



2021

# DISTRICT BRIDGES ANNUAL REPORT





## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the District Bridges 2021 Annual Report. As an organization, we strive to serve our neighborhoods and business community passionately, consistently, equitably, and with a mindset towards innovation. In this year's report, we are highlighting many, though certainly not all, of the organization's accomplishments and activities that advance our vision to build more resilient, equitable, and connected communities here in DC and beyond.

That vision has never been more relevant than today, as our world navigates the uncertain path towards economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. While grief and loss incurred over the last year and a half are deeply felt in our communities, we have seen first hand stories of resilience, hope, and creativity in each of our neighborhoods. Whether it has been a story of a small business owner pivoting to save their business while also meeting the needs of their community or of neighbors pitching in to support a small business through their darkest hour, through our work we have been given a front row seat to witness the best of our communities.

In 2021, through our seven Main Street programs, we were able to serve over 1,000 small businesses in Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant, Lower Georgia Avenue, Logan Circle, U Street and Woodley Park. Our dedicated staff have delivered over 2,860 hours of direct technical assistance to businesses, awarded over \$290,511 in small business grants to 107 businesses and leveraged over \$8,817,347 in other grants to our businesses and corridors. While we are proud of our impact, it is only scratching the surface of the tremendous need of small businesses across our city.

As a values driven organization, we have invested in creating a culture that believes that our impact is an outgrowth of living out our values of relationship, inclusion, diversity, story, collaboration, innovation, solution-oriented, and fun on a daily basis.

As you review our 2021 Annual Report, I trust that you will see the impact that these values are having in our communities. I invite you to celebrate with us what we have achieved this year and to invest in the work that lies ahead in the coming year. On behalf of myself, the staff, and Board of District Bridges, thank you to all of our businesses, partners, volunteers, patrons, and community advocates for the time, commitment and kindness you show us and one another everyday!

Sincerely,

Brianne Dornbush  
Executive Director

# ABOUT DISTRICT BRIDGES

District Bridges is a nonprofit organization with a mission to enrich neighborhood vitality by bridging community engagement and economic development opportunities so individuals, businesses, and organizations can thrive together.



**District Bridges fosters equitable, resilient, connected communities in Washington, DC and beyond.** Dedicated to supporting small businesses and investing in community, District Bridges is a solution-driven advisory and execution practice centered on socially impactful community development and micro-economic growth.

As the first multi-Main Street organization in the nation, District Bridges developed a model that makes managing Main Street programs a turnkey operation. We streamline the operational setup of new programs, creating economies of scale and increasing staff capacity. Our strategic approach to community development considers the holistic needs of the city and creates solutions in collaboration with community stakeholders. District Bridges understands that every community has its own priorities, so we work side-by-side with neighborhoods to identify critical needs and leverage the community’s unique skills and assets.

Our vision is to thrive together in equitable, resilient, connected communities here in DC and beyond. To achieve this collective vision, District Bridges identified and endeavors to achieve the following Ultimate Outcomes:

- Equitable, strengthened, and connected communities with a strong sense of place
- Sustainable and self-determined small businesses
- Human-scaled commercial corridors with vibrant, valued small businesses



You are a trusted partner to business owners for all things... especially being supportive and doing outreach during COVID, letting everyone know about grants and help!  
- Cleveland Park business owner



# OUR IMPACT

FY21: OCTOBER 1, 2020 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



**7 MAIN STREETS  
SERVING 1,026  
BUSINESSES**

**2,860**

hours of technical  
assistance provided to  
businesses in ten DC  
neighborhoods



**\$290,511  
DISTRIBUTED  
TO 107 SMALL  
BUSINESSES**

**1,076**

hours contributed  
to District  
Bridges by 242  
volunteers.



**6,050**

newsletter  
subscribers

**31,367**

social media  
followers across  
21 platforms



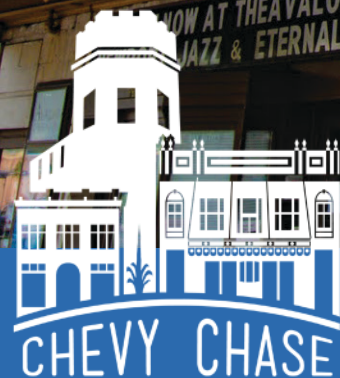
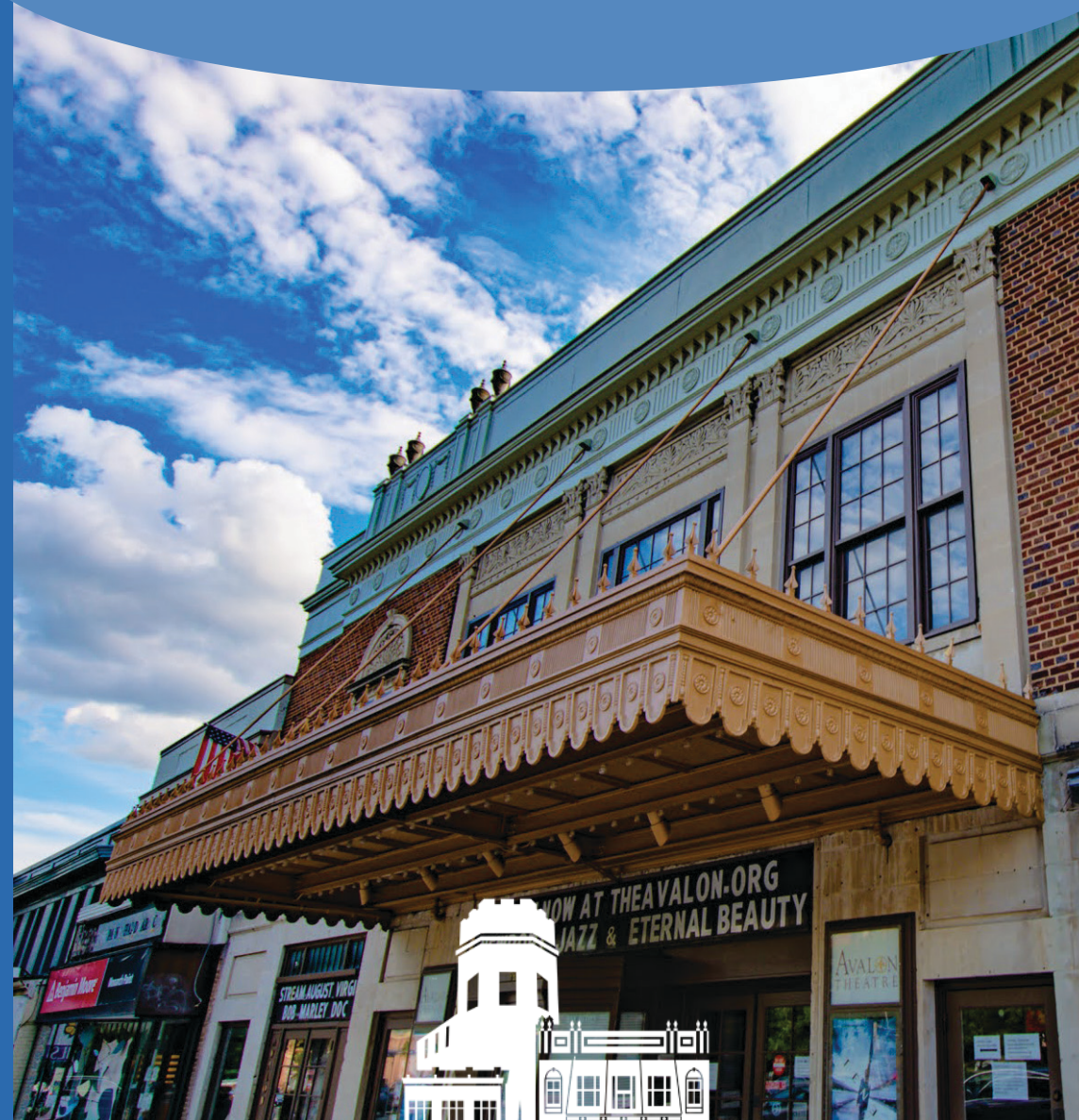
**\$8,817,347**

in grants and financial  
support secured for  
businesses



- FOUNDED IN 2020 -

# CHEVY CHASE MAIN STREET



## NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY COUNCIL

Jerry Malitz  
Robert Gordon  
Carl Lankowski  
Ruth Robbins  
Stephanie Chong  
Steve Altman

Jess Berenson  
Sarah Pokempner  
Ferrall Dietrich  
Steven Aarons  
Meghan Evans  
Donna Evers

Tim Walsh  
Aaron Gordon  
Nancy Wilson  
DeVera Redmond  
Kathleen Zeifang

Chevy Chase Main Street knows the importance of supporting a community. Businesses work with the community to build a place where all are welcome.



## \$51,000

CCMS distributed grants to 13 small businesses for costs including Storefront renovations equipment purchase, social distance compliance, outdoor dining structures, and enhanced signage.

## DEPLOYING CAPITAL

As a new program, Chevy Chase Main Street focused on getting capital funds in to the hands of small businesses. While many businesses were able to navigate PPP loans, several businesses struggled to find resources for important projects like HVAC repair and physical accessibility amongst COVID-specific grants. Working with volunteers and businesses, CCMS' first grant round helped demonstrate the value a Main Street can provide while also encouraged local businesses to invest in improvements that benefit the community as well as the coordination and time of volunteers.



## BY THE NUMBERS

### 62

businesses served

### 3

new businesses

### 285

technical assistance  
hours provided

### 170

hours provided by  
29 volunteers

## EVENTS

Chevy Chase DC Day  
Celebration at Lafayette Pointer Park  
Cheers Chevy Chase

- FOUNDED IN 2019 -

# CLEVELAND PARK MAIN STREET



Adjacent to Rock Creek Park and named after President Grover Cleveland, this uptown tree-lined neighborhood provides a much needed respite from sweltering downtown during hotter months. Cleveland Park boasts several family businesses established in the 1960s as well as more recently opened popular establishments and has a neighborhood feel in a city that can sometimes feel so transient.



## \$36,200

CPMS distributed grants to 10 small businesses for costs including equipment upgrades and repairs, rent and utilities, painting, and new furniture.

### NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY COUNCIL

Suprabha Beckford  
Daniel Fox  
Kathleen Gibbon  
Ellen Herr  
Mary Ellen Koontz  
Michael McMullen  
Raina Regan  
Jane Treacy  
Bob Ward  
Laura Watson  
Barr Weiner



### BY THE NUMBERS

64

businesses served

1

new businesses

341

technical assistance  
hours provided

240

hours provided by  
41 volunteers

### EVENTS

Meet the Businesses Webinar (hosted with CPCA and Kennedy-Warren)  
Tuesday Talks  
Cleveland Park Farmers Market  
Cleveland Park Yard Sale  
Holiday Lights  
Virtual Cooking Series



- FOUNDED IN 2016 -

# COLUMBIA HEIGHTS MOUNT PLEASANT MAIN STREET



## NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY COUNCIL

Brian Lowit  
Robert Frasier  
Kelly DiNardo  
Jan Fenty  
Josephine Escalante

Veronica Hernandez  
Robert Gardner  
Joel Pazmino  
Alicia Horton  
Yahya Sardari  
Phil Davis

Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant are two of the most diverse corridors in DC, with food and goods from around the world.



## \$35,600

CHMPMS distributed grants to 17 small businesses for costs including a take out window, POS systems, new equipment and upgrades, and security improvements.

## A CIVIC PLAZA FOR ALL

Under a grant from NACTO and in collaboration with DDOT, District Bridges' Columbia Heights Main Street program launched a 5 month pilot program to reactivate the Columbia Heights Civic Plaza for the entire community to enjoy. The program included bringing resources for neighbors who are unhoused or experiencing substance use disorder, implementing a new outdoor dining area, providing free community outdoor fitness classes and activities, hosting bicycle maintenance pop-ups, installing a bike maintenance station, and organizing monthly cultural events. The pilot will continue into FY22 through earmarked funds from DC Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau.



## BY THE NUMBERS

### 263

businesses served

### 10

new businesses

### 531

technical assistance  
hours provided

### 48

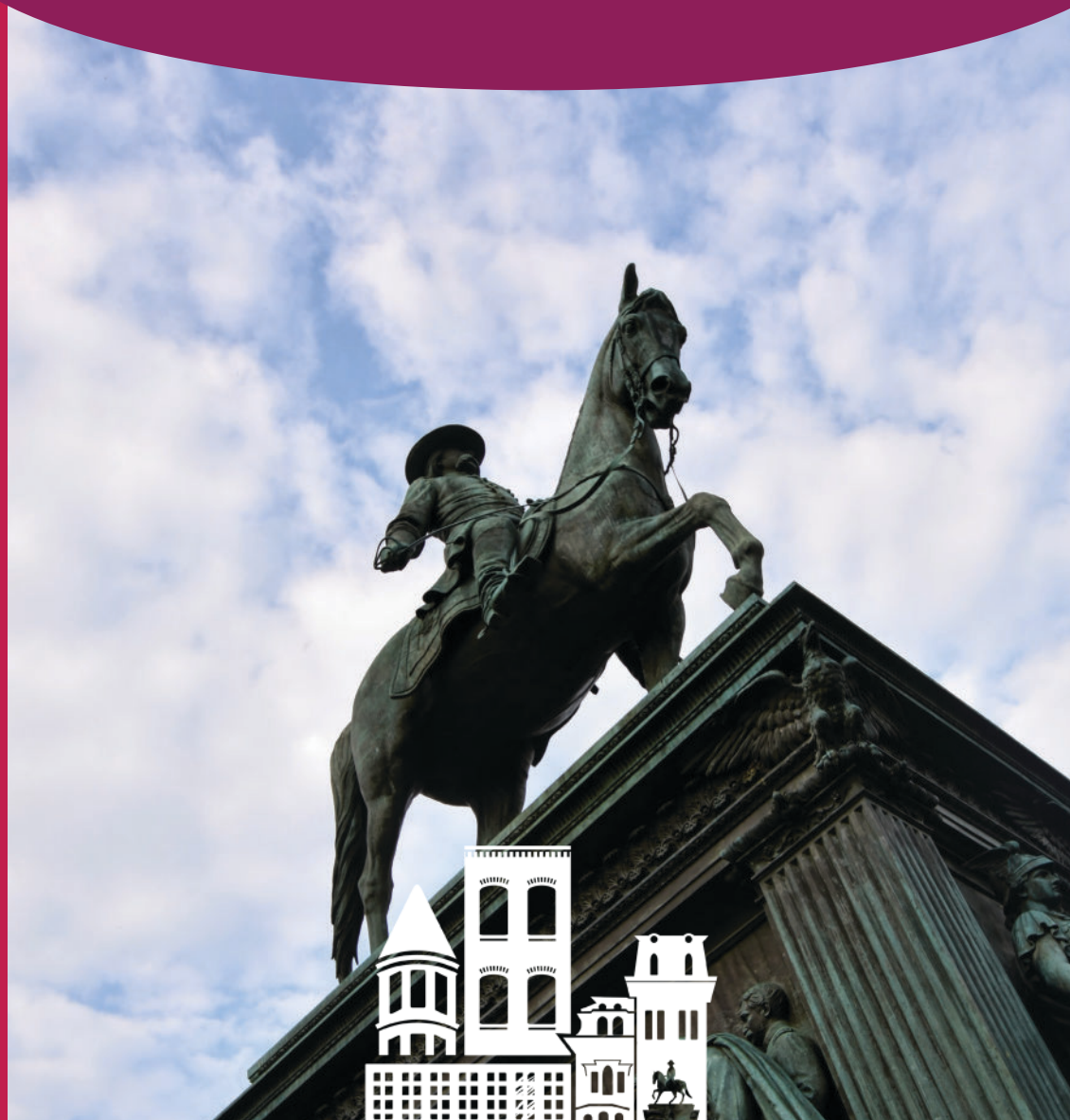
hours provided by  
11 volunteers

## EVENTS

Book Festival  
Dia de Los Muertos  
Mural Launch Event

- FOUNDED IN 2019 -

# LOGAN CIRCLE MAIN STREET



## NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY COUNCIL

Evelyn Boyd Simmons  
Craig Cobine  
Dave Feinstein  
Diane Gross  
Matt Higgins

Michelle Howell  
Tarek A. Kouddous  
Sue Pitman  
Marie Rudolph  
Ben Sislen

Peter Lichtenbaum  
Lenda Washington  
Steve Zagami  
Pixie Windsor

The businesses along 14th Street include local and national stylish home-decor stores, hip restaurants, gay bars, craft beer and cocktail bars.



## \$35,710

LCMS distributed grants to 17 small businesses for costs including COVID-19 emergency relief, streatory improvements, program development, and more.

## BUILDING MOMENTUM

In it's second year, LCMS focused on building momentum. The program expanded technical assistance offerings and volunteer opportunities, connecting businesses with resources to weather the pandemic. Tammy Vodin, the General Manager of Pearl Dive Oyster Bar, said the reason they stayed in business this year was due to the help from the Main Street. LCMS also expanded programming, starting a new event series with support from the National Main Street Center called Burn and Brunch. The event series paired exercise classes with discounts and restaurants, working to support the fitness businesses that were having trouble due to regulations for indoor activities.



## BY THE NUMBERS

### 186

businesses served

### 18

new businesses

### 628

technical assistance  
hours provided

### 92

hours provided by  
18 volunteers

## EVENTS

Holiday Lights  
Brunch and Burn  
Dog Days DC  
Traffic Box Kick Off

- FOUNDED IN 2017 -

# LOWER GEORGIA AVENUE MAIN STREET



## NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY COUNCIL

Cedric Diakabana	Pablo Sierra	Nkosi Bradley
Peter Fortner	Joe Leonard	Alicia Horton
Brad Grant	Audra Grant	Luci Murphy
Darren Jones	Erika Ruiz	William Jordan
Tom Pipkin	Tom Dawes	

LGAMS is a diverse small business corridor with over ten languages spoken on its one and half miles. Many of the businesses are legacy businesses; having been on Georgia Avenue for more than 20 years.



## \$39,500

LGAMS distributed grants to 14 small businesses for costs including legal support, COVID-19 rent relief, signage and exterior improvements.

## CONNECTING BUSINESSES WITH RESOURCES AND CAPITAL

With over 200 business on the corridor, Lower Georgia Avenue Main Street focused on leveraging the Main Street's capacity and resources for greater impact. Partnering with DC Bar Pro Bono's Commercial Lease Clinic, LEDC's Pro Biz Program, and a commercial real estate agent, LGAMS was able to specifically help 25 businesses renegotiate and better understand their lease obligations. Additionally, LGAMS supported businesses in obtaining an additional \$1.7 million in relief funding from federal and local programs.



## BY THE NUMBERS

### 218

businesses served

### 6

new businesses

### 326

technical assistance  
hours provided

### 100

hours provided by  
11 volunteers

## EVENTS

Holiday Lights  
Celebrate Petworth  
Community Strong  
SBOE Back to School Event

- FOUNDED IN 2019 -

# U STREET MAIN STREET



U Street neighborhood is both colorful and historic – the part of the city that never sleeps, full of amazing food options, late-night dancing, and rich culture.



## \$40,000

USMS distributed grants to 17 small businesses for costs including a curbside takeout window, updated POS system, storefront, signage, and equipment upgrades.

### NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY COUNCIL

Ashleigh Odom  
Gloria Nauden  
Jessica McClain  
Lafayette Barnes IV  
Santiago Lakatos  
Vonetta Dumas

### BY THE NUMBERS

## 167

businesses served

## 4

new businesses

## 395

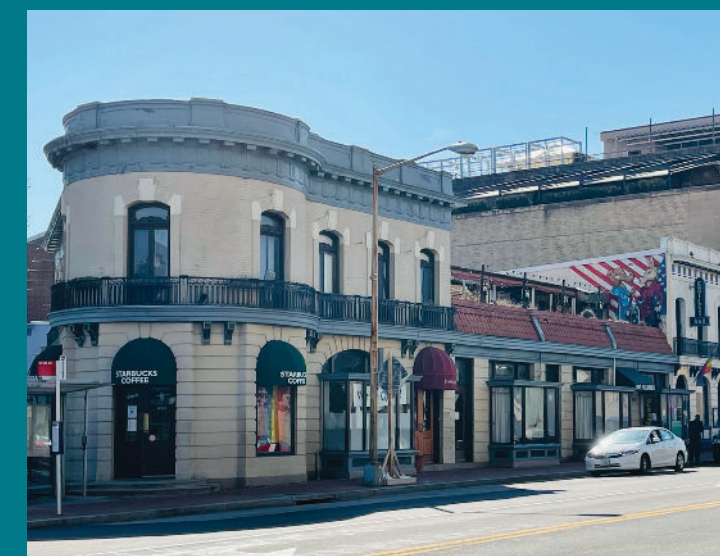
technical assistance  
hours provided

## 100

hours provided by  
20 volunteers

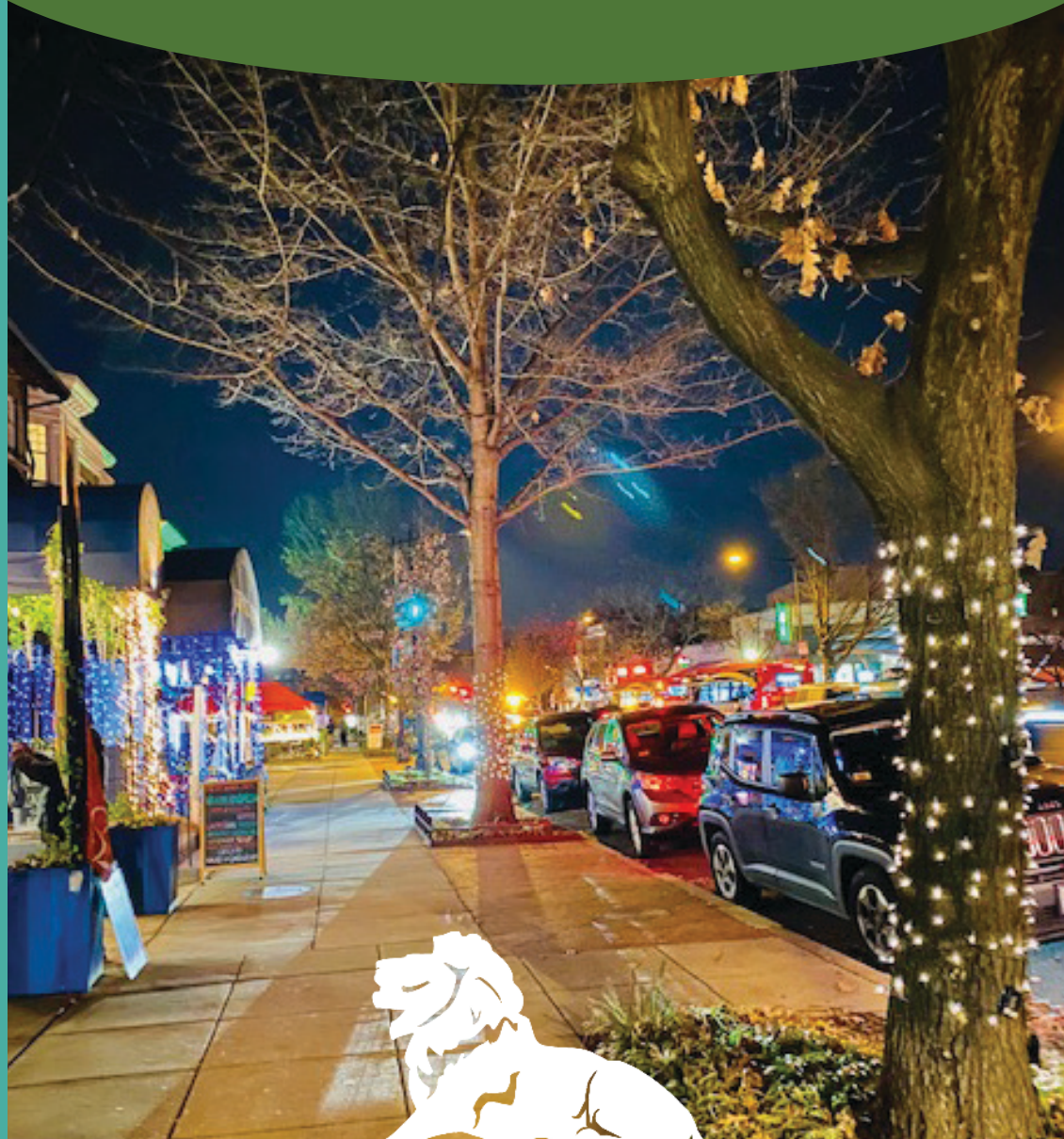
### EVENTS

Holiday Lights  
Funk Parade  
Juneteenth  
NEXTfest



- FOUNDED IN 2018 -

# WOODLEY PARK MAIN STREET



## WOODLEY PARK MAIN STREET

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David DeSantis  
Ibrahim Bah  
Yael Krigman  
Mark Roche-Garland  
Karl Hemmer

Mark Hendrix  
Jack Tobe-Carvallo  
Grace Shea  
May Piekarski

Woodley Park in a family-friendly neighborhood with attractions such as the Smithsonian National Zoo and adjacent Rock Creek Park. Residents and visitors alike enjoy the corridor's retail and restaurant row, as well as its strong connection to the past as a National Register Historic District.



## \$42,500

WPMS distributed grants to 19 small businesses for costs including new light fixtures, POS systems, interior redesigns, and opening expenses.

## CONNECTING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

For WPMS, this year was all about fostering connections between residents and businesses. From Tuesday Talks and Woodley Park Holiday Lights to the "Woodley Be My Neighbor" blog series and beautification projects, WPMS provided opportunities for residents to learn more about and invest in their neighborhood. During a graffiti removal project, passersby clapped for volunteers, signaling their approval of the work in real time and offering appreciation of volunteers' service to the WPMS corridor.



## BY THE NUMBERS

# 68

businesses served

# 2

new businesses

# 352

technical assistance  
hours provided

# 406

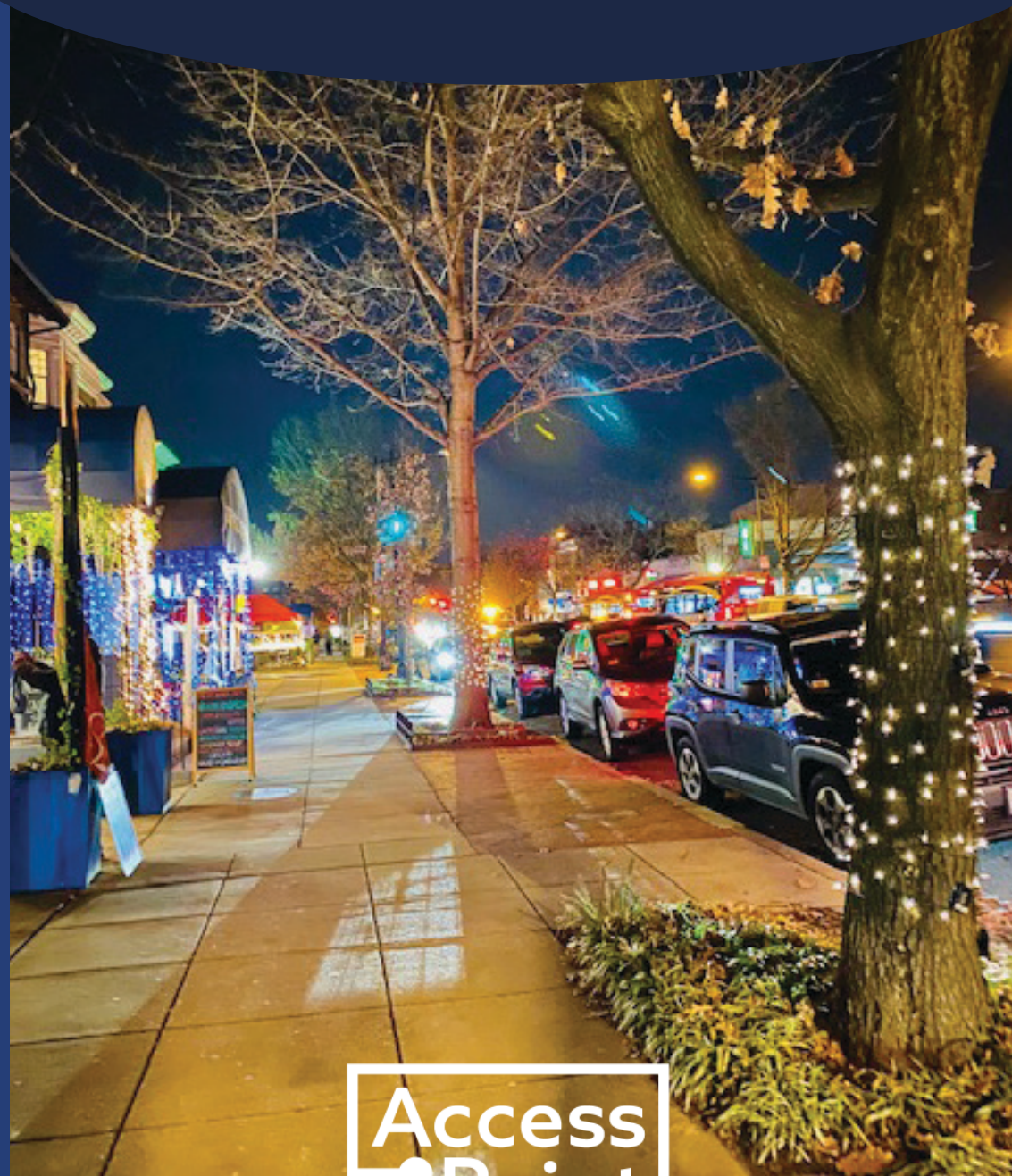
hours provided by  
32 volunteers

## EVENTS

Turn the Page book sale  
Movie Nights at Omni Shoreham  
Holiday Lights  
Baked By Yael virtual cake pop fundraiser  
WABA Panel Discussion  
Tuesday Talks  
WPMS Annual Meeting

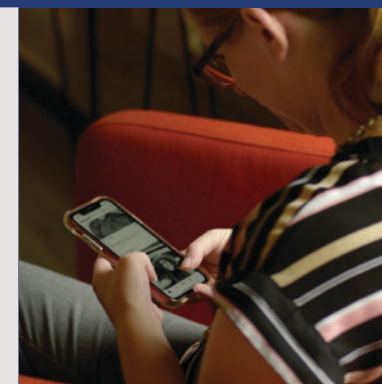
- LAUNCHED IN 2020 -

# ACCESS POINT DC



413

subscribers

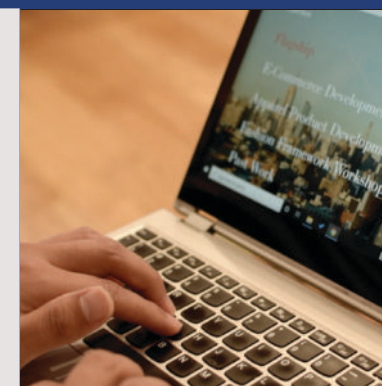


3

new content  
partnerships

12

hours of content  
watched by small  
business owners



9

new course  
uploads



# OUR TEAM

FY21: OCTOBER 1, 2020 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

## STAFF

- Brianne Dornbush  
Executive Director
- Madeleine Odendahl  
Director of Operations
- Jennifer Kuiper  
Senior Director, Policy and Evaluation
- Carolina Buitrago  
Main Street Director, Columbia Heights Mount Pleasant
- Gigi Aklilu  
Main Street Manager, U Street
- De'Andre Anderson  
Main Street Manager, Woodley Park
- Teresa Edmondson  
Main Street Manager, Lower Georgia Avenue
- Michele Molotsky  
Main Street Manager, Logan Circle
- Zach Rybarczyk  
Main Street Manager, Cleveland Park (till July 2021)
- Casandra Hetherington  
Main Street Manager, Cleveland Park (after August 2021)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Andy Steinem  
Board Chair
- Evette Banfield  
Vice Chair
- Jim Steck  
Treasurer
- Liz Furgurson  
Secretary
- Dallas Evans
- Ellen Patton
- Adrian Washington



You've helped us feel safe, informed, and up-to-date on everything from grants, COVID relief, safety issues (like the DC camera program), and you've been cheerleaders for my business and our neighbors.  
- Logan Circle business owner



District Bridges' best asset is the ability to drive inspiration and help businesses and nonprofits to maximize their potential to innovate and collaborate especially with city resources and private sector resources.  
- Columbia Heights community member

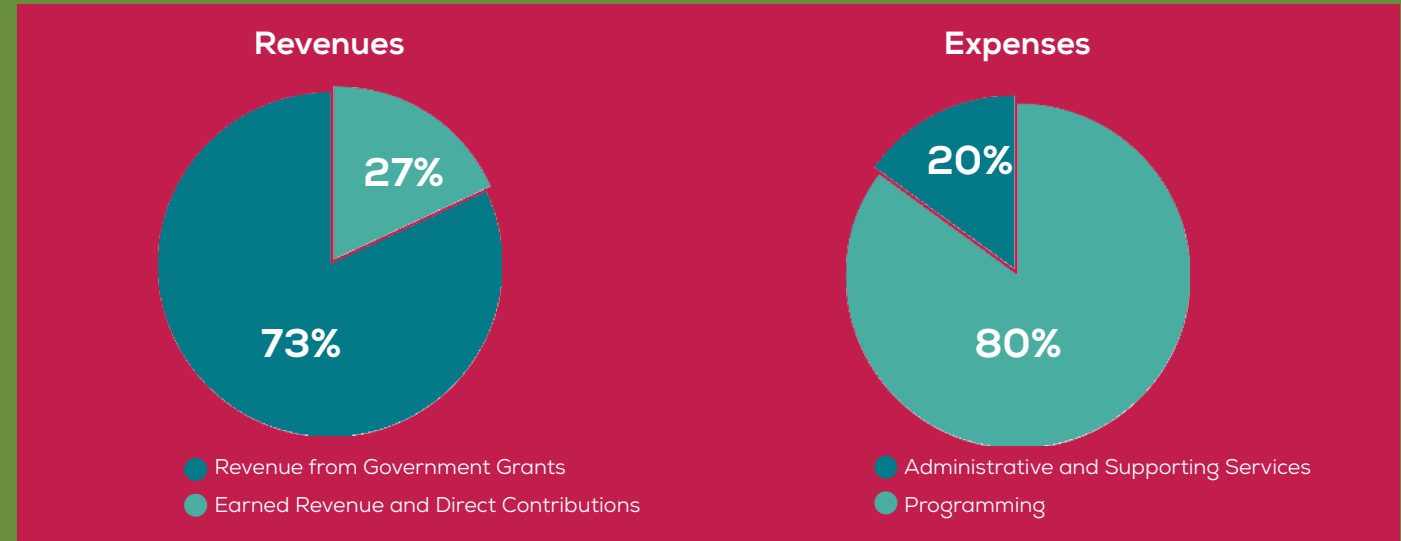
# FINANCIALS

## ASSETS

Total Current Assets	\$404,128.01
Total Fixed Assets	\$7,733.60
Total Other Assets	\$6,295.02
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$418,156.63</b>

## LIABILITY & EQUITY

Total Current Liabilities	\$519,543.75
Total Long-term Liabilities	\$47,000.00
Total Equity	-\$101,387.12
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$418,156.63</b>



# DONORS

### \$10,000 +

DC Department of Housing and Community Development  
DC Department of Small and Local Business Development  
DC Department of Transportation  
The Holladay Corporation  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
Mayor’s Office on Community Affairs  
Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs  
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB)  
National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)  
Pepco

### \$1,000-\$4,999

Allan Woods Flowers  
Capital City LLC  
City First Bank  
Bernstein Management Company  
Eddie Suarez  
Bill & Becky Dornbush  
Cleveland Park Citizens Association  
Connecticut Avenue Apartments  
Lebanese Taverna  
Helbiz  
MacIntyres  
Marc Spiegel  
The Navigate Group at Compass Real Estate  
Neighborhood Development Company  
Patrick’s Pet Care  
Peter Fortner  
Omni-Shoreham  
SJG Properties  
Una Elizabeth  
WC Smith

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Andy Steinem  
Bird  
Chris Martin  
Lime  
Lyft  
National Main Street Center  
Spin

### \$500-\$999

ANC 1A  
Community Three and Rooney Properties  
Craig Cobine  
Dukes Counter  
Eatwell DC  
Jillian Stringer  
Jonathan Bartlett  
LEDC  
Linda Ayres  
May Piekarski  
Nino’s Bakery  
Paragon Title  
Rajaji  
Woodley Park Guest House

We asked our stakeholders how they would describe District Bridges and they said...



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED  
AND INVESTED IN OUR WORK THIS YEAR.



3400 11th Street NW #200  
Washington, DC 20010

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY +  
SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

[www.districtbridges.org](http://www.districtbridges.org)  
@districtbridges