**Culture**

The ever-strengthening arts community has some of its most high-profile leadership ever.

**FRED LAZARUS**

Lazarus, the president of Maryland Institute College of Art, could vie for the top spot in the education category—MICA is, after all, one of the best art schools in the country—but that designation is too narrow for such a visionary leader. Lazarus has fostered strong ties with the business and nonprofit communities and gracefully shepherded an expansion of the school's footprint that's utterly transformed the Station North Arts District and enhanced the city's cultural riches.

**MARIN ALSOP**

Alsop, the music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, has set the bar high for leaders of the city's major arts organizations. Not content with being a programming genius and a captivating presence on the podium, Alsop isn't shy about flexing some marketing muscle—putting the BSO in front of new audiences, whenever possible—partnering with non-classical artists, and reaching out to the community at large.

**DOREEN BOLGER**

Under Bolger's leadership, The Baltimore Museum of Art has shed its old image as an insular organization and forged stronger relationships with other arts institutions and community groups. While spearheading ambitious capital campaigns and renovation projects, The BMA director is just as liable to turn up at a warehouse gallery opening as she is a corporate boardroom.

**AND DON'T COUNT OUT:**

- **Bill Gilmore**, executive director of Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, oversees a $6.4 million budget and local events such as Artscape, the Baltimore Book Festival, and the Preakness Parade.
- **Carla Hayden**, executive director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, has reinvigorated the Pratt as a vital cultural center and been named by President Obama to the National Museum and Library Services Board and the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.
- **Jed Dietz**, director of the Maryland Film Festival, also serves on the board of Centerstage, where he's heading the search for Irene Lewis's replacement.