



BALTIMORE
BOOK FESTIVAL

LIGHT CITY[®]

BRILLIANT
BALTIMORE

2019 Visual Artwork Portfolio &
Docent's Guide

Light City – Visual Arts – High Level Overview

- In 2019, for the first-time, Light City is aligned with the Baltimore Book Festival and celebrates with the theme, Brilliant Baltimore.
- This amazing, one-of-a-kind event features 200+ authors on 10 literary stages; 45 live concerts and performances; 100+ booksellers and literary exhibitors; and a delicious menu of food and drinks – in addition to the awe-inspiring works of light art.
- In the three years since its inception, Light City has become one of the world's premier light art festivals.
- The festival is produced by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA), a nonprofit that serves as the City's arts council, film office and events center.
- BOPA received more than 120 artists' proposals for this year's show.
- Applications were received from five continents.
- The proposals were reviewed and scored by an independent jury.
- From this highly competitive field, ultimately 18 works of art received a fully-funded commission to participate in this year's festival.
- These commissions are made possible due to our sponsor's generosity.
- About 50% of the artists are from Baltimore; the others are from around the world including The Netherlands, France, Portugal and Australia.
- Works range in scale and medium, including projection, mapping, illumination, kinetic sculptures and more.
- The artists own and retain all the rights to their work of art. Many will go on to participate in other international festivals, literally spreading the magic and message of Light City around the world.

Icon Key



Artist Home Country



Baltimore Based



Sound Component



Interactive

An Abstract Baltimore Story

Jeffrey Kent + Peter Smith - Baltimore, MD

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts



Location: USM Columbus Center Plaza, 701 East Pratt Street

- In this powerful piece, a series of abstract paintings have been translated into animated digital abstractions, juxtaposed with text, to further tell the story of Henrietta Lacks on a large-scale outdoor LED screen.
- Henrietta Lacks' cells were harvested and cultured without her knowledge in 1951.
- Tragically, Ms. Lacks succumbed to cancer that same year at the age of 31, dying at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, but her immortal HeLa cells became one of the most important tools in medicine research.
- This work continues the artists' examination of the unique relationship racially marginalized Americans, specifically black female Americans, have had, and in too many cases continue to have, with the American medical field and industry.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Jeffrey Kent creates multidisciplinary work that is a passionate investigation of issues related to the political and economic foundations of freedom and the role of responsible citizenship. Kent explores the intimate experience of the individual interacting with the idiosyncrasies of their world- specifically the experience of the black American citizen. His work is conceptual, informed and inextricably linked by the historical and the personal. He utilizes the medium best suited for the subject and temperament of the discussion he is creating.

Peter Smith is a design and animation generalist who's had a myriad of projects and clients; from political ads, news packages, promos, show opens and national commercials, to episodic effects, film titles, sports, branding and network packages. In 2000, he won an Emmy for ABC's Super Bowl XXXIV graphics package, and is an expert in two and 3D animation.

Baltimore Fancy

Formstone Castle Collective - Baltimore, MD

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts



Location: Rash Field- top of ramp entrance off the promenade. Horses walk down south shore of the promenade.

- This artwork tells the story of the Baltimore Arabbers.
- Since the early 1800s, these brightly-colored and artfully arranged horse-drawn carts have brought fresh produce to Baltimore's neighborhoods.
- The work's title stems from the Arabber horses' unique harnesses - called "Baltimore Fancy Harnesses."
- The work consists of two elements—a lit and decorated Arabber horse and cart, and a stable, where a magical canopy provides a sense of place and history.
- The work was created at the City's Arabber stables on North Fremont Street in West Baltimore, allowing the artists to build relationships with the Arabbers who are participating in this installation, and further connecting the artists with community members.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Formstone Castle Collective is a small team of Baltimore-based artists with a core mission of collaboration. *Baltimore Fancy* was envisioned, produced, and fabricated by lead artist Michael Bowman, alongside numerous volunteers. Papercut artist and puppeteer Katherine Fahey designed the stable animation, and sound and visual artist Adam Rush provided an ambient soundscape.

FUN FACT!

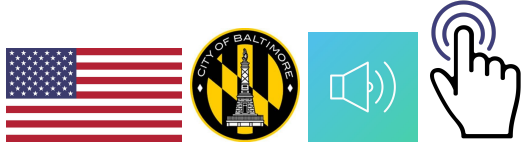
The overhead lights on the canopy are upcycled from *What Lies Beneath*, an in-water installation at Light City 2018.

Behind Facades

Flux Form- Baltimore, MD

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts

Presented by Whiting-Turner Contracting Company



Location: Pier 4 (next to National Aquarium dolphin fountain)

- Step up to peek inside that ubiquitous symbol of Charm City architecture, the traditional Baltimore rowhome.
- This mostly wooden sculpture weighs 1,000 pounds.
- Interactive video monitors put viewers in the presence of domestic life across the city, as the screens are the “windows” on the rowhouse façade.
- By lifting the veil on a staple of Baltimore life, the rowhouse,, this installation illuminates the effect that connectedness has on personal and public life - turning a symbol of compartmentalized intimacy into powerful storytelling..
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** FluxForm is a Baltimore-based collective of filmmakers, painters, engineers and interactive artists. Their members include Justin Stafford, James Dolgin, Zachary Titford, Misha Ilyin, Imani Edwards, Samantha Mitchell and Tony Lugo.

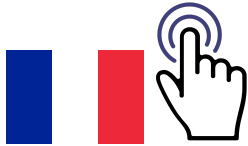
FUN FACT!

The video from the various “windows” was gathered from 24 different Baltimore residences. It took the artists more than eight weeks to gather all the footage.

Between the Lines

PITAYA - Rhône, France

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts



Location: Pier 5, in-water installation

- Experience this work two ways to enjoy multiple poetic meanings – and quite literally, read between the lines to see the beauty that lies in everyday objects.
- Those far away see the large-scale “fishing rods” as abstract lines of light waffling over the water and occasionally changing color, providing a contemplative experience.
- Close up, visitors experience a much more dynamic and interactive work; the light changes color and intensity as one approaches the sculpture and as their hand gets closer to the base of the rod.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** PITAYA is a creative studio founded in 2006 by David Lesort and Arnaud Giroud. The scope of their work is wide, from large-scale events in urban public space to private commissions. Their pieces have been exhibited worldwide in locations such as Paris, Beirut, London, Moscow, Tokyo, Beijing, Dubai and Singapore.

FUN FACT!

Although the fishing rods appear delicate and ephemeral, because of their arch, each of their bases weigh 2,600 pounds – that’s more than a ton!

The Canopy

Can-duit & Pneuhaus – Baltimore, MD & Rumford, RI

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts



Location: Sondheim Fountain (next to Baltimore Visitor Center)

- Welcome to a truly interactive and kinetic experience, designed to spark conversations about sustainability and renewable sources of power.
- It is truly the “pedal-power” of visitors that makes this work come to life!
- When in use, 12 stationary bikes activate 12 fabric inflatable sculptural forms, which rise into place as visitors pedal.
- As each module inflates/deflates, the emergent space forms a colorful illuminated canopy that appears, shelters, morphs and then disappears.
- The work’s metaphorical meaning: choosing to ride a bike for transportation is better for the trees.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Can-duit is a small Baltimore-based company working to create joyful immersive bike-powered experiences and art installations. This collaboration between founder Natan Lawson, Sarah Jacklin, Lars Peterson, and Ann Russell also brings bike-powered blenders to wellness events all over the east coast, under the name Wheely Good Smoothies.

Working mostly in air, Pneuhaus is a design collective focusing on the mastery of all things inflatable. With expertise in both materials and methods, Pneuhaus creates spatial designs, temporary structures, contemporary art, and large-scale immersive environments.

FUN FACT!

The tips of each of the 12 inflatables point directly at the tips of their neighbors’, suggesting a continuous surface. This characteristic is inspired by the natural phenomenon in tree canopies called Crown Shyness, where trees maintain a slight gap between each other’s branches.

DiscoBug

Tyler FuQua Creations - Portland, OR

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts

Presented by Downtown Partnership of Baltimore



Location: McKeldin Plaza, intersection of Pratt & Light streets

- Shake your groove thing at this amazing dance party mash-up of two iconic symbols from the 60's & 70's, the disco ball and the VW Bug.
- Spun by festival-goers working as a team, this retro-fitted real life 1969 Volkswagen Beetle is covered on all of its curvy surfaces with thousands of mirror squares.
- A three-legged lighting structure, complete with 15 spotlights, sits over the car. that are all controlled by a user-friendly control panel.
- **ABOUT THE ARTIST:** Tyler FuQua Creations specializes in interactive art, and they are probably best known for their Mechan series - three giant fallen robots that have a story to tell. They have been awarded six Burning Man arts grants, have had a costume made of reclaimed materials exhibited at the Smithsonian, have participated in international light festivals and can't wait to see where the future takes them next.

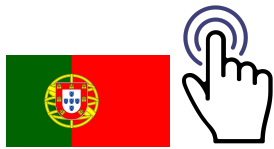
FUN FACT!

Make sure to look closely inside the vehicle! It features a miniature Bug Disco: a tiny dance floor with bugs dancing the night away under a disco ball!

Human Tiles

OCUBO – Sintra, Portugal

Presented by Visit Maryland



Location: Interactive area: Aquarium Drive, Projection: World Trade Center, 401 East Pratt Street

- Festival-goers are the key to making this mega-projection come to light.
- A video camera captures visitors' movements on the dance floor.
- A computer program then transforms their moving images into a kaleidoscopic projection, displayed fully on all 28-stories of the World Trade Center's northeast façade.
- The resulting installation is a futuristic interpretation of the traditional, ornately patterned Azulejo tiles that cover many walls along the streets of Portugal.
- This work speaks about freedom of movement, diversity of colors and forms - uniting people and bringing vibrancy to urban spaces.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Founded by artists Nuno Maya and Carole Purnelle, OCUBO is an international resource for video mapping, interactive installations and immersive spectacles. Their artworks have contributed to some of the largest International Light Festivals, UNESCO Heritage sites, monuments and other public places. Nuno Maya is also co-founder, director and producer of the LUMINA Light Festival in Cascais, Portugal.

FUN FACT!

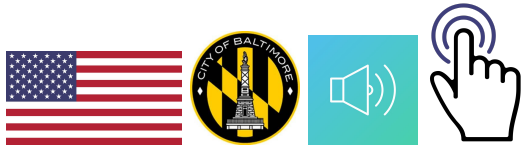
Before coming to Baltimore, this artwork already has brought a bit of Portuguese culture to The Netherlands, Australia, Singapore, Slovenia, Germany, Jerusalem, Belgium, Italy and more!

Infinity

Epigram LLC - Baltimore, MD

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts

Presented by Constellation Energy



Location: Pier 5, west of Waterfront Garden

- Experiment with the infinite possibilities that can happen when movement modifies sound and light!
- Three distinctly different sculptural elements invite visitors inside to interact with each piece's pressure-sensitive pad.
- Visitors outside the structures experience a symphony of light and sound coming from all three of the sculptures.
- Like instruments in a band, each piece has its own artistic identity that is greatly enhanced when the three sculptures are played in tandem.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Epigram LLC is a creative studio incubator that embraces experimentation, curiosity, and fostering a critical eye for their community of architects and artists. Their mission is to facilitate multidimensional experiences that share a common objective: to connect, communicate, express, innovate and make a better world through design.

FUN FACT!

The artists had a piece at Light City 2018. One of the lead artists fell in love with Baltimore and relocated here!

KEYFRAMES

Groupe LAPS – Paris, France

Presented in partnership with Baltimore City Department of Public Works



Location: DPW Pumping Station, 751 Eastern Avenue

- Stay for a moment to enjoy the luminous characters who have invaded the façade of the historic Eastern Avenue Pumping Station.
- Designed according to the principle of decomposition of movement (chronophotography) and kinetics, the sculptures are arranged in precise positions in space, telling stories during programmed lighting sequences.
- Accompanied by a soundtrack, the lighting program turns 100+ of these stationary figures into an illusion of motion that creates a fantastic bridge between sculpture and cinema.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Groupe LAPS is an artist collaborative and creative studio that creates large scale illuminated artworks in cities around the world. Since its creation more than a decade and a half ago, Groupe LAPS has always attached great importance to create works for the users of public spaces in an urban environment. They achieve these complex works with their team of various experts: Thomas Veyssière, Artistic Director and lighting designer, Erwan Quintin, musician and sound designer, Pierre Froment, live performance specialist and video director, AnSo Raybout Peres, site specialist; and artists Nadir Bouassria, Pierluigi De Palo, and Richard Le Bihan.

FUN FACT!

KEYFRAMES has been shown around the world, but makes its North American debut at Brilliant Baltimore.

Loop

Ekumen - Montreal, Canada



Location: Pier 5

- Climb inside one of these retro-futuristic machines - a cross between a music box, a zoetrope and a railway handcar!
- Festival-goers move the hand lever within each Loop to view animated fairy-tales.
- The black and white images, tinted through a strobe effect, recall the earliest movies.
- The speed at which the images fly by, the frequency at which the light flickers and the rhythm of the audio composition are directly related to the pace set by the festival-goers interacting with the piece.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Loop is a work by Ekumen: designer Olivier Girouard (Artistic Director), Jonathan Villeneuve, and Ottoblix. It was produced by Quartier des Spectacles Partnership.

FUN FACT!

The beautiful animated images inside each Loop are inspired by 13 fairy tales, including: The Frog Prince, Puss in Boots, Red Riding Hood, Tom Thumb, Jack and the Magic Bean, The Hare and the Turtle, The Three Little Pigs, Alice in Wonderland and Snow White.

MAPP

AlexP – Uithoorn, Netherlands



Location: Concrete wall below the Maryland Science Center

- Step into the light and become a part of the art!
- MAPP stands for Mapping At Priate Properties.
- This mobile point-and-shoot video mapping system consists of a video projector, a camera and a laptop running custom software developed by the artists.
- MAPP scans its surroundings using the camera and subsequently shows an abstract and moving video map.
- Visitors step into the piece and, once the scan is made, visitors walk out of the light and see themselves integrated into the colorful projection.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** AlexP consists of artists Alex Prooper and Simone van Dam. Alex is a digital artist who studied physics, but ended up in the software industry over 35 years ago. After working as a developer, he started to focus on making art through his own developed software. Simone has studied at the Academy of Visual Arts and has been working with Alex for the last fifteen years, making work for Shell, Unilever, KPN, Amsterdam Light Festival, Amsterdam Dance Event, and the Kröller-Müller Museum in Otterio, Netherlands.

Masters of the Edifice

Ellis L. Marsalis, III – Baltimore, MD

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts



Location: Footbridge connecting Pier 3 and Pier 4/Power Plant

- This work celebrates Baltimore’s iconic tradition of community murals.
- Marsalis’ printed his mural photographs on large-format plexiglass shells, that are framed and connected by 460 feet of black iron pipes and transformed to near transparency by glowing LED light panels.
- Two rows of these large frames, separated by 10 feet, flank viewers as they walk through the exhibit.
- Adding to the effect is an audio sequence of the “sounds of the City” – using subject matter, form and sound to recreate the experience of moving through Baltimore’s many neighborhoods.
- **ABOUT THE ARTIST:** Ellis L. Marsalis, III is a Louisiana native, photographer, poet and resident of Baltimore City for 25+ years. A graduate of the New York University Tisch School of the Arts in Photography, his first photo-narrative was published as *thaBloc: words, photographs and baltimore city in black, white and gray* in 2004. In 2006, Marsalis completed a commission for the Smithsonian Institution of *thaBloc*.

FUN FACT!

Marsalis is a member of the famous musical jazz family. His father Ellis was a famous jazz musician and four of his five brothers, including Wynton and Branford, are renowned jazz musicians as well.

(off)Lines

Mad Rhizome Production – Paris, France

Presented by Whiting-Turner Contracting Company



Location: In front of the Maryland Science Center (below *Easy Landing*)

- Festival-goers are invited to linger and experience the ever-changing light sequences of this versatile sculpture.
- This architectural modular construction consists of 320 linear meters of square bars, each equipped with a brightly-colored, one meter long LED light tube – the work has more than 7,000 LED lights in total.
- The geometric entanglements randomly create a sequence of shapes that form and then disintegrate into space.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Mad Rhizome Production was founded in Paris six years ago by Pierre Ranzini, a renowned sculptor, painter, photographer, musician and multimedia artist. The studio's mission is to collaborate with other artists to create cutting edge new works.

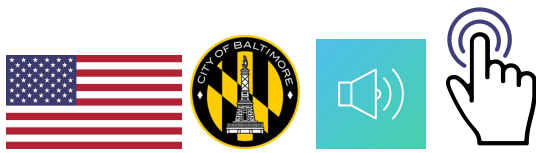
FUN FACT!

If you un-tangled the sculpture's twisted aluminium tubes and put them in a straight line, it would be a quarter mile long.

Radiant Flux

Kevin Blackistone – Baltimore, MD

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts



Location: Kaufman Pavilion (next to Maryland Science Center)

- This interactive sculpture is a tessellated disc made from 100+ independently moving, triangular mirrors.
- Each and every mirror is connected to its own sensor, which result in the mirrors' choreography.
- Festival-goers entering the interactive area will have glints of light cast upon them, while having their mirrored image form and deconstruct into fragmentary and oscillating patterns as they move.
- These reflections create an animated light display of prismatic shards, moving with the participants and dynamically colored by the pulses of music.
- **ABOUT THE ARTIST:** One of the founding members of Red Emma's Bookstore, Kevin Blackistone is an award-winning digital media artist. His work conceptualizes the collection and handling of data, information and memory through the lenses of personal, social, scientific and political points of view.

FUN FACT!

This sculpture premiered at Artscape 2018, and as with all new work, sometimes design is trial and error. Originally, the mirrors were connected to their bases with hot glue that did not withstand the hot temperatures that weekend. An industrial strength adhesive saved the day!

Shrooms

Amigo & Amigo – Sydney, Australia



Location: Pier 5 Waterfront Garden

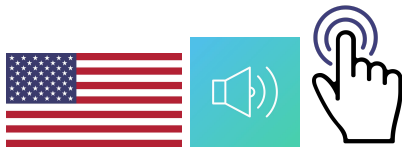
- In many cultures, finding a mushroom means good luck is at hand.
- Enter this *Alice in Wonderland* forest filled with 13 giant inflatable mushroom shapes, a colorful spectacle that celebrates social nature, public spaces, color, nature and play.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Amigo & Amigo is an interactive lighting and design studio that explores the combination of light and sculpture in public and commercial spaces. The studio works with expert electrical engineers to customize lighting elements that adapt to their experimental forms. More recently, Amigo & Amigo have begun incorporating kinetic movement into their installations, further playing with how light and movement can engage audience imagination. This is their second Charm City installation in 2019, following the wildly popular orange *Sydneymonauts* sculptures at this summer's Artscape.

FUN FACT!

The largest Shroom is as tall as a two-story building!

SPARK Gallery

Presented by UMBC, Towson University, PNC Bank and The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts



Location: USM Columbus Center

- SPARK is an indoor art exhibition featuring light and literary inspired artworks by 17 artists, presented to coincide with the Baltimore Book Festival and Light City Baltimore. The artworks features artworks created by UMBC and Towson arts faculty in The Columbus Center.
- SPARK also features a schedule of performances, events, and interactive activities by UMBC and Towson faculty and students in the gallery and in the adjacent SPARK lounge November 4 – 10.
- SPARK is curated by Catherine Borg, a Baltimore artist tracing shifting narratives in American culture in photo and video based artworks and installations. Her work has been exhibited and screened nationally and internationally in many venues. As a curator, Borg has presented the work of dozens of artists in film and video screenings, solo, two-person, and group exhibitions in venues as varied as traditional gallery spaces, a seven story rotunda, empty storefronts, and hotel rooms; the most ambitious (before SPARK) was the new genres festival in Las Vegas, *Off the Strip*, which presented the work of 27 national and international artists over the course of four day in 12 venues. She has also created Las Vegas architecture tours for groups from Creative Time, Art in General, MIT, and the Neon Museum.
- Featured Artists: Amanda Burnham, Carrie Fucile, Colette Searls, Corrie Francis Parks, Evan Tedlock, Figg and McCormack, fourhead, Jenee Mateer, Jon Lundak, Kyohei Abe, Lisa Moren, Lynn Cazabon, Nahid Tootoonchi, Phil Davis, Ryan Schmal Murray, Timothy Nohe, Vin Grabill

Waterlight Graffiti

Antonin Fourneau - Paris, France



Location: Kaufman Pavilion (next to Maryland Science Center)

- Use water to quite literally, write in light - it's a magical experience!
- This work uses patented technology that is based on the scientific principle of water as a conductor of electricity.
- Using a brush or atomizer filled with nothing but water, visitors can draw, write, or "graffiti" onto the artwork's 26-foot long screen.
- Messages and drawings brightly emerge from the darkness and fade away as the water dries on the work's 15,000 individual LED lights.
- **ABOUT THE ARTIST:** Antonin Fourneau specializes in large scale interactive artworks that utilize technology in innovative ways. He shares his knowledge and passion for creating memorable artworks in his role as professor in New Media Design at EnsAD Paris.

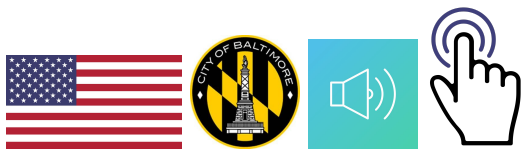
FUN FACT!

The idea behind *Waterlight Graffiti* originated during a trip to China, where the artist met a Chinese artist who practiced calligraphy on the ground, using water instead of ink. This practice of ephemeral Chinese calligraphy is called *dishu*.

Where Pathways Meet

Benitez – Demlong – Baltimore, MD

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts



Location: Pierce's Park

- Welcome to this whimsical playground that engages festival goers with sound, light, sensory input and spatial navigation.
- Within the work, the Garden Maze is series of planters housing acrylic plants inspired by those native to Maryland, juxtaposed among natural vegetation.
- The Rainbow Tunnel is a linear structure whose lights and sound components respond to activity around it.
- Conceptually, the work demonstrates how plants that are present in our everyday lives are often seen as decorative commodities, not living things. By that same token, it is the commercialization of many of these plants that allows us all to experience their beauty and benefit - regardless of geography.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Erick Antonio Benitez is a Salvadorian-American multidisciplinary artist, musician, organizer and curator. He received his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and has exhibited work at venues in the U.S. and internationally. In 2018, Benitez received the \$25,000 Janet and Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize, a program of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts.

Sutton Demlong received his BFA from Arizona State University in 2013, and his MFA in Sculpture from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2016. His work has been recently featured in group exhibitions throughout the region, including the 2018 Janet and Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize Finalists exhibition at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

FUN FACT!

The sound visitors experience in this installation was recorded this past summer by Benitez in the Amazon Rainforest. His trip to the Amazon was funded through another Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts initiative that supports local artists, the MASB Travel Artist Award.

Words That Light

Peter Quinn with Todd Evans – Baltimore, MD

A new work commissioned by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts



Locations: Promenade by the Maryland Science Center, Light and Conway Streets, McKeldin Plaza, Pratt and President Streets, President Street and Eastern Avenue. Additionally, *Words that Light* travels to each library branch participating in Neighborhood Lights at Enoch Pratt Free Libraries.

- A traffic board that displays inspirational poetry instead of rules and regulations!
- This project transforms the classic solar powered road work message boards (Variable Message Boards, or VMB) into short-burst poems that surprise and delight.
- The art flips the standard roadway signage that we identify as headaches or warnings of trouble up-ahead into reflective poetic messages that help us imagine our human potential.
- Five VMB are located in heavily trafficked areas mainly along the perimeter of the Light City footprint where they are visible to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- A sixth VMB, whose content was collected from the Baltimore community, is traveling throughout the City as part of the Light City pop-up events at the Enoch Pratt Free Libraries.
- **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** Peter Quinn and Todd Evans are collaborators who straddle the line between commercial application and experimental art. Peter Quinn is an artist, musician, former professor, and a creative director who currently heads a creative team working on messaging and behavior change campaigns at Fleishman Hillard in Washington, DC. Todd Evans is an artist and film-maker who currently helps run the Master of Fine Arts in Film at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. Both are interested in creating art that bridges the gaps of social inequity and drives change.