

China Boak Terrell

(653 words)

A former foster mom, China Boak Terrell has spent her life and career fighting for ordinary people to have extraordinary chances to live their dreams. China is running for Delegate to the Maryland Legislature, to continue the fight to make Baltimoreans safer, healthier and wealthier.

Changemaker for Baltimore

Since 2016, China has served as CEO of the Baltimore-based nonprofit, American Communities Trust, Inc. Recognized by the [Baltimore Sun](#) and [Baltimore Magazine](#), China's work with residents has been:

- **To build:** China has led the \$27 million restoration of the Baltimore Pumphouse. She has cleaned up four acres of polluted land, secured nearly \$1 million in grant opportunities and incentives for small businesses, is helping those small businesses stay in Baltimore at a vibrant new community hub.
- **To green:** China has organized crucial partnerships and funding for a neighborhood-wide "Greenprint," that includes a soon-to-break-ground park with permanent artistic light installations and a demonstration "Green Street" with new trees and plantings for 82 homes.
- **To serve:** China has spearheaded a resident-led coalition to design a housing rehabilitation strategy that will retain 70% of legacy families.

Champion for Communities

China has a long history of advocacy with results for working-class communities. As founding **President of her past tenants' association**, China successfully prevented displacement and **preserved affordable housing** for 33 families, including seniors living on fixed incomes.

While a community representative, China fought for and won the complete redesign of a \$2 million street project that threatened to upend the character of a historic neighborhood. In one year, China held more than 25 community meetings and sent over 1000 emails to city officials.

Servant for the Voiceless

As a **volunteer lawyer for foster children** for five years, China amplified the voices of young people who would have been lost in an overwhelmed system. As a **volunteer in a juvenile detention center**, China spent three years mentoring young girls awaiting arraignment for charges such as prostitution, assault, or selling drugs.

China has been an **activist leader on issues of police reform and legitimacy**, securing and producing the first national interview with former Chicago Police Chief Garry McCarthy following the tragic shooting of Laquan MacDonald. With partners whom she recruited, China developed and ran an education series designed to sensitize future political leaders and police officers on the impact of law enforcement activities in black and brown neighborhoods.

China is the **former General Counsel to the DC Council's Committee on Human Services**. There, she drafted and advanced legislation, including ensuring social services support for families whose children were not showing up at elementary school.

Woman Who Has Lived to Share

Through the **American Heart Association**, China has spoken to thousands of women about self-care. China shares her own story of having emergency open heart surgery and shifting from a decade-long practice in corporate law, to community building.

China graduated from **Oxon Hill High School** in Prince George's County, Maryland. She graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with her Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and from the University of Minnesota Law School *magna cum laude* with her Juris Doctor.

China has a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. She is published through Harvard University's Joint Center on Housing Studies on the topic of supportive housing for the homeless.

Above All, a Friend, Wife, and Mom

China is married to an economics and politics journalist, who pre-COVID-19 took the train to DC each day from their home in **Bolton Hill**. He's a longtime union man, now in the NewsGuild. Together they have a three-year old daughter, proudly born in Baltimore. In their spare time, they love the outdoors with other families. Getting icees ranks pretty high too. And celebrating [Loving Day](#) is a family tradition for this proud interracial family. Loving Day (June 12) celebrates the day the US Supreme Court said you can marry anyone you love regardless of that person's race.