

# **Sabina Taj**

## **Professional Experience**

### **Howard County Board of Education Member, Howard Community Public School System (2018–Present)**

An elected government official responsible for oversight of a school system with a \$900 million annual budget and 58,000 students. Represents the community in setting policy; develops the school system's budget for approval by the County Executive and Council; responds to critical school issues as they are identified by the community; advocates for educational priorities with a focus on ensuring representation, equity, and inclusion.

### **Braitmayer Foundation, Ellicott City, MD, Executive Director (2005–Present)**

Directs and coordinates the operations of a family foundation that funds K-12 educational initiatives nationally. Arranges annual site visits to multiple locations around the country. Organizes and oversees the logistics of semi-annual board meetings, including board docket preparation. Oversees grants management and all aspects of the application and reporting process. Maintains subject-area expertise in order to educate the board on trends in the field. Represents the foundation in the philanthropic, nonprofit, and academic communities.

### **Howard Community College, Columbia, MD, Adjunct Professor, Arts and Humanities (2016-2018)**

Taught "Introduction to Creative Arts," for K-12 student teachers, and "Arts, Culture, and Ideas," a history of art in the context of the social and political climates from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century to the present. Developed a diverse curriculum, one that provided an inclusive perspective reflective of the college's diverse student body. Artists covered include Theaster Gates, Josephine Baker, Chris Offili, Gertrude Stein, and Lalla Essaydi.

### **Columbia Foundation, Columbia, MD, Program Officer (2004-2005)**

Managed the Foundation's unrestricted grants programs, donor-advised funds, scholarships, and awards. Worked with local leaders on community-wide projects to effect positive change. Met regularly with nonprofits and community stakeholders to ensure the Foundation's work remained relevant to the community's needs. Kept abreast of key efforts and conversations in the community so that it could inform the foundation's work.

### **No Kid Hungry, Washington, DC, Senior Grants Manager (2001-2004)**

Managed five national and international grant-making programs that disbursed \$5MM annually. Organized national and international learning trips for corporate partners

around issues of poverty and hunger. Supervised multiple staff, fellows, and interns while serving as resident expert for staff, donors, and corporate partners.

Congressional Hunger Center, Washington, DC, Program Director (1999-2001)  
Managed all aspects of the Hunger Fellowship program. Interviewed, hired, and supervised twenty-two fellows annually. Developed an extensive training program and provided technical assistance on research, policy, and professional growth. Maintained relationships with field and policy partners.

## **Relevant Community Experience**

### **Howard County Council Racial Equity Task Force, Howard County, MD (2020- Present)**

The Task Force recommends legislative actions to the Howard County Council to remedy racial disparities and inequities in our community by: 1) reviewing indicators of disparate outcomes, findings of applicable studies, best practices, and local data to ascertain pertinent information on issues related to racial equity and identifying metrics for measuring progress in improving racial equity, 2) identifying new County policies and changes to County ordinances and policies that could improve racial equity, 3) recommending legislation to the County Council that can be passed that will improve racial equity, 4) recommending actions that other Howard County entities that receive County funds can take that will improve racial equity outcomes

### **Strong Future Maryland, MD (2020 - Present)**

Strong Future Maryland, founded in 2020 by President Obama's Education Secretary John B. King Jr., seeks to help Maryland recover and rebuild from the COVID-19 crisis, the related economic downturn, and the centuries old crisis of systemic racism in an equitable and sustainable way. The organization works to advance bold, progressive policy changes to address systemic inequality and promote a sustainable, just, and prosperous economic future for all Marylanders.

### **Howard County Arts Council, Board Member, Ellicott City, MD (2019-Present)**

The Council is a nonprofit that serves and enriches Howard County by fostering the arts, artists, and arts organizations. It advocates, supports, and provides access to diverse arts experiences within the community.

### **Howard County Public School System, Columbia, MD Board of Education Operating Budget Review Committee, Member Appointee (2017-2018)**

The committee makes budget recommendations to the Board and serves as a channel for the public to provide advice, express concerns, and support the development of the county's \$900 million annual school budget.

**Collaboration to Support Inclusive Communities, Howard County, MD  
(2017-2019)**

A collaboration between the school district, Howard Community College, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Latino Action Council, County Library System, County Executive's Office, Columbia Association, and local leaders to leverage the group's collective resources to develop programming on bias and inclusion. Efforts supported by the collaboration included the "Undesign the Red Line" exhibit at the library, and two workshops hosted by Waking Up White author Debby Irving.

**Centennial Lane Elementary PTA, DEI Committee Founder and Chair  
(2019)**

The committee was formed in response to a lack of diverse leadership in the school's PTA. The committee's efforts focused on developing inclusive programming, curriculum, and training to better reflect the needs of a school that is two-thirds students of color. A team of people from the Chinese, Korean, Indian, African-American, and Latino communities worked to: 1) create learning circles to better understand the experiences of underrepresented voices; 2) develop inclusive programming to better reflect the overall school community; 3) facilitate dialogues about how best to celebrate the heritage of the school's children; and 4) examine the PTA's practices and needed system-wide policy changes.

**Little Patuxent Review (LPR), Board Member, Columbia, MD  
(2015-2019)**

LPR is a journal of literature and arts that publishes poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, and artwork. The journal welcomes contributions from new and established writers and artists from the Mid-Atlantic region. Issues periodically address social justice themes like incarceration.

**Howard County Human Services Master Plan Committee, Member, MD**

Developed a comprehensive government-led Human Services Master Plan to create a set of goals to guide the county and its nonprofit partners in the delivery of human services and to evaluate county funded programs.

**Leadership Howard County, Participant and Committee Member, Columbia, MD**

Participated in a select, one-year program that fosters communication, teaches community leaders about county services and functions, and in the process creates a rich and engaged alumni network who as a result of the program continue to support and serve as leaders in the county to help it address its needs.

**Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Child Nutrition Programs, Program Expert,  
Washington, DC**

Served on Mayor Anthony Williams' task force to analyze and recommend improvements to child nutrition programs in the District of Columbia.

## **Education**

### **California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA**

BAs in Psychology and Sociology (double major with honors in both departments);  
minor in art history

### **Georgetown University, Washington, DC**

MA in Philosophy of Psychology. Thesis: "The Effect of Psychosocial Factors on the Immune System." Worked in an immunology lab for a year evaluating the impact of stress on the immune system and general wellbeing.

## **Languages**

Fluent in spoken Hindi and Urdu; partial comprehension of Spanish and Gujrati.