DISTRICT BRIDGES
ANNUAL REPORT
2021
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 2,563 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 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:

1. Equitable, strengthened, and connected communities with a strong sense of place
2. Sustainable and self-determined small businesses
3. 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

$290,511 distributed to 107 small businesses

7 Main Streets serving 1,026 businesses

2,860 hours of technical assistance provided to businesses in ten DC neighborhoods

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
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

Deploying capital

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

As a new program, Chevy Chase Main Street focused on getting capital funds into 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 encouraging local businesses to invest in improvements that benefit the community as well as the coordination and time of volunteers.

By the numbers

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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.

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

$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
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
MOUNT PLEASANT
MAIN STREET

BY THE NUMBERS

263 businesses served
531 technical assistance hours provided
10 new businesses
48 hours provided by 11 volunteers

$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.

EVENTS

Book Festival
Dia de Los Muertos
Mural Launch Event

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.

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

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

A civic plaza for all
Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant are two of the most diverse corridors in DC, with food and goods from around the world.
LCMS distributed grants to 17 small businesses for costs including COVID-19 emergency relief, stretery improvements, program development, and more.

In its 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 Vodinh, 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.

**Building Momentum**

**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

**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

**Events**

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

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

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.

$39,500

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

By the numbers:

15 events
100 hours provided by 11 volunteers
14 businesses served
6 new businesses
326 technical assistance hours provided

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U STREET
MAIN STREET

- FOUNDED IN 2019 -

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.

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

$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
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.

By the numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Businesses served</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>New businesses</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical assistance hours provided</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours provided by volunteers</td>
<td>406</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

$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.

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BY THE NUMBERS

68 businesses served
2 new businesses
352 technical assistance hours provided
406 hours provided by 32 volunteers

EVENTS

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- Movie Nights at Omni Shoreham
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Access Point DC

- Launched in 2020 -

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

**Board of Directors**

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

**Staff**

- Brianne Dornbush
  Executive Director
- Madeleine Odendahl
  Director of Operations
- Jennifer Kuper
  Senior Director, Policy and Evaluation
- Carolina Buitrago
  Main Street Director, Columbia Heights Mount Pleasant
- Gig Aklilu
  Main Street Manager, U Street
- De’Andre Anderson
  Main Street Manager, Woodley Park
- Terresa 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)

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

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
## Financials

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>$404,128.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$7,733.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Other Assets</td>
<td>$6,295.02</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$418,156.63</strong></td>
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### Liability & Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>Total Long-term Liabilities</td>
<td>$47,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>-$101,387.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Equity</strong></td>
<td><strong>$418,156.63</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 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

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

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

### $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
- Maclntyres
- Marc Spiegel
- The Navigate Group at Compass Real Estate
- Neighborhood Development Company
- Patrick’s Pet Care
- Peter Farther
- Omni-Shareham
- SJG Properties
- Una Elizabeth
- WC Smith

### $500-$999

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

### $100-$499

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

### $50-$99

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

### $1-$99

- ANC 1A
- Community Three and Rooney Properties
- Craig Cobine
- Dukes Counter
- Eastwell DC
- Jillian Stringer
- Jonathan Bartlett
- LEDC
- Linda Ayres
- May Piekarski
- Nina’s Bakery
- Paragon Title
- Rajaji
- Woodley Park Guest House
We asked our stakeholders how they would describe District Bridges and they said...

supportive
helpful
warm
community
great
effective
resourceful
local
professional
planful
blessing
support
wonderful
passionate
resolute
caring
empty
responsive
present
innovative
communicative
focused

Thank you to everyone who supported and invested in our work this year.