

Redistricting to Shift Ward 6 Boundaries

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

Every decade, the boundaries of all eight wards of Washington, DC are reconsidered in a redistricting process that aims to ensure equitable representation across the city.

The 2020 Census recorded the District’s population as 689,545, which means that, by law, each ward should have between 81,883 and 90,503 residents.

Under current boundaries, Ward 6 stretches from Independence Avenue and 14th Street NW, near the Smithsonian metro stop, north to Shaw, east to NoMa, down nearly to RFK Stadium and back along the Southwest Waterfront. With significant growth in areas from Union Market to Navy Yard, Ward 6 is now 17,699 residents over the maximum threshold, which means some Ward 6 residents will be redistricted into the only underpopulated wards in DC – Ward 7 and Ward 8.

“There is no question that certain

neighborhoods in Ward 6 have seen an explosion of growth in terms of population,” said At-Large Councilmember Christina Henderson, a member of the DC Council’s Subcommittee on Redistricting. “While all of the Wards grew since [the last census in] 2010, Ward 6 grew at a rate of 41% -- that’s double Ward 5 which had the second highest percentage of change. Some of that development was anchored in choices from government, for example, a number of DC government agencies moved to Southwest and NoMa and the U.S. Department of Transportation is located in Navy Yard. Other development came from public-private investment in projects like The Wharf and City Market at O in Shaw. Growth in my mind is not a bad thing, but it does mean, for this process, we have to rebalance. And in this case, Ward 6 shares boundaries with two Wards, both east of the Anacostia River, that must add people.”

At-Large Councilmember Elissa Sil-

verman, (no relation to the author) who chairs the Subcommittee on Redistricting, told *The Southwester* that while she doesn’t yet know where the new ward lines will be drawn and that she is keeping an open mind while listening to residents across the city, she does know one thing for sure.

“Ward 6 boundaries will change,” Silverman said. “There will be a shift in population out of Ward 6, and those folks are going to be rebalanced into another ward. I don’t know what Wards 7 and 8 will look like, but they need to grow. Either Ward 7, Ward 8, or both are going to go westward and cross the river.”

DC Mayor Muriel Bowser echoed the sentiment in a recent community meeting with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, noting that a map with no changes to Ward 6 is simply not possible given the imbalance of residents compared to other wards. Bowser suggested

See “Redistricting,” page 14

Mayor Bowser Addresses Southwest Community Questions, Challenges

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser joined a Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) community meeting on October 25 to discuss a range of timely topics, from combating COVID-19 to education, transportation, crime, and even the burgeoning rat population in Southwest.

SWNA is the publisher of *The Southwester*, and Editor-In-Chief Mike Goodman served as the moderator, posing questions submitted by community members to Mayor Bowser and her staff members. Other high-profile DC leaders joined the virtual conversation, including Metropolitan Police Chief Robert J. Contee III, Executive Director of the DC Housing Authority Brenda Donald, Director Christine Davis of the Department of Public Works and Acting Director of the District Department of Transpor-



Courtesy of Executive Office of the Mayor
DC Mayor Muriel Bowser

tation Everett Lott.

the conversation was streamed on Zoom and Facebook live with more than 100 viewers, marking one of the largest online gatherings of the pan-

demic period, according to SWNA President Donna Purchase.

Bowser opened with appreciation for the community’s efforts in following coronavirus guidance and doing their part to end the pandemic. “We are on our pathway for coming back from this virus,” Bowser said.

Bowser spoke about her budget priorities and investments made in affordable housing, education and other community services, including significant projects in Southwest DC such as the new Southwest Library and updates to Jefferson Middle School.

“We have new and improved middle school buildings to reflect what’s happening inside,” Bowser said. “I’m proud we were able to make those investments stick and deliver for Ward 6.”

Bowser also spoke positively of her efforts to add funding to the police

See “Mayor,” page 15



KIDS CORNER

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EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE BETWEEN YOUR EARS AT ARTECHOUSE

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ARTS AND INDUSTRIES BUILDING TO REOPEN

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MURALS DC HONORS PIONEERING WOMEN

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When donating by mail, please make check or money order payable to the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund and mail to:

Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund



400 "I" Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024
thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org
www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org
(202) 251-1639

Op-Ed

Advocating for Antiracist Development and Housing Justice

BY SW DC ACTION

SW Action, which primarily consists of residents of Southwest DC, came together organically in November 2019 as neighbors who wanted to learn about, and advocate for, antiracist development and policies in our surrounding community. We have been meeting monthly ever since. We are an all-volunteer group and have four working groups - community development, housing, environment, and youth - that allow individuals to focus on specific issues that matter to them. Since our group's inception, we have collectively:

- Provided feedback and testified on the Office of Planning's Comprehensive Plan;
- Written a piece on how neighbors can interrupt cycles of harm rather than perpetuating them;
- Testified in front of, and submitted written testimony to, the Zoning Commission on new developments in the neighborhood calling for more affordable housing and pointing out the racial impact of not doing so
- Written letters regarding the environmental impact Vulcan concrete is having on nearby residents;
- Met with Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, on issues related to Southwest (including getting better housing for a resident living in Greenleaf), as well as staff of Council members on the housing committee, the Director of Real Estate, and the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development about affordable housing.

We welcome anyone to join our meetings. Our next meeting will be November 7 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. in Lansburgh Park (email swdcaction@gmail.com to be notified of any location change should weather not cooperate).

In the struggle for social and racial justice, we believe that relationships based on solidarity and cooperation must be built between people of different races, backgrounds, and incomes to achieve collective liberation. Trust and truth are integral to this effort; thus, we seek to grow at the speed of trust and recognize that trust is built over time and requires consistent work.

Our current initiatives include:

Creating more affordable housing

SW Action seeks to use public land for a community land trust that will put the interests and needs of low-income Black Southwest residents first and foremost. Community land trusts allow for permanently affordable housing, affordable retail space, and for the community to oversee how the property should be used. SW Action believes that expanding the Douglass CLT, a city-wide community land trust initiative, into Southwest will allow the residents most in need of justice to determine how best the land can serve their needs and interests.

A lot of development has landed in Southwest over the last two decades. With increased development:

- The median price of homes has increased 55%;
- The median income level of residents has increased 117%; and
- The Black population has decreased nearly 40 percentage points.

The median rent in the neighborhood is now more than the median household income for Black families. New developments have overwhelmingly catered to affluent and white newcomers. Because we know that Black, low-income residents have been historically and intentionally underserved, we believe that justice dictates that their interests and needs should be put first.

How we build a collective consensus:

Building Trust

Southwest is a diverse neighborhood with nearly 14,500 residents of varying ages, races, and incomes. Given this unique composition of many different perspectives and backgrounds, SW Action believes that true community organizing and building of solidarity requires time, consistency, and sincerity. We seek to keep these intentions in mind through all of our engagements and outreach.

Community Outreach

Starting in April, SW Action has conducted outreach to Southwest residents to provide information about the CLT model and receive feedback and ideas. SW Action has actively tabled at neighborhood events, such as the opening of the new Southwest library, the SW Mutual Aid clothing swap (which SW Action helped organize), the DC Housing Authority's Back to School Event and Stop The Violence event at King Greenleaf Rec Center, and Paul Taylor's Southwest Day. We have also conducted presentations through established community hubs like ANC meetings, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, and Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The environmental group has partnered with a neighborhood community garden, where many members regularly volunteer, on a pilot community-supported agriculture program where two young people who are Greenleaf residents are paid to harvest and deliver produce to seniors living in Greenleaf Senior. The program, supported by the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, also included a cooking demonstration in September on how to use the produce from the garden.

The community development working group conducted a survey of Southwest residents to learn more about what types of businesses and community organizations residents would like to see in our neighborhood. The plan is to use the survey results to inform our outreach to elected officials. The surveys were distributed three times at Christ United Methodist Church, during their food distributions in December 2020, January 2021, and February 2021. Online surveys were also conducted via social media, NextDoor, and posts to local building links by SW Action members, and an article in the February 2021 edition of *The Southwester*, directing people to the link for the survey. Nearly 300 Southwest residents completed the survey, and the results were shared in September in *The Southwester* and on our website.

We will continue to find ways to reach residents, wherever they are, and advocate for social justice and environmental sustainability. We understand that public housing residents are our neighbors most in need of justice and we strive to put their interests and needs first.

For more information, please visit our website at www.swdcaction.com.

The Southwester

Send submissions and questions to *The Southwester* by email at editor@thesouthwester.com. Submissions for each monthly issue are due on the 15th of the preceding month.

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P.O. Box 70131 • Washington, DC 20024

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Advertising: Beth Hall & Donna Purchase

Distribution: Perry Klein

Design & Layout: Electronic Ink

Printer: Print Innovators



The Southwester is published and distributed by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

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Proposed Redesign of M Street SE Seeks to Increase Safety, Mobility

BY HALEY MURPHY

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The Capitol Riverfront Mobility Project plans to change the way people move through Southeast Washington by increasing micromobility options and making the roads safer for everyone.

A mobility study by the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District (BID) names Navy Yard as the fastest growing neighborhood in Washington, DC over the past five years.

From baseball and soccer fans heading to Nationals Stadium and Audi Field to workers zipping to their nine to five jobs on electric scooters, planners say the current road conditions don't best support that growth.

Ted Jutras, the Vice President of Planning and Development for the Capitol Riverfront BID said fixing those transportation corridors is at the center of his work.

"We're building almost an entire new downtown along the waterfront south of the freeway," he said. "So, the traditional auto-oriented infrastructure that exists right now isn't going to work anymore."

The Capitol Riverfront Mobility Project aims to fix exactly that. It focuses on expanding accessibility along M Street SE: a mile and a half stretch in Southeast and a major corridor connecting the Navy Yard neighborhood and District Wharf.

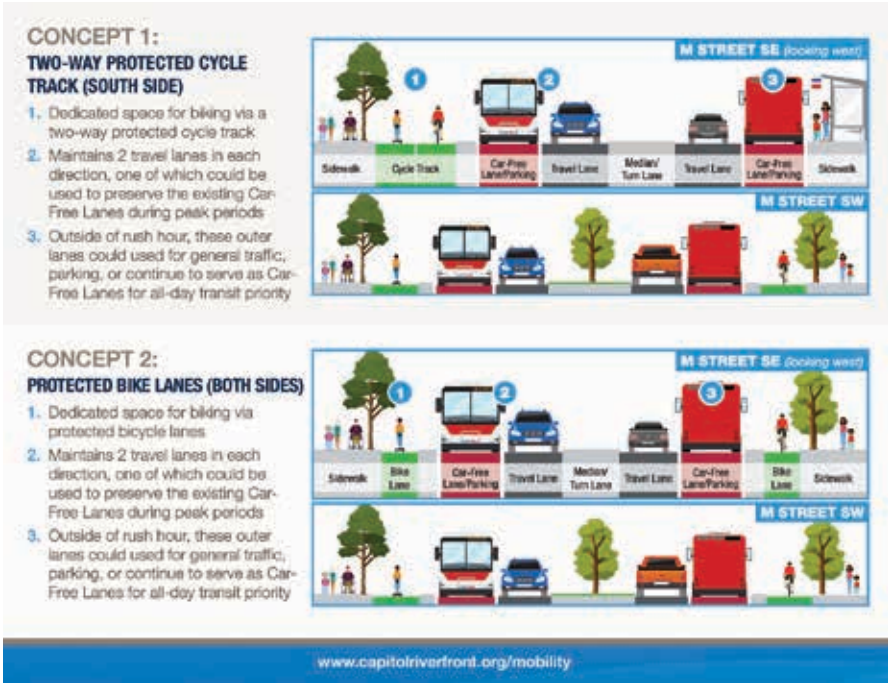
Jutras said his team is working on two potential re-designs for M Street.

Both Capitol Riverfront BID designs repurpose the outside lanes of M Street into either one or two protected bike and bus lanes during rush hour while allowing them to be used for general traffic or parking outside of that time.

The designs are centered around the idea of "micromobility." The goal is to provide all residents and visitors to the Navy Yard neighborhood with safe and reliable modes of transportation that don't include driving a car.

Zack Baldwin, the Associate Director of Mobility, Data and Research at Southwest BID, said they hope by providing those accessible forms of micromobility, people will "choose bikes or scooters to pick up groceries or go to the doctor, instead of using a car."

These designs are being considered at the same time widespread development is happening all around M Street, from new high rises at The Yards to the second phase of The Wharf.



M Street SE Redesign Options

Courtesy of Capitol Riverfront BID

"It's easier to put in bus and bike lanes when everything else is changing too," said DC resident Conor Shaw.

Jutras placed getting ahead of the immense growth in the Navy Yard neighborhood and implementing a final design for M Street as a top priority.

"We want to make sure we're being proactive about planning for the future, not just waiting for all these things to arrive, and then massive congestion and then trying to work backwards to solve the problem," said Jutras.

Dr. Karthik Balasubramanian, who lives near M Street, thinks this project is long overdue.

"I think it's great...and it should have been done like 10 years ago," Balasubramanian said.

Dr. Balasubramanian is looking at the project from an equity standpoint. He stressed that increasing micromobility is crucial to achieving accessibility for everyone, and as it stands now, M Street does not support everyone's needs.

"You have to have a certain amount of money to have a car and if you don't have a car, this whole thing is not useful to you," he said.

Zack Baldwin said applying those designs on M Street will be a challenge, and dedicated enforcement will be important.

Jutras agreed and said a plan is still in the works.

"All it takes is one or two UPS trucks or Uber's, Lyft's causing people to not be able to see pedestrians crossing, and then all of a sudden, all those good intentions go out the window pretty quickly," he said.

Once his team submits the final designs, Jutras said it is up to the District Department of Transportation

(DDOT) and the Department of Public Works to enforce proper lane use.

"It's not a fully sufficient plan for mobility for all the growth that's coming...we're taking a small bite out of the apple," he said.

Celeste Newman, who lives at The Wharf, is hopeful that this project will set a standard of equitable accessibility across the District.

"I just hope that as this continues, the city continues to focus on all the residents and having accessibility for everyone who lived here and will live here," she said.

Conor Shaw agreed and said M Street should be the first step to creating a whole system of accessible roadways.

"These are the fights we're gonna have to win if we want to create a real network that allows people to get everywhere, not just down one corridor," Shaw said.

But the mobility study doesn't just stop on M Street.

The other initiative under the study focuses on increasing connectivity to and from Buzzard Point on the Southwest waterfront.

The two designs include micromobility options like bikes and scooters, with the other option focusing on creating a direct metrorail line to Union

See "Redesign" page 13

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Arena Stage

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Southwest Moment



Courtesy of Pamela McKinney
A young neighbor welcomes fall at the Southwest Community Gardens.

Voices from Richard Wright

The Day Social Media Shut Down

BY RAE TYSON, GRADE 9

On Monday, October 4th, 2021 something major happened worldwide to everyone. Something horrendous. Social media shut down!

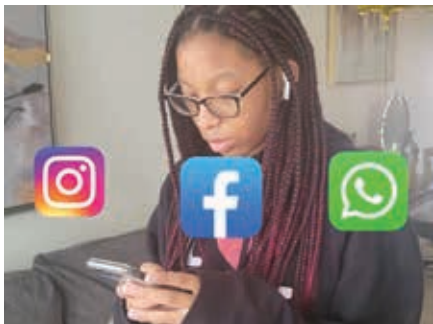
Apps including Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Messenger, and Oculus shut down unexpectedly. In a frenzy, everyone then ran to Twitter or TikTok.

All apps shut down before noon Eastern Daylight Time and were back up after 5:46 p.m.. Users were unable to post, send messages, see other people’s stories, see other’s posts or refresh their feed, the worst shut-down Facebook has experienced since 2019, when the whole platform was down for a total of 24 hours.

But the pending question is why?

Facebook explained its apps shut down due to a configuration issue. Facebook engineers later explained in more detail, telling Richard Lawler and Alex Heath at TheVerge.com that “the company’s backbone connection between data centers shut down during routine maintenance, which caused the DNS servers to go offline. These two factors combined in making the problem more difficult to fix, and they help explain why services were offline for so long.”

For those who don’t get technology speak, it was traffic in their sys-



Courtesy of Robin Tyson

Ninth Grader Rae Tyson

tems.

Not everyone was outraged by the unexpected shutdown. Most people were happy about the shutdown. Social media has a huge impact on the world; it’s fun, but it also is distracting. Social media has its cons, too.

Most people were able to focus, most people were able to get work in, and most people were able to focus on themselves, even for just a measly six hours.

In a way, the social media shutdown of October 4 was a good thing for some people, but at the end of the day, social media is addictive and some people can’t come off of it.

Each month, the Southwester spotlights voices from Richard Wright Public Charter Schools for Journalism and Media Arts.

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Southwest Peace Gardens Open With Community Celebration

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

On October 7, three new Peace Gardens opened in Southwest DC with the intention of preventing future gun violence while honoring lives previously lost. The gardens include dedicated spaces for contemplation and remembrance, as well as a range of activities for young people, including community service, recreation and social events.

The Peace Gardens were created through a partnership between the Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID) and GOODProjects. Financial backing came from Building Blocks DC, an initiative from the administration of DC Mayor Muriel Bowser to use a people and place-based approach to preventing gun violence.

The opening celebration featured music, art and community booths from organizations across Southwest. Food options included We, the Pizza and hand-fired burgers from community residents Kacie and Jordan Haden, who jumped in to run



Courtesy of Author

Community members Jordan Haden and Kacie Haden run the grill at the opening of Southwest's new Peace Gardens.

the grill to show their support for the Peace Gardens.

GOODProjects Chief Engagement Officer Darius Baxter described the event as a collaborative effort.

"Everything we look to do as an organization with our projects is to be a catalyst," Baxter said. "When violence happens in our community, we want to get to the point

where we stop acting like it's not a big deal. This is to say we are not going to stand for violence in our communities anymore. These community gardens that we've installed over the last few weeks are a constant reminder, not just to this community, but to the entire nation, that we want to remember the lives lost to gun violence every single day."

GOODProjects works to help families in Southwest D.C. live fulfilling lives free from poverty and violence while promoting health and wellness. Their flagship programs emphasize academic achievement, economic empowerment, and self-sufficiency.

The Peace Gardens were built in three centrally located community spaces, behind the James Creek Resident Council (100 N Street SW), next to Syphax Gardens (1520 2nd Street SW), and next to the Southwest Family Enhancement Center (203 N Street SW).

The gardens will include art, enhanced public amenities, flowers and edible herbs that the community can pick for personal use.



The Thomas Law House was built in 1794 and is featured in this year's home tour.



Homes of the Southwest Waterfront A Virtual Tour: Past, Present and Future

**Sundays, November 7
and 14 at 4:00 p.m.**

Take a trip through time and celebrate the homes and people of Southwest DC.

Register at:
www.waterfrontvillagehometour.org



KID'S CORNER

Each month check out the most recent issue of the paper for activities and games to help you discover SWDC! Have a suggestion? Email us: editor@thesouthwester.com. Check out next month's issue for the answers!

Spot the difference!

Can you spot the differences in the two scenes below?



1. _____

3. _____

4. _____

6. _____

Answers from October 2021 issue

Differences: The picture on the right has three bats and also a bird in the tree; the picture on the right has a hand with crystal ball on the side, and the werewolf has a hat; the pumpkins are different in the pictures; there is a spider on the smaller pumpkin in the picture on the right.

WORD SEARCH: FALL COLORS!

F	J	N	E	X	O	N	U	S	H	E	A	B	I	O
O	R	A	N	G	E	E	Y	B	E	B	K	H	C	S
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N	A	B	J	U	U	R	K	A	A	C	A	U	R	T
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E	L	I	P	X	V	I	H	B	N	X	J	P	G	V


AUTUMN
GREEN
PILE
TREES
BRANCH

LEAVES
RAKE
FALL
ORANGE
RED

Word Scramble!

How many words can you make from THANKSGIVING?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The page is divided into two equal-width columns by a vertical center fold. Each column contains ten evenly spaced horizontal lines, providing a template for writing or drawing.



Young Readers

Inspiring Reluctant Readers with a Simple Challenge

BY KITTY FELDE

It's the question that frustrates parents and teachers alike: how do you get a reluctant reader to pick up a book? How does a book compete with video games and Snapchat?

This month, we begin a new column in *The Southwester: Young Readers*.

I'm Kitty Felde, host and executive producer of the Book Club for Kids, a free, 20 minute podcast where a trio of young readers discuss a book, interview the author, and hear a reading from the book by a celebrity. The Book Club for Kids is a previous winner of the Mayor's Arts Award for Excellence in the Humanities.

Over the years, I've asked the experts – teachers and librarians – to share their best tips for cultivating readers. Every month, I'll share their



Kitty Felde
Courtesy of Chesapeake Press

wisdom right here. Our first tip comes from a librarian in Florida who says, "I dare you!"

That's a schoolyard taunt that still has the power to provoke action. But can it get a kid to read a book?

Mimi Powell develops the young adult collection at an Orlando library. One of her most loyal patrons checked out stacks and stacks of books every week. His twin brother, meanwhile, would plop down near the circulation desk, bored to tears. Powell finally asked him why he never checked anything out. "I don't like to read," he told her.

Powell asked the age-old question, "So what do you like?"

His answer? "Violent video games."

Powell knew that he was trying to challenge her, daring her to find a book that would tempt him. She didn't blink an eye. "I found a five-part series," she said, "about these kids who got trapped in a video game and they had to fight aliens to make

their way out." That particular book is part of a series by Dustin Bradley called *Trapped in a Video Game*. The book went home with the reluctant twin.

Ask the question of your own less-than-enthusiastic reader: What do you like? And then share the information with the school librarian, or take a short field trip. The children's librarian at our beautiful new Southwest library is just waiting for a challenge. Booksellers at our neighborhood bookstore Politics & Prose would love to find the perfect title for a non-book lover.

I double dare you.

Former public radio journalist Kitty Felde produces the Book Club for Kids podcast and The Fina Mendoza Mysteries podcast.

Meet the Team Behind the Southwest DC Community Center: Andrea Lindemann Gilliam

BY THE SWDCCC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Southwest DC Community Center (SWDCCC) that is planned to open in our neighborhood in the next few years will serve as a vibrant, central hub for the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront communities and provide an inclusive space for a wide range of services and activities that foster personal and collective growth. As a way to get to know your neighbors who are volunteering their time to bring the SWDCCC to life, we present the Meet the Team series. These profiles will highlight each member of the SWDCCC Board of Directors and Community Engagement and Communications Committee. Don't be shy, when you see us around the neighborhood, say hi!

Name: Andrea Lindemann Gilliam

How are you involved with the SWDCCC?: I serve as the part-time interim executive director of the SWDCCC. I am a former employment attorney that now offers nonprofit governance, mediation, and coaching services.

Why did you become involved with the SWDCCC?: I moved to the Capitol Quarter neighborhood in 2012 with my husband and we welcomed our daughter into our family five years ago. As a growing interracial family, we wanted to live in a neighborhood that was walkable and socio-economically and racially diverse. I



Andrea Lindemann Gilliam
Courtesy of Author

became involved in the SWDCCC because I'm committed to building relationships in the community to help bridge the gap between residents of all backgrounds. I'm a yoga teacher and founded a volunteer yoga program primarily serving the seniors at the Capper Community Center as a way to bring neighbors together. The SWDCCC provides an opportunity for a vibrant "town center" space that is welcoming to all in this growing and changing neighborhood.

What do you hope the SWDCCC

November Breast Cancer Support Group to Focus on Survivors with Disabilities, Men's Health

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Since 2018, the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) November support group meeting has been dedicated to breast cancer survivors with disabilities. This month, the tradition will continue, and it will be supplemented by a focus on Men's Health Awareness Month, as the Movember Foundation uses the month to bring awareness to and support of those tackling prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide.

Join the TDJBCF on Wednesday, November 17, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom and Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/TDJBreastCancerFund/>) as we welcome for the fourth consecutive year guest speaker Kimberly Beer, the Director of Public Policy at the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Beer will discuss the foundation's ongoing effort to find a cure and treatments for spinal cord injuries and the challenges that the pandemic has posed for people with paralysis. Beer will also discuss available resources and support organizations for the 1 in 50 people in the United States who live with paralysis. In addition, the meeting will include the voices of breast cancer survivors who are impacted by paralysis.

The second half of the November TDJBCF support group meeting

will be dedicated to Men's Health Awareness Month with guest speaker Dr. Paul D. Leger, a medical oncologist at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. Dr. Leger specializes in treating cancers of the prostate, kidney, bladder, and testicles and will discuss prostate cancer prevention, screening, treatments, and related research.

The meeting will be emceed by Southwest community activist and TDJBCF Ambassador Regina Blye. Mamie Mallory, a civil rights and diversity advocate and TDJBCF Board Chair, will welcome the group and discuss her work with people with disabilities.

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund is an award-winning grassroots organization with local, national, and global recognition. Our mission is to advocate and improve the overall health and wellness for women and men through outreach, education, and prevention. We promote early detection strategies for breast health and access to the best biomedical and evidence-based complementary therapies to reduce the incidence and mortality rates of breast cancer. Our vision is to save lives, embrace and achieve a world community free of breast cancer.

For more information on the meeting, please visit www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org or email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org.



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where DC meets to

skate

THE WHARF ICE RINK IS BACK!

During the colder months, enjoy one of the coolest spots on the waterfront: The Wharf Ice Rink. DC's only over-water ice skating rink is open every Wednesday to Sunday from November 24, 2021 through February 2022. Come to Transit Pier and lace up your skates—bring your own or rent some rink-side—to glide over the ice while enjoying amazing views of the water and monuments.

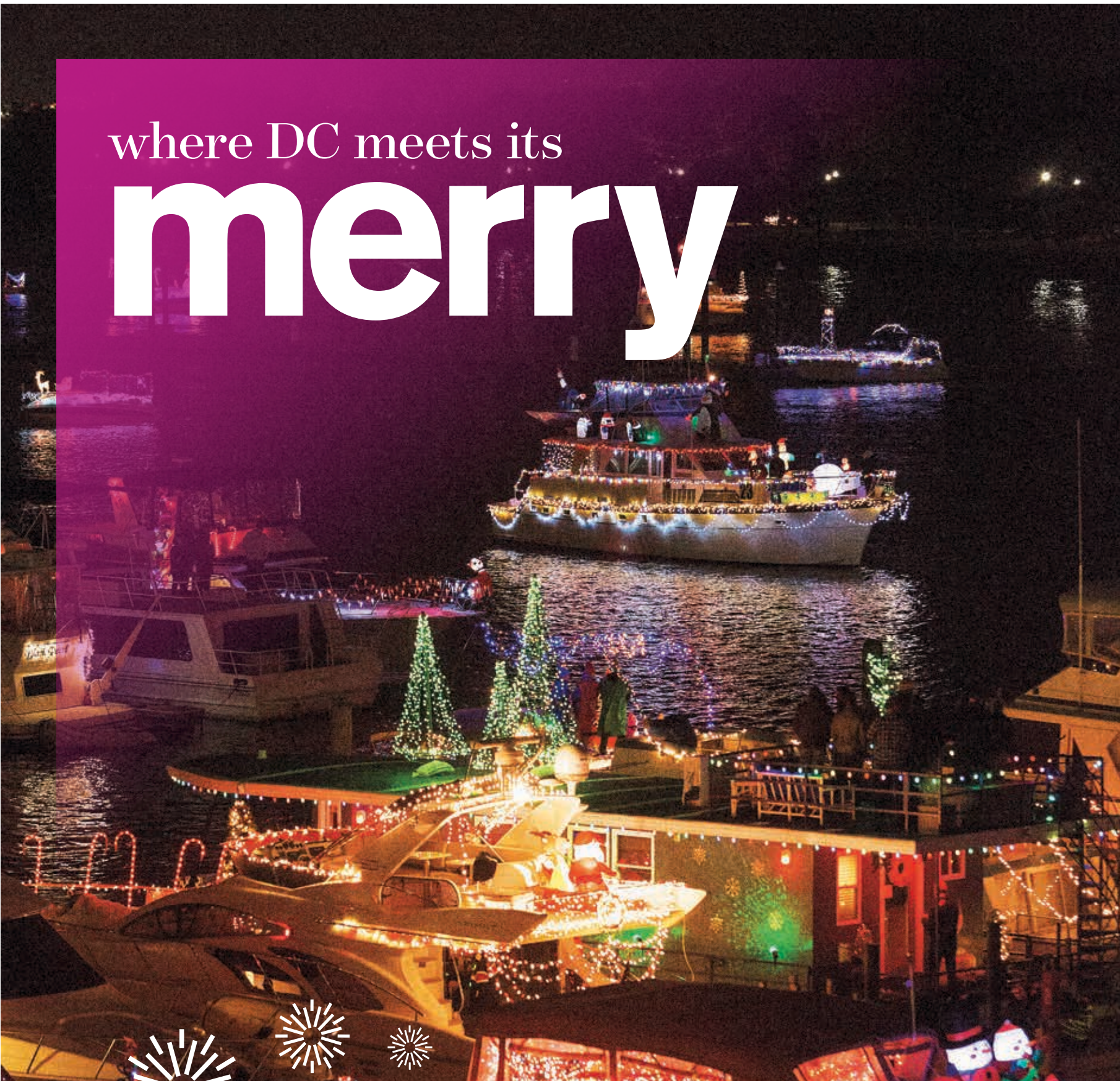
SOUTHWEST FREE SKATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2021

To kick off skating season, Southwest residents skate for free on Sunday, November 21—including free ice skate rentals—so join us on the ice. Mention this flyer and bring proof of Southwest DC residency (ZIP code 20024 on a DC license, school ID, or other government-issued ID).

Skating spots are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis, with each free session starting on the hour and lasting about 50 minutes. Anyone under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to participate.



where DC meets its
merry






THE DISTRICT'S
HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE
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FALL MUSEUM GUIDE

Explore the Universe between Your Ears at Artechouse

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

As the winter season approaches, colder temperatures drive many people inside. So perhaps it's fitting that Artechouse's autumn exhibit, a fusion of art, technology, and a whole lot of neuroscience, takes an inward journey as well. Enter *Life of a Neuron*, a collaboration between Artechouse and the Society of Neuroscience that "brings artists and scientists together for a groundbreaking collaboration to explore how the brain shapes the shared human experience."

John Morrison, University of California Davis Distinguished Professor and one of the scientists on the project, says that *Life* "[i]s the first of its kind to use data like this to bring key neuroscience principles to life. We're able to bring to the world an exhibit like no other – artistic interpretations of scientific data and principles to allow the public to experience neuroscience in a whole new way." He says he hopes the exhibit will "spark curiosity" in people and encourage them to learn "more about the universe between their ears."

Stepping onto the main gallery floor, visitors enter an utterly immersive, vertigo-inducing inner universe—literally. Floor to wall vibrant, 3D animation shows the life cycle (approximately 20 minutes of run time) of the neuron in high-definition, from pre-birth to death. Sounds of babies laughing, children playing, and moments of sadness drift out of the surround sound to indicate what stage of life the neuron is experiencing.

The self-titled main gallery tells the story of the hero neuron – a "highly plastic" neuron that "processes new information every day" and ostensibly is what makes us human.

A staff member said that people worry about stepping on the floor because, at times, it seems there is no floor and are, instead, drifting through the synapses. She suggested sitting in the middle of the room in order to get the full experience. I and the few other visitors did so. Sitting in the middle of the floor does actually make it feel like you are inside a synaptical universe.

Wondering if the few other patrons were experiencing the same inner universe, I asked. One mesmerized woman commented that it was "really beautiful."

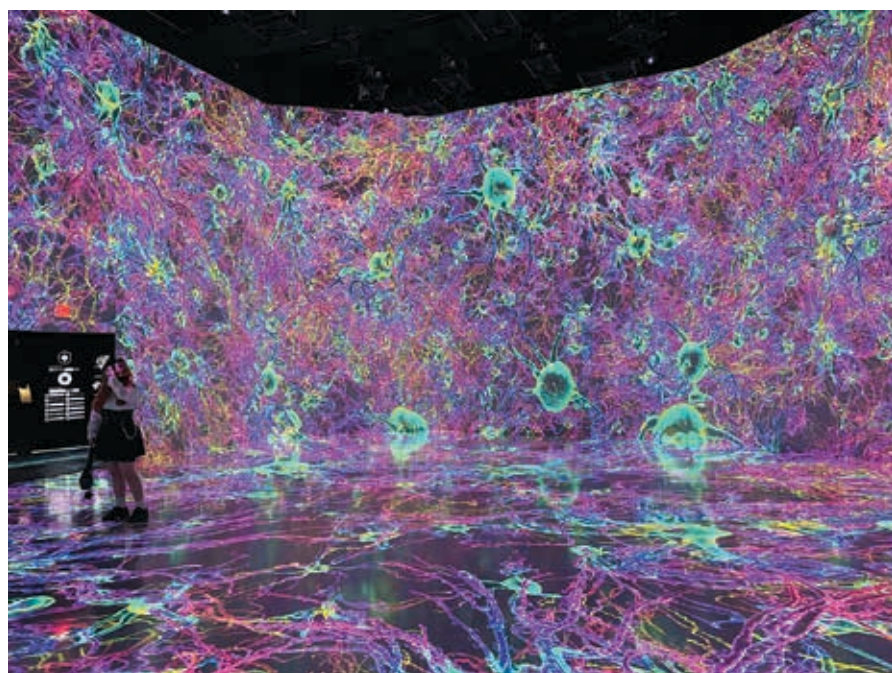
"It's really cool. Especially since



Photos courtesy of Matthew Koehler

Above: The "Life of a Neuron" exhibit at the Artechouse.

Below: The "Life of a Neuron" exhibit's main gallery.



it reacts to you!" she continued. She also confirmed that the experience was mildly dizzying.

To the right of the main gallery, you invade the brain as an addiction in *Imposter*. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) senses your presence and transforms you into a drug that gradually co-opts neural connections in the brain. From right to left, panels indicate a healthy neuron going through the stages of addiction, and fiber optic cables above each panel signal your presence in the brain. The numbers on the lower left of the screens indicate the level of binder proteins (FosB) in the system. FosB has been identified as playing a crucial role in

the "development and maintenance of addiction." FosB also plays an oversized role in the response of neurons to more natural, healthy rewards, like tasty food, exercise, and sex.

To the left of the main gallery, and journeying deeper into recesses of Artechouse, the great eye of *Edge of Illumination* greets you. Visitors can walk along the neural connection of sight and learn how the brain constructs images from vision. One of the staff explained that "our eyes don't actually see" but are biological mechanisms for processing light. Through a complex process in the brain, and after a microsecond, light is converted into the reality we see around us.

Be sure to ask about the crossed pathways leading away from the eye!

You've no doubt heard the axiom: The family that plays together, stays together. *Eureka*, a small exhibit just past the great eye of *Illumination*, works on that same principle. Simply, cells that fire together tend to wire together – a simplified version of Hebb's postulate, which I won't reproduce here because it's too long.

Through a series of YMCA-like arm movements, the screen gives patrons a view of "the intricate system of neurons across six layers of the prefrontal cortex." By introducing external stimuli, your arm movements, you can induce the neurons to produce positive and negative interactions, as well as the reward response. You can also get the screen to mimic an "Aha!" moment by touching your head with one hand.

The deepest cavern of Artechouse's *Life* brings you to *Fragile* – a dark room filled with music, noise, and erratically shifting patterns on five panels. By artist fuse* and lead scientists, Dani Dumitriu, MD, Ph.D, and John Morrison, Ph.D, *Fragile* uses an algorithm that converts real time tweets into sound and visuals and shows the impact of "external interactions on our nervous system and ultimately on our relationship with the outside world."

Perhaps the most relevant exhibit to our current moment in the 21st century (given the months of pandemic lockdowns, uncertainty, and misinformation) *Fragile* shows us what social media does to our minds. The visual assault on the eyes and symphonic clash of music with abrupt sounds, could be a representation of what is going on in our collective heads when reading something that triggers discordant thoughts of joy, rage, sadness, confusion, and despair.

Before leaving those deep recesses of human consciousness (i.e. the backroom of Artechouse), be sure to check out the horror that is *Stress* (to the right of *Fragile*). The silicon-based sculpture shows "group of displaced people in a heightened state of stress" due to the uncertainties and vicissitudes of life. A staff member told me to wait a minute while she unhooked the cord and walked around the sculpture, which shied away from her as she moved around it.

Returning to the main gallery of *Life*, I got the sense that I was still trek-

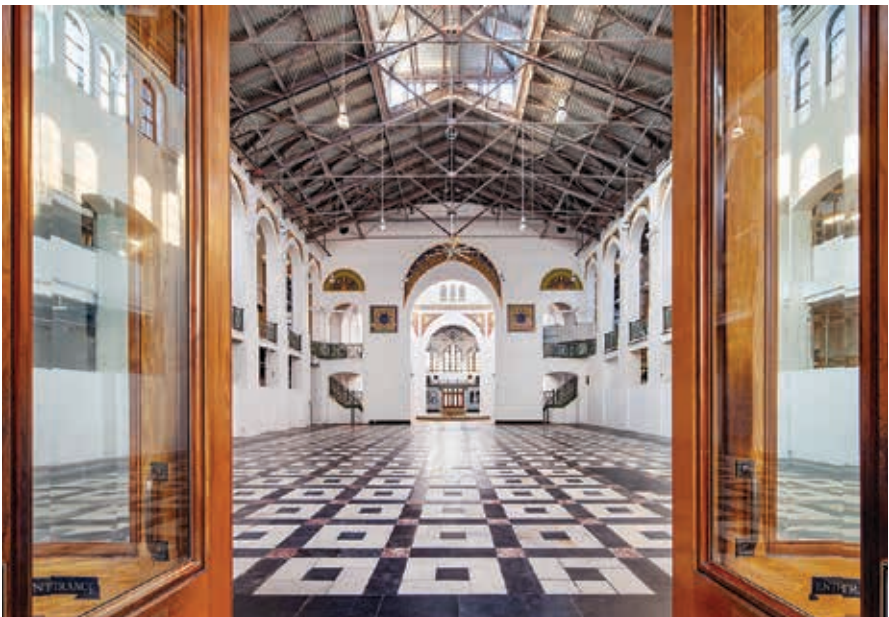
See "Artechouse," page 11

FALL MUSEUM GUIDE

Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building To Reopen with *Futures* Exhibit



The historic exterior of the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building



The renovated interior of the Arts and Industries Building.

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

When the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building opened in 1881, it was quickly dubbed America’s “Palace of Wonders” and the “Mother of Museums.” Now celebrating its 175th anniversary, it reopens on November 20, not with a look backward, but with an eye on the future.

As the Smithsonian’s second-oldest structure, its stained glass windows, elaborate floors and painted arches were the initial home for many of the Smithsonian’s museums. The Arts and Industries Building displayed the original Star-Spangled Banner, First Ladies’ gowns, the Edison light bulb, the first telephone and more before closing to the public in 2004.

The reopening event, titled *Futures*, will draw on the tradition of 19th and 20th century World’s Fairs for a building-wide exploration across four thematic halls, *Futures Past*, *Futures that Work*, *Futures that Inspire* and *Futures that Unite*.

The exhibit will feature objects, ideas and installations that fuse art, technology, design and history. The items on view will include a Virgin

Hyperloop Pegasus pod, which is a working prototype for high-speed travel using climate-friendly magnetic levitation, and the Bell Nexus Air Taxi, an autonomous electric concept vehicle that evokes the long-awaited

flying car.

The event begins with *Futures Remixed*, a free opening festival spanning the month of November, including a public concert on opening day, Saturday, November 20.

The exhibition will stretch from the National Mall into all eight wards of Washington, DC, with street art and soundscape portals popping up across the city. The city-wide engagement features local cultural leaders, including award-winning chef Erik Bruner-Yang, nine-year-old rap prodigy Fly Zyah, Washington-based artist Trap Bob and more, along with a “future of music” mix by deaf artist and advocate DJ SupaLee.

The exhibition’s full slate of public events will be announced on a monthly basis starting in November. Every Friday evening, the Arts and Industries Building will host a community gathering for pop-up talks and constantly changing drop-in activities.

Futures will be on view until July 6, 2022, and open Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (closed Tuesday), with extended weekend hours on Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. Admission is free, and no timed tickets are currently required.

For more information, visit futures-remixed.com and aib.si.edu.

Futures Exhibition Opening Weekend Events

- Live streamed world premiere tour of the exhibition with scientist and Planetary Society CEO Bill Nye on Friday, November 19.
- Live streamed “Unexpected Conversations” event featuring Nye, Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch, actor/comedian, author and White House appointee Kal Penn, environmental advocate drag queen Pattie Gonia, 2021 National Spelling Bee champion Zaila Avant-garde, co-executive producer of the HBO Max series “Legendary” and ballroom icon Jack Mizrahi and more on Friday, November 19.
- Free indoor/outdoor and live streamed “Call and Response Concert,” inspired by DC’s vibrant go-go music scene and featuring certified platinum indie pop trio SHAED, a special performance from the cast of the HBO Max series “Legendary,” DJ Bright Light Bright Light, rapper and biologist Mariah the Scientist, celebrated street drummer and America’s Got Talent semi-finalist Malik Dope and more on Saturday, November 20.
- Family Day event open to families of all types for fun activities, experiences and pop-ups on Sunday, November 21.

ARTECHOUSE

Continued from p. 10

king through Dan Deacon’s N-dimethyltryptamine-influenced video, *When I Was Done Dying*. I found myself hesitant to step out of this trippy internal

waltz through Wonderland back to the mundane world. I had reconnected with my inner child, faced my demons, and accepted my ultimate fate with calm serenity journeying through the dizzying orchestra of animations and sounds.

Once again, I sat on the floor and watched as more patrons came in, looked around to get their

bearings and take an obligatory selfie. Like me, they settled to the floor and immersed themselves in the life of a neuron – their attention rapt. I was finally ready to leave and re-enter the world.

Waterfront Academy Montessori Miles

BY KATE OCZYPOK

Waterfront Academy is taking a unique, fun approach to fundraising this fall. The school has launched “Montessori Miles” this November, encouraging interested participants to run, jog or walk 30 miles in 30 days this November.

With registration, you can get a t-shirt that features a “Running Knight” to wear as you complete your 30 miles, and photograph yourself in what the school is calling an “UnSelfie.” Post your “UnSelfie” on social media, tag #WaterfrontAcademyMontessoriMiles and get others interested and inspired.

Anyone can participate and keep track of their miles in a log that will be sent to those who sign up.

The fundraiser supports Waterfront Academy’s Capital Campaign to grow school programs and is a rally event leading up to #GivingTuesday on November 30. Waterfront Academy is planning a Facebook event in honor of #GivingTuesday where Facebook will match donations until their allocated money runs out. Waterfront Academy is currently looking for other matching organizations. For



more information, reach out to Ana Khosrofian at ana.khosrofian@waterfrontacademy.org.

Waterfront Academy is hoping to expand school programs with a larger school facility to reach more students and families and to grow school amenities like the library, science lab and music and art programs.

The deadline to register for Montessori Miles is Friday, November 19. Kits for runners, joggers, and walkers can be picked up at Waterfront Academy at 222 M Street SW or mailed directly to you for a five dollar shipping fee.

Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Kicks off Coat Drive

BY MAX GROSSMAN

Serve Your City (SYC)/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (W6MA) is working with Black and Brown grassroots organizations to help keep our communities safe. The Southwest Pod of SYC/W6MA is partnering with Christ United Methodist Church to serve our neighbors with food and supplies throughout the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

This month kicks off the Southwest DC Winter Coat Drive. SYC/W6MA wants to support our neighbors by making sure everyone is able to dress warmly this winter.

From November 1 to December 18, SYC/W6MA is accepting donations of **new** children’s coats (all ages) and **new** adult coats (highest need for size 1XL and up). Neighbors can support the SW DC Winter Coat Drive by dropping off any donations of new coats at Christ United Methodist Church (900 4th Street SW; courtyard entrance near library) on **Wednesdays or Fridays from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. or Saturdays from 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.**

As usual, SYC/W6MA will continue to collect non-perishable foods, toiletries, and household cleaning items to serve our community during the

donation hours above, in partnership with Christ United Methodist Church. This month’s needs include:

- Food/beverage: peanut butter, crackers, soup, canned fruit (low sugar), instant rice and box rice dishes, spaghetti noodles, hot breakfast cereal, breakfast bars
- Personal hygiene: new children’s underwear and socks (ages 3-5), toothbrushes, bar soap, hand lotion
- Cleaning: laundry detergent, dish soap

You can also donate online at bit.ly/swcoatdrive or through the QR code.

Please note, the hours of the **5000 Food Pantry** will change in November and December. The new time will be the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 2:30 p.m. The **W6MA Fresh Produce** distribution will change to every Saturday starting in November, except holidays.

If you or someone you know needs support, call the Mutual Aid Hotline at 202-683-9962 or email ward6mutualaid@gmail.com. Want to get involved or just learn more? Contact us at swmutualaid@serveyourcitydc.org.



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MuralsDC Honors Pioneering Women in STEM Fields

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

One of the newest MuralsDC artworks is located in Southwest, in partnership with JBG Smith, the Department of Public Works, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the SWBID.

Artist Ally Grimm, aka A.L. Grime, brought a larger-than-life mural to L’Enfant Plaza at the corner of D Street SW, and the 9th Street Expressway. The mural features two women pioneers in the field of STEM research.

With NASA’s headquarters nearby in Southwest, Grimm paid homage to Nicole Stott, a NASA engineer, astronaut, artist, and mother. Stott, like Grimm, also blurs the lines of science and art. Now retired, she has dedicated herself to advocacy and collaboration between the arts and STEM to find creative solutions to environmental and social issues. Stott completed two spaceflights and 104 days living and working in space as a crew member.

In the same vein as combining STEM and art, Grimm also celebrated Joy Buolamwini, the Algorithm Justice League founder. Buolamwini’s work in tech led to the discovery of racial bias in facial recognition software and was recently highlighted in the Netflix documentary, “Coded Bias.” Her groundbreaking work advocates for an empathy-forward approach to tech and explores the next frontier in artificial intelligence ethics.



Courtesy of SWBID

Artist Ally Grimm, aka A.L. Grime, honors pioneering women in STEM fields with a mural on display at L’Enfant Plaza.

Grimm is a Venezuelan-American artist, muralist, and graphic

designer originally from DC. Mixing science and art, her work “combines the rise of the technological era through the lens of the human experience through bold, emotion-driven patterns,” according to Grimm’s website.

Stay tuned for an augmented reality experience coming to the mural soon via QR code.

REDESIGN

Continued from p. 3

Station.

Planning for both initiatives began two years ago, with the partners named as Capitol Riverfront Mobility BID, Southwest BID, DDOT and design consultant Kimley-Horn.

“Everyone is better off when you choose a bike, when you choose a scooter or you choose to walk,” Dr. Balasubramanian said.

Project coordinators are hoping to get more community feedback during outreach events in the coming weeks.

Developers will wrap up the second phase in the next few months, with formal design recommendations submitted to DDOT by the end of this year.

Haley Murphy is a MA candidate and graduate ambassador at American University School of Communication. She is a former Associate Producer for ViacomCBS in Sacramento, California and is focusing her studies on broadcast journalism.



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 - Living Classrooms Thanksgiving food drive
 - Omicron Eta Lambda SW school supply distribution
 - Serve Your City SW Ducklings Clothing Drive
 - St. Augustine’s Church hot meals for the SW AYA
 - SW Comm-Unity Forum community day and Christmas Toy Drive
 - SWNA college scholarships
 - Waterfront Village for seniors

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Photo of the Month



An installation on the National Mall from DC artist Suzanne Brennan Firstenberg titled *In America: Remember* honors each of the lives lost to COVID-19.

Courtesy of Ambassador Mattie R. Sharpless

If you would like to submit a photo for consideration for Photo of the Month, please email it to editor@thesouthwester.com.

REDISTRICTING

Continued from p. 1

that redistricting following the previous census left Ward 6 larger than it should have been even prior to the growth of the past decade.

"It was made a more difficult decision this time because hard decisions weren't made last time," Bowser said.

Though the mayor has no formal role in the redistricting process, Bowser shared her personal experience serving as a Ward 4 Councilmember following the 2000 redistricting process, which saw portions of Chevy Chase move from Ward 3 to Ward 4.

"While I wasn't around for the debate and I didn't participate leading up to it, I think the whole city benefited from the final decision. It made for a diversity of opinions and views and I think it made the ward stronger," Bowser said.

The demographics of Ward 6 in its current form include a population that is 49% white and 39% Black, making it among the most racially mixed wards in the city. Wards 7 and 8 are more than 90% Black.

"Race is always a big issue in district politics, and it will be an issue in redistricting," Silverman said. "We've had a really honest discussion so far about race and demographics. I'm not going to tolerate what I consider racist statements or racial dog whistles about why people can't live in one ward or the other."

Silverman said another factor in the redistricting process is geographical continuity to ensure political boundaries are compact and contiguous. She is also prioritizing keeping "communities of interest" together and said she has heard directly from Southwest residents in favor of keeping Southwest together as a neighborhood.

"This is the District's opportunity to take all aspects of our communities into account as we rebalance our Wards to ensure equal and fair political representation," Henderson said. "I'll be looking at maintaining whole census tracts, minimizing 'islands,' which can come from haphazardly

splitting neighborhoods, promoting racial diversity where we can, and ensuring our proposal makes logical sense. Overall, I hope to get as many DC residents engaged in the redistricting process as possible."

Resident input is a critical factor in the redistricting process, as Silverman says she is committed to a redistricting process that is "understandable, accessible, and transparent." Her office is deploying an outreach budget established by Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and has created multiple channels for resident input.

"We have released a mapping tool so residents can participate in the process for themselves," Silverman said. "This allows residents to participate in the redistricting process by submitting their own recommendation on how to rebalance the population." The mapping tool is available at <https://dcredistricting.esriemcs.com/redistricting/>.

In addition, the Redistricting Subcommittee, which includes at-large Councilmember Anita Bonds along with Henderson and Silverman, is holding multiple public hearings, including one for each ward. Ward 6's dedicated hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. For more information or to sign up to testify, visit elissasilverman.com/redistricting.

Silverman invites residents and community groups or organizations to reach out to her office to share their input or arrange conversations.

"My job is to make sure that we meet the Constitutional requirement and that we have a process where everyone is heard who wants to be heard," Silverman said.

The Redistricting Subcommittee will make recommendations to the full Council, which will vote on the new ward boundaries in time for the primary election in June 2022. The redistricting process also affects Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) boundaries, although those will be drawn after the new ward boundaries and voted on by the full Council in time for the November 2022 general election, when ANC members are elected.



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GILLIAM

Continued from p. 7

will offer to the community?: I hope it will offer a space for people of different backgrounds to gather together. In my experience, quickly gentrifying neighborhoods have too few places where you can meet your neighbors and engage in programs and activities where you'll meet people of different backgrounds and income levels. Not everyone can afford a \$6 cup of coffee just to be able to chat with their neighbors!

What's your favorite part of our neighborhood?: I love being close to the river, it brings a sense of calm and offers a great place to be outdoors and play with my daughter or walk my dog.

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MLK Memorial Celebrates Tenth Anniversary on the Mall

BY MATTHEW KOEHLER

On a beautiful mid-October morning, community leaders, celebrities, a few very big names in national politics, and several hundred people assembled at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial to celebrate its 10th anniversary on the National Mall. Those gathered paid tribute to the civil rights leader's legacy and tied it into our current socio-political moment.

The police and secret service were out in force on the exceptionally pleasant Thursday morning to secure the area around the Memorial, direct vehicle and foot traffic, and answer questions from curious passersby. While the scheduled commemoration ceremony was to be small and intimate, President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi were among the guest speakers.

The commemoration ceremony was emceed by author and actor Hill Harper, who kept the ceremony airy while also tying in themes of social justice. During the national anthem, Harper made a joke about the helicopter flying overhead, saying, "You know it's a high quality production because they timed the helicopter flying over right as we sang the anthem."

There was a touching moment when Harper was talking to 4th grader Harrison McRae, who led the

gathered celebrants in the Pledge of Allegiance. When Harper asked McRae what Dr. King meant to him, McRae responded, "[He's] my best friend."

Around noon, Minister Wintley Phipps did a show-stopping rendition of *Amazing Grace*.

Shortly thereafter, the helicopters flew overhead and there was a short interlude, then Speaker Pelosi, Vice President Harris, and President Biden arrived.

Pelosi spoke briefly before Biden and Harris, explaining that the "memorial [is] dedicated to peace and non-violence." She also touched on Biden's Build Back Better plan, saying, "We must make real the promise of democracy for racial justice and environmental injustice."

Vice President Harris and President Biden spoke at length, using the opportunity to talk about Dr. King's legacy and how it relates to the cause for racial justice today, as well as tie in their social and economic plans.

"This monument is distinguished from every other monument along the mall. Dedicated to a man whose voice we can still hear," Harris said. "We should not have to keep fighting to secure our fundamental rights, but fight we must. Fight we will."



Courtesy of Matthew Koehler

U.S. President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi join other luminaries to mark the tenth anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall.

Harris struck a tone of defiance talking about the Freedom to Vote Act and how Senate Republicans refused to debate the bill in Congress. "Today, as a nation we must summon our own power...we must leverage our own power. [W]e are and must be unwavering in this fight and we must use our voice to call out any effort to obstruct justice."

President Biden spoke to the moment the country is at right now, calling it an "inflection point" but also struck a hopeful tone. "From here we see the push and pull between progress. It's up to us to choose who we want to be and what we want to be."

The 30 foot high granite statue, envisioned by sculptor Lei Yixin and inspired by the line from Dr. King's *I Have a Dream* speech, ("Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope") has become a focal point for activists and others. The late Representative John Lewis' funeral procession even stopped at the Memorial.

Harnessing the power of the recent resurgence of the social justice movement, the Memorial Foundation has focused on supporting the next generation of leaders, sponsoring a Social Justice Fellows Program that "train[s] rising leaders in social justice with a detailed curriculum aimed at giving them the tools needed to succeed."

One such Social Justice Fellow was Ms. Taylor J. Cowan, who introduced the speakers. Cowan spoke on Dr. King's message of love, saying, "Dr. King continues to be the embodiment of love - not the easiest virtue to live up to. King's words have provided me with light, meaning, and purpose throughout my life."

She said his words constantly remind her to never lose hope.

MAYOR

Continued from p. 1

department, in an effort to compensate for a year of not being able to hire new police officers, as well as what she described as "substantial" investments in alternatives to policing.

Police Chief Robert Contee also noted that "there is a lot of work that is going on, not just on the law enforcement side, but through the investments the Mayor has been making on the public health side," in order to reduce violent crime city-wide.

Contee mentioned additional overtime and mountain bike-based officers on duty in response to recent crimes, and said "Any one incident is one too many. We continue to remain focused on Southwest and work with our partners on the public health side to ensure safe communities."

Bowser and her team agreed on the wide range of community solutions needed to reduce and prevent crime, and included issues as wide-ranging as affordable housing, public health and education, as well as new and expanded jobs programs for 12th graders, as part of their package of solutions.

Housing and development were significant topics of conversation.

Bowser described a whole-of-government effort to review housing investments and said in one year, her administration is investing \$1 billion in affordable housing across all agencies.

"It has been a major tenant of my service as mayor to invest in affordable housing," Bowser said, while also noting "It is important for a healthy and thriving city that we continue to grow."

Bowser acknowledged the need for larger, family-style units, such as three and four bedroom houses and apartments, and the challenge of incentivizing private developments to build larger units.

In response to a question about whether she would support a Community Land Trust, a model that aims to provide permanently affordable housing and let communities decide the best use of land, at the site of the current fire truck repair station on M Street Southwest, Bowser said, "We are interested in every tool that works. If it's competitive, if it can help us build and preserve affordable housing, then we will consider it as one of many tools in the creation of affordable housing."

Executive Director of the DC Housing Authority, Brenda Donald, who has been on the job since this summer, joined the mayor to address questions

about the Greenleaf redevelopment project, which will reshape Southwest over the course of the next decade.

Donald has participated in a series of meetings with the Greenleaf community, and said she has a conversation scheduled on-site and in-person to hear more directly from residents. She acknowledged the importance of Build First, a principle of redevelopment that keeps residents nearby while new construction is completed and reduces the number of moves required before residents can return to their homes.

"We were disappointed that our original plan with our developer for Build First was turned down by the zoning commission, but we are already working on Plan B," Donald said. "It is our commitment to keep our residents in their same community, and we think our alternative plan will be even better. It is absolutely a commitment to Build First."

Bowser added that "we continue to look forward to investing in [Greenleaf's] transformation."

Acting Director of the District Department of Transportation Everett Lott joined Mayor Bowser in a discussion of transportation safety and infrastructure, including four sidewalk repaving projects in Southwest over the past year, and the importance of safe passage for pedestri-

ans on roads and sidewalks. A new regulation stating that scooters must be locked to bike racks or signposts, rather than left in the sidewalks, and speed limit reductions to 20 miles per hour on many neighborhood streets were cited as examples of solutions already in place.

Although recent high-profile and tragic pedestrian deaths have dampened the mayor's progress toward the stated Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities, "you have the city's commitment to do everything we can" to address infrastructure and add safety measures at intersections and on roadways, Bowser said.

Members of the mayor's team and other community leaders and representatives expressed their desire to stay connected to Southwest and Navy Yard residents. Talib Shakir, the Ward 6 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, invited residents to connect with him for questions or concerns at talib.shakir@dc.gov. Ralph McLean, Police Commander of the First District also invited conversation and community connections at ralph.mclean@dc.gov.

SWNA is an all-volunteer civic organization working to improve the quality of life for residents of ZIP code 20024. For more information, visit swna.org.



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swbid.org/traffic-box-art-wraps