



Shelonda Stokes

Shelonda Stokes is a changemaker who leads with purpose and has built a body of work that is reshaping what is possible for Baltimore and for cities across the country. As President and CEO of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore and Executive Director of the Downtown Management Authority, she leads two multi-million-dollar organizations with a unified mission to position Downtown Baltimore as a destination of choice where residents, businesses, and visitors all have a stake in its success.

Under her leadership, Shelonda and her team secured a catalytic 50 million dollar investment in the Central Business District, advanced the strategic relocation of 12 State of Maryland agencies into the urban core to stimulate economic activity, and successfully advocated for transformational development throughout downtown, including the retention of CFG Bank Arena in the heart of the city. That sustained, coalition driven work has helped catalyze nearly 7 billion dollars in active and planned development across Downtown Baltimore.

A proud electrical engineering graduate of Morgan State University and a current member of its Board of Regents, Shelonda applies a rigorous, data driven approach to every initiative she leads. Her team pioneered Downtown Baltimore's Digital Sign District, creating a new and sustainable revenue stream while elevating the district's energy and visibility. She spearheaded the BOOST Program (Black Owned and Occupied Storefront Tenancy), a nationally recognized initiative that directly addresses ground level vacancy while building economic power for Black and minority entrepreneurs. Baltimore's BOOST model has been presented as a replicable framework to cities including Austin and Pittsburgh.

In partnership with the City of Baltimore, Shelonda and her team have helped lead the transformation of Downtown Baltimore into a premier festival and cultural district. Artscape,

one of the nation's largest free public arts festivals, now anchors the Charles Street Promenade. She served as Events Committee Chair for the Preakness 150 Festival and played a key role in securing the CIAA Basketball Tournament in Downtown Baltimore through 2029, an event that has delivered more than 100 million dollars in economic impact in its first five years.

Her influence extends to the highest levels of civic and governmental leadership. Shelonda co-chaired Governor Wes Moore's Transition Team and served on Mayor Brandon Scott's Business, Workforce, and Neighborhood Development Transition Committee, directly informing the policy priorities shaping Baltimore's future. Prior to DPOB, she spent more than 20 years as President and CEO of greiBO, a nationally recognized minority owned marketing and entertainment agency.

In 2025, she was named Woman of the Year by BMore News and received the Diverse Business Leaders Award from the Baltimore Business Journal. She has earned more than 85 awards and honors across her career and serves on the Boards of the Center Club and International Downtown Association.

Shelonda is married with two children.