

**The Maryland Entertainment Industry Council is comprised of an interdisciplinary group of experts across the field of Entertainment and is charged with assessing and making recommendations in order to bolster Maryland's position in the globally-competitive Media and Entertainment (M&E) market.**

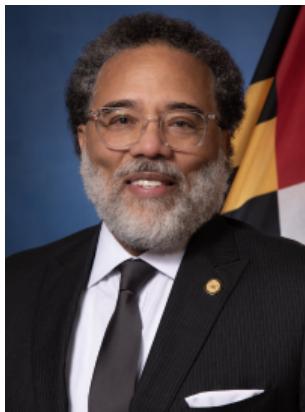


**Meryam Bouadjemi**  
**Senior Advisor to**  
**Governor Wes Moore**

## **Chair**

Meryam Bouadjemi is an Algerian-American filmmaker, Academy Award-shortlisted producer, and consultant based in Baltimore and Los Angeles. She is the creator and executive producer of a limited comedy-drama currently in development at Warner Brothers under her production banner, Tambourine Pictures. Previously, Bouadjemi was the sole Baltimore producer on *Charm City*, the critically acclaimed feature documentary. Bouadjemi started her industry career as an impact producer for the Emerson Collective. She served as a senior advisor at the Sundance Episodic Lab, FX's Creator Incubator, and is currently supporting the Pillars Artist Fellowship. Bouadjemi is also the founder of New Market Discovery. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business and the Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California.

## **Meet the Council Members**



**Harry Coker Jr.**  
**Secretary**  
Department of Commerce

The Honorable Harry Coker Jr. was appointed by Governor Moore as Maryland's Secretary of Commerce on February 5, 2025. At Commerce, the state's primary economic development agency, Coker is focused on working collaboratively to help Maryland "Win the Decade" by developing and sustaining an equitable, robust and competitive economy. Secretary Coker is a retired Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) senior executive, former National Security Agency (NSA) senior executive and career Naval Officer. He was previously America's National Cyber Director, serving in the White House from 2023-2025. Coker has been recognized with the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, the Presidential Rank Award, the NSA Director's Distinguished Service Medal, the Intelligence Community EEOD Outstanding Leadership Award, and CIA's Don Cryer Award for Diversity & Inclusion leadership.

# Meet the Council Members



**Jake Day**  
**Secretary**  
Department of Housing  
and Community  
Development

Jake Day serves as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Previously, Secretary Day served as the 28th Mayor of Salisbury, Maryland and served as City Council President. Secretary Day also worked for the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy as Director of the Center for Towns, utilizing design, planning, and development assistance to establish vibrant, sustainable small cities and towns. He served as national president of the American Institute of Architecture Students, and as editor-in-chief of CRIT, a journal of architecture. He was also elected 79th president of the Maryland Municipal League and was one of Maryland's representatives to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee. A U.S. Army Major, Secretary Day is a Cavalry, Information Operations, and Special Technical Operations Officer assigned to Special Operations Detachment-NATO. He is a veteran of the Global War on Terrorism and was deployed to Somalia, Kenya, and Djibouti.



**Portia Wu**  
**Secretary**  
Department of Labor

Portia Wu serves as the Secretary of Labor for the State of Maryland. Secretary Wu has spent her career developing and implementing policies that benefit America's workers. Previously, Secretary Wu was Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training at the United States Department of Labor (DOL). During her time at DOL, she led the implementation of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2015. Before joining DOL, Secretary Wu served at the White House Domestic Policy Council as Special Assistant and Senior Policy Advisor for Labor and Workforce. Secretary Wu also served as Labor Policy Director.

# Meet the Council Members



**Melissa R. Wells**  
**Delegate**  
District 40, Baltimore City

Melissa Wells is a State Delegate representing the 40<sup>th</sup> legislative district in the Maryland General Assembly. She serves as Chief Deputy Majority Whip, Chair of the Baltimore City House Delegation, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland. Currently she serves on the House Ways and Means Committee. She is passionate about growing the vitality of the film and production industry as well as access to sustainable careers for Marylanders in industry that offer economic security. In her professional capacity, Delegate Wells serves as Special Assistant to the President of North America's Building Trades Unions for Diversity and Inclusion. Prior to working for NABTU, Melissa spent 7 years as a Director for the Baltimore-D.C. Building Trades Council. In her role, she built and strengthened relationships with community and faith-based organizations in the Baltimore-D.C. Building Trades' region.



**Jimmie Briggs**  
**Principal**  
Skoll Foundation

Jimmie Briggs serves as principal of the Skoll Foundation. He first joined the Foundation in 2020 with more than two decades of experience as a journalist, author and activist. Briggs was a co-founder and executive director emeritus of Man Up Campaign, a global initiative to activate youth to stop violence against women and girls. This led to his selection as the winner of the 2010 GQ Magazine "Better Men Better World" search, and as one of the Women's eNews '21 Leaders for the 21st Century'. Jimmie has served as an adjunct professor of investigative journalism at the New School for Social Research and was a George A Miller Visiting Professor in the Department of African and African-American Studies at the University of Illinois: Champaign-Urbana. For a decade, he has been an adjunct teacher of documentary journalism at the International Center of Photography. As a journalist, he has written for scores of publications following staff tenures at The Washington Post, The Village Voice, LIFE magazine and others. He authored the book, *Innocents Lost: When Child Soldiers Go to War* and he currently contributes to Vanity Fair magazine.

# Meet the Council Members



**Jane Brown**  
**President and Board President**  
Robert W. Deutsch Foundation

Jane Brown serves as the President of the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation. She has led the foundation's growth and grant making operations since 1995, supporting innovations in science and technology; arts and culture; independent media; digital equity, and social justice. In 2012, she created the Ruby's Artist Grants Program, to support Baltimore-based artists across multiple disciplines, and co-founded the Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation to develop 60,000 square feet of new arts space in Baltimore City: The Motor House and Open Works. Previously she worked as a journalist at the Baltimore Sun, and was the first Managing Editor of Baltimore Magazine. She has served on the boards of Goucher College, Park School of Baltimore, University System of Maryland Foundation, the Baltimore City Workforce Investment Board, Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers, Grantmakers for Film and Electronic Media, and the Creative Capital Foundation. She holds degrees from University of Maryland College Park, SUNY at Stony Brook, and the University of Santa Monica.



**Andy Forssell**  
**Former Head, HBO Max**  
**Former CEO, Hulu**

Andy Forssell most recently served as the head of HBO Max at WarnerMedia (now Warner Brothers Discovery). He previously served as the chief operating officer of Otter Media through its successful sale to AT&T. He previously served as CEO of Showyou, a video aggregation service that was sold to Vevo in 2015. Prior to Showyou, Forssell spent close to seven years at Hulu where he established and led the programming business, including its push into original programming, and finished his tenure as its interim CEO during a year in which it surpassed a billion dollars in revenue. He began his career as a cavalry officer in the U.S. Army, followed by ten years at Siebel Systems in a variety of product sales and general management roles. Forssell earned bachelor's degrees from the United States Military Academy and Carnegie Mellon University, and received his MBA from Harvard Business School.

# Meet the Council Members



**Renard Jenkins**  
**President**  
Society Motion Picture &  
Television Engineers

Renard Jenkins currently serves as president of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. He is a recipient of numerous awards, including two national Emmys, a Peabody, 2 Headliners, a 2020 Broadcasting and Cable Technology Leadership award, and the 2017 Innovator of the Year award. Most recently he served as Warner Bros. senior vice president of Production Integration and Creative Technology Services [PICTs]. Jenkins was also the technical lead and designer of the Digital Backlot initiative which focused on extending the useful lifespan and monetization possibilities of visual effects, animation, artists, and production elements and assets across multiple content creation verticals. Prior to joining WarnerMedia and Warner Bros., Jenkins served as vice president of operations, engineering, and distribution at PBS. He also created PBS's Advanced Format Center and worked for TV One, Discovery, ESPN, and Turner Broadcasting. He is a champion and advocate for ethics, inclusion, diversity, and accessibility in the industry.



**David O'Ferrall**  
**Business Agent**  
Mid-Atlantic Studio  
Mechanics & Broadcast  
Technicians, Local 487,  
IATSE

David O'Ferrall is the business agent for Local 487, I.A.T.S.E., representing the craftspeople who work on the technical side of motion pictures, television production, and broadcast sports in Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. His responsibilities include negotiating agreements, enforcing those agreements, assisting productions in crewing, and engaging the state legislatures on issues important to the industry such as film and television incentives. He has worked for the Local since 1992 and has served as business agent since 2011. O'Ferrall started in the industry in 1985 and has worked in various positions on motion pictures, television productions, and commercials. He holds a J.D. from the University Of Baltimore School of Law and a B.S. in Mass Communications from Towson University. He is a regional vice president for Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO and a member of the executive board for the Metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO.

# Meet the Council Members



**Sumi Parekh**  
**Executive Director**  
Group Effort Initiative

Sumi Parekh is the executive director for the Group Effort Initiative (GEI), an organization launched and financed by Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively that creates a pipeline for members of underrepresented communities to get real experience toward lasting careers within the entertainment industry. Prior to her role at GEI, Parekh held several positions in the office of Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti, focusing on improving diversity, equity, and inclusion within Hollywood. She started the Evolve Entertainment Fund, dedicated to building career pathways in film, television, and music for women, people of color, and low-income Angelenos. She also helped to launch LA Collab, an unprecedented effort to connect Latinx talent, executives, and creators to opportunities in the entertainment industry. Parekh was a program manager at the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles and was the director of legislative affairs and programs at the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC). She earned a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Southern California and a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin.



**Judee Ann Williams**  
**Global Head of Impact,**  
**CAA Sports**  
Creative Artists Agency

Judee Ann Williams is the global head of impact across CAA Sports at the leading entertainment and sports agency, Creative Artists Agency (CAA). She is also the global lead of CAA Social Impact, a strategic consulting team that sits at the intersection of CAA's deeply experienced brand consulting and highly connected foundation groups. During the Obama Administration, she supported the entertainment councils for both the White House and United Service Organizations. She has advised clients including Google, Walmart, KPMG, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Reebok, and the Alzheimer's Association among others. Additionally, Williams is a prominent member of the philanthropic community and holds various appointments on boards and advisory councils. She was named to Variety's 2019 Power of Women New York Impact List and a Champion for Children in 2019 by the Boys & Girls Club of America. Williams received her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Business from Shepherd University.

**Contact:** Timothy McGowan, Council & Commission Program Specialist | [timothy.mcgowan1@maryland.gov](mailto:timothy.mcgowan1@maryland.gov) | 667-450-1717

**For more information:** <https://commerce.maryland.gov/commerce/maryland-entertainment-council>

**Wes Moore, Governor | Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor**

