BUILD gained specific commitments from Mayor Catherine Pugh toward reducing violence in Baltimore before an energetic crowd of over 1,100 BUILD members. At the accountability action, BUILD secured commitments from Mayor Pugh on constitutional policing, making education a legislative priority, and implementing local hiring and affordable housing standards for new development in the city. Read more

BUILD member ReBuild Johnston Square won $1.5 million in improvements from national, state, and local grants to revamp a long-neglected park, leveraged by hard work and pressure on public officials. Neighborhood leaders from Johnston Square unveiled their new park and swimming pool with storm runoff reduction features. The park has been renamed Henrietta Lacks Park. Read more

At BUILD’s June accountability action, Mayor Pugh authorized BUILD to launch a parish identification card to be recognized by city agencies, including the Baltimore Police Department, so that immigrants in the city will be able to report crime without fear of jeopardizing their status. BUILD and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church have trained over 364 people on how to use the card, and over 600 people have signed up to receive IDs. Read more
HOPKINS LISTENING ACTION
December 8

This spring, BUILD challenged Johns Hopkins University for their lack of community engagement before introducing a bill to create a police department to patrol its campuses. After JHU withdrew the bill from legislative consideration, BUILD trained JHU administrators how to do intentional community engagement the BUILD way: going door-to-door in neighborhoods to listen to people. Read more

SCHOOL FUNDING
May-December

Maryland is gearing up for a school funding fight in 2020 with the release of the Kirwan Commission’s report. BUILD has been organizing power in preparation for 2020 by hosting a week of action with partner organizations in Maryland and by training leaders within BUILD institutions to host “learning sessions” about the truth of Baltimore City school funding and the significance of the Kirwan Commission.

NEW HEALTHCARE JOBS CREATED & FUNDED
November 14

Compelling testimonies from BUILD’s Community Health Worker leaders led to the immediate and unanimous approval by the state’s Health Services Cost Review Commission to extend funding for the Baltimore Population Health Workforce Collaborative that creates healthcare jobs for individuals from “disadvantaged” areas. Funding for 208 new healthcare positions continues through 2022. Read more

MAYORAL ACCOUNTABILITY 2.0
October 10

BUILD members packed a 500-seat sanctuary to follow up with Mayor Pugh four months after the June 6 accountability action. BUILD held the mayor accountable by calling on her to report on her specific actions and timelines on each of the commitments on police reform, education, and jobs made in June. The Mayor publicly reaffirmed each commitment, and BUILD continues to push the Mayor to follow through on her commitments today. Read more