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**Safety in Numbers: Portraits of East Baltimore's "Reservation"  
Exhibition Launch**

**Date of Event:** Thursday, March 9, 2023

**Time of Event:** 7:00 PM EST

**Location of Event:** Zoom

**Link to Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/422eej5k>

**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND** – Co-curators Tiffany Chavis, Stanton Lewis, and Ashley Minner Jones, in partnership with the [University of Maryland Baltimore Intercultural Center](#), will host a virtual launch for their exhibition *Safety in Numbers: Portraits of East Baltimore's "Reservation."*

*Safety In Numbers* is an online exhibition connected to [baltimorereservation.com](http://baltimorereservation.com) featuring photographs, sourced from various archival collections, of American Indian people who were part of Baltimore's "reservation" in its heyday. This exhibition was co-curated by three members of the present-day community, Tiffany Chavis, Stanton Lewis, and Ashley Minner Jones, who are all Lumbee. An exhibition essay has been authored by Dare Turner, who is Yurok.

Baltimore is part of the ancestral homelands of the Piscataway and the Susquehannock, and a diverse host of American Indian folks from many nations have passed through or lived here at different times and still do. In the mid-twentieth century, thousands of Lumbee Indians and members of other tribal nations migrated to Baltimore City seeking jobs and a better quality of life. They settled on the east side of town in an area that bridges the neighborhoods of Upper Fells Point and Washington Hill. There, they created a vibrant, intertribal American Indian community which they affectionately referred to as their "reservation." In the decades since, due to a complex set of factors ranging from upward mobility, to Urban Renewal, to gentrification, many American Indian people moved away from the area, which continues to transform. Recent generations never experienced the "reservation" as such. Today, most Baltimoreans are surprised to learn it ever existed.

To change this, In 2021, Ashley Minner Jones and collaborators launched [baltimorereservation.com](http://baltimorereservation.com), a print Illustrated Guide to East Baltimore's Historic American Indian "Reservation," and the Guide to Indigenous Baltimore mobile walking tour apps. All of these free public resources focus on the built environment. Ashley Minner Jones says, "*Safety in Numbers* is an important addition because it focuses on our people and it shows we are not a monolith." Stanton Lewis, who was born in Lumbee tribal territory and moved with his family to Baltimore as a small child, says, "The group of Indians was very eclectic. There were roughnecks, religious people, hard workers, drug addicts, drunks, the whole slew. The title of the exhibition says it all for me because if we didn't have that community, a lot of us wouldn't have survived." Tiffany Chavis says, "Being a first generation Lumbee born in Baltimore City, it has been an honor to be a part of this work. It's a powerful feeling to shape the narrative and memory of my peoples' history in the city I love and call home."

Images were sourced from the the Baltimore Sun Archives, the East Baltimore Documentary Photography Project Collection, and the Roland Freeman Collection, all housed in Special Collections at the University of Maryland Baltimore County; the Baltimore News American

Collection housed in Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Maryland College Park, and the collections of families of the community.

The launch will be emceed by Rosemary Ferreira, Associate Director of the UMB [Intercultural Center](#), and will feature remarks by the co-curators and designer, Katie Lively, followed by q&a. ASL interpretation and live captioning will be provided by [Joyful Signing](#). This exhibition was funded by the [Grit Fund](#) and [Alternate ROOTS](#).

**Tiffany N. Chavis** holds an MLIS from the University of Maryland, College Park. She has served as an intern and a consulting archivist for the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery Special Collections at University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), where she assisted with processing the Ashley Minner Collection and planning a Community Digitization Day at the Baltimore American Indian Center. Before pursuing her MLIS, she practiced as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW-C) for over a decade. She earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from University of Maryland Baltimore in 2006. Tiffany also earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and a minor in Women's Studies from UMBC in 2004. Tiffany currently works as a Health Literacy Librarian for Region 1 of the Network of the National Library of Medicine, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Health Sciences and Human Services Library. She is a first generation Baltimore City Lumbee.

**Stanton Lewis** was born in Robeson County, North Carolina, and moved to Baltimore, Maryland, with his family when he was a small child. Stanton was raised between Baltimore and North Carolina, returning to tribal territory in the summer months to help earn money for the school year, cropping tobacco. Stanton has been an active member of the Baltimore Lumbee community his entire life. He has served several terms on the Baltimore American Indian Center Board of Directors, and two terms as Chairman of the Board. He is a Brantley Blue Award recipient and was twice honored as Board Member of the Year. He continues to be an outspoken advocate for his people. In 2021, he supported processing of photo albums from the Baltimore American Indian Center for accession into the Ashley Minner Collection at UMBC.

[Ashley Minner Jones](#) is a community-based visual artist from Baltimore and an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. She earned her MFA in Community Arts from Maryland Institute College of Art and her PhD in American Studies from University of Maryland College Park.

[The Intercultural Center \(IC\)](#) cultivates an inclusive community where individuals can thrive while embracing their full, authentic selves. The Intercultural Center develops programs to educate and encourage dialogue across the entire University community on issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racism, and interculturalism. Through robust programs, innovative initiatives, comprehensive services, and curated resources, the Intercultural Center aims to serve as an institutional model of inclusive excellence.

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#### Images:

1. Safety in Numbers Launch Invitation
2. (l-r) Henry Oxendine and Brenda (Chavis) Smith, ca. late 1960's, courtesy Carolyn Chavis