

## The Bylaws of BALTIMORE • Blue+Green+Just

These Bylaws as of September 1, 2021, contain Articles I through X and no other.

### **Article I.** Name of the Organization.

The official name of this organization is BALTIMORE • Blue+Green+Just (“BBGJ” or “Coalition”).

### **Article II.** The Vision of BBGJ.

The Vision of BBGJ is comprised of four elements:

- Healthy Environment for Every Child
- Benefits of Green Infrastructure Proven
- Foundation in Equity
- Bold Action

The Vision will be informed by Baltimore’s [Green Network Plan](#), The [2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan](#), the [Baltimore Climate Action Plan](#), the [Greenway Trails Network Plan](#) and other principals and values.

The Coalition is made up of non-profit and individual stakeholders working or interested in the realms of the environmental remediation, environmental injustice and related public health and sustainability which request inclusion in the Coalition as approved by the Steering Committee. To avoid potential conflicts-of-interest, for-profit businesses are excluded from the Coalition until further notice.

More about the BBGJ Vision may be found at the BBGJ website found by clicking [here](#).

### **Article III.** Mission of the Coalition.

The mission of the BBGJ coalition is to help cause Baltimore City officials, including department heads and their contractors, to learn about, prioritize, adopt, implement, showcase and be accountable for the City’s existing sustainability and other green plans affecting the health of the local environment and Baltimore residents.

BBGJ will advocate for uniform and persistent enforcement of existing or new environmental regulations and climate resilience efforts that would mitigate the impact of climate change and public health disparities in Baltimore City and environs.

The Coalition seeks to vigorously promote its issues, concerns, and actions to the wider public, as part of on-going resident education and mobilizing.

It will also serve to introduce members to one another to strengthen the city’s green infrastructure and environmental advocacy. Member stakeholders may agree on major collective actions and/or initiatives, which they can work on together and support as seems most suitable and strategic. Member stakeholders may advocate for greater Coalition actions (such as the question posed at the Mayoral Candidates Forum about which candidates would back the proposal of a Deputy Mayor for Sustainability) as well as those of individual member groups, and promote them to city leaders, political and otherwise, the media and the general public.

BBGJ will provide its Listserv to member stakeholders, upon request, so they may share information with other organizations and individuals who are advocating for environmental and social justice in Baltimore. Examples include mobilizing volunteers for a tree planting in two weeks, needing help with a letter-writing campaign, or just wanting to share environmental news.

## The Bylaws of BALTIMORE • Blue+Green+Just

Another purpose is to identify, learn more about and potentially coordinate with other environmental groups, particularly smaller ones which may be limited in information reach and gathering, possibly identified through STEW-MAP, for one.

### **Article IV.** Members as Stakeholders.

It is expected that certain not-for-profit organizations and individuals will wish to become stakeholders by agreeing with its Vision statement and filling out the “Join Us” questionnaire linked [here](#). Fifty-four non-profits have already joined in addition to more than 100 individual stakeholders.

Stakeholders are encouraged to offer opinions and other information relating to the BBGJ Vision, to include requested postings to the BBGJ Facebook page. Email requests for information or action may be sent to any Steering Committee member known to that stakeholder or to the general mailbox, [baltimorebluegreenjust@gmail.com](mailto:baltimorebluegreenjust@gmail.com)

Stakeholders will not be charged a fee or be required to attend any public meeting as part of their role as stakeholder. As there is no stakeholder membership fee, no honorary memberships will be conferred.

Any stakeholder may withdraw from the Coalition at any time for any reason with notice sent to the general mailbox.

Stakeholder status may be revoked if inappropriate comments or statements are made about BBGJ or any of its Steering Committee members. Such action may be taken upon a vote to do so by the majority of Steering Committee members.

The current list of stakeholder Organizations and Individuals may be found [here](#).

### **Article V.** Officers, Staff, Duties and New Steering Committee Members.

While BBGJ has no paid staff at this time, it does have Officers and a Coordinator.

The Officers of the Steering Committee are elected to one-year terms, renewable yearly.

Chair:	Tanaira Cullens, a resident of Baltimore City
Vice-Chair:	Niamh McQuillan, a resident of Baltimore County
Secretary:	Kristin Smith, a resident of Baltimore City
Treasurer:	Dick Williams, Creation Care Team Lead at Memorial Episcopal Church
Coordinator:	Dick Williams, Creation Care Team Lead at Memorial Episcopal Church

The other Steering Committee members, as of June 28, 2021, are: Alex Smith, a resident of Baltimore City; and, Jill Jonnes, Board Member of Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore.

The Steering Committee may be comprised of up to thirteen (13) individuals, but no less than five (5) individuals. If the number of members falls below five (5), due to resignation or frequent absence from meetings, defined as two consecutive meetings for any reason other than prolonged illness, see Article VII.

The Chair will be responsible for signing off on BBGJ’s output to the coalition and specific public announcements that may be published on its website or Facebook page. If for any reason the Chair is unable to sign off on BBGJ’s output in a timely manner, the Vice-Chair will act in the Chair’s stead. The

## The Bylaws of BALTIMORE • Blue+Green+Just

Secretary's primary duty is to take notes of Steering Committee meetings and disseminate them promptly after each meeting.

The Coordinator works closely with the Officers in discharging Steering Committee business, including the calling of meetings and sending out Chair- or Vice-Chair-authorized communication to all stakeholders.

The Officers and Coordinator named above may be removed from office by a voting majority of the Steering Committee for unexcused misfeasance and malfeasance.

New officers will be appointed by the Steering Committee members thirty (30) days prior to the expiry of one year in office for the initial officer holders, beginning October 1, 2020.

New Steering Committee members may be appointed by a majority of the existing Steering Committee members after determining that person or persons have related work experience or demonstrable interest that reflects the BBGJ Vision and Mission (Articles II and III). They shall also have read these Bylaws and state such.

### **Article VI.** Steering Committee Action Groups.

Up to and through its periodic meetings, Steering Committee members will report to each other if working on an Action Group task or preparing something for presentation at the meetings. (See discussion below.)

The Officers will interact with the standing Actions Groups to help facilitate output. At the time of By-laws adoption, there have been or are four action groups. They are as follows:

**"Communications and Outreach"** – This Action Group has been led by Steering Committee members Jill Jonnes and Tanaira Cullens since Summer 2019. In the past, this action group was responsible for identifying and asking non-profits across the city to join the BBGJ coalition. Future communications and outreach may include writing or reviewing blurbs for potential distribution to various media outlets ranging from legacy news organizations to social media platforms, including BBGJ's own platforms; or, for potential distribution to designated Coalition listservs. Other members of this Action Group are Sarah Lord and Dick Williams.

**"Special-Task Sub-Group"** – This ad hoc Action Group of the Steering Committee will be comprised of up to several Steering Committee members when there's a need to draft issues of some complexity for review by the Committee as a whole, to include Bylaws revisions, the organizing and making of the BBGJ listserv policy, or new work on the draft BBGJ Platform that may be desired. As of Bylaws and listserv policy adoption, there is no such activity needed by the Steering Committee.

**"Events,"** This Action Group, led by Sarah Lord and Loretha Myers, managed the 2020 Mayoral Candidates Forum held on February 26, 2020, at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, but is presently inactive.

**"Marketing/Funding,"** led by Jill Jonnes, is an Action Group that has been proposed, but will not be activated until the Steering Committee agrees as a whole that a need can be demonstrated,

## The Bylaws of BALTIMORE • Blue+Green+Just

and funding source(s) identified and additional organizational structuring provided (as further mentioned in Article IX).

Additional Action Groups may be established by addenda to the Bylaws as the Steering Committee may agree. (See Article IX, Amending the Bylaws.)

**Article VII.** Processes that may guide decisions and actions by the Steering Committee as a whole.

As briefly described in Article III. above, since the Mayoral Candidates Forum, the Coalition has begun work as a hub for information and potential actions relating to the Vision statement with the prime vehicles for communication being its Website and Facebook social media platforms. Another vehicle for communicating issues and potential actions will be the confidential BBGJ listserv.

Steering Committee members and non-profit and individual stakeholders may identify specific actions and follow-through to be considered in keeping with the BBGJ Vision. This potential activity must be considered by Steering Committee vote before any action or follow-through is initiated.

### *Website-*

Principally, the Resources page will be a place of more permanent information relating to the Vision statement and other items pertinent to Blue+Green+Just and public health.

The BBGJ Bylaws will be added to the “BBGJ Toolbox” under the “Resources” toolbar upon approval.

New categories may be added to the Resources page as needed.

### *Facebook page-*

This site will carry information of general and particular interest.

### *Communication with BBGJ Organizations and Individuals who are known to want communications disseminated through the Coalition-*

Potential opportunities for action issues related to the BBGJ Vision, and related public health, may be considered by the Steering Committee, time permitting. When an issue is time sensitive, the Steering Committee may consider and act on requests of Coalition stakeholders that are “packaged” for potential transmission through the listserv. Action by the Steering Committee in favor of or against supporting action requests will include a minimum vote of two in favor or against by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Coordinator. Communication of Steering Committee decisions will be carried out by the Coordinator, or other Steering Committee officer, along with the requesting stakeholder.

### **Article VIII.** Meetings.

Meetings will be arranged once the Chair or Vice-Chair, or a minimum of two (2) other Steering Committee members, calls for one and as synchronized by the Coordinator with the Chair or Vice-Chair. An objective would be to meet quarterly, at a minimum.

Generally, the Chair (or Vice-Chair) will be responsible for getting the draft agenda distributed prior to each Steering Committee meeting.

Where more than half of the Steering Committee members are present, voting may occur.

## The Bylaws of BALTIMORE • Blue+Green+Just

The Steering Committee will always strive to reach full consensus, defined as a lack of sustained objection, on all voting regarding the Coalition. In the absence of such consensus, Steering Committee decisions will be decided by a majority of the Steering Committee present at any meeting. In the event that a Steering Committee member is unable to attend a meeting or cast a vote in advance, notice must be given to the rest of the Steering Committee members with minimum 2 hours' notice. In the event that a Steering Committee member is not present at a meeting where a new issue is presented for voting, that member would be allowed to vote within three (3) days of receipt of the applicable meeting notes.

While responsible for making Coalition decisions, the Steering Committee shall generally solicit input and feedback from the stakeholders on substantive policy or process matters.

A meeting notes-taker must be identified at the outset of any Steering Committee meeting in the event the Secretary is not present. Those notes will be shared to the whole of the Steering Committee within three (3) business days of the meeting.

### **Article IX.** Amending the Bylaws.

Any Steering Committee member may propose an amendment(s) to the BBGJ Bylaws by disseminating the proposed amendment, with reason, in writing to the rest of the Steering Committee members along with a requested meeting date. At the next Steering Committee meeting, such amendment(s) shall be further discussed and acted upon and approved, tabled, or rejected by all members.

An example of a need to amend the Bylaws is potential funding of BBGJ for one or more purposes. In order to achieve such an objective, it is likely a Limited Liability Corp. would have to be formed, and other structures and relationships formed in order to function as a charitable organization.

### **Article X.** Dissolution of BBGJ.

The BBGJ coalition may be dissolved by unanimous vote of the Steering Committee at a meeting of all Committee members or when Steering Committee membership falls below five (5) people. If Steering Committee membership falls below 5, a 90-day period will be allowed for obtaining one or more new Steering Committee members at per Article V.