



PRESS RELEASE

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**Heritage Area Bids Farewell to Longtime Leader, Jeff Buchheit
*Buchheit Takes Helm at Pride of Baltimore; Daniels to serve as Interim Director***

December 17, 2018 (Baltimore) — The Baltimore National Heritage Area (BNHA) is bidding farewell to Jeff Buchheit who has served as the heritage area’s executive director for more than eleven years. He has accepted the executive director position for the nonprofit that manages the tall ship *Pride of Baltimore II (Pride II)*. Buchheit’s last day with the heritage area will be Friday, January 4.

“Change is always bittersweet,” said BNHA executive director, Jeff Buchheit. “After 11 years with the heritage area as its executive director I am very sad to leave. With that being said I am leaving the BNHA in very strong hands with its current staff, board of directors, and all of our amazing partners. I know that Shauntee Daniels will be a great interim director. I feel blessed to not be leaving Baltimore and to be taking on a new role where I can partner with the heritage area in new and exciting ways.”

“We are very sad to see Jeff move on,” said BNHA Board President, James Piper Bond. “Jeff has done a great job leading our organization for more than a decade. Thanks to Jeff’s leadership the BNHA is stronger than it has ever been. We are confident that our leadership transition will go smoothly and we expect to have a new permanent executive director in place within a few months.”

Under Buchheit’s leadership the heritage area received national heritage area designation, Charles Street was designated a national scenic byway, the Baltimore Heritage Area Association nonprofit organization was formed, grant programs that now award almost \$1M annually to local partners were developed, and most recently a new agreement was signed with the City of Baltimore to renovate the H.L. Mencken House (a national historic landmark) where the heritage area will move its offices under a long-term lease later in 2019.

Shauntee Daniels who has served as the heritage area’s Director of Programs and Partnerships for more than eight years, will serve as the heritage area’s interim director. “I look forward to keeping all of our projects in motion and all of the balls in the air during this period,” said Daniels. “Although leadership transitions can be hard on organizations, we are on very solid ground and expect it will go smoothly.”

Information on how to apply for the permanent executive director position will be on the BNHA website (www.explorebaltimore.org) within the next two weeks.

In lieu of a farewell party, the heritage area is encouraging partners and friends to attend the New Year’s Eve party at the Lord Baltimore Hotel on Monday, December 31. Part of the proceeds from the party will be donated to BNHA. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets and learn more.

The mission of the Baltimore National Heritage Area is to promote, preserve, and enhance Baltimore’s historic and cultural legacy and natural resources for current and future generations. Visit www.explorebaltimore.org for more information about the Baltimore National Heritage Area.