



Southwester Editor-in-Chief Mike Goodman Steps Away with Strong Legacy of Service

BY MELISSA SILVERMAN

Since 2018, Mike Goodman has had a hand in creating each and every monthly issue of *The Southwester*, bringing local journalism to life with consistency and clarity. This issue marks his last as Editor-in-Chief, and reporters and editors who worked with him during his tenure shared their appreciation for his calm, reassuring manner and reliable leadership. Patient and practical, Goodman pursued stories large and small with the same grace and good humor throughout his time on the all-

volunteer news team.

Goodman first engaged with *The Southwester* as a reader, and while living in Capitol Park II, saw an ad seeking new editors. With a knack for copy editing, he applied for a position, interviewed, and was selected. After just a year of learning on the job, then-Editor-in-Chief Katelyn Anderson moved out of the neighborhood, and Goodman took the reins as Editor-in-Chief beginning in Septem-



See "Goodman," page 4

Courtesy Thelma D. Jones

Mike Goodman, Editor-in-Chief of *The Southwester*, at Arena Stage after moderating a panel on public safety and violence prevention in June 2024.

New Team Steps Up to Lead Southwester

As Mike Goodman passes the torch after six years with *The Southwester*, the paper's new Editor-in-Chief will be Melissa Silverman. A Southwest resident since 2018, Melissa has served as an editor of *The Southwester* for the last three years. She is looking forward to continuing to share the neighborhood's stories and can be reached at editor@thesouthwester.com.

As part of the new leadership team, lifelong Southwest resident and SWNA Scholarship recipient Una Yarsky will take on the role of Managing Editor. Una is a graduate of Hunter College with plans to continue her study of medicine.

In addition, Fredo Vasquez will take on the new position of Photo Editor. A regular contributor to *The Southwester*, he has lived in Southwest DC since 2010. Fredo and Melissa have been married for seven years.

Follow @thesouthwester on Instagram, and tag the newspaper in your posts and stories for a chance to be featured.



NEW ANC COMMISSIONERS SWORN IN

Page 8



SWNA LAUNCHES DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT TASK FORCE

Page 10

Our New Year's Resolution: A #PlasticFree Anacostia

BY PETRA BALDWIN
WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR,
ANACOSTIA RIVERKEEPER

Have you set personal goals for yourself in 2025? We have another: invest in your local watershed.

There are many complex issues on a national and global scale that seem impossible to solve, but we can all do something by starting right in our own backyard.

At Anacostia Riverkeeper, we work to protect the Anacostia River – your river – for all who live, work, and play in the watershed. As we reflect on the past year, we are inspired by the progress we have made together and energized for the work ahead. Specifically, in 2025, we're setting our sights on one of our biggest, and most tangible, problems in the Anacostia River – plastic pollution.



Courtesy of the Author

On January 18th, Anacostia Riverkeeper hosted its 11th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. 105 volunteers collected over 3,500 lbs. of trash from Pope Branch Park.

The Problem with Plastics

Plastics pollute our waterways and pose a threat to wildlife and human health. They break up into small pieces and are ingested by marine life, injuring and killing fish, seabirds, and marine mammals. As they break down into microplastics, scientists estimate that we are ingesting up to a credit card's worth of plastic weekly!

What is the biggest source of plastic in the Anacostia River? **Plastic bottles.**

In 2024, Anacostia Riverkeeper removed **31,100 plastic bottles from the river** – almost enough bottles to fill an entire school bus- and over the past decade, 60% of the trash Anacostia Riverkeeper captured has been plastic bottles.

It is time to end single-use plastic pollution. And you can help.

See "#PlasticFree," page 7



KIDS CORNER

Pages 12



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Page 14-15

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Back issues in searchable PDF are available back to 1964 on request from perry@thesouthwester.com Specify the range of years of interest.



Help Save Lives by supporting the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund.

Donations support outreach and education strategies for young girls and link low-income, uninsured and underinsured women and men with information, screening diagnostic services and counseling. Donate online at www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org.

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund is an all-volunteer award-winning grassroots organization whose 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 incidences and mortality rates of breast cancer. **Our vision** is to save lives, embrace and achieve a world community free of breast cancer.

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

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 Washington, DC 20024
thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org
www.tdjbreastcancerfund.org
 (202) 251-1639

Local Musicians Bring in Crowd to Support Music Departments

BY UNA YARSKY

The second annual fundraiser for Amidon-Bowen Elementary and Jefferson Middle schools' music departments took place on January 9th at The Wharf's Union Stage. The musical duo *Urban Kites*, consisting of former and current Southwest residents Terry Tuttle and James Yarsky, performed a setlist of twenty-four songs for Amidon-Bowen and Jefferson families and friends. Yarsky is a relative of the author.

The performance began with the Beatles' "A Hard Day's Night" and included songs with significant cultural impact across several genres. The duo performed a cover of "If I Were a Rich Man" from the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, as well as more modern songs such as "Africa" by Toto. When asked what inspired the song selections for the performance, Tuttle stated that he and Yarsky wanted to focus on music throughout several decades in American culture, from Bob Dylan's 1965 "Like A Rolling Stone," Bill Withers' 1972 hit "Lean on Me," to "Bad Guy" by Billie Eilish. Tuttle's son Oliver, a former Amidon-Bowen student, performed a



Courtesy of Alexis Tuttle

Local musicians show their support for student music programs.

cover of Eminem's "Lose Yourself" with backup performers Marshall and Ned Millstone. The instrumentation for the evening included vocals, a nylon string classical guitar, a bass, and a resonator guitar.

Throughout the performance, photographs and art pieces that related to each song were projected behind the duo. Edvard Munch's "The Scream" was projected on the back wall of the stage while the two performed "A Hard Day's Night" as a tribute to the Beatles' countless screaming fans. A Diego Rivera mosaic was projected during the Spanish-language songs on the setlist such as "La Bamba" and "Guan-

tanamera."

Tuttle believes that musical education is important. He stated that music is the "intersection of math, art, and science" and teaches young students important values such as confidence, shared responsibility, and teamwork. Yarsky hopes the performance inspires other students and parents and believes that "music is good medicine." An audience member described the performance as "creative and fun" and praised the expansive setlist. The fundraiser drew in a considerable local crowd at Union Stage despite the cold weather.

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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TDJBCF Kick-Off Support Group Meeting on Advocacy Featuring Journalist Andrea Roane

BY AMBER STEWART

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF) kicked off 2025 with a support group meeting via Zoom and Facebook centered on themes of advocacy and hope in the new year. Special guests for the kick-off included Deanna Darlington of Links2Equity, Andrea Roane, an award-winning journalist and cancer advocate, and Dr. Sara Horton of the Howard University Cancer Center.

Darlington, a Southwest resident and longtime TDJBCF supporter, served as the emcee, framing the evening's conversation by reflecting on her career in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries and reminding the audience of the transformative power of advocacy, noting the opportunity to use skills acquired in advocating in one's cancer journey to advocate for meaningful change in our communities. She emphasized that health equity needed to be a top priority from a policy standpoint based on the industries' portfolio and commitment to patients.

Roane's opening remarks included her award-winning work as a journalist with WUSA-9 for nearly 40 years which enabled her to advocate for preventative care. In 1993, she and the station's health producer introduced the venerable Buddy Check 9 initiative, a monthly

reminder to DC area residents to perform self-breast exams, regular mammograms, and clinical exams as important steps in the early detection of breast cancer. In her years of covering stories of individuals battling breast cancer, a valuable lesson learned was that often, the fear of the unknown is just as detrimental to individuals as the diagnosis.

Since the end of her tenure, Roane continues to advocate for preventative care. She noted: "Advocacy is what transforms individual stories into collective action; that is why we're here. Advocacy is about using our voices to impact change. Whether that means pushing for policy reforms, increasing access to care, having the month of April being cancer prevention month, or simply being a source of strength for someone with a cancer diagnosis."

Horton then shared her insights and discussed the meaning and importance of advocacy in addressing disparities in cancer care, particularly for marginalized communities such as where the TDJBCF has focused its efforts since its inception in 2010. Horton highlighted the need for increased participation in clinical trials and the importance of raising awareness about breast cancer. She also shared ways to advocate such as joining advocacy groups like the TDJBCF, among other notable groups she had

worked with, and advocating for policy change. She also mentioned the importance of clinical research and the need for increased equitable access to clinical trials, noting the dismal representation of minorities in clinical trials.

"We can start to move the needle with clinical research: to try to encourage participation in clinical trials. We talk about the disparities and disparities being different outcome compared to another group with a disease. The only way we will be able to answer questions around these disparities is if we're able to study Black women who have breast cancer, and we do that in a guise of a clinical trials."

To see the video recording of the kick-off meeting, please visit <https://fb.watch/xEDFs2F0ls> and consider sharing your comments on the meeting.

The Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID), a TDJBCF partner, will sponsor the meeting for the fourth consecutive year. The next TDJBCF support group meeting will be Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom and the TDJBCF Facebook Live. Join us as we celebrate Black History Month with the focus on men's health, including breast cancer in men, multiple myeloma, colon, prostate, and lung cancer. For more details, email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org.



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Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Launches Book Drive for Black History Month

BY KATRINA AVILA

At Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA), we work to ensure that Black and Brown youth and families across DC have access to the resources they need—not just to survive but to thrive. Through after-school enrichment programs, tutoring, and essential community support, SYC/W6MA places a strong emphasis on the safety, well-being, and dignity of our neighbors.

Since our founding, SYC/W6MA has been dedicated to providing vital resources such as food, cleaning supplies, school materials, digital devices, household items, and clothing to those in need. These efforts are made possible by our continued partnerships with Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Southwest DC and with grassroots organizations that serve

Black and Brown communities across the city. By organizing supply drives, distributing food, and launching innovative initiatives, we aim to uplift and empower our neighbors. The unwavering generosity of our donors and volunteers showcases the strength of community solidarity, ensuring critical support reaches those facing hardship and systemic barriers. Together, we are creating a safer and more equitable future for all.

Interested in Supporting Your Community? Here's How You Can Get Involved with Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid:

Black History Month Book Drive: This Black History Month, SYC/W6MA and East City Bookshop are teaming



up to gather a diverse selection of Afrocentric books written by Black and Brown authors for K-12 students across DC. Help us promote literacy and representation by shopping our wishlists from February 1st through February 28th at East City Bookshop: bit.ly/bookdrive-sycw6ma. Make a difference in the lives of children in our neighborhoods and celebrate Black History Month in a meaningful way!

Volunteer as a Virtual Tutor: Join SYC/W6MA's *Free School for Unlimited Youth* program, which offers FREE virtual tutoring for Black and Brown K-12 students across Washington, DC. We're seeking dedicated college students, graduate students, and professionals to tutor in various subjects. Interested?

Sign up at bit.ly/sycvolunteertutor or contact us at youthenrichment@serveyourcitydc.org to learn more.

Your involvement can make a lasting impact—join us today!

Support Our Work

Your financial contributions are crucial in sustaining our efforts. By donating online at bit.ly/sycw6ma-donate, you directly strengthen our support for CUMC's 5000 Food Ministry and help address food access challenges in Southwest DC. Your generosity enables us to purchase essential food items in bulk, maximizing our impact and extending our reach to those who need it most.

Stay Updated on Our Work Across DC

For the latest updates on our programs and initiatives, visit serveyourcitydc.org.

GOODMAN

Continued from p. 1

ber 2019. After six years of service, including five in the top job, Goodman steps away this month.

Other members of the all-volunteer staff shared these tributes.

Matt Koehler, former Copy Editor

The night before my first deadline as a new copy editor, I was on the phone with Mike. It was a hard deadline and we were 1-2 stories, and a few photos, short of a full newspaper. It was somewhere past the opening bell of the witching hour.

"What's your lede?" Mike said over the phone.

I was looking over some documents about crime and policing. Surely Mike could hear the gears of my brain grinding on the other end. The silence stretched out longer – several minutes.

"Wait a minute! I just got a notification from [redacted]. We have an article with a picture. Talk about an 11th hour miracle."

The paper went out on schedule the following week. Crisis averted. I had made it through my first issue – thanks to Mike.

There was another time the following summer when we were all standing outside Carrollsburg, along with dozens of other people in the neighborhood, watching the north building burn. This was during Covid, so it had been a while since we'd seen each other in person, outside, and with lots of other people. While watching the flames blacken the side of the building, we both had the same thought: We need to cover this.

Mike fostered good energy at *The Southwester*, and working with him made me feel like we were a part of something bigger. We produced actual news, told real stories. It was a time in my writing career that I felt most in-tune with that thing all writers aspire to – saying something meaningful and universal about the world that other people identify with. I wouldn't have had the confidence to pursue these meaningful, universal, and real life stories without Mike's encouragement.

Mike and I, at least for our part, accomplished a lot of what good local journalism is supposed to be about: informing the public and hopefully driving some positive change. We reported on many stories we felt strongly about, bike lanes, Vulcan, and The Press, to name a few. We covered DC elections, pro eSports, and protests, too. The list goes on. We were a great news team and to this day, I appreciate to the very bottom of my heart having spent that time producing community news with him – mostly during covid!

Thelma D. Jones, columnist, writer and community leader

Mike's tenure as our dedicated and committed editor of *The Southwester* has been more than stellar. Our community has grown in vigor and greater unity because of his steadfast efforts in highlighting articles from a diverse group of community residents on matters that affect us all, thereby helping to maintain a level of trust which is always at stake for our marginalized Southwest residents.

I will miss my friend and comrade's six years of late-night emails, gentle reminders when my masterpiece -- at least that's how I regarded it -- hadn't been submitted. I will no doubt miss feeling his keen sense of fairness as a thought leader and consideration for neighbors who may not be able to access stories online.

Together, we brought joy and shared information on a range of subjects, including youth and scholarship activities, breast cancer and the importance of early detection which creates better outcomes, Black History celebration stories, profiles of Southwest residents and upcoming events, and welcomed new writers like Una Yarsky, Paula Young Shelton,

Amber Stewart, and representatives from Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Howard University.

No one could tell my story like Mike. There are memorable articles that I will forever cherish and have proudly distributed in my hometown of Snow Hill, NC, my college town of Durham, NC, to my former colleagues at the World Bank Group, and throughout the country and the world.

In a community of a clear delimitation of the "haves and have nots," Mike's understanding of humanity and social justice with very little need for public recognition and his focus on ensuring equity and giving everyone a voice in the process is commendable and far exceeds the average citizen. With a manner that could be at times quiet and unassuming, Mike has not sought the limelight, but instead sought justice steadfastly even while no doubt receiving pressure from others to pursue a different course of action which is less inclusive. Kudos!

Donna Purchase, Chair of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA)

On behalf of the SWNA board, we wish a heartfelt farewell to Michael (Mike) Goodman, a valued member of the SWNA team as the volunteer Editor-in-Chief of *The Southwester*.

Even though Mike has not been in the spotlight, he has been the backbone of *The Southwester*. We are forever thankful for the time he has given. His contributions have been immense and tremendous. But this is not goodbye! Looking forward to seeing Mike and his family around the neighborhood.

Support Your Neighborhood Assembly

Please consider donating to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). We've been your Civic Association since 1963. SWNA publishes *The Southwester*, holds topical community meetings and has a number of active task forces focusing within the 20024 zipcode. To contribute to SWNA's operational fund follow this:



One of SWNA's longstanding and important task forces raises money for scholarships which go to students within 20024 zipcode who are pursuing higher education. This year, we gave 27 scholarships ranging from \$1000 to \$3000 each. To contribute to the SWNA scholarship fund directly follow this



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SWNA Black History Month Celebration Will Focus on Urban Renewal

BY THELMA D. JONES AND CAROLYN SWOPE

Join the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's (SWNA) Subcommittee on Black History in celebration of Black History Month on Monday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. The annual event will be held at Arena Stage and this year's focus is on urban renewal and its legacy in the community.

In the 1950s, Southwest was a majority-Black, mainly working-class neighborhood with lively businesses and strong social institutions. However, most of Southwest was deemed a "slum" and razed to the ground during urban

renewal. More than 23,000 people and 1,500 businesses were displaced, and most of the new housing built targeted middle- and upper-income residents instead. The new community that emerged would look very different from the old Southwest. Today, nearly 75 years later, urban renewal casts a long shadow as its legacy continues to shape the neighborhoods built and social environment.

The event will feature a panel discussion on "Perspectives on the Legacy of Urban Renewal" moderated by Gottlieb Simon, ANC Commissioner, SMD 6D02, and Chairperson ANC6D. The panel will include long-time Southwest

residents, activists, and advocates who experienced the effects of urban renewal and who will share their perspectives on its long-term effects. Panelists include civic activists and advocates Carl Cole, Paul Taylor, and O. Delmar Weathers.

The program will also include a musical performance by local students. Staff from the DC History Center will be in attendance to share information with residents about how to access historical evidence about the city's past.

The program will be accompanied by a photo exhibit showing life in Southwest before urban renewal, the neighborhood's destruction in the 1950s, and the early days of the new neighborhood being built. Building on a successful debut at Summer in Lansburgh, an annual summer event organized by Paul Taylor, Executive Director, SW Comm-Unity Forum, the photographs can help residents compare places in the neighborhood before and after urban renewal, see how residents found joy and community amid difficulties, and explore how Southwest was far more than a "slum."

We hope that residents and friends of Southwest will learn something new and come away thinking about actions we can take to address urban renewal's legacy. Newcomers to Southwest and others who may be unfamiliar with the history of urban renewal can become more familiar with what happened and how it affected the community. Meanwhile, long-time residents and others

with personal and family connections to the neighborhood can discover new details or images that bring the past back to life. Regardless, we hope that the event can inspire reflection and conversations among residents about why these legacy matters in the present day, and how it can help us understand and respond to current issues in Southwest, such as redevelopment. As Carter G. Woodson, the father of the study of African American history, remarked, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from teaching of biography and history."

For more information on the event, please email thelma@tdjbreastcancerfund.org or call (202) 251-1639.

Thelma D. Jones is a community activist serving in various leadership roles for more than four decades with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. A 17-year breast cancer thriver, she is also the founder of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund, an award-winning grassroots nonprofit in Southwest DC.

Carolyn Swope, MPH, is a PhD candidate at Columbia University researching recent gentrification and redevelopment in Southwest, how it relates to Southwest's longer history, and the implications for Black residents' health and well-being. Her ongoing research is based in both archival work and discussions with Southwest residents and leaders.

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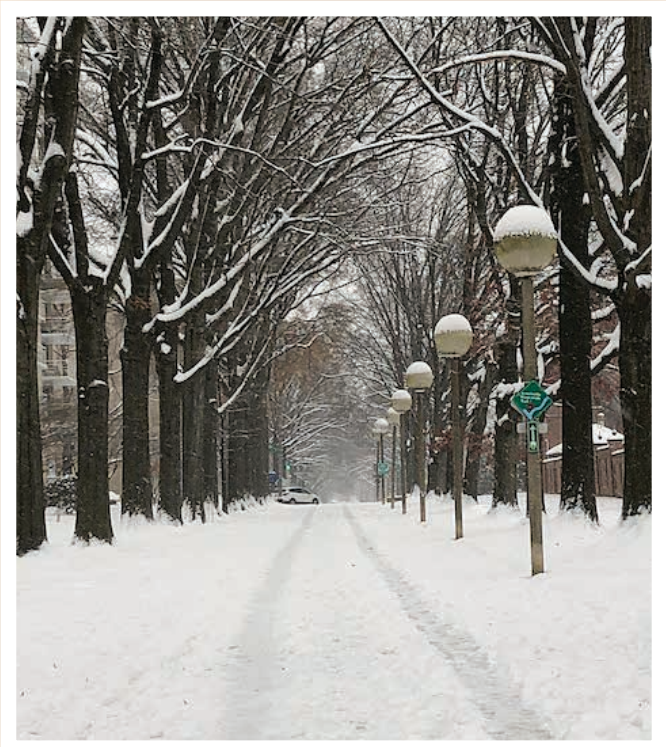
- Alpha Phi Alpha/OHA SW Day school supply drive
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- Coralie Farlee Graduate Scholarship
- DC STORM educational trip to Norfolk for SW teens
- EmmaUS trip to Harriet Tubman home for SW kids
- GOODProjects program for SW families
- Living Classrooms/Dent House community programs
- Richard Right High School (SW) science lab equipment
- SW Community Center "Mutt Strut"
- SW Comm-Unity Forum SW Day and Toys-for-Tots
- SWNA college scholarships
- Waterfront Village programs for SW seniors

Thanks for your good work for Southwest!

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Southwest Moment



Courtesy of Irene Allen

An early January snowstorm blanketed the Southwest waterfront.

#PLASTICFREE

Continued from p. 1

Achieving a #PlasticFree Anacostia

Let's all consciously not use plastics in our everyday life. Let's advocate for a plastic bottle bill which reduces single-use plastics from our environment. By implementing policies that reduce single-use plastic, we are not only protecting the environment, but we are also protecting our health.

On January 16th, the DC Council introduced a bill that would establish a deposit-return system for beverage containers in the District, including plastic bottles. This could drastically reduce plastic bottle pollution in the river and reduce the breakdown of plastic into harmful microplastics. This has been a long time coming, and is a result of years of hard work. We are hopeful that the bill will pass and bring us closer to a #PlasticFree Anacostia.

In the meantime, we continue to work to keep existing plastic pollution from entering our waterways. On January 18th, Anacostia Riverkeeper hosted our 11th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Together with 105 volunteers, we collected over 3,500 lbs. of trash from Pope Branch

Park. This included an estimated 2,000 plastic bottles.

Every action counts, including yours. You can make a difference to curb plastic pollution today. Write or call your council member and share your opinions about plastic bottle legislation. Don't know who they are? You can find your councilmember and their contact information at dccouncil.gov/councilmembers.

Take Action

As the voice of the river, Anacostia Riverkeeper will continue to fight for its protection, advocating for clean water and equitable access. We all deserve a clean and healthy Anacostia River and, together, we can make that happen. Let's make 2025 a big year.

- Looking for other ways to get involved? You can:
- Volunteer at a trash cleanup
- Become a community science water quality monitor
- Attend your local ANC meetings
- Bring a friend to our free Family Fishing events or on a boat tour

Reach out to info@anacostiariverkeeper.org or visit anacostiariverkeeper.org to learn more about our programs and get involved in advocacy and community engagement opportunities.

Sounds of Southwest

BY FREDO VASQUEZ

A selection of concerts coming to Southwest's music venues.

Molchat Doma (Punk) - After selling out the 9:30 Club twice in 2023, this Belorussian band returns to DC to promote their fourth album *Belaya Pelosa*. Compared to The Cure and Joy Division, Molchat Doma's synth, drum machines, and deep vocals will take you back to the 1980s Soviet Bloc. For a taste, listen to the TikTok viral *Sudno*. February 11 at the Anthem. Tix: \$35-\$55.

Kelsey Carter and the Heroines (Rock) - You know a band is on to something when the Foo Fighters add them to their Apple Music playlist. Their songs bring out teenage anger and anxiety in a fun way. For a sample, listen to *God Knows I've Tried* or *Hotel Flamingo*. February 14 at Pearl Street. Tix: \$18 - \$35, Meet & Greet: \$100.

DC The Don (Rap) - After giving up a career in basketball, DC has established himself as a top new voice in hip hop. The artist himself says his latest album *Rebirth* may be his best

yet. *Worst Day* and *Holy Matrimony* are two songs that showcase his talent. February 19 at Union Stage. Tix: \$25 (\$30 day of show).


The Hails (Alternative) - Formed in Gainesville, FL, this five-piece band blends indie rock sounds, surf rock, and synth beats to create a new brand of modern alternative rock. The band has a reputation for captivating live performances. If you are a *Flipturn* fan, this band will be worth checking out. February 23 at Union Stage. Tix: \$25 (\$30 day of show).

Maro and Nasaya (Jazz, Electronic) - Maro is a Portuguese jazz and folk singer and Nasaya is an electronic music composer and producer. Though they each have their own careers, they have combined forces to create hypnotic songs. Maro's beautiful vocals intersect with beds of synth pads and tropical beats. Expect them to have separate sets to showcase their own work as well as their collaboration. For a taste, listen to *CryCryCry* or *Tempo*. February 27 at Union Stage. Tix: \$25 (\$30 day of show).



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

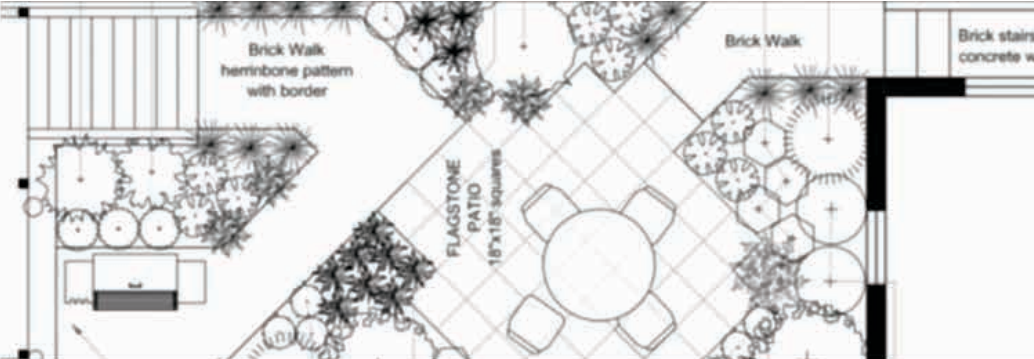
If you would like to submit a photo for consideration as Photo of the Month, email it to editor@thesouthwester.com Selected photos will also be featured on The Southwester's newly refreshed Instagram feed. Follow us @thesouthwester



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ANC Commissioners Sworn In During January Ceremony

On January 2, 2025, Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen swore in members of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) at the Washington Convention Center. ANC 6D is a non-partisan, neighborhood body comprised of locally elected commissioners to represent different areas of the Southwest community in the 2024 ZIP code. The commissioners meet in public session once a month to discuss issues affecting the community. More information is on their website www.anc6d.org.



ABOVE: ANC 6D commissioners Gail Fast, Chearie Phelps-El, Fredrica (Rikki) Kramer, Bruce Levine, Gottlieb Simon, Marquell Merlin Washington, and Andrea Pawley. (Not pictured: Rhonda Hamilton)



Photos Courtesy of Perry Klein

ABOVE: Two new ANC 6D commissioners, Gottlieb Simon and Marquell Merlin Washington.

LEFT: Ms. Senior District of Columbia, Southwest resident Emma Ward, with Rikki Kramer.



Courtesy of The Stacks

A rendering of The Stacks at Buzzard Point.

First Residents Move in to The Stacks Development in Buzzard Point

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

On January 15, the first new residents moved into a six acre community called The Stacks, a brand-new development in Buzzard Point. Built by Akridge and National Real Estate Development, the first phase of the project will include 40,000 square feet across all three residential buildings. An on-site resident market is set to open in mid-2025, along with a new Capital Bikeshare station.

“The Stacks was meticulously

crafted by a curated team of architects and designers to honor Buzzard Point’s rich history while embracing its future,” said Katie Hartley, Director of Development at National Development.

When fully completed, The Stacks will feature two million square feet of mixed-use space, including apartments, retail, hotel, office, open space, shops and restaurants. A pedestrian-only street will run through the development, which will include public plazas and community spaces.

Southwest DC Community Center Will Create A New, Vibrant Gathering Place

BY THE SOUTHWEST DC COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From the thrills of Arena Stage and The Wharf, to the serenity of Lansburgh Park and the Duck Pond, from the natural beauty of the coastline and water at Buzzard Point to the mesmerizing simplicity of the Titanic Memorial, the Southwest quadrant enjoys an abundance of places to enjoy a cultural, natural, or historical experience. Our organization, the Southwest Community Center, will add to all of that a community hub and gathering place for all residents of Southwest and Navy Yard.

The Community Center—which will occupy space on the first two floors of the not-yet-built high-rise located at the northeast corner of the 4th and M Streets SW intersection—will serve as a central gathering area for the community. While the physical space will serve as a facility for arts events, education and training courses, group classes, and human services including job fairs, the Center will also serve as a conduit for community enrichment.

In the run-up to an expected 2027 ground-breaking, the Community Center’s Board of Directors has been active in pursuing fundraising and raising awareness. In 2024, the Board held monthly meetings and supervised four committees—fundraising, governance,

finance, and community engagement/communication. On Saturdays throughout the summer, the Board staffed a table at the Southwest Farmers’ Market (located at the Lot on M), speaking with members of the community and seeking feedback about types of programming community members want to see at the Center. The Board is actively compiling this feedback to prepare for classes and activities when the physical space opens.

For the last three years, the Board has held its signature Mutt Strutt fundraising event in October. Previously held in Lansburgh Park, in 2024 the event moved to the Lot and expanded into a Fall Family Festival, including a neighborhood walk (and prizes) for pups and people, vendors, food trucks, and live music.

“The Mutt Strutt is a fabulous way for community members to come together and enjoy the company of their neighbors. It is a microcosm of what we hope the Center itself will be—a place for community enrichment,” said current Board chair, Gail Fast.

Residents of Southwest and Navy Yard who are interested in joining the Board of Directors, and/or volunteering for the Community Center’s various committees may reach the Board at info@swdccc.org. We look forward to serving the community for decades to come.



Thanking Our 2024 Donors

Admirals- Gifts of \$2,500 or more

Caroline Ashe	Johanna Cummings	John McGrath	State Department Federal Credit Union
Candice Bryant	Department of Aging and Community Living	Mary Moran	Washington Home Foundation
Shirley Buzzard	David and Barbara Ehrlich	National Capital Bank	
Capital Yacht Club	Peter and Stephanie Eicher	Andy Peers/Compass Realty	
Carol Cowgill	Friends of Southwest	Carroll Quinn	
Katherine and Hans Crump	KVS Title	Diane Renzulli	
Wiesner		Southwest BID	

Captain's Club - Gifts of \$1,000 or more

Anonymous	Deborah Greenstein	Ed Peterman	Washington Area Village Exchange
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Diana Berchiolli	John Hoag and Mary Caufield	Elaine Riccio	Vellum Mortgage
Joyce DeRoy	DC Internists	Right Size Law	
Georgetown Home Care	TrustEd Champions	Jo Ann Scott	
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Friends of Southwest- Gifts of \$250 or More

Ararity	Barbara Friedman	Kerri Kemp	Janessa Robinson
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Bob Craycraft and Chris Beck	GoGo Access	Brigitte and Helmut Merklein	Jean Sammon
Stephanie Dalton	Bonnie and Gene Harris	Steve Moore	David Simonds
Dan Felger and Jean Herz	Iris Harvey	Paladin Life Care	Smile Beautiful Dental
FGS Construction	Ashley Jenkins	Victoria Peckham	Cindy Stevens
Heather Foley	Good Company Doughnuts	Barb Rehm	CA Stillions

Community Supporters

Council Member Charles Allen	Boardwalk at the Wharf	Momo Chicken	St. Matthew Church
Council Member Anita Bonds	Capitol Riverfront BID	Pendry Hotel	The UPS Store
Council Member Christina Henderson	Diament Gifts	Richard Wright Charter School	Walters Sports Bar
All-Purpose Pizza	Gatsby	Southwester	Waterside Fitness
Arena Stage	Kirwin's	Spy Museum	Wharf Properties
Bartaco	Limani	Station Four	
	Maker's Union	St. Augustine's Church	

Support our older neighbors by contributing to Waterfront Village as a Supporting Member or 2024 Friend of the Village. Go to www.dewaterfrontvillage.org and hit the donate button, or call us on 202-656-1834.

DC Central Kitchen Hosts MLK Day Serve-A-Thon with Hunger Free America

Volunteers joined DC Central Kitchen at their Buzzard Point kitchen for acts of service to mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Hosted with Hunger Free America, the holiday weekend Serve-A-Thon gave community members a chance to get involved and give back.



Courtesy of DC Central Kitchen

ABOVE: Volunteers at the Klein Center for Jobs and Justice on Buzzard Point.

RIGHT: DC Central Kitchen's Darlene King and volunteer Leah Zhu-Ireland cutting squash.



SWNA Offers March Webcasts To Advance Digital Awareness

BY SOUTHWESTER STAFF

Digital awareness is the knowledge and skills needed to use technology effectively and responsibly. To help Southwest residents with this, community webinars are planned to begin in March.

The webinars are sponsored by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's (SWNA) Digital Empowerment Task Force (DETF). As the newest SWNA Task Force, DETF will identify and pursue projects that address issues related to digital equity, affordable access, training and skills development on devices, digital literacy, financial literacy, cybersecurity, scams, and privacy with a focus on practical and productive use to impact the quality of life.

These services will empower participants to function effectively in an increasingly digital world, enabling them to access crucial online services through technology, such as healthcare, municipal services, social services, and more. In summary, the Digital Empowerment Task Force's primary goals are to provide services



that enhance skills and create opportunities for better employment prospects while addressing digital equity and literacy challenges. Through funded initiatives, the task force seeks to equip individuals with the necessary skills to navigate the digital world effectively and access vital online services.

DETF will sponsor a series of Zoom webinars as part of this activity. The webinars will keep the Southwest community updated, informed, and empowered about the latest developments and uses of technology-related applications that could have some fundamental impact on their daily activities or lives. The webinars will be designed around suggested topics from groups and categories such as young and middle-aged adults, senior citizens, veterans, people with disabilities, or others.

Each webinar will be recorded and have a transcript, which will be cataloged on the SWNA website (SWNA.org), a value-added feature. Over the course of a year, the DETF will pilot

See "Webcasts," page 13

Ahead of Second Trump Inauguration, Progressive Community Group Plans Path Forward

BY MANDY KATZ

"What Next?" was the theme of a community meeting sponsored by Indivisible Waterfront at the Southwest Branch Library on January 11. The event brought together longtime and new political activists disappointed in the outcome of November's elections and pondering how—for some, even if—the grassroots can organize effectively under a Republican-controlled government.

A capacity crowd of forty members of Indivisible Waterfront spent two hours unpacking their responses to the "MAGA" victory and planning activities to soften its impact while supporting Democratic party renewal in the year to come. Attendees left the meeting with renewed commitment and feelings of enhanced solidarity and confidence that activism makes a difference.

Formed by Southwest residents shortly after Donald Trump's 2016 presidential win, Indivisible Waterfront (IW) mobilizes strategic personal and small-group action to advance progressive policies and candidates at the local, state and national levels. The group, which always welcomes new members (www.swingleft.org/group/indivisible-waterfront), works independently and with national organizations like SwingLeft to support Democratic causes and candidates, through letter-writing, donations, voter registration, poll monitoring and myriad forms of canvassing.

The January gathering at the library differed from the group's typical meetings in both format and content. Moderated by IW organizer Bobbie Friedman, a longtime Southwest resident, it featured breakouts for discussion and brainstorming after which each small group presented their thoughts to the larger assembly. Attendees were asked at the outset to jot down their post-election state of mind in a few words on a Post-It. These were affixed to a wall of comments. When read aloud early in the meeting, they portrayed a range of feelings in the room from disappointment, numbness, anger and fear to hope and renewed commitment.

The space soon filled with a friendly buzz and occasional laughter as participants ranging in age from twenty- to eighty-something, many already acquainted and others new to the group, moved the next phase: Using paper and markers provided to record their ideas, they talked and connected about how they are navigating the current political reality and girding themselves for new work



on issues that concern them. One spokesperson from each table then presented their collective ideas to the group. Strategies mentioned included focusing on music, art and meditation, being with friends, exercising, and strategically limiting exposure to a firehose of news.

In addition to coping mechanisms, participants pooled their ideas for how they planned or hoped to focus their efforts productively in the year to come. Pending special elections for judgeships (in Wisconsin, for example), various state ballot initiatives, and Virginia's 2025 election cycle all were mentioned, along with issues of DC policy, Democratic party reform, and specific congressional initiatives. In Virginia, participants hope to help Democrats expand their narrow House of Delegates majority, and enthusiasm ran high for supporting the candidacy of former House Member Abigail Spanberger as the likely Democratic candidate for governor.

In these projects as in every past campaign, Indivisible Waterfront strives to work smart. In other words, working where given capacity, participants can have an impact. Would you like to join the conversation or learn more? Participants will reconvene February 8. For more information, contact getinfo.iw@gmail.com.



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Theater Alliance Opens Season in New Southwest Home

BY SHEILA WICKOUSKI

Professional theater company Theater Alliance recently opened its first Southwest-based season in a transformed performance space on the ground level of The Westerly on 340 Maple Drive SW. The company's season-opening show is a run of *Covenant*, billed as "Southern Gothic meets the blues," which comes to Theater Alliance straight from off-Broadway.

As Theater Alliance settles into their Southwest DC home, *The Southwester* talked to Producing Artistic Director Shanara Gabrielle. The interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

The Southwester: Over the past year, Theater Alliance had to locate and move into a new space, then opened a new play right away. How has your experience working with over two dozen theater companies helped with this incredible challenge?

Shanara Gabrielle: Moving into a new space and launching a play immediately after was both thrilling and challenging, but my experience as an artist and multi-hyphenate freelancer with so many incredible theater companies prepared me well for it. I've learned how to balance the logistical demands of an organization with the artistic drive that fuels us as cultural storytellers. This experience allowed me to lean into collaboration with our team, our partners, and our community to make sure the transition was both smooth and invigorating. At Theater Alliance, we thrive on turning obstacles into opportunities, and this challenge has been no exception.

SW: How do you like your new 9,000 square foot space at The Westerley?

SG: I absolutely love our new space at The Westerley! It feels like a space that truly reflects the bold, imaginative spirit of Theater Alliance. We are grateful to be utilizing Mayor Bowser's Pop Up Permitting program and partnering with Hoffman & Associates to activate this space on a temporary basis for one year. We'd love to make this a long term home because the space isn't just a venue; it's a community hub where we can connect with our neighbors, host meaningful conversations, and expand our justice-driven programming in ways that serve and engage. It's a place where innovation meets community, and



Courtesy of Theater Alliance

Theater Alliance Producing Artistic Director Shanara Gabrielle.

we can already feel the possibilities brimming in the walls.

SW: Theater Alliance's specialty is "socially conscious, thought-provoking work that fully engages the community in active dialogue." This season features the DC regional premiers of a buddy comedy, *The Garbologists* (January 30 - February 23) which is about co-workers in a 19-ton garbage truck, and *American Fast* (Spring 2025), the story of a young woman balancing the pressures of faith, fame and family amid the famous March Madness basketball tournament. How does Theater Alliance select plays which are produced off-Broadway all over the country?

SG: Both *The Garbologists* and *American Fast* delve into stories rarely seen on stage: the dynamic between working-class individuals and the experience of a young Muslim woman striving to succeed in a male-dominated field like basketball. By expanding the range of stories we tell, we're able to not only reflect the richness of diverse lives but also invite audiences into new narratives that they may not have encountered before. Plus, it's exciting to bring fresh perspectives to our stage—like the intimate lives of those who collect our trash and the electrifying world of women's basketball!

When selecting works for our season, I focus on stories that connect to real-life conversations that people have around their tables. It's about bringing to the stage topics that are central to our everyday lives—issues that make us reflect on our world and how we navi-

See "Alliance," page 15

Young Readers

Shake it Up

BY KITTY FELDE

If January is our traditional month for resolutions, why not make February the month to shake it up a bit. Doing the same thing over and over again can be mind-numbing. Small changes can reawaken the joy we felt not so long ago.

You can even shake up a reading rut. Putting something completely different in front of a reluctant reader can sometimes reinspire a reading habit.

If a child usually reads a paperback, try switching to an audiobook. If they devour nothing but graphic novels, hand them the original version of *The Baby-Sitter's Club* or *Percy Jackson* in prose.

If they are only interested in non-fiction books about space or robotics or snakes, ask the librarian or bookseller to help you find a middle grade novel on the same topic - such as Melissa Savage's *The Truth About Martians* or Peter Brown's *The Wild Robot* or even my upcoming mys-

tery *Snake in the Grass* about snakes showing up in the gym bags and trash cans of members of Congress.

Another way to shake it up is to switch genres. If fairy tales are the only thing a child has been reading, try introducing an adventure novel. If sports is the only category of interest, hand them a cookbook. Tell them that they don't have to love it, but just like that unfamiliar vegetable that appears on their plate, they have to try it. Five pages. Or ten minutes of reading. And if they hate it, challenge them to find something different.

Bibliophiles sometimes expand their reading menu by literally moving to a different Dewey Decimal section, or reading an entire shelf of novels by authors whose last name begins with "P."

Take the February challenge: shake it up a reading habit.

Kitty Felde writes the *Fina Mendoza Mysteries* series of middle grade novels.






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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?



Answers from January 2025 issue

Differences: The penguin is wearing different hats; there is a bunny in the picture on the right; the picture on the right says "2025;" in the picture on the right, the person on the far right is wearing a hat; the picture on the right has a yellow bird; the picture on the right has one additional firework in the top left corner.

- _____
- _____
- _____

- _____
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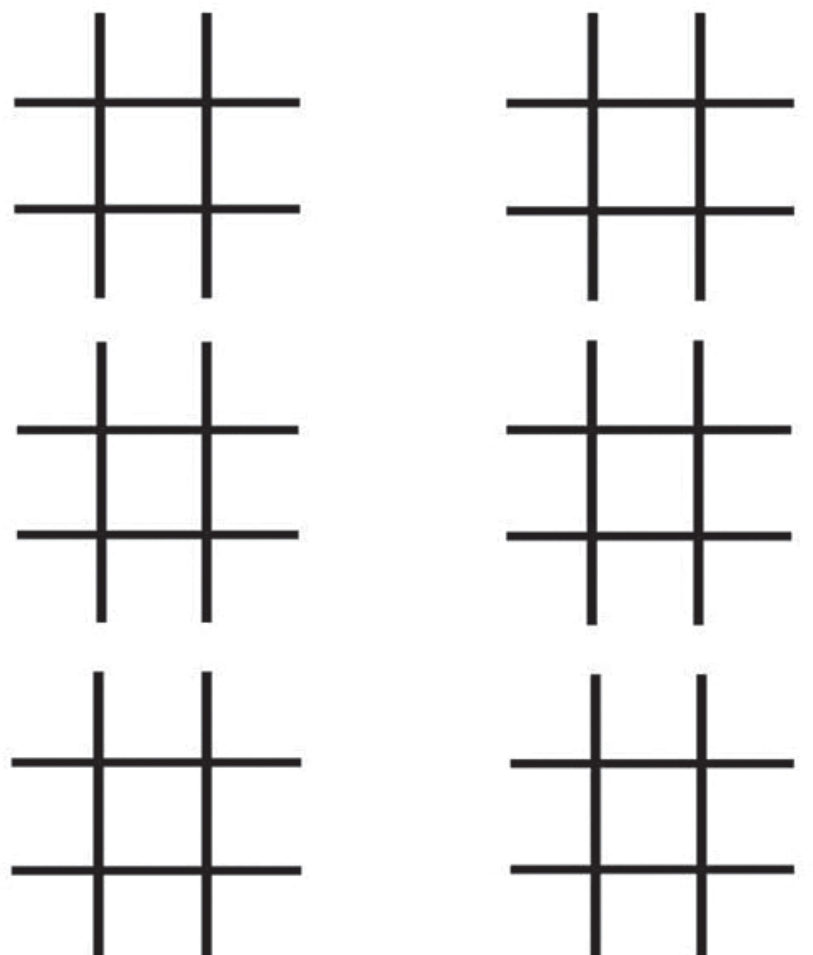
WORD SEARCH: VALENTINE'S DAY!

W	A	M	C	Y	Y	X	G	O	T	S	E	R	H	C
W	F	G	O	K	D	R	Y	X	V	V	T	A	E	P
Y	E	Z	U	N	V	Z	K	W	I	E	Y	B	A	C
S	D	R	A	C	V	P	N	T	G	L	F	U	R	K
R	T	H	D	W	P	F	A	V	G	I	A	Y	T	D
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J	P	E	R	C	T	I	K	Z	I	Z	J	L	L	R
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FLOWERS
HUGS
CARDS
LOVE
HEART

APPRECIATIVE
TOGETHER
FRIENDS
FAMILY
SPECIAL

TIC TAC TOE



Southwest's Own Museum Mile Offers Global Tour of Extraordinary Art in Our Backyard

BY SHEILA WICKOWSKI

While New York's "Museum Mile" - the Upper East Side Fifth Avenue museums - is a showcase of world art, the mile of museums here at home in Southwest DC has something to show from every one of the six inhabited continents in the world. Here's a quick tour.

AFRICA

The objects in **Benin Bronzes: Ambassadors of the Oba** at the National Museum of African Art (through December 31, 2026) have a long history that spans from their creation for royal courts as early as the 15th century to their confiscation by the British colonial forces in 1897. In more modern times, ownership of 29 objects from the museum's collection were returned to Nigeria. Nine of these objects, with permission from the kingdom of Benin, are now on long-term loan to the museum. A 16th century trophy head, ivory tusks and a copper figure of a rooster previously in the provenance of Walt Disney World are part of this rare exhibit.

More recent works by a Washington DC-based Ethiopian American artist encourages quiet reflection. **Tsedaye Makonnen—Sanctuary :: ቅዱስ :: Mekdes (Ongoing)** consists of seven light tower sculptures made up of 50 boxes, each named after an individual "lost to violence, enshrining their names with love as a form of comfort and solidarity, with a sense of hope for a different future."

ASIA

Japan and Benin are over 8000 miles apart, and yet a visitor can enjoy art works from both in a few minutes' walk across the Enid Haupt Garden by traveling from the National Museum of African Art to the National Museum of Asian Art.

Here, the art work also spans centuries. **The Print Generation** (through April 27, 2025) presents 20th century artists who broke from traditional Japanese printmaking while **Delighting Krishna: Paintings of the Child-God** (opening March 15, 2025 - August 24, 2025) in the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery presents joyful works from South Asia and the Himalayas.

NORTH AMERICA

The art of North America presented in Southwest's museums reveals



Photo by Brad Simpson, 2024, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art is featuring seven sculptures by Washington, D.C.-based Ethiopian American artist Tsedaye Makonnen.

connections of art works as part of our shared history.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) offers the ongoing exhibit **Reckoning: Protest. Defiance. Resilience**. In the newly redesigned Visual Art and the American Experience gallery, it contains various modes of fine art production, including painting, sculpture, work on paper, art installations, mixed media, photography, and digital medial, all of which present the critical role American artists of African descent played in shaping the history of American art.

A mile away is the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), where **Sublime Light: Tapestry Art of DY Begay** is at once fundamentally modern and essentially Diné. The artist has described the exhibit as an exploration of her passion for experiencing and interpreting her world from her birthplace and homeland on the Navajo Nation reservation through a lifelong curiosity to investigate the expressive power of color and design in developing her distinctive aesthetic.

Midway between the NMAAHC and NMAI, there is the Hirshhorn Museum with **Mark Bradford: Pickett's Charge**. This ongoing exhibit, the monumental commission inspired by artist Paul Philippoteaux's nineteenth-century cyclorama in Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania, depicts the final charge of

the Battle of Gettysburg, often considered the critical turning point of the Civil War and, consequently, of American history. The combination of colored paper and reproductions of the original weaves "past and present, illusion and abstraction offers narratives about American history that are shaped and contested."

SOUTH AMERICA

Without leaving the Hirshhorn, visitors can travel to Brazil with the current exhibit **OSGEMEOS: Endless Story** (to August 3, 2025). The largest U.S. exhibition of work by identical twins Gustavo and Otavio Pandolfo, known globally as osgemeos, the Portuguese word for twins, presents around a thousand works of their collaborative, multidisciplinary practice. It showcases the roots of their artistic language, inspired by their upbringing in urban Brazil, on a full circular floor which well fits what has been summarized as a "playful combination of universal themes with magical elements drawn from their heritage, urban art and graffiti traditions, and shared imagination."

EUROPE

The Hirshhorn's permanent collection also carries visitors to Europe, including a major survey of their modern postwar and collections at the Hirshhorn: **Revolutions: Art from the Hirshhorn Collection, 1860-1960** (through April 20, 2025).

AUSTRALIA

A short walk across the mall to the National Gallery of Art also offers noted collections of American and European art. Soon to be opening is an exhibit on Australian art titled **The Stars We Do Not See** (October 18, 2025 - March 1, 2026). This is a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition includes 200 works by 130 modern and contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, showcasing the diverse and distinct visual iconographies of Indigenous Australia, from ochre bark paintings and experimental weavings to immersive sound and video art and powerful photographs.

GO UP - INTO OUTER SPACE

Not all the exhibits in the Southwest Quadrant are limited to our terrestrial earth. The National Air and Space Museum (NASM) goes sky high with these exhibits opening in 2025 (to be on display indefinitely). **Barron Hilton Pioneers of Flight** features aviation pioneers of the 1920s and 1930s who pushed boundaries and blazed new trails in the air. **Boeing Milestones of Flight Hall** showcases some of the museum's most iconic objects, arrayed along walls and suspended from the ceiling along with interpretive displays that provide background and context. **Climate Change** explores how aerospace innovations are advancing energy, agriculture, and aviation to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels while trying to strike a balance between the urgency of climate change and the hopeful possibility of individual and collective actions against it.

GO DEEP - INTO THE OCEAN

As they say, now that we've "explored our brains and gone to the edges of our universe" it's time to plunge "into the mysterious bioluminescent realm of the ocean twilight zone." A few steps away from the Mall, there is a chance to go deep into the ocean while remaining in Southwest DC with January's return of the ARTECHOUSE exhibit **TWILIGHT ZONE: HIDDEN WONDERS OF THE OCEAN**.

There you have it. Six continents, eight museums, dozens of ever-changing exhibits, thousands of works to inspire wonder - all in around a mile's walk from home.

WEBCASTS

Continued from p. 10

10-12 webinars. We will seek input, suggestions, and feedback from the community on suggested topic areas,

the best day and time slot for hosting, and how to continually improve the webinars.

Digital technology is now part of all of our lives, but it's not always easy to access, use and understand. In the webinars, there will be something

for everyone, from students to senior citizens. The first webinar is slated for the second week of March, and more detailed information will be distributed through community outlets such as *The Southwester*, SWNA and other partners

The DETF welcomes and invites suggested topic areas for webinars. Contact us at jleonard.detf@gmail.com

Southwester Community Calendar | February 2025

Please check the web references or telephone numbers in the listings for details
Southwest Neighborhood Library events are at <https://tinyurl.com/5n8c929r>



SW Library
Events

SAT 1, 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M., BLACK HISTORY KICK OFF PROGRAM by the DC Black History Celebration Committee. Panel Discussion, Live Music and Food. Free to the Public. All Invited! Westminster Church, www.westminsterdc.org

SUN 2, 5:30 P.M., SOLEMN VESPERS, The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Church with reception immediately following. St. Dominic Catholic Church, 501 6th St. SW. www.stdominic-church.org.

MON 3, 3:30 - 4:30 P.M., EXPLORE THE WORLD THROUGH A MICROSCOPE. Explore different sizes and shapes by adventuring through the world of a microscope for this fun, one-hour event. Ages 5+. Questions about events may be directed to southwestlibrary@dc.gov or (202) 724-4298. Children under 9 years of age must be accompanied by a caregiver who is 13+ years.

MON 3, 7:00 P.M., ANC 6D -ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING. Please contact the office at 6d@anc.dc.gov if you wish to have a Zoom link to view the Admin meeting

TUES 4, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M., GAME ON. Play classic board games, checkers, Uno, dominos, backgammon, and more in this fun two-hour event. Ages 18+. Southwest Library

WED 5, 6:00 - 7:00 P.M., GET REAL: NON FICTION BOOK CLUB. Discuss *A Quantum Life: My Unlikely Journey from the Streets to the Stars* by Hakeem Oluseyi and Joshua Horwitz with fellow nonfiction readers. Place a hold or pick up a copy at Southwest Library. Ages 18+.

THURS 6, 1:00 - 3:00 P.M., COFFEE & CONVERSATION. Join casual conversation with other library users and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee and other light refreshments are provided. Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

THURS 6, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M., LET'S PLAY SPADES. Play this trick-taking partnership game where players bid on the number of tricks in each hand in this fun, two-hour event. Ages 13+. Southwest Library.

SAT 8, 4:00 - 5:00 P.M., "BEE MINE, VALENTINE" Craft. Join us in the children's room to make cute "Bee Mine" valentines! Ages 0-12. Southwest Library.

SAT 8, 7:00 P.M., FAITH & FILM monthly zoom presentations every 2nd Saturday. Join the Faith and Film Club to view and discuss timely and thought-provoking films. Club members will receive film titles, summaries and zoom link: Contact Westminster Church office at: wpcdcoffice@gmail.com. All Invited.

SUN 9, 1:00-2:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for stitching and community. Basic instruction available for beginners. Want a reminder? Please email abigail.hargreaves@dc.gov. Ages 13+. Southwest Library.

SUN 9, 3:00 - 5:00 P.M., PUZZLE SWAP. Trade your old-to-you puzzles and games with other community members. Plus, enjoy some community puzzling and giant versions of old favorite games while you wait for new items to arrive in the swap. Ages 5+. Southwest Library

MON 10, 3:30-4:30 P.M., SOLVE THE PUZZLE MYSTERY. Solve the mystery of several 3D puzzles in the STEAM Lab! Ages 5+. Southwest Library

TUES 11 & 25, 6:30-7:30 P.M., KOMEN TOASTMASTERS meets via Zoom. Please email us.

KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com a few days

before the meeting for the Zoom link. We are a public speaking and leadership club affiliated with Toastmasters International. We were founded to help people advocate on issues related to breast cancer, but we are now open to all.

WED 12 & 26, 6:00-8:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at the library. Please note: No instructor available on Wednesday sessions. Ages 13+. Southwest Library.

THURS 13, 5:00-8:00 P.M., BOOK LOVERS' BASH. Enjoy a fun-filled evening of books, creativity, and community as we celebrate books and readers! Get personalized reading recommendations, decorate your own bookmark, find out what others are reading and share your own favorites in "book speed-dating," compete in a scavenger hunt, and finish off with a silent read-in with some sweet treats. Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

THURS 13, 7:30 P.M., FROM WOSE TO FARFINA KAN: A Musical Celebration, curated by **DCJF Artist-In-Residence Corcoran Holt.** Get ready for a lively, family-friendly celebration of music and culture. This special concert featuring the DC Collective with the **renowned drum and dance ensemble Farafina Kan,** inviting audiences of all ages to experience the joyful sounds of jazz and the vibrant rhythms of West Africa. From the heart of jazz to the pulsating rhythms of West African drumming, this interactive event is perfect for families to move, groove, and connect with music that transcends generations. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the energy, cultural exploration, and live instruments in this unforgettable journey through sound and history. Bring the whole family and celebrate Black History Month with us—reserve your tickets now! Arena Stage Kogod Cradle.

FRI 14, 7:00-8:15 P.M., IS IT LOVE? HOW DO WE KNOW? With Buddhist Teacher Gen Kelsang Gomlam. <https://meditation-dc.org/special-events/>

SAT 15, 2:00-5:00 P.M., HALF-DAY RETREAT. LOVE IS THE ANSWER. With Buddhist Teacher Gen Kelsang Gomlam. Come explore Buddha's wisdom teachings on how to discern the difference between love and attachment, and learn methods to weaken our attachment while improving our mind of love. Everyone welcome!. <https://meditation-dc.org/special-events/>.

TUES 18, 7:00 P.M - ANC 6D BUSINESS MEETING. Please contact the office at 6d@anc.dc.gov, if there is a concern you'd like to raise at a business meeting. Also submit a 3-minute maximum transcript of your community concern at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Link to join and draft agenda will be posted prior to the meeting on <https://www.anc6d.org/virtual-meetings/>.

TUES 18, 6:30 - 7:30 P.M., OFF SCRIPT!: Celebrity Memoir Book Club. Come read about the lives of your favorite celebrities in their own words! Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

WED 19, 12:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M., SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT AARP CHAPTER welcomes everyone to attend our BLACK HISTORY MONTH Luncheon Meeting and Celebration. LOCATION: River Park Mutual Homes Charles Goodman Common Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW. Street parking on Delaware Ave. Waterfront Metro, (Green line) is two blocks away. Bus #74 stops in front of the River Park Delaware Avenue Gate **PROGRAM Part I:** Our Annual Musical Tradition in Celebration of National Black His-

tory Month—the singing of James Weldon Johnson's **"Lift Every Voice and Sing" PROGRAM Part II: A WOMEN OF HISTORY Presentation by FREED-Female RE-Enactors of Distinction**

1. Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, 1817–1876—portrayed by Judy Williams
2. Harriet Ann Jacob's, 1813-1897—portrayed by Christine Bennett
3. Frances Ellen Watkins, 1825-1911—portrayed by Lavonda Kay Broadnax

The FREED Mission. It is our mission to educate the public about the legacy of African Americans' contributions to American History. We promote the accomplishments of the African American Civil War soldiers and the women who supported their fight for freedom. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.** You don't want to miss this special day of celebration and see the important presentation from our Guests Re-enactments. Bring your friends and neighbors for this wonderful opportunity in historical experiences. **LUNCH AVAILABLE—COST: \$5.00** A vegetarian lunch will also be available. For further information contact Betty Jean Tolbert Jones at bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. **AARP Motto: To Serve, Not To Be Served**

WED 19, 3:30-4:30 P.M., KIDS/TWEENS LEGO Club. Build with LEGOs and meet new friends for an hour. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. Ages 5-12. Southwest Library.

THURS 20, 1:00-3:00 P.M., COFFEE & CONVERSATION. Join casual conversation with other library users and individuals from the neighborhood. Coffee and other light refreshments provided. Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

THURS 20, 3:00-5:00 P.M., SCRABBLE FOR ADULTS. Stimulate your mind and meet new people while playing your favorite word game. Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

THURS 20, 6:30-8:00 P.M., CRIME FICTION IN THE DMV: A Story of Rebellion - E. A. Aymar Presents For DC Reads, a special presentation about the history of crime fiction in the DMV by local author of *When She Left*, E. A. Aymar with musical interlude accompaniment by jazz singer Sara Jones. Ages 18+. Southwest Library.

SAT 22, 4:00-5:00 P.M., POLAR BEAR CRAFT. Join us in the children's room to make a fun polar bear craft. Ages 0-12. Southwest Library.

SUN 23, 1:00-2:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for stitching and community. Basic instruction is available for beginners. Want a reminder? Please email abigail.hargreaves@dc.gov. Ages 13+. Southwest Library.

MON 24, 3:30-4:30 P.M., EXPLORE THE WORLD THROUGH A MICROSCOPE. Explore different sizes and shapes by adventuring through the world of a microscope for this fun, one-hour event. Ages 5+. Questions about events may be directed to southwestlibrary@dc.gov or (202) 724-4298. Children under 9 years of age must be accompanied by a caregiver who is 13+ years. Southwest Library.

MON 24, 6:30-7:30 P.M., BRIEF ENCOUNTERS BOOK CLUB. Join us as we get acquainted with the works of authors you've heard of but want to know better! February's selection: *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler. Place a hold or pick up a copy at Southwest Library. Ages 18+.

TUES 25, 6:30-7:30 P.M., KOMEN TOASTMASTERS meets via Zoom. Please email us.

KomenToastmasters8714@gmail.com a few days

See "Calendar," page 15

CALENDAR

Continued from p. 14

before the meeting for the Zoom link. We are a public speaking and leadership club affiliated with Toastmasters International. We were founded to help people advocate on issues related to breast cancer, but we are now open to all.

WED 26, 6:00-8:00 P.M., SIT & STITCH. Stitchers of all kinds and skill levels, join us for an hour of stitching and community at the library. Please note: No instructor is available on Wednesday sessions. Ages 13+. Southwest Library.

FREE D.C. Area Performing Arts Camp. The perfect opportunity for families to get a head start on planning for Summer 2025. Camps are primarily for elementary, middle, and high school campers. **Don't miss our full 2024/25 Season! Click her to learn more.**

WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. Mondays: Informed; Tuesdays: Life Saver Big Book; Wednesdays: New Beginners; Thursdays: Out to Lunch; Fridays: T.G.I.F. at Noon. (St. Dominic Catholic Church, 630 E Street SW) or Wednesdays: Creative Arts, 7:00 (St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 555 Water St SW). This fellowship is open to all men and women who desire to recover from alcoholism. You will be welcome; for more .<https://aa-dc.org/meetings/t-g-i-f>

ANY DAY, ANY TIME! Staff picks: Can't decide what to read next? Get some free suggestions from the experts! Visit bit.ly/3Pxx7Tc online to fill out a questionnaire and receive a list of recommended titles via email. All ages.

BABY LAPTIME, Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 P.M., These 20-30 minute story times are specially designed for infants until they begin walking along with their grown ups! Southwest Library.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6:00-9:00 P.M., Various Blues musicians and singers are featured each Monday. \$10 cover and food for sale, (cash/credit card accepted). Schedule at Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/blue-monday-schedule>.

BREAD FOR LIFE - BREAKFAST, Sundays, 8-8:45 A.M. Free breakfast every Sunday morning beginning at 8:00 A.M., St A's offers a free hot breakfast to go. Our breakfast includes eggs, cheese grits, sausage, juice and a pastry. If you would like to volunteer with Bread for Life, please contact Virginia Mathis, lead organizer and kitchen manager, for the program at thor081828@hotmail.com. Visit our website at www.staugustinesdc.org/bread-for-life. Please come pick up a hot breakfast at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, the rear door is located at 6th St & Maine Ave. SW.

BUILDING BLOCKS, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 A.M., Come explore constructive play with us! Children

birth to 5 and their caregivers are invited to a special early literacy play date themed around the building, knocking down, and building back up again. Questions about events may be directed to southwestlibrary@dc.gov or (202) 724-4298. Caregivers must accompany children under 9 years old. Southwest Library.

CHURCH CLEANING, 2nd Saturdays of the month, 9:35 A.M. St. Dominic Church. www.stdominicchurch.org/

DORCAS CLOTHING CLOSET, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 3:00-5:00 P.M. Donate gently worn coats, jackets, winter clothing, and footwear. **Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St., SW.** Enter the basement, by the white gate, across from the SW Public Library.

ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS-Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 P.M., DC Rocks Rehearsals. For more information, contact: <https://encorecreativity.org/group/dc-rocks> Westminster Presbyterian Church.

FAMILY STORY TIME, Mondays, 10:30-11:00 A.M., Family Story Time is a great way to further your child's lifelong love of reading and learning. Ages 0 - 5. Southwest Library.

FILM DISCUSSION, Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 P.M. Join this energetic, weekly conversation circle made of your neighbors and fellow library users centered around a short film. Ages 18+ Southwest Library, southwestlibrary@dc.gov or (202) 724-4298.

GAME TIME, Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 P.M., Play some of your favorites in the Children's Room after school. Ages 5 - 12. Southwest Library.

GODLY PLAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, Sundays 11:00 A.M.- Noon., Ages 4-12. Fun sessions including videos—and interactive activities about the life and teachings of Jesus. Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

HYBRID ADULT EDUCATION CLASS, Sundays 10:00-11 A.M., Led by Rev. Dr. Alice Bellis (Howard University) and Jeff Nicoll (author of Augustine's Problem: Impotence and Grace). Westminster Church. To register, contact: wpcdcoffice@gmail.com. FREE. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

HYBRID SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE, Sundays, 11:00 A.M.-Noon. All welcome to share in inspiring worship! Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6:00-9:00 P.M. Various Jazz musicians and singers are featured each Friday. \$10. Admission & Food for Sale (c/cc accepted). Westminster Presbyterian Church. <https://westminsterdc.org/>

JOB SEEKERS, Mondays, 1:00-2:00 P.M. Stop by for this drop-in clinic where we answer your questions and provide guidance and assistance to job seekers in their search. Southwest Library.

KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTER, Weekly Drop-

In Meditation Classes. Tuesdays: 6:00 -6.30 P.M., Thursdays: 7:15-8.30 P.M., Every week Resident Teacher Kadam Michelle Gauthier guides meditations and offers teachings to help you to reduce your stress and anxiety and to increase your peace of mind and resilience. **Everyone welcome!** <https://meditation-dc.org/thursday-evenings/> Sundays: 10:00-11:00 A.M. Every week Buddhist Teacher Sanema Naomi Hardrick guides meditations and offers teachings to help you deal with everyday stress and to assist you in having a more peaceful mind. Everyone welcome! <https://meditation-dc.org/sunday-mornings/> 1200 Canal St, SW.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, Wednesdays, 7-8:00 P.M. Contact Westminster Presbyterian Church for more information at wpcdcoffice@gmail.com.

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH PROTEIN PANTRY, 2nd Sundays, 11:30 A.M., All are welcome! For more details contact rsbc@riverside.org. Riverside Baptist Church, 699 Maine Ave SW, <https://riversidedc.org/>

SEATED YOGA, Mondays and Fridays 11 A.M.-Noon. Gentle movements to increase flexibility, strength, balance & endurance, adapted for all body types. Careful instruction promotes proper breathing, meditation, positive thinking, & deep relaxation. \$5.00 Donations suggested. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Any questions? Email instructor, Pamela Wilson, wilsonpj108@gmail.com

SENSORY PLAYTIME, Fridays, 10:30-11:30 A.M., Join us in the Children's Room every Friday for fun sensory play. Birth-5, Southwest Library.

SUNDAY MORNING MEDITATIONS, 10-11:00 A.M., Weekly Drop-In Class, Kadampa Meditation Center DC 1200 Canal St SW., (202) 430-6540 www.meditation-dc.org

SWAN: SOUTHWEST AL ANON, Tuesdays, 7-8:00 P.M., This fellowship is open to all those affected by a loved one's drinking. **St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.** <https://al-anon.org/al-anon-meetings/find-an-al-anon-meeting>

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB (WSCC) meets at 7:00 P.M., on the **First and Third Wednesdays** of every month at **Christ United Methodist Church**, 300 Eye Street, SW. Visitors are always welcome to take part in our meetings. Ring the church's doorbell at the Eye St. entrance to enter the meeting. <https://www.dcstampclub.org/>

ZOOM RESISTANCE BIBLE STUDY, Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M., Discuss timely issues on Jesus and Social Justice. For Zoom link, contact: rbswestminster@gmail.com

**VIEW OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT
WWW.SWNA.ORG**

Submit Calendar events to calendar@the-southwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

ALLIANCE

Continued from p. 11

gate it. At Theater Alliance, we are incredibly proud to be part of the National New Play Network, a vital pipeline for new plays across the country. I've always been drawn to stories that shed light on under-told narratives—diverse stories, labor, the working class, and those exploring the nature of society, civic engagement, and justice.

SW: What other plans does Theater

Alliance have for the year ahead?

SG: The year-long lease at our new space at The Westerly presents both unique challenges and exciting opportunities for us to grow and evolve. It has made us even more intentional with our planning and our commitment to think creatively about how we use the space, expand our reach, and engage our audience as we continue to serve our mission. Beyond the incredible productions of *The Garbologists* and *American Fast*, we also have the *Hothouse New Play Block Party* happening on April 25 & 26.

In the year ahead, we're committed to ensuring that Theater Alliance continues to be a dynamic, inclusive, and thought-provoking part of the cultural fabric of DC. Looking to the future, we would be so happy to secure this space at The Westerly in Southwest as our permanent home, but it will take the support of the whole community to make that happen.

My vision for Theater Alliance is to become a pioneering Arts Hub, not only for our own work but also for other artists and arts organizations in DC. I envision a long-term space

that nurtures solidarity economies and shared resources, creating a new model for how nonprofit arts organizations can thrive and collaborate.

As we navigate this ever-changing landscape, we're dedicated to delivering excellent theater experiences rooted in our core values. Flexibility, creativity, and resilience will guide us as we navigate this chapter, and we're embracing these principles fully. We're excited about what's to come!



CommUNITY Tables

Thursday, February 20 @ 6pm | Arena Stage

Join us for Community Tables, where we continue to connect neighbors through FREE delicious food, fun activities, and a sense of community! We're kicking it off in February, embracing the theme of love letters to Southwest. Expect heartfelt poetry, engaging activities, and opportunities to create small joys together. This event will require signing up, so please be sure to RSVP!

Scan to RSVP or visit swbid.org/events

Visit swbid.org/events and save the next dates for Community Tables

- April 6 | 4pm @ Arena Stage
- June 12 | 5:30pm @ SW Duck Pond
- Aug 10 | 4pm @ SW Duck Pond



swbid.org @swbid



THE ART ISLAND + S.W bid

Southwest Business Improvement District