FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS THIS SURVEY RELATED TO THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU?

The Baltimore Music Census is a separate effort from the data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and is not affiliated with the U.S. Census in any way. The data being collected is not a representative sample and will not be able to capture data on everyone involved in the music industry in the Baltimore area, as it is a voluntary survey. As such, your participation in the Baltimore Music Census is important to highlight issues you think are important in the industry.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

Any strategy to support and grow the local music scene begins with a basic understanding of its population. That's what the Baltimore Music Census offers. While local music scenes, like those found in Baltimore, are often social in nature, they are also increasingly understood as important drivers of creative economies and civic well-being. They are complex ecosystems that appear different to different individuals. If we want to learn about them – and how we can support them through policy and funding – we need data.

Federal data does not capture the reality of music scenes, in part because work in the music sector typically is not reflected in existing labor codes. Most cities use tax records to assess the size of a specific profession. This method often overlooks the roles of music professionals. For example, a band director at a local school is listed simply as an educator. And music industry people who earn only a percentage of their income from music are generally overlooked as well. Consequently, music professionals across dozens of occupations provide vital services that are invisible using current industry and occupational data. The Baltimore Music Census will solve this long-standing data gap by directly surveying individuals and asking them to describe and document what is really going on within the city's music ecosystem.

WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS ARE BEING ASKED?

The Baltimore Music Census asks questions specific to the realities of music workers, including general information about their demographics and occupation types as well as their perspective on issues such as diversity, equity, and belonging.

I VALUE MY PRIVACY. WILL THE ANSWERS I PROVIDE REALLY REMAIN ANONYMOUS?

Yes. The Baltimore Music Census does not collect any personal identifiers or IP addresses. Any individual responses highlighted in the published results will be attributed as "Census Respondent."

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO FILL OUT THE BALTIMORE MUSIC CENSUS?

From 10-20 minutes, depending on your respondent category. (Creative, Venue owner, or Industry) and whether you type in lengthy comments. 13 minutes is the average time spent on the Baltimore Music Census.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BALTIMORE MUSIC CENSUS?
Those working in the music industry in ANY capacity who are 18 years or older and living in the Greater Baltimore Region (Baltimore City & Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard, Harford, and Carroll Counties).

I'M NOT SURE THAT I QUALIFY AS A PROFESSIONAL. SHOULD I STILL PARTICIPATE?
You should participate in the Baltimore Music Census if you contribute any type of music-related work, with or without compensation, and you believe your skills and commitment are worthy of acknowledgment and support. This includes part-time work, rarely paid work or volunteer work, and work that is more administrative than creative. Music students are encouraged to participate if they are 18+ years old.

HOW DO I FILL OUT THE BALTIMORE MUSIC CENSUS IF I HAVE TWO DIFFERENT JOBS IN MUSIC, OR OWN TWO OR MORE MUSIC BUSINESSES?
To keep the data analysis manageable, we must limit the Baltimore Music Census to one entry per person, which means you must select one primary identity (creative, venue owner, or industry). That said, we know that most music people work in more than one area, so you will also have an opportunity within the Baltimore Music Census to provide info on work you do in other identity categories.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE BALTIMORE MUSIC CENSUS ON A DESKTOP COMPUTER?
No. You can use a desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Note that if you wish to leave and finish your response later, the Baltimore Music Census will pick up where you left off as long as you use the same device.

WHEN WILL THE RESULTS BE RELEASED PUBLICLY?
Currently the plans are to release the data in mid-summer 2024. There will be three reports: a Summary Report, a Data Deck, and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report.