

Gio Biggers, He, Him, Management and Society and Sociology, % 2023.

My piece in this new but historic museum, the African American history museum located in Washington D.C. would include a showroom about the astonishing poverty levels within Baltimore city that have been there through times of struggle and gentrification. This exhibit would be designed for middle to upper class individuals. As we know Baltimore has some of the highest crime rates in America, but what about what causes some of those numbers and why some people resort to the lives and living situations they do, this showroom will detail some of the cause and effects of why Baltimore is Baltimore. In this museum I would incorporate a single showroom, with one entry way, having one entryway forces the visitor to be encapsulated around all sides by the works within the showroom to feel as if the people in Baltimore feel. Trapped. To really hit on the trapped feeling I would also have black walls with really dim lighting with white lights coming from underneath all the frames to just focus on parts of the objects to also show how these people are trapped and don't get all the attention and care they need in their city. Really trying to bring out the trapped feeling in this showroom. Next, something that isn't in many museums we visited, I'd add an interactive button near the photos of the tents and worn down buildings, so visitors could get an experience of what a night in Baltimore sounds like. I'd label it "The city's sounds" to allow the visitor to now use another sense since touching isn't allowed to give them a way to activate other senses in this showroom to deepen their understanding of my exhibit. As we have seen in many museums is the usage of glass casings for important artifacts and tools used. In this sense I would take a squeegee and a bottle and put it in these glass casings. We saw how many items are now being put to use in glass cases and it peaks the interest of a visitor to know why it is in there and what it represents. I also think it hits back on my point of the "trapped". I would even put another non conventional piece in there. I'd put a short day in the life of a squeegee boy and allow viewers to see how young these kids are and even how some can be very combative due to their harsh upbringing. Right beside the glass encasing I would include a vitrine just like the one we saw at the Nasher museum that had newspaper articles. Mine would have an article that headlined the squeegee boy who killed a man who approached him with a bat for washing his window, and articles from homeless shelters and people detailing their experience on the streets. All this to show how trapped, underserved, and forgotten these people in Baltimore city are. My showroom would be a 1 of 1 exhibit, one that should be seen on the way out for how heavy it would be.



In Baltimore, Homeless shelters are not few in between. They can be seen everywhere, just like this, overflowing. The amount of homeless people in the city, for whatever reason they might be out there is astonishing. The lack of attention from the government or developers who continue to gentrify the area without putting any money into the “ghettos” has become a major problem. No one deserves to live outside because a shelter has overflowed and opportunities shouldn't be taken away from someone because they do live in a situation like this. As we know shelters can be very dangerous for young women and girls and many of these people become trapped in shelters, and the streets, doing anything to make money.

Source:

<https://www.homelessshelterdirectory.org/city/md-baltimore>



Trash in the city has been something I have seen become increasingly more of a problem. The biggest issue seems to be in the areas that are populated by more white people this is not a problem. But you head a couple blocks down and it seems to be a whole other city, neglected by their own people. Baltimore's trash problem is one that makes living and even enjoying where you are an eyesore. There is no reason that the same responsibility of trash being taken out in the white area shouldn't be had in the minority area. My showroom exhibits main focus is on being trapped and this is something people in the city are trapped by daily, the smell, the sight, and the thought of being overlooked.

Source:

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/ask/bs-md-ci-hearken-trash-20190502-story.html>



After my last visit to Baltimore, one thing I noticed was the surplus of tents that were outside. I know anywhere you go there will be homeless people but the fact that shelters are overcrowded isn't a homeless person problem, it is a lawmaker and governor problem. These people are being forced (trapped) to live outside in tents or just on the ground with no food, or water and a makeshift roof over their head just to LIVE. If shelters are overcrowded, make more, OR find ways to reduce rates of homeless people in shelters!

(overcrowded shelters)

Source:

<https://www.wgbh.org/news/local-news/2022/03/02/we-need-to-change-the-system-overcrowded-homeless-shelters-ask-state-to-double-its-budget>



The amount of worn down buildings in Baltimore has risen with the process of gentrification of the city. While leaving old buildings to make new ones can be good, the process of gentrification is not. It leaves so many without and forced to find another place or end up on the street with nowhere to go (trapped). These buildings that are boarded up can be found all over the city and even with people living inside of them. It answers the question of what type of town this is. And it's one, no one would want to be in

Source:

<https://apnews.com/article/us-news-race-and-ethnicity-baltimore-neighborhoods-ap-top-news-c852e9751cd744b7a27fa9333c14d1a0>



We always ask homeless people not to be beggars and judge what they will use the money for, but now young kids have found a new method to make money which forces them to work. ANd

people are still trying to get them banned from the streets. Squeegee boys are kids who try to make an honest living and encounter so many rude remarks, but sometimes this is the only way they eat or help their families with bills and without this they would be forced on the street with nothing.

Source:

<https://apnews.com/article/us-news-race-and-ethnicity-baltimore-neighborhoods-ap-top-news-c852e9751cd744b7a27fa9333c14d1a0>