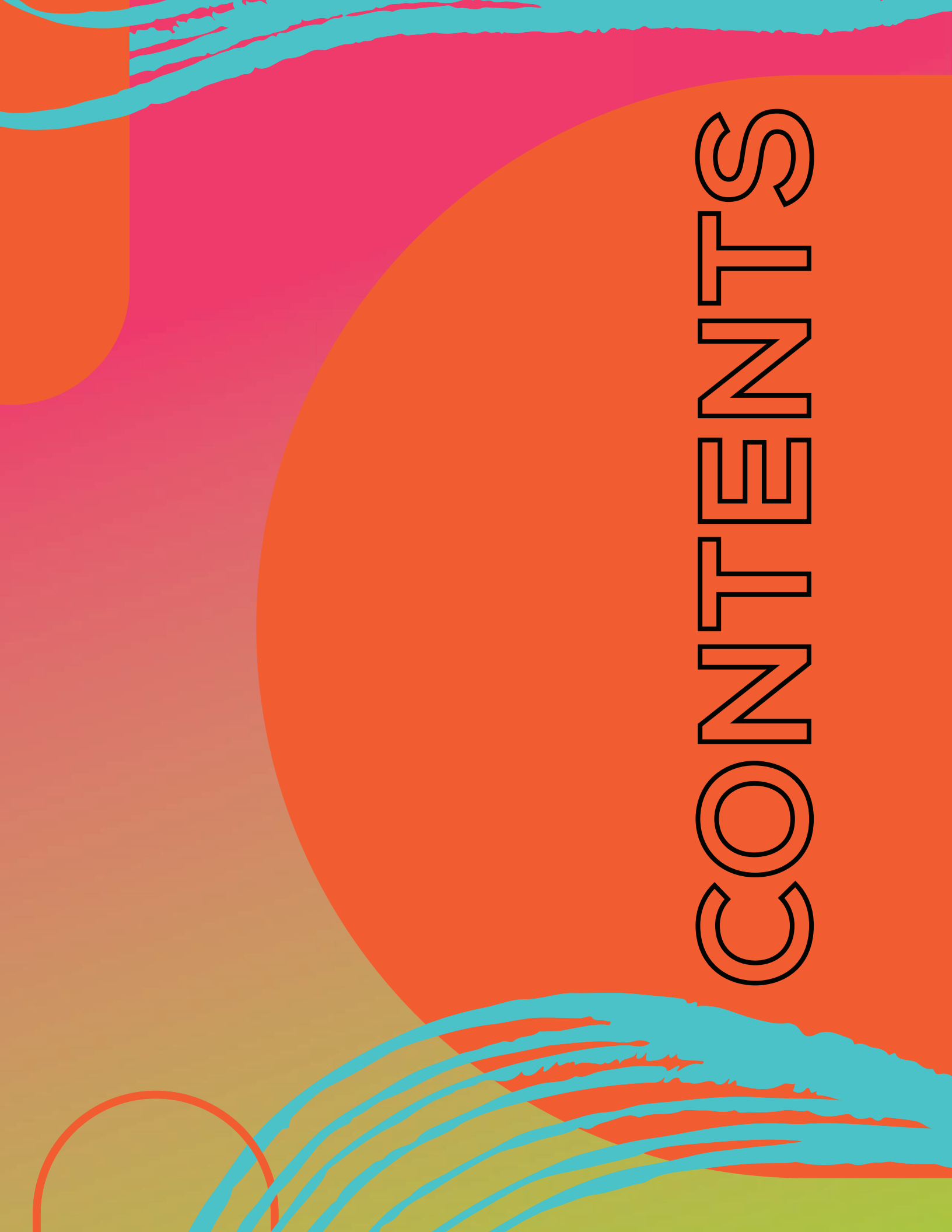


MINISTRIES SECTIONS R



DISTRICT BRIDGES

FY23
REPORT

The background features a vibrant, abstract design. A large orange circle is the central focus, partially overlapping a pink area at the top and a green area at the bottom. Cyan brushstrokes are scattered across the composition, with a thick, textured stroke at the top and several thinner, curved strokes at the bottom. A thin orange circle is visible in the bottom left corner.

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RELATIONSHIP
COLLABORATION
INCLUSION **FUN**
IMPACT-
ORIENTED
INNOVATION
STORYTELLING
DIVERSITY



DEAR PARTNERS,

Values-driven. What does that mean? Our values are meant to be a statement about who we are, what we stand for, and how we operate in the world. Nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and major corporations often prominently display their organizational values on their websites and marketing materials, but too often, we've seen examples of organizations and businesses not living up to the values they claim to hold. An organization's values should be more than just popular buzzwords, they should be guiding principles, the ethics by which an organization makes decisions.

When District Bridges says it's a values-driven organization we mean it in a very literal sense. Our values are the driving principles behind all the decisions we make. In 2020, through our strategic planning process, we developed our Theory of Change and our Strategy Screen, which are living documents that support us in making values-based decisions as we pursue our audacious vision.

2023 was a year that demonstrated how our organization lives out our values. One of the values you'll find consistently highlighted throughout this publication is innovation - both our own and our communities. Broadly, we like pilot programs because they allow us to try out new ideas and interventions. We can see what works, and what doesn't, and rapidly iterate to meet the challenges we are trying to address. Pilots allow us to test ideas before committing resources. Even within models that are tried and true, we believe there is room for innovation because our communities deserve our best.

Through our impact report and the articles included in this year's edition of Intersections, we hope to tangibly demonstrate each of our organizational values: relationship, inclusion, diversity, story, collaboration, innovation, solution-oriented, and fun.

As you read this, I invite you to pay attention to the stories and programs that speak to you the most. Where do your values align with ours? Then, I challenge you to ask yourself, "How will I be more involved in supporting District Bridges this year as I live out my values?"

Sincerely,



Brianne Dornbush
Executive Director






WHO

WE ARE

We are a community ecosystem development non-profit working to **bridge community engagement and economic development opportunities to foster equitable, resilient, and connected communities in DC** and beyond. Founded in 2005 by neighbors in Columbia Heights, our values of relationship, collaboration, innovation, diversity, impact-oriented, fun, story, and inclusion have driven our mission and work.

Our holistic approach to community-ecosystem development utilizes strategic partnerships, small business technical assistance, volunteer opportunities, place management, events, resident outreach, and connective services. Our approach is different in that we start from a place of collaboration and capacity-building, looking to strengthen the whole ecosystem in which we work.

We are proud to support businesses and community members across DC. Additionally, we work with communities across the country looking to emulate our unique approach.



"[I] fully support team DB! Thanks for believing in Columbia Heights and investing your time/energy/resources in our neighborhoods."

BLAKELY, RESIDENT

**"I JUST WANT TO
SEND ANOTHER
SHOUTOUT TO
ALL OF YOU FOR
YOUR INCREDIBLE
WORK IN OUR
COMMUNITY.**

Not only do you provide incredible resources for those who need them, but you find ways to bring in more community members into your work and mission. I'm grateful for your work and the chance to play a small part in it!"

SAMUEL, VOLUNTEER



35,834

Social Media Followers

Residents and visitors following our programs' social media channels to better connect with their local communities



4,220

Hours of Technical Assistance Provided

Contributing to their communities & local businesses

252

Volunteers

Contributing to their communities & local businesses

1,067

Hours Contributed by Voluneers

Directly supporting local neighborhoods & small businesses

220

Constituents Served

Through connective services

FY23 IMPACT SUMMARY

\$532,000

Grant Funds Awarded to Businesses

Funding to support rent/utilities, payroll, facade improvement, financial planning for sustainability and growth, security upgrades, marketing, and more

\$477,500

External Funding Secured

Eternal grant funding awarded to businesses and projects on the corridor, which Main Street staff helped make possible by making businesses aware of the grant opportunities and helping with grant applications

838

Businesses Served

84

Events

Increasing foot traffic to the commercial corridors and creating a positive image that attracts new businesses, investors, and visitors



RESTAURANTS, CATERERS, BAKERIES, RESTAURANTS, BAKERIES

77 permits for DC's first approved...
17 brewery permits in support of...
15 additional businesses outside...
supported 49 businesses with...



INITIATIVE SECTIONS

DISTRICT BRIDGES

Our vision is to thrive together in equitable, resilient, connected communities here in DC and beyond.

ACTIVELY ENGAGED

- Generated 11... for community... for shared... themes
- Generated 17... for shared... themes



2022 IMPACT SUMMARY

488 Media...
995 Hours Contributed By Volunteers
157 Events

25% Are Woman-Owned
37% Are Minority-Owned

"District Bridges has been a huge positive impact on individuals involved in the Columbia Heights neighborhood. I think this has significantly enhanced the safety and attractiveness of the area as a public gathering space."

WHAT IS INTERSECTIONS?

The articles that follow profile tangible demonstrations of how our values are lived out through our work to achieve our vision of thriving together in equitable, resilient, connected communities.



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THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN ACTION:

District Bridges' Multi-Main Street Model Case Study

WRITTEN BY BRIANNE DORN BUSH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the years, I've often uttered the statement, "We've either had time to 'do the work' or 'talk about the work' and we've consistently chosen to do the work."

The sentiment came from the experience of seeing organizations both big and small talk a big game or make big promises only to not follow through. Reputation is everything, especially in community development work. And so for years, District Bridges' mentality has been to dig in and do the work and let that work speak for itself. When you're small and at your maximum capacity, that's often all you can do.

However, in recent years, I've reflected on that statement and come to realize that while I believe our work does speak for itself if we are not actively

telling our own story we are limiting the impact that our ideas, interventions, and successes can have in the broader world. We want to position District Bridges as a thought leader so that others can learn from our on-the-ground experience, in hopes that they can implement strategies that will have an impact in their communities.

It was with that thought that we pursued a grant opportunity with the Small Business Anti-Displacement Network (SBAN) to write a case study about our Multi-Main Street model.

In 2017, District Bridges became the first organization in the nation to manage multiple Main Street programs, through the nationally recognized Main Street Four Point Approach, developed by the National Main Street Center.

By employing a scaled approach that increases organizational capacity and sustainability, we centered on small businesses' needs to achieve greater economic impact and actively preserve place identity and culture here in DC.


Development in any city is inevitable, but displacement doesn't have to be. Main Streets can be an important tool in anti-displacement work due in part to their highly relational approach that gives these programs deep insight into the

realities and opportunities small businesses face. If Main Streets can help to advocate and center the voices of small businesses as development occurs, small businesses can be a part of the future development rather than becoming a victim of a neighborhood's "success."

District Bridges' Multi-Main Street model has sought to balance the reality of development with the needs and priorities of neighborhood-serving small businesses. To address these







realities head-on, we have challenged the status quo and developed tools that leverage the grassroots, relational nature of the Main Street Approach to center small businesses in the economic development ecosystem. In the case study, we made several recommendations for leaders at various levels who want to develop a more holistic community development ecosystem.


Those recommendations included:

Organization-Level Recommendations

- 1. Think big. Start small. Build with intention.** What District Bridges has built took time but we were able to develop our scale and capacity because we cast a big vision and then started building from where we were. Then we positioned ourselves to be able to take advantage of the opportunities that came our way.
- 2. Look for partners.** Central to the development of our Multi-Main Street model, is that we only launched programs where we had established community partners. Main Streets are community-driven and community-built. You simply can't build it on your own, so look for those partners who share your vision and build together.
- 3. Stay humble, and nimble, don't reinvent the wheel.** There is not one way to go about impactful community development work. We offer these recommendations humbly based on what we have learned through our on-the-ground experiences. But this body of work is expansive and no practitioner can have all the answers. Seek help from other practitioners doing the work.

City-Level Recommendations

1. Fund organizations based on their demonstrated scale, capacity, and impact.
2. Fund capacity building for organizations that want to expand their scope and impact. This includes investments in administrative operations, systems, and strategic development.
3. Tolerate measured risks by utilizing pilot programs to test concepts.
4. Promote and incentivize collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders. This can be done through requiring partnerships in procurement and granting processes and weighting/valuing community partnerships in award criteria.



District Bridges' Multi-Main Street model is not the answer for every Main Street organization across the country. While there are limitations to the traditional Main Street model, those limitations do not hinder the success of Main Streets in many communities, particularly rural ones. However, in cities and neighborhoods where rapid displacement is occurring, the traditional Main Street model lacks the scale and capacity to combat these external factors. Cities and community development organizations that are committed to combating small business displacement must be ready to address these challenges. We believe that the replication of District Bridges' Multi-Main Street model can help other communities preserve their small businesses and neighborhood identity more effectively.

RETIRED, BUT NOT TIRED



When Hanging Holiday Lights Leads to a Lifelong Friendship

WRITTEN BY ANNA CLAIRE WALKER
DIRECTOR OF STORYTELLING & MARKETING

After retiring from her marketing position at a local social club, Sheila Katoff loved finding opportunities to volunteer and get involved in her neighborhood.

“Previously, a friend of mine actually ran Georgetown Citizens Association and I was involved with their Georgetown Main Street. One day I said to myself, **‘well why am I not involved in my own Main Street?’** because I really enjoyed that community outreach part of it but I didn’t live in Georgetown.”



Sheila actually lived a block away from her nearest Main Street program, Chevy Chase Main Street (CCMS), and took it upon herself to look for

ways to get involved closer to home. She saw the advertisement for a Volunteer Happy Hour and went to find out what kind of opportunities were available. In a little over a month, Sheila went from learning about the Main Street, to spending hours holding a rickety step stool steady as the Manager of CCMS was high in a tree hanging holiday lights!

After 27 years living on Connecticut Ave, Sheila said it’s begun to feel even more like a community. From helping decorate the corridor, hanging posters and signs around town for events, taking hundreds of photos for the Main Street, and joining the Neighborhood Strategy Council, Sheila has gotten to know many owners and staff of her local shops. Sheila shared that people recognize her now and it’s impacted her experience on the corridor.

“It’s really fun to go into businesses and not just shop, but also see your friends and the people you’ve gotten to know. It feels good. It gives you a sense of community, and it’s so good for you, I think, for a person, especially a person like me who is retired to be involved in community.”

Over the last year, she has donated over 50 hours of her time to planning and executing events and doing a variety of neighborhood projects. As soon as an announcement goes out about new volunteer opportunities, Sheila is the first to sign up for numerous time slots, and holds an impressive record of volunteering for 20 out of the 24 events held in Chevy Chase this year, and even one outside her neighborhood, the District Bridges Neon Party.



"I've really enjoyed getting to work with the people from District Bridges. Everyone is so creative and visionary; it's just been a wonderful experience to be around that group of people."

According to a study carried out by Independent Sector and the University of Maryland's Do Good Institute, the value of a volunteer's time in Washington DC in 2023 is a staggering \$50 an hour, which means that Sheila's impressive 50-hour contribution has a value of \$2500 to the organization. As organizations struggle to meet fundraising goals in a post-Covid landscape, committed volunteers have become even more vital to the success of community-based nonprofits. The Nonprofit Alliance reported in an early 2023 survey that only 37.5% of respondents expected to match their last year's fundraising results, most citing inflation and new donor acquisition as the largest challenges¹.

We can understand the trends in declining volunteer engagement and fundraising; the pandemic left a lot of people with lowered bandwidth for social interactions, and the cost of living in a city like DC means many people, even in more affluent areas like Chevy Chase, are living paycheck to paycheck. However, the consistent feedback from our volunteers is that when they start to get involved they find a sense of joy and connection, something many lost during the pandemic due to isolation. It can be easy to forget how good it feels to have that sense of belonging. This joy also has a cascading effect - connecting begetting connection.

Sheila is recruiting new friends to join in and volunteer with her, and she loves sharing stories and updates about how the community is growing more interesting and active.

"With every new business, with each event that is happening in the neighborhood...it's so good to see the community grow into something more and more. Just thinking of one of the Art Sound Language Showcases - **I love the fact that I can walk up the street on a Saturday night and get something to eat, get something to drink, and listen to incredible talent! Right in my neighborhood!** Two blocks away! It's just really fun."



"Everyone is so creative and visionary; it's just been a wonderful experience to be around that group of people."

¹Fundraising's Lowered Expectations For 2023. The Nonprofit Times. <https://thenonprofittimes.com/fundraising/fundraisings-lowered-expectations-for-2023/>



THE ENDANGERED ANIMALS PROJECT



Hays Spring Amphipod artwork
by Carolina Mayorga



WRITTEN BY CASSANDRA HETHERINGTON
MAIN STREET DIRECTOR, CLEVELAND PARK

Public art encourages people to move around a space differently and encourages them to engage with the world around them. This is just one of the reasons why Cleveland Park Main Street (CPMS), a program of District Bridges, has joined forces with Woodley Park Main Street (WPMS) and the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW) to bring ten new works of public art to the Connecticut Avenue NW corridor in Washington, DC.

This new series of sculptures will adorn ten light posts along Connecticut Avenue NW, specifically showcasing endangered species. The design focus came about because of the proximity to the National Zoo and their shared concern for the environment. The Endangered Animals Project combines an educational component with aesthetic excellence, celebrating local artists that will draw residents and visitors alike. In addition to the sculptures themselves, CHAW, CPMS, and WPMS have plans for the Endangered Animals Project to be the basis for more events and activities, such as an afternoon of live classical music at each lamp post.

This public art project is an outgrowth of a similar project on Capitol Hill. A father, out walking with his two children, used the single-lettered streets in his Capitol Hill neighborhood to teach them the alphabet. "K is for Kangaroo, B is for Butterfly" he

would often repeat to them. This inspired the idea to mount works of art on the lampposts and he approached CHAW about bringing the idea to life. Thus the Alphabet Animals came to exist in twenty unique locations across Capitol Hill, and art became a conduit for fostering community

In 2014, 10 sculptures were successfully installed through a pilot partnership with DDOT, and in 2020, another 10 joined the menagerie through a grant from the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities.

CPMS and WPMS hope that this public art series also has an economic impact, encouraging people to visit the small, local businesses that will surround the art. Businesses along Connecticut Avenue are still struggling to reach pre-pandemic profits as people's going-out habits have changed.

This project will encourage residents, business owners, artists, makers, and passersby to explore the interconnectivity of community through the entry point of unexpected encounters with high-quality art in public spaces, as well as introduce them to the importance of protecting the wild and wonderful world around us.

A TASTE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS: THE STORY OF LOS HERMANOS

WRITTEN BY PACO RAMOS MEYER
MAIN STREET MANAGER, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

As you pull open the door and the bell jingles announcing a new arrival, the first thing that hits your nose is the tantalizing aroma of pernil, Dominican-style slow-cooked pork. Stepping into the restaurant, you'll see most of the tables full and smatterings of conversation but most are occupied digging into their tasty and generous portions as merengue or bachata music plays in the background. You might hear three or four different languages as you approach the counter to order your food and you may mistake this for the lunch rush on a Friday, but it's 10:45 am on a Tuesday at Los Hermanos restaurant in Columbia Heights.

The most difficult part of your dining experience awaits as you have to choose between scrumptious Dominican staples cooked to perfection: whether it's arroz con gandules (rice with peas) stewed chicken, maduros (plantains),

empanadas, and if you like spice, you have to get the homemade habanero-based hot sauce! The story of Los Hermanos has been far from linear, but much like Columbia Heights, it's a tale of resilience, innovation, and adaptation with international flavor.

The story of Los Hermanos starts with a young married couple in the Cibao region of the Dominican Republic, also known as the Tierra del Cacao (Land of Cacao) for its prolific production of the key ingredient for making chocolate. Ramón and Mercedes Compres hatched a plan to get ahead and establish a better life for themselves and their future family by working in the US for some time to save up \$ 10,000 before moving back home. They came over in the early 80s at a time when DC was experiencing a wave of Salvadoran immigration and while there were fellow Spanish speakers in Columbia Heights

WELCOME

WE ARE

OPEN

and Mount Pleasant, Ramón and Mercedes were among the first Dominicans to move to the area.

Three kids and 13 years later, Ramón and Mercedes opened a bodega (small convenience store) for imported products from the Dominican Republic addressing a growing demand for these Latin American products in the Columbia Heights area. It was a hit, so much so, that after a few years, Ramón and Mercedes decided to take their teen children back to the Dominican Republic to make sure they were educated in Spanish and run their business from afar. This was a key experience for Raymond and Aris Compres who would soon be taking over the business and operating it bilingually.


Ramón fell ill shortly after the family returned to DC in the early 2000s and his twin sons Raymond and Aris, aged 16 years old, began to step up and do more of the day-to-day operations. This was already a budding, great story of a multi-generational, homegrown, Columbia Heights business. Still, they were about to experience a huge challenge that threatened to wipe out their business as the redevelopment of Columbia Heights in 2008 led to massive competition from big box stores right down the street.



RAMÓN COMPRES,
OWNER, LOS HERMANOS







However, Mercedes and Ramón were not prepared to throw in the towel, and the seeds for a potential pivot had already been planted. Aris recalls:

“Mom didn’t want us eating junk food so she would actually cook for us here. There wasn’t a stove so she had one of two-burner electrical, countertop stoves. She would cook for us and people would go crazy, ‘oh, what is that smell?!’, so my mom would give them a little bit of the food to taste, and that’s when she got the idea with my dad ‘let’s try to sell some food and see what happens.’”

Now, Aris and Raymond have opened a second location in DC: Mechos Kitchen in the Fort Lincoln area. They are the go-to food provider for the Dominican Embassy for the annual Around the World Embassy Tour, and have catered meals for the Washington Nationals as well as visiting pro baseball teams! Business is better than ever, something Aris still has to pinch himself to believe after the pandemic reduced revenue by over 60%.

Columbia Heights Main Street (CHMS), a program of District Bridges, has worked with local businesses such as Los Hermanos for 8 years. Identifying and supporting these culturally vital, legacy businesses is integral to our work to facilitate a stronger, better-connected, more vibrant neighborhood. In the past year, CHMS partnered with Los Hermanos to provide their special dishes to vulnerable residents in Columbia Heights through regular meal distributions.

Additionally, Aris and Raymond were accepted into the Skills DC Business Cohort - a pilot partnership between the Workforce Investment Council and District Bridges which both trained business owners on how to implement skills-based hiring and provided funds to support the implementation. Los Hermanos hired 80 full-time employees and their second business, Mechos Kitchen, has hired three using the learnings from the Skills DC pilot.

In a Columbia Heights often marked as transient and ever-changing sits a multicultural, multilingual, multi-generational gem of a business that has managed to adapt and succeed and added to the vibrancy and strength of the neighborhood. It’s an honor to get to support and highlight the stories of business owners like Aris and Raymond.





THIS VILLAGE IN THE CITY PACKS A TASTY PUNCH: MOUNT PLEASANT'S BURGEONING FOOD SCENE

WRITTEN BY PACO RAMOS MEYER
MAIN STREET MANAGER, MOUNT PLEASANT

Ting-a-ling-a-ling-a-ling, the sharp, clear sound of the bell announces the start of the Farmer's Market in Mount Pleasant. As you look around, you'll spot the vibrant oranges, reds, and greens of swiss chard among the assortment of other fresh products. The aroma of fresh-baked pastries and breads will draw neighbors who had just planned to go for a walk early on Saturday morning. Fresh flowers, potted seedlings, and fresh fruit draw neighbors and visitors alike to this weekly tradition. The manager of the Farmer's Market for the past ten years, Robert Frazier, announces the start and end of the market with a bell because locals would otherwise be so over-eager to make purchases that they buy things before the officially-permitted start time.

The **Mount Pleasant Farmer's Market** forms a small part in a local, ever-diversifying foodscape that tantalizes the taste buds of foodies and home chefs alike. For those looking to flex their culinary muscles at home, there are great local grocery stores that have been around for decades such as **Bestworld**, **Los Primos**, and **El Progreso**. All three are well-stocked with Central American staples such as tortillas, natilla (Central-American-style sour cream), and tropical fruit concentrates such as maracuyá (passion fruit). El Progreso, in the fashion of corner stores in Central America, keeps their avocados behind the till and will ask you when you are planning to use this delicate fruit before hand-picking one that will be ripe when you need it to be.

As you continue South down Mount Pleasant St., you will encounter **Each Peach**, with their hand-selected selection of top-quality proteins, produce, cured meats, drinks, grains, and sauces. If you're looking to make a special meal, the employees are well-versed in the attributes of the fares on offer. If you're looking to try your hand at a new cuisine, be sure to stop by two doors down at **Bold Fork Books**, which exclusively sells cookbooks!

For the mixologists, stop in at **Irving Wine & Liquor** and ask the owner Jesse for a recommendation; he is super-knowledgeable and always has new products on offer. Back on the north side of the corridor, owner Arun at **Sportsman's Wine & Liquor** always has a great wine recommendation.

Mount Pleasant has become more and more of a destination for those from outside of the area to come and eat, for all three meals of the day!

For breakfast, **La Tejana**, sporting its shiny new Michelin Guide Bib Gourmand, slings their homemade-flour-tortilla-wrapped, Texas-border-style tacos. The house-made salsas are so good, you'll want to buy chips just to eat the rest of them. The other standout breakfast option, **Elle**, also has a well-deserved Bib Gourmand of their own. Their breakfast sandwich on their homemade potato rolls will leave you wondering if you should order another (you should). That's not to mention their excellent, housemade baked sourdough loaves, and guava turnovers. Even though



they are a cafe during the day, they moonlight as a sit-down restaurant with a great tasting menu to go with well-crafted cocktails.

In the evening, you are spoiled for choice with Latino-owned legacy businesses such as **Don Juan's**, **Corados**, **Haydee's**, and **Marx Café**. There are also a few newcomers on the Main Street that have been getting locals excited: **Del Monte** is hyped because it's from the son of the family that founded Obelisk & 2 Amys; **Joia Burger**, a much-anticipated smash-burger joint from Purple Patch's Patrice Cleary, and Il Supremo with its excellent homemade pasta.

How to choose between those options and some of the established spots such as **Purple Patch**, Tom Sietsema of the Post's favorite restaurant of 2023? If you are interested in Thai, look no further than **Beau Thai**; their offerings come from family recipes that pack a huge punch of flavor. **Martha Dear** has amazing Neapolitan Pizza that is worth the wait.

BARS & CAFÉS

BIB GOURMAND AWARDEES

BREAKFAST SPOTS

COOKBOOK BOOK STORE

FARMER'S MARKET

ICE CREAM & DESSERT SPOTS

LATINO-OWNED LEGACY BUSINESSES

LIQUOR STORES

LOCAL GROCERS

PIZZA PARLORS

SOUTHEAST ASIAN CUISINE

For dessert, right next to Martha Dear, is some of the top-rated ice cream in the DMV at **Mount Desert Island Ice Cream**. If you prefer top-notch craft cocktail for dessert, check out the intimate, speakeasy setting at OKPB...if you can find it. All in all, Mount Pleasant has an embarrassment of culinary riches that have increasingly drawn visitors from outside the neighborhood.

What role does the Main Street Program play in all of this feasting? Over the years, the Columbia Heights & Mount Pleasant Main Street has supported all of these businesses through direct Technical Assistance, events, networking, and grants. For example, when CVS was poised to take over the location where Best World is, the Main Street stepped in and mediated with the business owner and residents to retain this important business for the neighborhood. At Art All Night Mount Pleasant, District Bridges and Main Street

organized a massively successful event that drew around 10,000 visitors to the corridor and organized 80+ vendors. Beau Thai and Marx Cafe both saw their biggest sales night ever.

All of the streatory permits were taken out by the Maint Street allowing the restaurants to expand seating outside for those nice DC evenings and allowing the businesses to stay afloat during the pandemic. Both **Dos Gringos** and La Tejana were recipients of Small Business Grants in 2023, which allowed them to fix their Air Conditioning systems, making working in the narrow Mount Pleasant kitchens a lot more manageable in the heat of the Summer.

The life of a foodie in Mount Pleasant has never been better, and the Mount Pleasant Main Street Program is here for it!





IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO BE:

THE STORY OF

WRITTEN BY MICHELE MOLOTSKY
MAIN STREET DIRECTOR, LOGAN CIRCLE

Katrina Hill Lamb opened Trina's Hair Gallery 27 years ago at 1843 14th Street NW. It is not an overstatement to say Katrina's seen a lot of changes in Logan Circle! When Katrina first opened her salon, she operated out of the building's basement and all her business documentation was completed on paper - actual forms she had to run around to various agencies so she could start her small business.

Like the neighborhood, business compliance has changed quite a bit in almost three decades. For legacy business owners like Katrina, moving to a digital government environment can be daunting and convoluted. This was even more exacerbated during the pandemic when guidelines were changing almost daily.

Salons were particularly hard hit as there are no workarounds for haircuts. Salons didn't have the option of streateries, delivery, or e-commerce.

Katrina did what many business owners did, turning to the Small Business Administration (SBA) and applying for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). However, Katrina's applications were being denied without an adequate explanation. That's where Logan Circle Main Street (LCMS), a program of District Bridges, stepped in to help.

Michele, the Main Street Director for Logan Circle, was able to use her contacts at the SBA and discover that Katrina's applications were being denied because she was incorporated as an owner/operator with employees. However,



KATARINA HILL LAMB
OWNER, TRINA'S HAIR GALLERY



TRINA'S HAIR GALLERY

her business model at the time had the stylists as independent contractors renting booths. This left Trina's Hair Gallery ineligible for PPP.

With no rent coming in from other stylists, and no hope of relief, Katrina was starting to think about closing her business. "I wanted to give up," she shared. Fortunately, District Bridges was able to help again, working with Katrina to restructure her business and get her back in compliance.

"Everything I did was the old way because I've been here so long. I would be lost because I didn't have a clue how to start because I did it so long ago and so many licenses have been added on," Katrina said. "Now everything is good. Everything is smooth."

Katrina was also able to take advantage of the LCMS small business grant program to install a new sign and hand-washing sinks to comply with

DC's salon guidelines. Now, Katrina is happy she persevered and kept Trina's Hair Gallery open. She shared, "I like [seeing the stylists'] growth, I've seen them get married, have kids, buy homes, go to school. I try to stay because of them. They're doing so well."

In the District Bridges Theory of Change, one of our ultimate outcomes is sustainable and self-determined small businesses and residents. As demonstrated through this story, our work is to ensure that business owners like Katrina can see a choice about how and if they want their business to continue. We're not here to keep every business open, but we can create space for resilience and courage to shine. "I can't let this place go," Katrina said. "It's just beautiful. It's a good place to be."





AFRICA ON THE AVENUE

As the city began to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Lower Georgia Avenue Main Street, a program of District Bridges, brainstormed new ways to highlight the diversity and history of the corridor. In surveying the businesses, there was one rather large demographic that was consistently excluded from conversations and promotions - African immigrants.

And it isn't just Georgia Avenue. According to the Embassy of Ethiopia, DC has the largest ethnic Ethiopian community outside of Africa. The U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey estimated that 15% of black African immigrants in the United States have settled in the Washington metropolitan area. George Mason University's Institute for Immigration Research estimates that the number of immigrants from Africa living in the Washington, DC Metro Area has increased by 43% in the past 10 years.

Along Lower Georgia Avenue Main Street there are more than 25 businesses owned by African immigrants, hailing from Ethiopia, Senegal, Cameroon, Mali, Ghana, and more. This sparked internal research and discussions, ultimately

manifesting in the inaugural Africa on the Avenue festival on May 20, 2023.

The event aimed to specifically highlight the unique African diaspora along the Lower Georgia Avenue corridor. Partnering with the Mayor's Office of African Affairs (MOAA), I am Immigrant, UIP, and WPFM, Africa on the Avenue hosted 25 African vendors and showcased performers from West Africa, Malia, Nigeria, and Ethiopia, live readings from Sankofa, and educational kid's activities.

Hosting free, inclusive events is just one of the ways that District Bridges works to foster equitable neighborhoods, as we work to ensure that businesses and residents can thrive together.

WRITTEN BY ASHLEY EDWARDS
EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT
MANAGER, WARD 1



"For every dollar spent at a local business, nearly 67 cents stays within the community. This contrasts starkly with the mere 43 cents that remain when the same dollar is spent at a non-local business."



THE POWER OF SPENDING LOCAL

From supporting small businesses to fostering a sense of community pride, the benefits of keeping our money close to home are immeasurable. Let's explore the importance of spending dollars in the community and delve into the transformative power of local investments, with a special focus on the vibrant U Street corridor.

When we choose to spend our dollars at small, local businesses, we contribute to a powerful economic ripple effect. Unlike large corporations that often funnel profits out of the community, independent businesses tend to circulate a more significant portion of their revenue locally. This circulation creates a cycle of growth, as these businesses hire local employees, purchase goods and services from nearby suppliers, and pay taxes that support community services and infrastructure.

According to a study by the American Independent Business Alliance, for every dollar spent at a local business, nearly 67 cents stays within the community. This contrasts starkly with the mere 43 cents that remain when the same dollar is spent at a non-local business. This economic retention directly translates to improved job opportunities, increased income, and enhanced community services.

Local businesses are the heartbeat of a community, contributing to its unique character and fostering a sense of identity. By patronizing these establishments, residents actively participate in shaping the distinctive culture of their neighborhoods. Whether it's the local coffee shop where neighbors gather like Brew on U, the bookstore that hosts community events like Busboys & Poets, or the family-owned restaurant serving generations like Ben's Chili Bowl, these businesses create a shared narrative that binds residents together.

U Street Main Street, a program of District Bridges, is committed to championing local investment in the historic U Street neighborhood. Once known as "Black Broadway" due to its thriving African American arts and culture scene, U Street has faced many challenges and experienced a changing landscape.

Residents of the U Street community have the power to invest in their neighborhood and support local businesses, ranging from boutiques like Zawadi to restaurants like JoJo's, and art galleries like Hamiltonian Artists. The support of community spending will not only sustain existing businesses but will attract new entrepreneurs, fostering a diverse and dynamic economic landscape.

The positive impact of local spending extends beyond economic factors. When dollars are invested locally, municipalities experience increased tax revenue, allowing for improvements to infrastructure and public spaces. Well-maintained streets, parks, and community facilities enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

By consciously directing our dollars toward local businesses, we contribute to a thriving and interconnected community. Let the U Street corridor stand as a testament to the transformative effects of local investments, showcasing how the collective support of residents can breathe life into a neighborhood and create a legacy of resilience and growth.

WRITTEN BY LINDAY HICKS
MAIN STREET MANAGER, U STREET

A CIVIC PLAZA FOR ALL

A Pilot Project at Three Years

On September 12, 2023, District Bridges hosted The Columbia Heights Civic Plaza Connective Services Pilot Report event at the historic Gala Theatre. More than 60 guests gathered to listen to a panel discussion moderated by District Bridges' Executive Director, Brianne Dornbush.

The panel featured Sara Rockefeller, DB Community Navigator & Report Author; Dario Martinez, DB Director of Community Navigation; Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember; Alexis Mapes, Director, DC Community Response Team; Virginia Reid, Deputy Regional Director, Rap / Gaudenzia; and Andrew Wassenich, Assistant Director of Outreach, Miriam's Kitchen. The presentation and panel shared a summary of the Report, which featured information gathered and lessons learned during a pilot program at the Columbia Heights Civic Plaza between October 2021 and February 2023.

The pilot project sought to understand the ecosystem of the Plaza from both a place-based space management lens - that is, all physical elements related to the use and usability of the space - as well as from a human-centric, social services perspective, which considers the needs of Ward 1 residents who currently use the space. The report reflects a collaborative effort of direct and indirect input from over 62 stakeholders, gathered during an intensive 18-month research and implementation phase. Data, experiences, and recommendations were derived from outreach, coalition meetings, public forums, surveying, interviews, site visits, collaborative projects, and general community engagement.

WRITTEN BY BRIANNE DORNBUSH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The report made several important contributions: (1) identifying the gaps and strengths that contribute to the current ecosystem of the Civic Plaza; (2) putting forth recommendations for ways that the city can better address the challenges faced by the Civic Plaza as a public space and the needs of many who currently use the space; and (3) proposing additional ways forward through continued grassroots interventions.

With the report, District Bridges strove to:

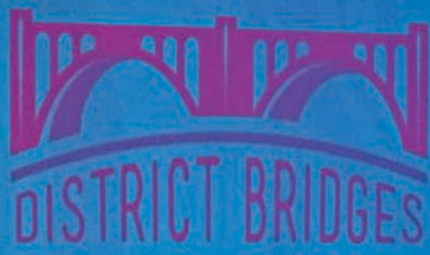
- Provide a summary background of the work undertaken during the Civic Plaza For All program pilot, including successful interventions and lessons learned;
- Provide insight and information to be used in the planning of public realm revitalization and programming;
- Present an innovative community navigation model that integrates outreach, case management, and partner engagement targeted to address the specific needs of Ward 1 residents;
- Inform future advocacy efforts for the expansion of specific services for Ward 1 residents based on identified barriers to access and collective stakeholder input;
- Share information and strategies useful to community partners currently working with Ward 1 residents experiencing substance use disorder, mental health challenges and housing insecurity;
- Encourage continued momentum and increased communication and collaboration of community partners and city agencies towards a stronger, more connected local ecosystem;
- Invite questions and discussion between residents and other Ward 1 stakeholders who are curious about their neighborhood.





Based on the research, data collected, and extensive interviews and conversations with stakeholders that formed the coalitions and working groups throughout the pilot, **District Bridges identified the following recommendations:**

- The establishment of a public-private partnership to increase the capacity of community based organizations to engage in and fund the most crucial elements of the development of the neighborhood ecosystem;
- Capital improvements to the key elements of the Civic Plaza public realm, namely replacement of the splash-pad fountain mechanism, stabilization or removal of the damaged solar panels, the addition of a drinking water fountain and shade features;
- Targeted research on incidence of fatalities attributable to chronic alcohol use disorder in the District;
- A targeted bilingual public education and prevention campaign specific to alcohol use and alcohol use disorder;
- Robust support for the University of the District of Columbia's Social Work program with incentives to work in the District during and after graduation;
- Development of well-resourced training programs in outreach and social service provision at local high schools and community colleges, with an emphasis on bilingual outreach;
- Expanded funding to increase the number of community navigators engaged in targeted outreach with Ward 1 residents;
- A shift toward an integrated outreach and case management model for DHB and DHS providers engaged in SUD and housing; and
- A stronger accountability mechanism for DBH contract providers.



Panel Discussion



Scan to read the full report.



COMMUNITY NAVIGATION A DAY IN THE LIFE

WRITTEN BY DARIO MARTINEZ
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY NAVIGATION

Let me share a remarkable story with you – it's all about Tony, and trust me, it's not the Tony Montana you're thinking of from Scarface. This Tony has a different story to tell, one of resilience, recovery, and a community coming together to make a difference.

Our first encounter with Tony happened after he spent a few weeks at the Regional Addiction Program (RAP). Colleagues before us had crossed paths with him, and by the time we met him, he'd proudly embraced sobriety for a few months. Tony opened up about his experience with AA meetings, expressing frustration with the folks running them for being a tad disrespectful. He couldn't wrap his head around how people seeking help could be treated that way. Fortunately, the trust had already been built, thanks to our colleagues' groundwork.

Mr. Tony, not Montana, had been facing the harsh reality of sleeping outdoors in neighborhood parks

or finding refuge at the Salvation Army shelter. Mental health challenges and alcohol use disorder made it tough for him to secure stable housing, but he knew we were there to help. Without missing a beat, he reached out, concerned that his time at the treatment center was running out.

Having successfully completed in-patient rehab at RAP, Tony faithfully attended AA group meetings on Columbia Rd, marking a positive step in his journey. Building on our previous contact, we established trust and connected him with Miriam's Kitchen, kicking off a waiting game that would change his life.

Tony's relationship with the directors and case workers at RAP worked in his favor, granting him an extended stay. Teaming up with Miriam's Kitchen, we managed to secure transitional housing for Tony on Park Rd. Through this partnership, he obtained a housing case manager, a housing voucher, and assistance in the apartment search – including a few on-site visits. Now, he's matched with an apartment, eagerly awaiting inspection approval to sign the lease and make it his home.



While Tony transitions to permanent supportive housing, we've also helped him navigate the identification maze. Coordinating with Calvin House/RAP, we ensured he got his passport and his DUI, Unique Identity Document from the Consulate of El Salvador (not a DUI in the traditional sense). A trip to the DMV resulted in a Washington, DC ID, all while waiting for green card renewal, social security number reinstatement, and work permit.

With documentation secured, we jumped into action – job applications, workforce development sites, and English studies at Carlos Rosario. Tony, not Montana, landed a part-time job at a local gym and has his sights set on a full-time position. But Tony's journey has been no walk in the park. Battling substance abuse, estrangement from family, and legal troubles, he faced anxiety, paranoia, and depression. Seeking therapy became a priority, and Tony is now actively working on rebuilding ties with his family. His legal issues are being addressed, with hopes of getting his driver's license and reopening his jewelry business.

Medical appointments, including visits to Howard University Hospital, ensured Tony received the care he needed, from dental work to other treatments. As we'd see him passing through the plaza on his way to AA, we'd chat about his progress and future plans. During apartment visits, he'd share his excitement about Thanksgiving and all the cooking he'd be doing in his new kitchen.

Tony, not Montana, has come a long way – from sobriety and housing to counseling and employment. Although his road remains long, our commitment to supporting him in the ecosystem he has built around him remains steadfast. Keep going, Tony – your triumph is an inspiration to us all!



WARD 3

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ECOSYSTEM PILOT

WRITTEN BY BRIANNE DORNBUSH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
& GLADYS KAMAU
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & POLICY

In 2022, District Bridges launched the Ward 3 Economic Development Ecosystem Pilot using funding from the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD), the DC Workforce Investment Council (WIC), and the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The concept for the pilot was developed in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when District Bridges was regularly receiving outreach from businesses outside of Main Street boundaries that were looking for support in navigating the constantly changing safety regulations and emergency grant opportunities.

During the public emergency, District Bridges supported many of these businesses by establishing streateries, applying for emergency grant programs, and helping businesses navigate the changing regulations, but as the pandemic restrictions eased we could not sustain providing the same support without dedicated funding.

The concept for the pilot was shared with then Councilmember Mary Cheh in 2021 and the one-year pilot was funded in the following fiscal year. For over twenty years, the District has relied on two models for place-based economic development, namely the Main Streets and Business Improvement Districts. The pandemic revealed the inequity and gaps in DC's current economic development strategy. During the pandemic, many of the businesses that reached out to us were located in areas that did not have a Main Street program, and in some cases, while they were in a BID boundary BIDs traditionally do not provide direct technical assistance. While the Main Street and BID models have served an important role in shaping the economic landscape of the city, the pandemic revealed how vulnerable businesses are and the gaps that lie within the current ecosystem regarding supporting small businesses in the District.



In a post-pandemic world where businesses are still struggling to recover, DC needs to look to innovate its models for economic development to promote greater accessibility, equity, and inclusion.

Ward 3 is home to the largest concentration of place-based economic development organizations with seven established Main Street programs and a newly formed Business Improvement District. Despite the concentration of dedicated support organizations, there are still 374 businesses that fall outside a Main Street boundary in the ward and therefore do not have access to an organization dedicated to providing direct technical assistance to them.

The Ward 3 Economic Development Ecosystem Pilot sought to imagine how a holistic approach to economic development could leverage the existing stakeholders within Ward 3, layer business support resources, address service gaps, and increase the collective capacity and impact of the existing stakeholders resulting in better, more sustainable economic outcomes for the Ward.

As an organization, District Bridges has launched or relaunched seven Main Street programs, setting us apart as a leading expert in the establishment of these types of initiatives, as well as in the provision of direct technical assistance support to small businesses. While the intended goal of this pilot was not to launch a new Main Street, many of the strategies used to launch successful Main Street programs enabled the successful execution of this pilot. Through the years of managing Main Street programs, District Bridges has developed a holistic relational

approach that utilizes tools we have developed to build trust, assess needs, and align support and resources to help businesses realize their individual business goals.

District Bridges strongly believes in making data-based decisions which is why the first two quarters of the pilot period were dedicated to conducting outreach and collecting data to understand the economic landscape so that the interventions implemented during the pilot and recommendations for the future would be backed by accurate and current data.

Many of the challenges identified in the pilot were not unique to Ward 3 businesses. Businesses in every ward of the District and every established Main Street face many of the same issues. However, what the pilot did reveal, is that those businesses within a Main Street program have opportunities and resources that businesses outside a Main Street do not. The DC Policy Center states that there are **37,000 small businesses in the District with 50 employees or less**. Currently, the **28 DC Main Street programs only serve 3,700 of those businesses**. For a business in a Main Street corridor, the opportunity for annual grants and regular support can mean the difference in tens of thousands of dollars in direct investment to their business. For those businesses outside of a Main Street, they are left to navigate the ecosystem on their own, trying to figure out what resources are the best fit for them.

While the pilot was able to support the 374 businesses outside of the Ward 3 Main Street boundaries, other aspects of the pilot were not successful. Most significantly, we were not





Scan to
read the
full report.

able to build deeper collaboration among the existing economic development organizations. As the ecosystem currently exists, the existing organizations operate as competitors. This is a result of how DC government agencies, like DSLBD, currently establish, fund, and manage economic development programs like the Main Streets. In fact, in the course of this pilot, DSLBD included language in the grant agreement that

restricted us from working with any other Main Street, ultimately prohibiting us from fulfilling the ultimate purpose of the pilot. This demonstrated a lack of understanding how a healthy ecosystem should operate, the waste that results from missed collaboration, and the isolation created both for organizations and businesses through this siloed approach.

Our case study makes several key recommendations that we believe would go a long way in **strengthening the economic development ecosystem in the District:**

- Reimage place management boundaries to ensure all businesses in the District have access to the same resources;
- Restructuring Main Street funding based on the number of businesses covered within a boundary to ensure more equitable access to financial investment for businesses;
- Promote/Incentivize collaborations and tying economic development organizations;
- Conduct comprehensive program analysis of existing economic development organizations to understand their individual and collective impact and opportunities for greater impact through collective action; and
- Invest in small business support infrastructure including data management systems, additional funding for staff, city-level marketing at existing programs.

As our city continues to reimagine our economic future, small businesses need to be central to that vision, supporting and building the capacity of organizations that are investing in small businesses needs to be a central focus to make that happen.

SKILLS DC

PANEL DISCUSSION

0000



INNOVATING TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE NEW WORKFORCE ECOSYSTEM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

WRITTEN BY BRIANNE DORNBUSH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
& **MADELEINE ODENDAHL**
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically reshaped the workforce ecosystem in Washington, DC, and across the country. As the DC business community has pursued recovery, the persistent challenge many have faced is the worker shortage in every sector. Chronic understaffing and high employee turnover continue to stifle business recovery. In response to this unprecedented need, the DC Workforce Investment Council (WIC) released the Talent Development Technical Assistance (TDTA) RFP in the fall of 2022. The purpose of the grant was to support Washington, DC employers in adopting inclusive hiring and talent development practices in their businesses to help meet the unprecedented employment demand.

District Bridges was selected as the implementation partner for the TDTA pilot program, to support the WIC in developing a suite of business-facing trainings and resources. This was particularly exciting for District Bridges as an opportunity to leverage Access Point to ensure that the trainings developed through the pilot would be available to businesses long into the future. The funding from WIC also enabled us to implement and test new capabilities and applications for Access Point.

Through the grant period, some key highlights of the TDTA pilot included:

- **Disseminating the TDTA business survey and recruiting cohort members by leveraging the relationships and reach of 17 Main Street outreach partners to 3,167 businesses;**
- **Implementing District Bridges’ custom-built Salesforce instance with all outreach partners to standardize data collection, reporting, and build the foundation for the Access Point partner platform, strengthening the small business support ecosystem;**
- **Developing 5 Skills-Based Hiring courses and associated workbook within the “Skills-Based Hiring Module” on Access Point, also available on the WIC’s website;**
- **Establishing a cohort of 60 businesses that participated in reviewing, testing, and providing feedback about the program, the trainings, and the accompanying resources.**
- **Launching an API integration between AccessPointDC.com and DC’s open source data enabling the Access Point platform to directly pull business data into the platform to create robust business profiles which will enable partners to have a greater understanding of the businesses accessing content in the future.**
- **Testing the Access Point cohort capability to enable participants and administrators to interact with each other, ask questions, and engage within the platform;**
- **Finalizing the beta testing for the partner platform which will enable the WIC and other partners to track granular data on the courses’ reach and engagement beyond the grant period;**
- **Hosting a Business Summit to formally launch the developed courses and create a networking opportunity for businesses and workforce partners; and**
- **Developing a train-the-trainer video training, slide deck, and training guide to support workforce development partners and the WIC team in supporting businesses in utilizing the tools and adopting skills-based hiring practices.**

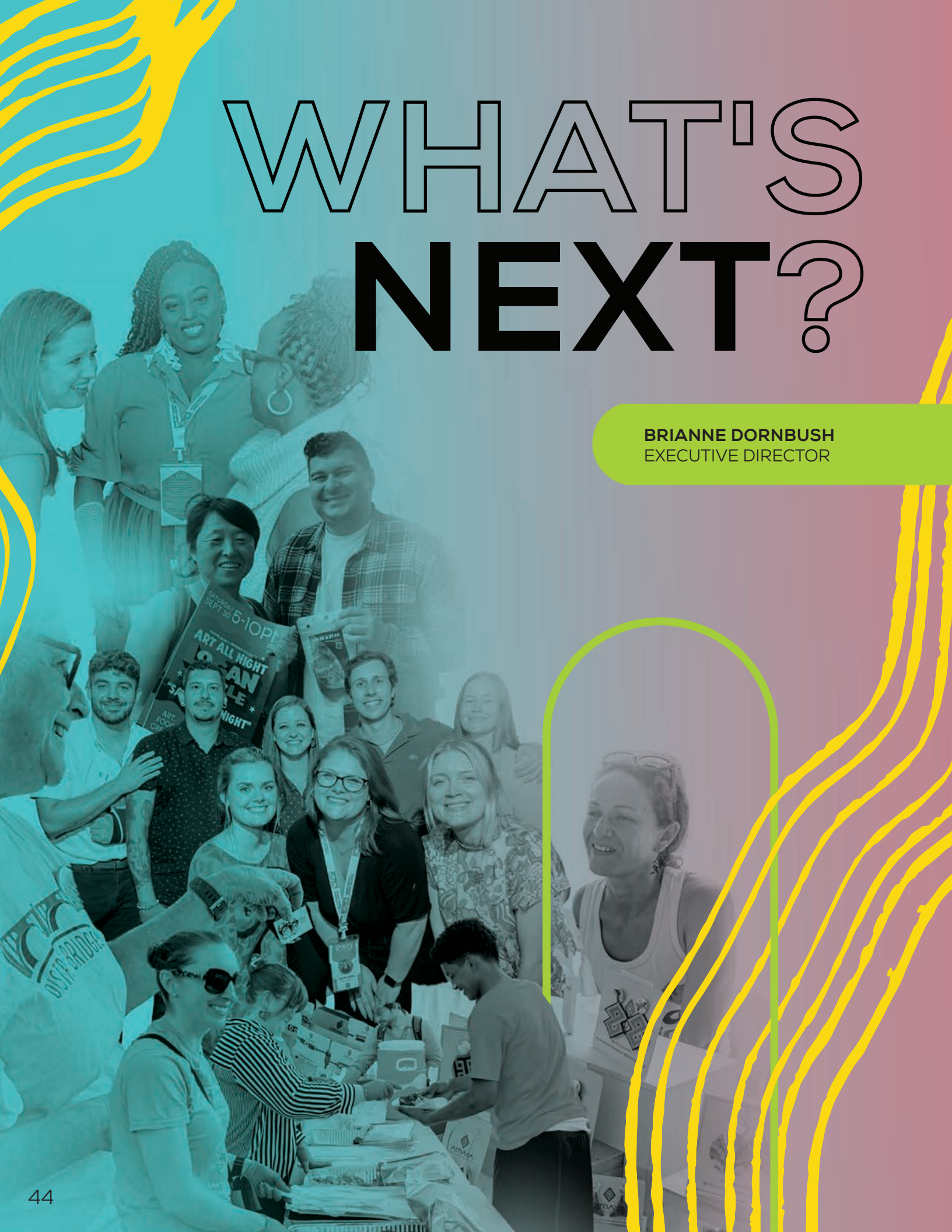
The Talent Development Technical Assistance Pilot was a success and much was learned. However, perhaps most notable is the desire of businesses here in the District to adopt skills-based, inclusive hiring practices. Fundamentally, we see the business community bought into the values that underpin the skills-based hiring approach and recognize the value for their businesses and the greater workforce system in DC. This pilot was only one piece of a larger puzzle, but with the tools and resources developed the DC WIC will be able to continue its work of investing in the DC workforce system and helping our city achieve its ambitious economic goals.



Scan to read the full report.

WHAT'S NEXT?

BRIANNE DORNBUSH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





We opened this publication by describing what it means for us to be a values-driven organization. We hope that each story that we've shared from the last year has illuminated how the values we claim are lived out in our work. What's next in 2024 is even more of that!

In the coming year, we are digging deeper into living out our value of "Story".

It is easy to talk about what you plan to do and make promises. It is much harder to follow through. Follow-through requires work, patience, and compromise. It requires the vulnerability to be honest about your capacity and limitations. The humility to take ownership and responsibility when you've been wrong or made a mistake and the willingness to make it right. It requires an unwavering commitment to accountability and transparency. People and communities need to see that your word and your promises match your actions. Better telling our story enables us to be more transparent and accountable to the

communities we serve. Not only that, effective storytelling invites people into our story. Our story is also your story.

Whether you are a business owner who is trying to navigate the challenges of running a small business, a new resident looking to make friends and build community, or a community member in need of help or support through a tough life circumstance as we intentionally tell our story, we hope that those that see it will feel connected, seen, and welcomed to the table.

We believe that thriving communities are connected communities. Over the next year, you are going to see District Bridges telling our story in new and exciting ways. This focus is also an invitation to you, to come connect and engage.

Let's write a story together about what it means to thrive in equitable, resilient, and connected communities here in DC and beyond.

OUR STORY

District Bridges was born out of a collaborative grassroots effort, known as the Columbia Heights Initiative (CHI). CHI started as a group of neighbors who shared a vision for preserving the cultural diversity that made Columbia Heights vibrant while also celebrating local businesses and building a more inclusive and connected community! In 2005, these founding members organized the first Columbia Heights Day Festival.

After ten years, the CHI board set out to develop an organization that could serve the community year-round, laying the foundation for what District Bridges has become today. Since then, District Bridges became the first multi-Main Street model in the country, now managing six of DC's 28 Main Street programs. Through these programs, we support community-based economic development serving over 1,000 small businesses across Washington, DC.



OUR TEAM

ALEJANDRO DUQUE

Community Navigator, Ward 1

ANNA CLAIRE WALKER

Director of Storytelling & Marketing

ASHLEY EDWARDS

Events & Engagement Manager, Ward 1

BRIANNE DORNBUSH

Executive Director

CARMEN ELENEA THORPE

Community Navigator, Ward 1

CAROLINA BUITRAGO

Director of Programming

CARRIE DAVIS

Operations Manager

CASSANDRA HETHERINGTON

Main Street Director, Cleveland Park

CHELLEE WALKER

Main Street Manager, Lower Georgia Avenue

GLADYS KAMAU

Senior Director of Economic Development & Policy

DARIO MARTINEZ

Director, Community Navigation

ELIANA RONDON

Community Navigator, Ward 1

FRANCISCO RAMOS-MEYER

Main Street Manager,
Columbia Heights & Mount Pleasant



JEREMIAH O'BRYANT

Technical Assistance Coordinator

LINDSAY HICKS

Main Street Manager, U Street

MADELEINE ODENDAHL

Deputy Director

MADIHA SOHANI

Community Navigator, Ward 1

MICHELE MOLOTSKY

Main Street Director, Logan Circle

OLIVIA OSBORNE

Events & Engagement Manager, Wards 2 & 3

RACHEL MOWERY

Main Street Manager, Chevy Chase

OUR BOARD

ANDY STEINEM

Chair

LIZ FURGUSON

Treasurer

DAVID DESANTIS

Member

DOMINIQUE PETERSON

Member

KATY CHANG

Member

MATT LAPIN

Member

DISTRICT BRIDGES

Statement of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2023

ASSETS

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$490,437.00
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$5,574.00
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	\$6,295.02
TOTAL ASSETS	\$502,306.02

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$971,866.10
TOTAL EQUITY	\$106,073.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$1,077,939.16

EXPENSES

PROGRAMMING 86%

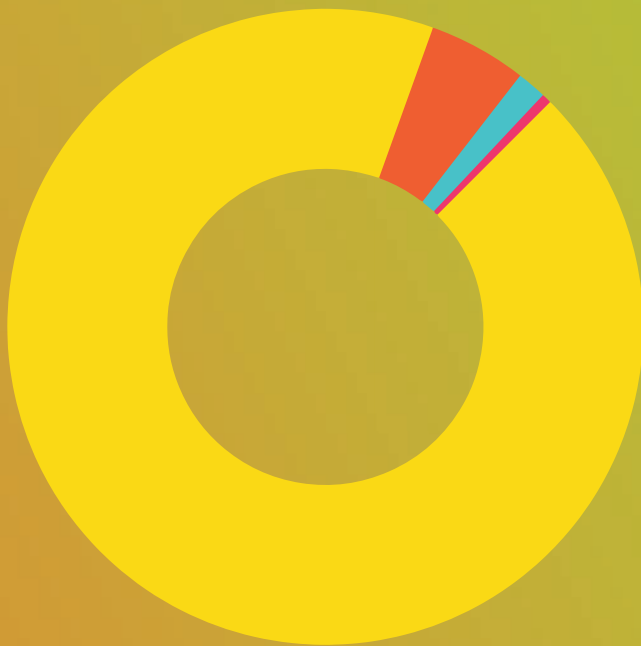
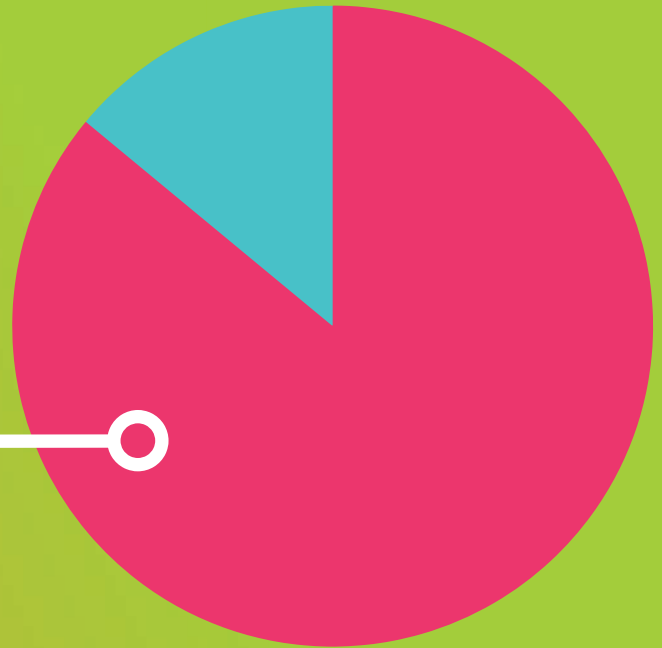
ADMINISTRATION 14%

36% OF PROGRAMMATIC
EXPENSES RETURN TO OUR ECOSYSTEM

PARTNERS 7%

SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS 19%

EVENTS 10%



REVENUE

GOVERNMENTAL GRANTS 93%

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS 5%

EARNED REVENUE 1.5%

OTHER TYPES OF INCOME 0.5%

DONORS

\$1,000,000+

DEPARTMENT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

\$500,000-\$1,000,000

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL

\$25,000 - \$49,999

AMAZON

\$5,000 - \$24,999

ANDY STEINEM
LYFT
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF LATINO AFFAIRS - MOLA

\$1,000-\$4,999

ALL FIRED UP
ANC 1A
ANNE CRISTALDI
DAVID DESANTIS
DISTRICT CHURCH

ELIZABETH FURGURSON
GEORGETOWN MAIN STREET
THE HEIGHTS COUNSELING, LLC
LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MATT LAPIN
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS

\$500-\$999

ASANA PARTNERS
BOND VET
CAPTAIN COOKIE & THE MILKMAN
CHILD'S PLAY TOYS AND BOOKS
DC SQUARED
ESTADIO (C)
HARD HAT DIPLOMAT
CASSANDRA HETHERINGTON
HORNING BROTHERS

LAFAYETTE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
LEGACY DC
LISA RESCH
LOGAN CIRCLE COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
MARGOT'S CHAIR, INC.
CRISTIAN SALGADO
ROBERT WARD

<\$499

BOBBY BOONE
LEO BOSNER
JAY BUTLER
ROBERT CAMPUZANO
MATHILDA COX
PHIL AND KAREN DAVIS
LISA DIENER
FERRALL DIETRICH
PETER DUDKA
LINDA FAUPEL
MATT FRUMIN
REBECCA FUNK
GIANT FOOD
THOMAS HARDY
CARLY HAWKINS
JESSICA HAYNES
SIDNEY HERSHEY
RICHARD HULL
BLAKELY JARRETT
REBECCA KNOOIHUIZEN
BARBARA KRAFT
MAX KULLER
SEAN LEWSI-FAUPEL

MONICA MACADAMS
EMILY MAGEE
WILL MCAULIFFE
LORNA NOTSCH
ORANGETHEORY
JEMIMA OSO
SUSAN PATRICK
JUDITH PERES
ROSE PREVITE
NAOMI PRINTZ
QNQ CLEANERS
CAROLINE QUEEN
LISA RESCH
ALLISON RHYNE
JONATHAN AND DANA RICE
TRACY ROSSIN
SHARON SENS
WILLIAM STEHENS
MALLIKA SUBANDH
ANGELA TITONE
ANDREA VIERA
PIXIE WINDSOR
DAVID WINER

THANK YOU TO OUR FY23 PARTNERS

DISTRICT BRIDGES IS GRATEFUL FOR **54 ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS** THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR

A FEW COOL HARDWARE STORES

ANC 1A

ANC 1E

ANC 3/4G

ANC 3A

BARRACK ROW MAIN STREET

CAPITOL HILL ARTS WORKSHOP

CHEVY CHASE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

COALITION FOR NONPROFIT HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CNHED)

DBH

DC BAR PRO BONO

DC COUNCILMEMBERS WARD 1

DC COUNCILMEMBERS WARD 2

DC COUNCILMEMBERS WARD 3

DC MEDIATION

DC PEACE TEAM

EASTERN MARKET MAIN STREET

FEDERAL CITY

FEMS

FRESHFARM

FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE CIRCLE

FRIENDS OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT
LIBRARY

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS ALLIANCE BID

GALA THEATER

GEORGETOWN MAIN STREET

GLOVER PARK MAIN STREET

H STREET MAIN STREET

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER
(LEDC)

LAYC

LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE CHEVY CHASE
CIRCLE

LONG LIVE GOGO

MAIN STREET AMERICA

MIRIAM'S KITCHEN

MPD

PALISADES MAIN STREET

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE EAST MAIN STREET

PETWORTH MAIN STREET

PIW

RAP

RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

SHAW MAIN STREET

SMALL BUSINESS ANTI-DISPLACEMENT
NETWORK (SBAN)

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

TENLEYTOWN MAIN STREET

THE PARKS MAIN STREET

THRIVE

TURNING THE PAGE

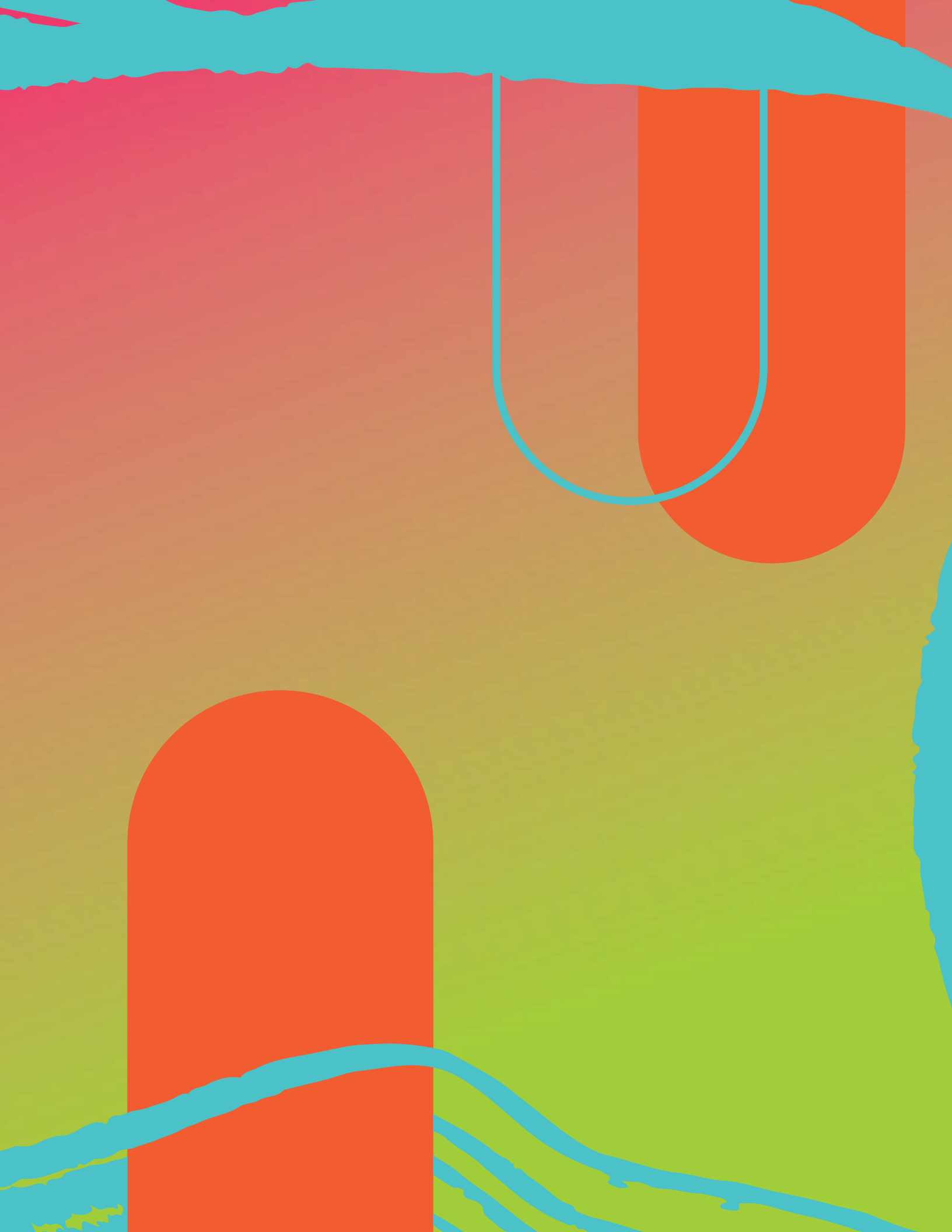
UNITY HEALTHCARE

UPPER GEORGIA AVENUE MAIN STREET

UPTOWN MAIN STREET

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

WOODLEY PARK MAIN STREET





DISTRICT BRIDGES
3400 11TH ST NW SUITE 200, WASHINGTON, DC 20010
WWW.DISTRICTBRIDGES.ORG
2024