

SNF PARKWAY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AZIZA PE&CE to become SNF Parkway's first Organization in Residence

Baltimore, MD, March 28, 2026 – The Executive Directors of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Parkway Theatre, Home of the Maryland Film Festival (SNFP), and AZIZA PE&CE (AP), will announce their strategic partnership at AP's major annual fashion event this evening: **STRUT XIII: *The Blueprint...Uncensored*** at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor from 7-10pm.

A Baltimore-based youth development organization dedicated to renewing the health and well-being of marginalized and underserved youth, AP is moving its programs and operations to the landmark SNF Parkway Theatre on the corner of North Avenue and Charles Street, at the heart of the Station North Arts District. Beginning in May, more than 20 hours per week of after school and out of school programming, including in the summer months, will activate the historic theater during daytime hours and provide expanded services to the city's Black and LGBTQ+ youth (ages 14–24).

"We're thrilled to partner with AZIZA PE&CE and its phenomenal founder, Saran Fossett, to expand the arts-based programming available to young people in Station North," said Nancy Proctor, Executive Director of SNFP. She explained that the new Organization in Residence program, which is complemented by an Artist Residency Program funded by the Mellon Foundation, is aimed at maximizing the use and value of the SNFP's facilities to the city and the state. "As a landmark building at the very center Baltimore, it is critical for the well-being of our communities that we support families in the area and increase creative and economic activity in our neighborhood."

"We're excited to move to the Station North Arts District and base our youth arts programs in the stunning SNF Parkway Theatre. It has just the kinds of spaces we need: from small classroom-style theaters with dedicated lounges for meetings and activities, to the 400-seat historic theater and main lounge for our major performances and events," said Saran Fossett, Founder and Executive Director of AP. "We're also looking forward to helping establish a new retail space at the Parkway for our young people to sell their original creations," Fossett added.

AP's programs integrate creative arts, fashion, entrepreneurship, and mentorship to strengthen

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social-emotional development, leadership, and critical thinking skills. AP's workforce initiatives include AP L.A.B. (Learning About Business), where youth design apparel, build brands, and develop entrepreneurial and financial literacy skills. AP plans to sell products created by its students at the SNF Parkway and other retail outlets.

AP was founded by Saran Fossett in 2008. In 2011, the organization expanded by creating Positive Energy & Cultivating Excellence (PE&CE), a program to engage marginalized male and female youth from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) community. The organization incorporated as a 501(c)3 in 2022 and has been based in a federally funded building in East Baltimore (901 N Milton Ave Suite 240, Baltimore, MD 21205).

Nancy Proctor joined SNFP as its new Executive Director in August of 2025, charged with implementing the organization's new strategic plan and helping revitalize Station North as well as the historic SNF Parkway Theatre building. Previously, Proctor was the re-founding director of The Peale, Baltimore's Community Museum, based in the historic Peale Museum building, which was largely vacant for 20 years before Proctor took the helm in 2017.

EVENT DETAILS

Event: STRUT XIII: *The Blueprint...Uncensored*

Date: Saturday, March 28, 2026

Location: Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor

Time: 7-10pm

Tickets: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/strut-xiii-the-blueprintuncensored>

ABOUT AZIZA PE&CE

Founded in 2008, AZIZA PE&CE is a Baltimore-based nonprofit organization committed to renewing the health and well-being of Black girls and LGBTQ-identifying youth through culturally responsive programming rooted in fashion, arts, culture, and entrepreneurship. Through its innovative programs, AZIZA PE&CE equips young people with the tools to build confidence, develop leadership, and pursue meaningful pathways in life and career.

ABOUT THE SNF PARKWAY THEATRE, HOME OF THE MARYLAND FILM FESTIVAL

The SNF Parkway Theatre is an anchor institution at the heart of Baltimore's Station North Arts District. Originally opened in 1915 as a film palace at the corner of Charles Street and North Avenue, the Parkway operated for decades as a beloved neighborhood institution before closing in 1978. Following a major community-driven restoration effort, the theater reopened in 2017 as a fully operational, three-screen cinema and home of the Maryland Film Festival. A Baltimore City Historic Landmark, the restoration preserved the building's historic character while equipping it with the infrastructure to serve contemporary audiences and artists. Today the Parkway functions as both a multidisciplinary arts venue and a civic gathering place at the geographic center of Baltimore city.

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