



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



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

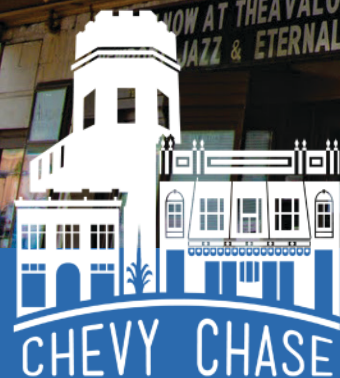
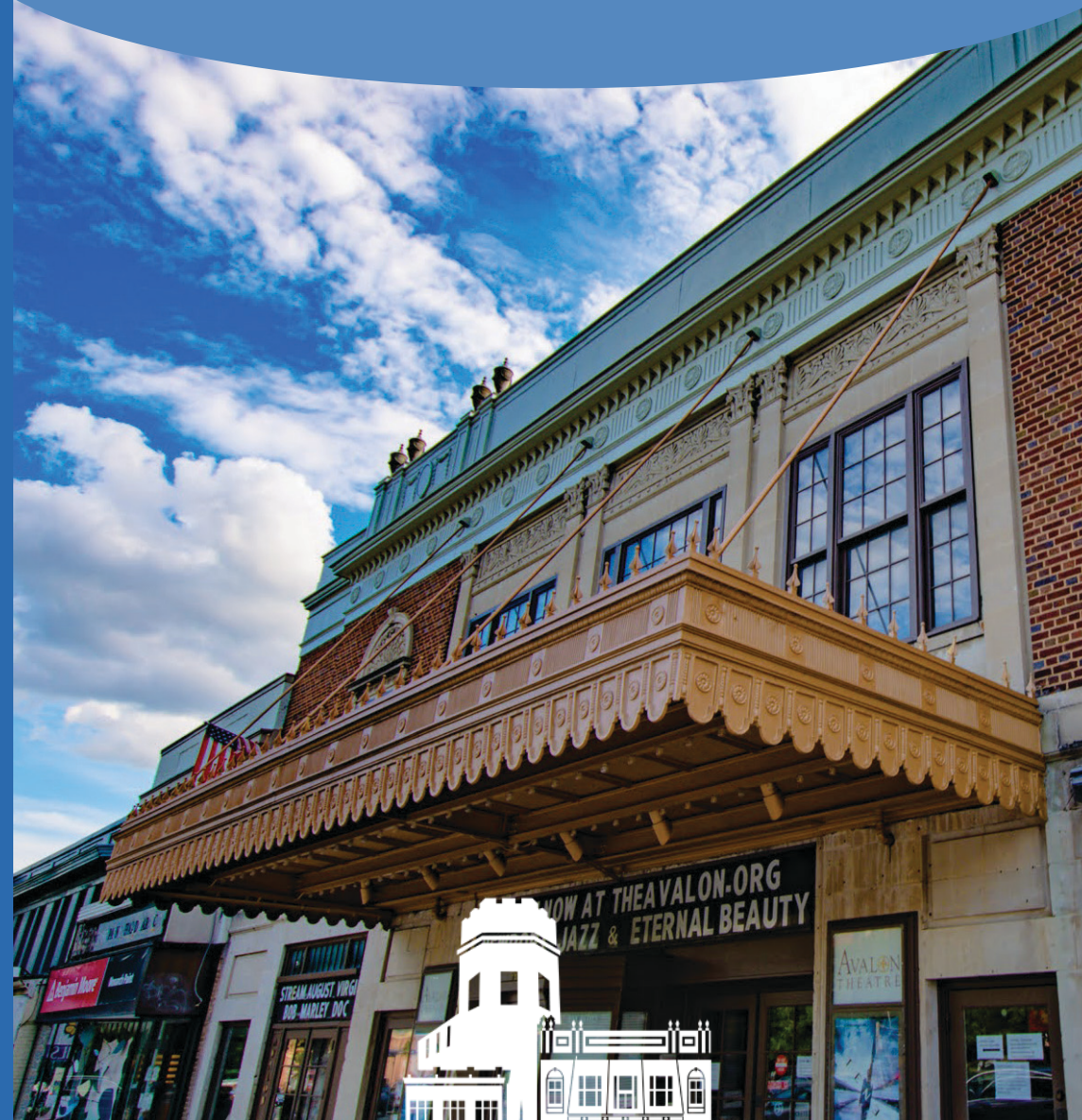


**\$290,511
DISTRIBUTED
TO 107 SMALL
BUSINESSES**



- 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

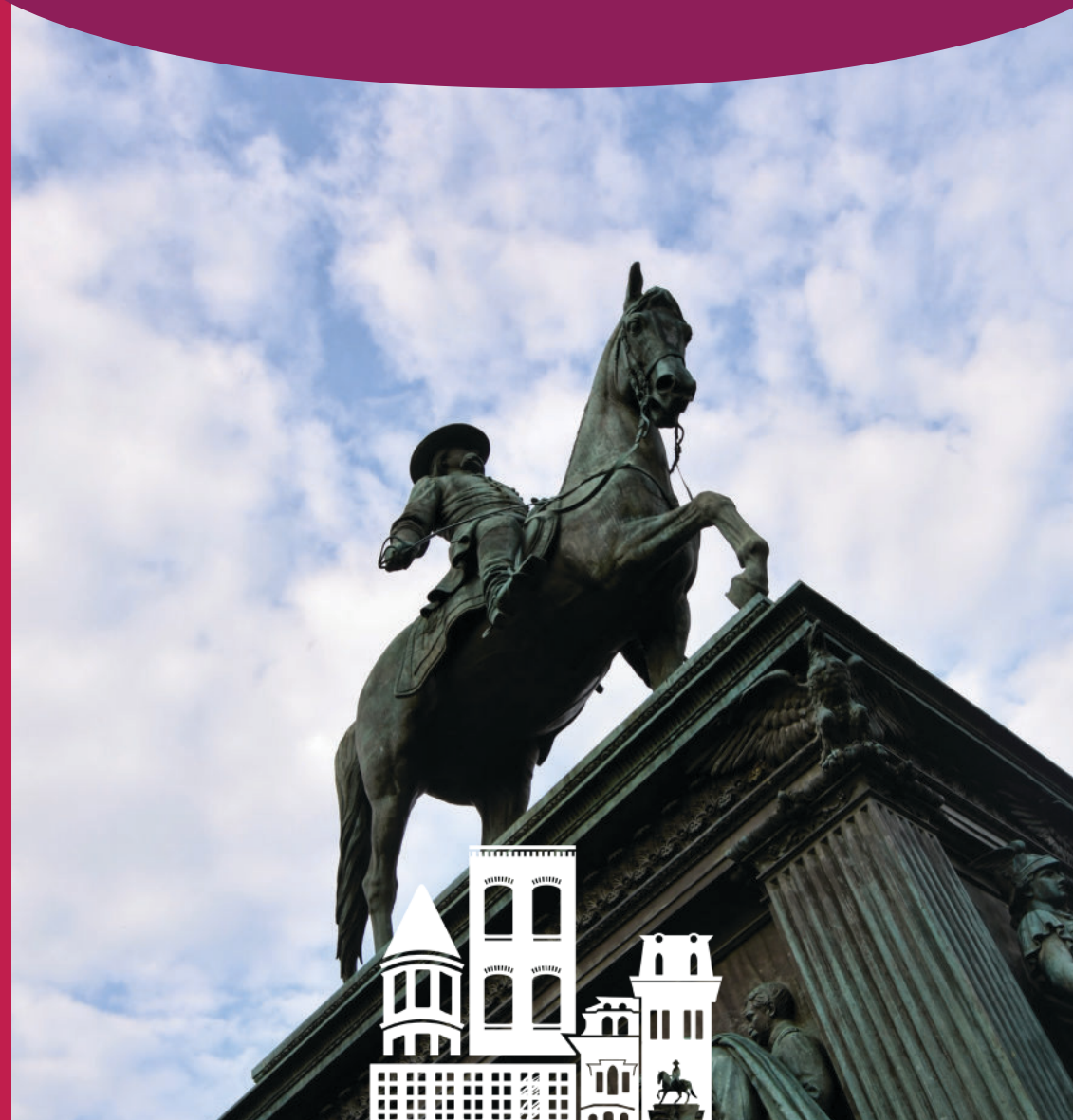
hours provided by
11 volunteers

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
Peter Fortner
Brad Grant
Darren Jones
Tom Pipkin

Pablo Sierra
Joe Leonard
Audra Grant
Erika Ruiz
Tom Dawes

Nkosi Bradley
Alicia Horton
Luci Murphy
William Jordan

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

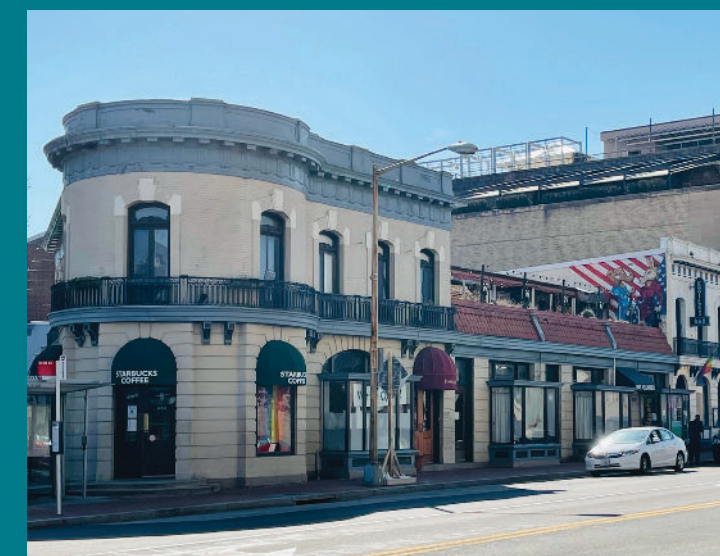
technical assistance
hours provided

100

hours provided by
20 volunteers

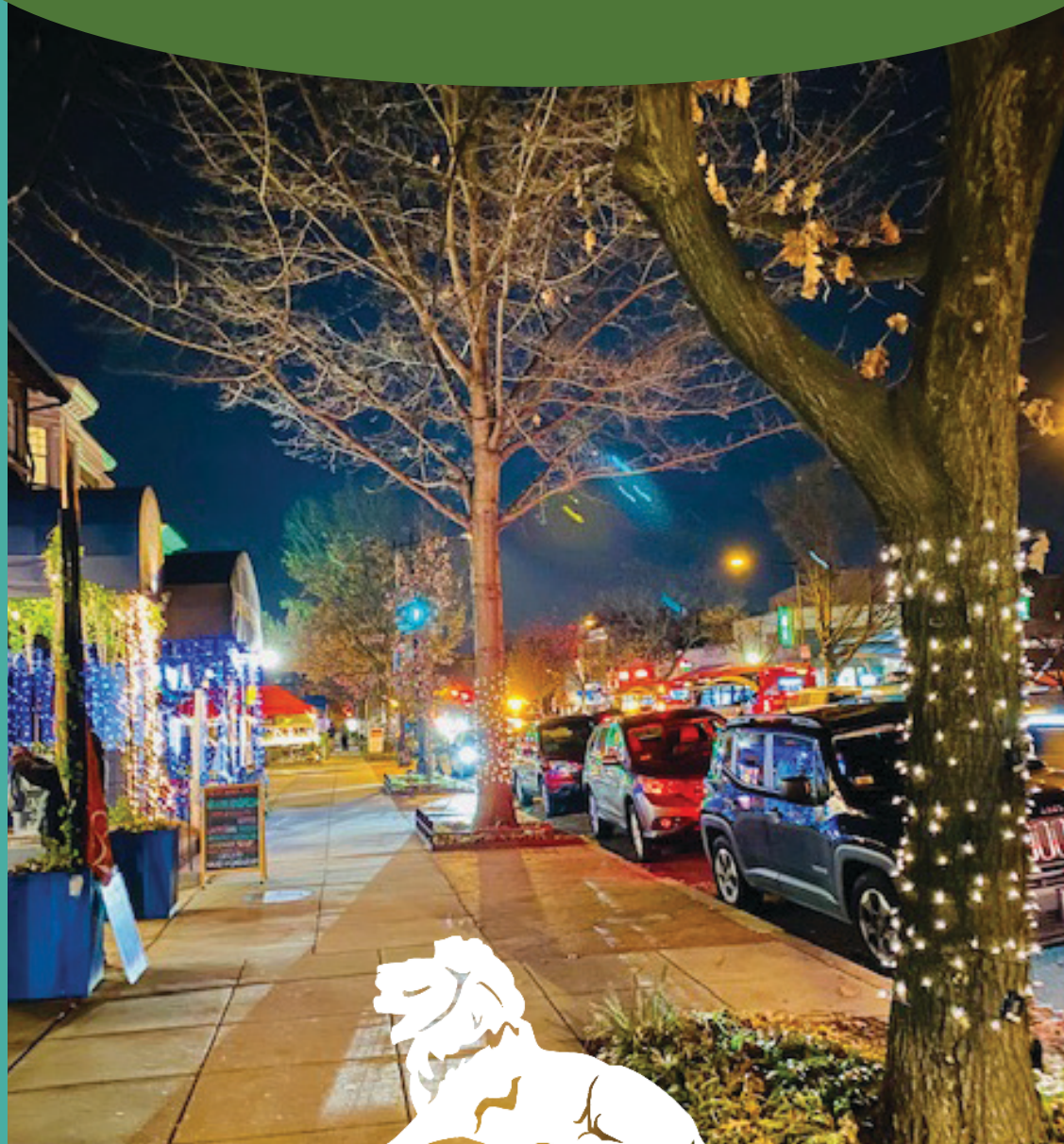
EVENTS

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

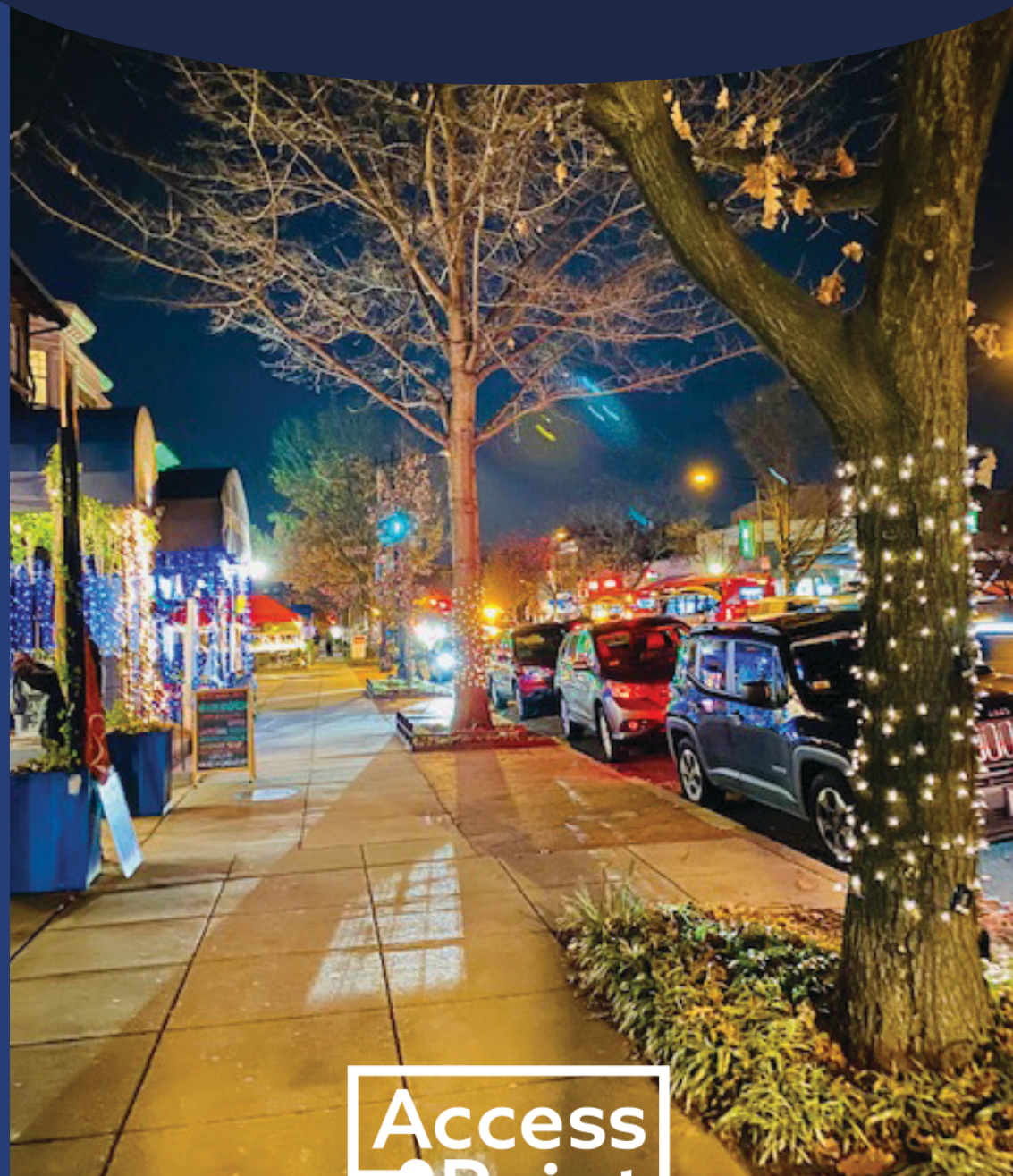
hours provided by
32 volunteers

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

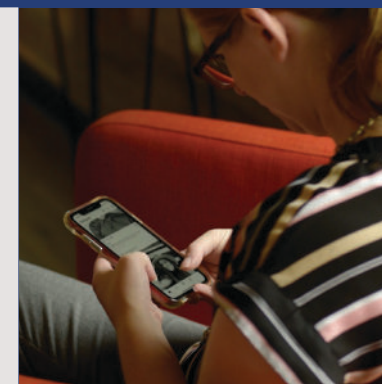
- LAUNCHED IN 2020 -

ACCESS POINT DC



413

subscribers

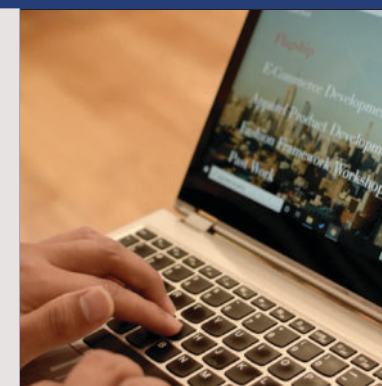


3

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)

Cassandra 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

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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

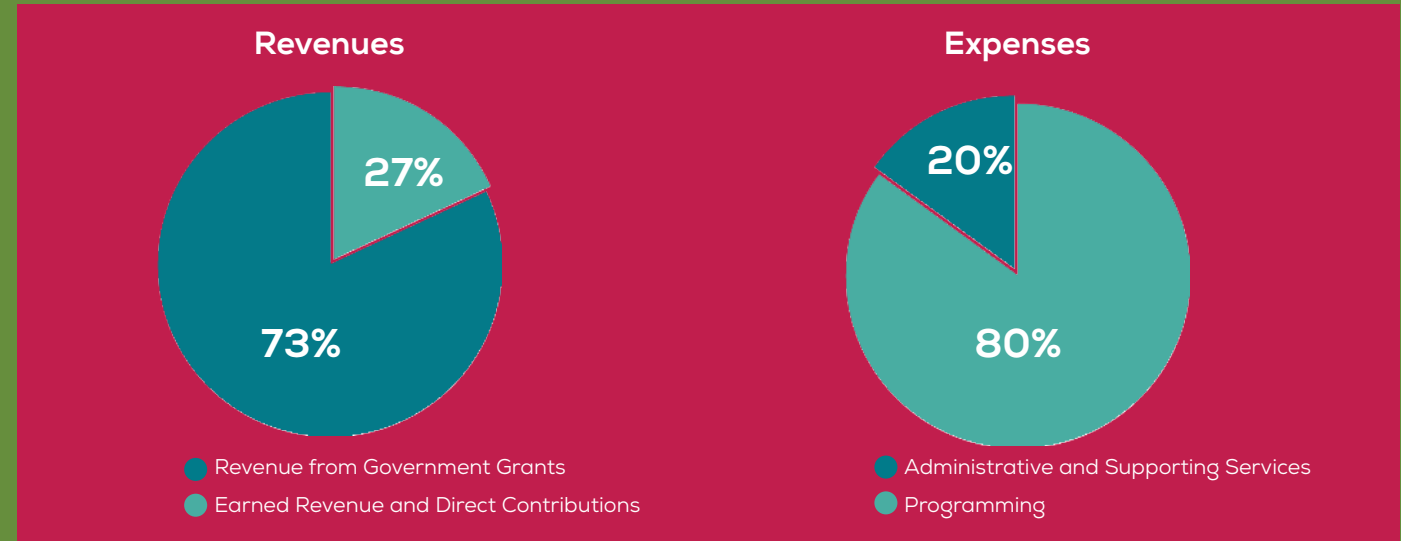
FINANCIALS

ASSETS

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

LIABILITY & EQUITY

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



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
@districtbridges