



# The Bernard L. Berkowitz Memorial Fund

*Recognizing students who demonstrate interest in and commitment to planning and economic development of the Baltimore community.*

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To commemorate the life and work of Bernard (“Bernie”) L. Berkowitz (1927-2023), an endowed annual award program has been established to encourage future generations of public servants demonstrating characteristics exhibited by Bernie Berkowitz in his career in Baltimore. The program will be administered by the Center for Social Science Scholarship at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC).

Tax deductible contributions will endow the program, allowing annual grants to UMBC students. The goal is to endow the program with at least \$50,000, allowing annual grants of approximately \$2,000. As of August 2024, \$17,000 has been pledged. Actual donations of \$25,000 will be necessary to establish the program.

Award recipients will be selected by UMBC faculty in the Center for Social Science Scholarship based on students’ demonstrated interest in and commitment to planning and economic development of the Baltimore community. Candidates should reflect the interests, values and character of Bernie Berkowitz. Preference will be given to those interested in public service or not-for-profit careers.


Contributions are tax deductible. Contributions will be administered by the UMBC Foundation, Inc., a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code (EIN 52-1125663).

Contributions should be made to **The UMBC Foundation, Inc.**, and mailed to:

Office of Institutional Advancement  
UMBC Foundation  
Administration Building, Room 832  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

In the memo line of the check reference “Bernard L. Berkowitz Memorial Fund”.  
To make a credit card gift, visit <http://giving.umbc.edu>. Enter the fund name in the “other” section.

Contact: Cheryll Ratzsch, Development Officer  
UMBC, Office of Institutional Advancement  
[Cheryll@umbc.edu](mailto:Cheryll@umbc.edu) | 410-455-8052



# Bernard L. Berkowitz

1927-2023

*Bernie played a prominent role in Baltimore's economic development. He was a mentor to many, inspiring them in public service, diverse career opportunities, and civic leadership.*



## Celebrating Bernie's Life & Memory

Born in 1927 in New York City to immigrant parents from rural Hungary, Bernie grew up in working class neighborhoods in the Bronx. His family's experience with unemployment in the 1930's was the basis of a lifelong commitment to social justice and economic development.

He attended New York City public schools; graduated cum laude from C.C.N.Y. with a major in economics, and received a Master's in Urban Planning from Columbia University. He served in the United States Army with occupation forces in Japan and Korea.

### Notable milestones in Bernie's career include:

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| 1961      | Joined the Baltimore City Department of Planning, becoming Deputy Director in 1968.  |
| 1974-1980 | Served as Mayor William Donald Schaefer's Development Coordinator, overseeing economic development, urban renewal, environmental planning and other programs.  |
| 1980-1988 | President of the Baltimore Economic Development Corporation. Major initiatives included the Holabird, Seton, and Park Circle industrial parks, the Johns Hopkins Bayview Research Campus, a venture capital fund, and biotechnology development. |
| 1988-1995 | University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) - Special Assistant to the President for economic development efforts which included UMBC's technology business incubator and planning for today's UMBC Research Park.                            |

President of the Black/Jewish Forum of Baltimore (BLEWS) from 1997-1999; President of the Lexington Market Board (1990's -2000's); served on the boards of Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc., Provident Hospital, and Bolton Street Synagogue.

*In all of his endeavors, Bernie exemplified "no nonsense" intellectual rigor, progressive social thinking, and creative thinking about practical solutions. He aspired to improve the Baltimore community by increasing economic opportunities. He believed in transcending divisions - bringing together people of different social and economic backgrounds. He is fondly remembered for his striving to "do the right thing", always with a sense of humor and kindness.*