover the many reasons why Baltimore is known as Charm City!*

## *Historical Sites*

History abounds in Baltimore. A must-see stop while you're in town is [Fort McHenry](#). During the War of 1812, troops at Fort McHenry stopped a British advance into the city, inspiring Francis Scott Key to pen our national anthem. Administered by the National Park Service since 1933, Fort McHenry is the only area of the National Park System to be designated as both a national monument and a historic shrine.

History enthusiasts may also want to visit the [Star-Spangled Banner Flag House](#), Mary Pickersgill's 1793 home where she made the 30-by-42-foot flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key.

Literary fans should check out the [National Historic Landmark Edgar Allan Poe House and Museum](#). In the tiny brick house where he lived from 1833 to 1835, Poe

wrote some of the early stories that would make him the father of the modern short story, creating and defining the modern genres of mystery, horror, and science fiction.

[Westminster Hall](#) is a beautiful building located at the intersection of Fayette and Greene Streets in downtown Baltimore. This restored historic church features stained glass windows, an 1882 pipe organ, cathedral ceilings, and raised balconies. The Westminster Burying Grounds, one of Baltimore's oldest cemeteries, features the gravesite of Edgar Allan Poe.

Baltimore offers a unique lens on the life of Frederick Douglass, who was born into slavery in Maryland in 1818





and came to Baltimore as a child. He learned to read and worked at the shipyards at Fell's Point before escaping to freedom in 1838. Douglass later returned to Baltimore, building a row of houses for African-American renters. His "Douglass Place" homes in Fell's Point still stand today, with a commemorative plaque next to the front door where Douglass lived at 524 S. Dallas Street.

**The First Unitarian Church** was once the largest building in America. Located in the heart of historic downtown Baltimore, this Greco-Roman structure features stained glass from the studio of Louis Comfort Tiffany. It is significant in the history of Unitarianism because it is where William Ellery Channing gave a sermon that laid the foundation for the denomination. The oldest building continuously used by a Unitarian congregation, it is on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated a National Historic Landmark.

The Mount Vernon neighborhood is home to some of the most historically significant and well-preserved 19th-century architecture on the East Coast. Its centerpiece is the area around the Washington Monument; built between 1815 and 1829, this was the first formal monument in a U.S. city dedicated to George Washington. A National Historic Landmark, **Mount Vernon Place** is one of the first examples in the United States of deliberate city planning to create a dramatic setting for an existing monument. For a fee, you can climb the monument's 227 marble steps for a great view of Baltimore.

While in the Mount Vernon area, stop and visit America's First Cathedral, officially known as the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Built from 1806 to 1821, this stunning building was the first great metropolitan cathedral constructed in the United States after the adoption of the Constitution.

Just blocks from the convention center is **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**. Founded in 1692 as the parish church for the Patapsco Parish, it is one of the original 30 parishes of the old Church of England in colonial Maryland.

## Museums

One of Baltimore's most popular attractions is the **National Aquarium**, located in the Inner Harbor near all conference hotels. Featuring close to 20,000 animals in multiple exhibits, including Atlantic Coral Reef, Dolphin Alley, Jellies Invasion, Living Seashore, and Shark Alley, the National Aquarium is not to be missed.

Another popular Inner Harbor attraction is the **Maryland Science Center**, offering hands-on exhibits and displays

highlighting the exciting world of science and technology. One of the oldest scientific institutions in the United States, the Maryland Science Center features an IMAX theater and the Davis Planetarium.

Consistently ranked among the top children's museums in the United States by publications such as *Parents Magazine*, *Forbes*, and *USA Today* is **Port Discovery**. Port Discovery offers three floors of interactive, educational exhibits and ever-changing programs for children of all ages.

Located in an 1860s oyster cannery on a waterfront campus, the **Museum of Industry** celebrates Maryland's industrial legacy by showcasing the stories of the people who built Baltimore and those who are shaping the region's future. Also in the area is historic Federal Hill, with its period homes, a park with an overlook of the Inner Harbor, and enticing boutiques, bars, and restaurants.

The **Reginald F. Lewis Museum** celebrates Maryland's African-American history and culture. Its collection comprises art, artifacts, textiles, material culture, photographs, rare books, and other items.

The **B&O Railroad Museum** brings alive the magic of railroading. Come see, touch, hear, and explore the most important railroad collection in America.

## For Art Lovers

The **Baltimore Museum of Art** (BMA) is highly regarded for its collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art, including one of the world's most significant collections of Henri Matisse's work. Outside, nestled on nearly three acres, the BMA's two terraced sculpture gardens are home to 33 masterworks of modern and contemporary sculpture. If you need a break while touring the museum and sculpture garden, get refreshed at the museum's excellent restaurant, Gertrude's.

The internationally renowned **Walters Art Museum**, located in the Mount Vernon neighborhood, features everything from Greek and Egyptian art to Art Nouveau jewelry. One of its outstanding collections is an exhibit of suits of armor.

**The American Visionary Art Museum**, a favorite of many Host Committee members, is America's official national museum and education center for intuitive, self-taught artistry. Fans of director John Waters will enjoy the larger-than-life statue of Divine, a drag queen from Baltimore County who starred in Waters' films *Hairspray* and *Polyester*.

In Baltimore, art isn't just found in world-class museums. Baltimore has taken street art to the next level with its vast mural project, **Open Walls**, located in the heart of the city in the Station North Arts and Entertainment District. And while in the district, take a few minutes to check out Graffiti Alley near North Avenue and



Howard Street. This is the only space in Baltimore where street artists can legally create their work. Artists continually draw and tag the alley, so it is always changing.

Part of Baltimore's skyline since 1911, the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower has been a beacon for innovation and the arts since 2007. It has provided a space for artists, writers, jewelers, and architects to create and exhibit their art, as well as to interact with and sell to the public. Gallery spaces showcase local and regional artists through free exhibitions, receptions, and other events, such as music and spoken-word performances. Inside the tower is the Emerson/Maryland Glass Museum, which houses the largest collection of Bromo Seltzer and Maryland Glass bottles in existence.

## Music, Theater, Movies, and Dancing

The internationally recognized **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra** (BSO) is acclaimed for its enduring pursuit of artistic excellence. The BSO made musical history in September 2007 when Maestra Marin Alsop led her inaugural concert as the orchestra's twelfth music director and the first woman to head a major American orchestra.

Set in the artistic Mount Vernon area, the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University is a great place to catch free performances by world-renowned musical artists and composers. Check out the event schedule at [www.peabody.jhu.edu/concerts-events](http://www.peabody.jhu.edu/concerts-events).

For over 70 years, the legendary **Hippodrome Theatre** served as a movie palace that also showcased some of the top vaudeville acts of the time. It shuttered briefly and reopened after a stunning renovation in 2004; now, as the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, it continues to provide world-class entertainment as the crown jewel of the **Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment (A&E) District**.

Also in the Bromo Tower A&E District is **Everyman Theatre**. With a resident company of artists from the Baltimore/Washington, D.C., area, Everyman Theatre is dedicated to providing high-quality plays that are affordable and accessible to everyone.

For a different movie experience, check out **The Charles**, which offers first-run specialty films in addition to Hollywood movies, foreign films, and cinema classics. The 23,000-square-foot movie house is located in one of Charles Street's most intriguing historic buildings.

Those who love to dance should not miss the **Mobtown Ballroom**. Located in historic Pigtown in a beautifully restored 1870s church, the ballroom offers a Monday night swing dance. Come at 8 p.m. for a drop-in beginner's lesson (\$10, with free dance after); dancing begins at 9 (\$7 dance only). The bar opens at 7:30 p.m.

## Sports

Unfortunately, our beloved Baltimore Orioles won't be in town during the conference, but you can still plan a pilgrimage to Camden Yards, considered by many to be the most beautiful ballpark in America. Consider taking a 90-minute public tour to learn more about this historic ballpark; tickets can be purchased at [www.mlb.com/orioles/ballpark/tours](http://www.mlb.com/orioles/ballpark/tours). And check out the Sculpture Garden, where you can see the bronze sculptures of six of the Oriole's greatest players.

It will be football season when we meet, and the two-time Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens will take on the Denver Broncos on Sunday, September 23 at 1:00 p.m. To purchase tickets, go to <http://www.baltimoreravens.com/gameday/tickets/index.html>.

Open to everyone, the **Inner Harbor's Baltimore Beach** has seven beach volleyball courts set on 2,000-plus tons of sand where locals and visitors can meet and play organized games. Check out the schedule for specific times.

## Outdoors


With more than 4,000 acres of parkland and public space within its borders, Baltimore's park system has something for everyone—the opportunity to bike or hike the trails, to hit the courts, or to paint quietly by a fountain. Below are some Host Committee favorite spots.

On the National Register of Historic Places, **Druid Hill Park** in northern Baltimore is the third oldest established park in the United States. Located within its 745 acres are the **Maryland Zoo** and the **Howard P. Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens**, the country's second oldest Victorian glass conservatory.

**Patterson Park** is famous for its wide open spaces and ornate pagoda, which offers amazing views of the city. Before it was known as a park, the site played a major role in the War of 1812; it was here that American troops stood ready during the decisive battle of North Point at "Hampstead Hill," the promontory where the pagoda is situated. Patterson Park is also a popular stop for migratory birds; the Audubon Society offers birding tours of the park.

Situated just south of downtown and a short walk from the Inner Harbor, **Federal Hill Park** offers visitors an iconic view of the Inner Harbor. Monuments commemorating the Battle of Baltimore in 1814 enhance the park. Cannons that once manned Fort Federal Hill during the





Civil War embellish the serene promenade that spectacularly overlooks the downtown cityscape.

Walk or run the Waterfront Promenade, a paved walkway that hugs nearly seven miles of waterline of the Inner Harbor from Fort McHenry to the Canton Waterfront Park.

## Neighborhoods

Baltimore is a city of diverse neighborhoods, each with a unique history and feel. Below are a few Host Committee favorite spots.

Named for the Englishmen who in 1726 founded a ship-building company here that would go on to produce the famous Baltimore Schooners, the waterfront neighborhood of **Fell's Point** is one of the oldest in the city. Fans of the television series *Homicide: Life on the Streets*, which was filmed in Baltimore, will see some familiar sights here. Stroll its cobblestone streets and enjoy its many boutiques, bars, and restaurants. Great ghost tours are also a highlight of Fell's Point.


East of Fell's Point on Baltimore's outer harbor is **Canton**, a charming waterfront neighborhood founded in the late 19th century. The heart of the neighborhood is a quaint village square rimmed with restaurants, pubs, and shops along O'Donnell Street. While in this historic neighborhood, enjoy terrific views of the Baltimore Harbor from the eight-acre Canton Waterfront Park.

Looking for a Kodak moment? It doesn't get any more photo-friendly than **Federal Hill**. This neighborhood of walkable streets, brick-front homes, quaint storefronts, and cobblestone sidewalks offers great views of the Inner Harbor and the Baltimore skyline. Check out Cross Street Market, one of Baltimore's many public markets.

No neighborhood says "Bawlmer" quite like north Baltimore's **Hampden**. Famous for its starring role in John Waters' films and long known as the place where everybody calls you "hon," Hampden centers on 36th Street, known to locals simply as "the Avenue." You'll find original shops and an eclectic array of cafes mingling with the barber shops and pharmacies. For an Old Baltimore dining experience, stop by **Café Hon**, but save room for Old Bay caramel ice cream at **The Charmery**.



## Getting Around




The Charm City Circulator, a fleet of free, hybrid electric bus shuttles that travel four routes throughout Baltimore, offers a convenient way to visit many of the city's most

popular attractions. A shuttle arrives every 10–15 minutes at the designated stops on each route. For more information, go to [www.charmcitycirculator.com](http://www.charmcitycirculator.com).

For a true Baltimore experience, take a ride on a **water taxi**. While not free, a water taxi offers a unique maritime view of some of the city's landmarks and neighborhoods.

## Outside of Baltimore



Have a car and a little time on your hands to explore the greater Baltimore region? Consider a trip to **Old Ellicott City**. Founded in 1772, Old Ellicott City is a picturesque town nestled in the Patapsco Valley in Howard County. It is home to the oldest standing B&O railroad station as well as many historic sites, unusual shops, and distinctive dining establishments.

Nearby Old Ellicott City is **Savage Mill**, a historic cotton mill in Savage turned into a complex of shops and restaurants. With over 175,000 square feet, Savage Mill is now home to major collector-quality antique centers, home furnishing stores, craft galleries, artist studios, and specialty shops.

History buffs and water lovers should definitely make time to explore quaint **Annapolis**, which served as our nation's first peacetime capital. Visit buildings once frequented by names like Jefferson and Washington; see the exact spot where the Treaty of Paris was ratified. Tour the Maryland State House, the oldest in continuous use in the country, and visit the room where George Washington resigned his military commission to the Continental Congress. Stroll Annapolis's charming brick-lined streets and enjoy its delightful shops and great seafood restaurants. Take a water tour and discover the wonders of the Chesapeake Bay. And no visit to Annapolis would be complete without a visit to the **United States Naval Academy**. This renowned educational institution annually trains more than 4,000 midshipmen to become officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

And last but certainly not least, don't miss the chance to visit our nation's capital while you're in the Mid-Atlantic region. **Washington, D.C.** is about an hour away from Baltimore. Explore inspiring monuments and memorials, the Smithsonian Institute's many free museums, and the District's eclectic neighborhoods. Plan your trip at [www.washington.org](http://www.washington.org).