



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
*Mayor*  
250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



October 7, 2015

A Message from Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake:

On behalf of the citizens of Baltimore, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Baltimore International Black Film Festival. I welcome you to the epicenter of Baltimore's arts community: the Station North Arts & Entertainment District. As you attend the variety of independent films, web series, panel discussions and other festival events, be sure to also enjoy and explore the many culturally enriching aspects of the City of Baltimore.

I want to thank the Baltimore International Black Film Festival's members and volunteers, and the locally-based sponsors for creating and sustaining an outstanding film festival in the City of Baltimore. This emerging event has shown impressive growth from its inaugural year which was held with the aim of "bridging the gap" between our youth, young adults, seniors, activist and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities. In keeping with the spirit of my One Baltimore initiative, the theme for this year's Festival is "Reel Unity" with the goal to use the diverse stories told through film to bring our communities together. Unifying efforts such as these embolden each one of us to be that light and fire for the rest of the country to show what is possible when an entire city comes together.

Your presence at this event is an extension of the overwhelming goodwill that has been bestowed upon our city recently and it is my honor to welcome you to the City of Baltimore. I wish you an enlightening, entertaining and empowering experience at the 2015 Baltimore International Black Film Festival.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
*Mayor*  
*Baltimore City*