UMBC's TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION

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Who (The Campus Center)

The **UMBC TRHT Campus Center** advances truth, racial healing, and transformation through community engagement, education, and relationship-building initiatives rooted in racial equity. As part of **UMBC's Shriver Center**, the Campus Center works to challenge racial hierarchies and create more inclusive, healing-centered communities in Baltimore and beyond. Its work combines service, storytelling, racial healing practices, leadership, and civic engagement to support lasting social change.

Check Out the UMBC Website Here!

Community Partners

The Campus Center collaborates with community partners including youth organizations, artists, educators, and grassroots leaders to co-create healing and equity-focused programming. These partnerships emphasize reciprocity, shared leadership, and uplifting community voices in the work of transformation and racial healing.

Separation (Division)

Art Rysing addresses the "separation" aspect of the TRHT model by reclaiming Baltimore's Inner Harbor as a space for inclusion, healing, and community connection. Through the Re-imagining the Harbor initiative, the project seeks to center historically excluded voices and transform a public space into a place for shared storytelling, artistic expression, belonging, and racial healing. **Check it Out!**

Law (Policy)

For the past 13 years, **The Choice Program at UMBC** has fought for youth justice reform by advocating against the criminalization of Black and Brown youth and challenging harmful policies like the automatic charging of youth as adults. In a dynamic partnership with the Maryland Youth Justice Coalition, advocates celebrated a major victory in April 2026 when the Youth Charging Reform Act finally passed in Maryland, marking a significant step toward a more equitable and healing-centered justice system. This work directly reflects the TRHT "Law" framework by transforming laws and policies that have historically reinforced racial inequities in the legal system. Read the testimony here ------->

Economy (Economic Barriers)

The **Choice Jobs Program** addresses the "Economy" component of the TRHT framework by creating workforce development and career pathways for young people who have historically faced systemic barriers to employment. By investing in job readiness, financial literacy, and equitable access to economic opportunities, the program helps dismantle racial inequities while supporting youth in building long-term stability and economic mobility.

Narrative Change

Art Rysing addresses narrative change by using art, storytelling, and public performance to tell more honest and inclusive stories about Baltimore's communities and lived experiences. By centering youth voices and historically marginalized perspectives, the initiative challenges dominant narratives and creates space for truth-telling, healing, and a stronger sense of shared humanity.

This video highlights **The Choice Program at UMBC's** commitment to youth voice by centering young people as storytellers, leaders, and creators of change in their own communities. It shows how the program empowers youth to share their experiences and shape conversations about healing, justice, and opportunity.

Healing / Relationship Building

Relationship-building is central to UMBC's TRHT model because lasting transformation requires trust, empathy, and authentic connection across communities. UMBC's TRHT Campus Center demonstrated this commitment during the **2026 National Day of Racial Healing through its virtual event, *"Voices of Healing: Generations of Community and Change,"*** which brought together youth leaders, community members, and national leaders like Dr. Gail Christopher to engage in conversations about healing, shared humanity, and cultural resilience in Baltimore.

AAC&U

Acknowledgements

Dr. Valerie Sheares Ashby for her visionary leadership and continued support of truth, racial healing, youth leadership, and community engagement at UMBC.
WombWork Productions for serving as a lead creative and healing partner in Art Rysing and community-centered storytelling initiatives.
Virtues Matter for advancing healing, character development, and restorative community practices alongside youth and families.
The Choice Program at UMBC has led for decades in youth development, youth justice reform, and healing-centered community engagement.
The UMBC TRHT Campus Center Action Team creates spaces for racial healing, truth-telling, and transformational partnerships across Baltimore.
Dr. Gail Christopher for her national leadership as the architect of the TRHT Framework and her continued guidance in advancing racial healing work.
The Maryland Youth Justice Coalition for its powerful partnership and advocacy in advancing the Youth Charging Reform Act and juvenile justice transformation in Maryland.