



# PROGRESS

THE NEW FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

SUMMER 2021 EDITION

**ALL HANDS  
ON DECK**  
REMAKING THE BRIDGE AND  
BUILDING COMMUNITIES ...  
TOGETHER.

**THE ROAD AHEAD**  
LEADING THE WAY  
IN MULTIMODAL  
TRANSPORTATION



MESSAGE FROM

# THE DIRECTOR

The first half of 2021 has presented an optimistic perspective on the future. Throughout our country and within the District, we've witnessed a gradual return of hope and a renewed celebration of community. As an agency, we are reminded of the power that comes from our continued focus and hard work, even through the most trying times.

During this summer season, we reflect on all that we have accomplished together on the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, recognizing that getting to this critical point of progress could not have been made possible without the dedication from our extended circle of community leaders, committed consultants and contractors, and of course, our internal project team at the District Department of Transportation.

While our bridge building journey may be reaching a crescendo with the forthcoming deck opening in the fall, the work of connecting cultures, communities, and people remains a priority for us all.

In this issue, we foreshadow the deck completion and opening in a few short weeks, while offering a sneak peek behind the scenes of the final stages of construction. We also pay tribute to the "hands" that have played a part in the steps - both large and small - along the way.

We begin with a feature on the team of professionals working to tie everything in place to ensure the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge withstands the test of time.

Also in the issue:

- An in-depth view into how the new bridge is leading the way in creating cutting edge infrastructure that supports multimodal transportation for the District;
- A conversation with Martha's Table President and CEO, Kim Ford, on how the organization has expanded beyond its humble beginnings to provide a safe space for children in the community to access after-school meals;
- Short stories and introductions from our newest QCC members, including Tasha Powell, Brandon DuBois, and Jared Weiss.
- A DBE journey spotlight on Bulldog Construction Inc., a construction company specializing in concrete-post-tensioning and reinforcing steel placement on large structures, and how they're serving as "partners in perseverance" in our final bridge-building stages.

Find hope in the future of our collective progress and get to know the "hands on deck" that have contributed to this significant bridge-building effort. As I lead the way toward completion, I'm reminded of the resounding words of Frederick Douglass:

"Where there is no struggle, there is no progress."

Surely, we have experienced this notion firsthand.

With excitement for the future,



Everett Lott

Everett Lott  
ACTING DIRECTOR, DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

"Where there  
is no struggle,  
there is no  
progress."

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 1

## All Hands on Deck

Feature Story

PAGE 3

## The Road Ahead

PAGE 5

## Local Business Highlight: Martha's Table

PAGE 7

## Employee Spotlight: Gianncarlo Mattalana, Electrical Foreman

PAGE 8

## Building Together, One by One

PAGE 9

## DBE Profile: Bulldog Construction

PAGE 11

## DDOT Launches Jobenomics DC Pilot Program

PAGE 13

## Progress for the People

PAGE 15

## #FDMBVantagePoint: Social Media Snapshots







Mayor Muriel Bowser joins Director of the District Department of Transportation Everett Lott, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg for a photo with some of the construction workers on the New FDMB.

FEATURE STORY

# ALL HANDS ON DECK

As we near completion of the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, we offer you an inside peek into the final stages of construction. This final stage requires a large team of professionals to work together to tie everything in place to ensure this bridge will stand the test of time. It's all hands on deck!

With the deck erection phase of the project coming to an end, the bridge will be at 90% completion by mid-summer. All the deck elements such as edge girders, floor beams, and deck panels were delivered and installed in a timely manner and were verified for compliance throughout the deck erection phase.

The next phase, which will be the final phase of the bridge construction, will include the finishing touches needed to open the bridge to traffic.

This last phase involves adding safety and aesthetic features such as:

- aesthetic, navigation, and roadway lighting;
- intelligent transportation systems (e.g., wireless communications and emergency vehicle and notification systems);
- pedestrian safety railings; and
- pedestrian and bike paths.

Other elements include installation of the drainage and standpipe system, final coating touchups, final adjustments to cable stays, roadway concrete overlay installation, and pavement markings on the roadway and bike/pedestrian paths.

In addition to performing the required inspections throughout the construction process to ensure compliance with the project specifications, the DDOT

team will conduct a thorough safety inspection during this final phase to ensure that the new bridge is safe to open to vehicular, bike, and pedestrian traffic. The items to be inspected during this phase include but are not limited to the following:

- bridge and pedestrian barrier and railing;
- roadway, navigation, and FAA obstruction lighting;
- drainage and standpipe systems for firefighting purposes; and
- all structural elements of the bridge.

The remaining work on the South Capitol Street Corridor Project includes the east and west traffic ovals, river walks and trails, and the riverfront esplanade.

The anticipated timeline for the completion of I-295 Corridor is Winter 2021 and the completion of the entire South Capitol Street Corridor project is Spring 2022. Sign up for our mailing list at [www.newfrederickdouglassbridge.com](http://www.newfrederickdouglassbridge.com) for announcements regarding the bridge opening celebration and other news and updates.

## LOCAL DIGNITARIES TOUR THE NEW FDMB AND DISCUSS THE AMERICA JOBS PLAN

In late May, Mayor Muriel Bowser and Acting Director Everett Lott welcomed Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer to the New FDMB project site. The group toured the construction site and discussed the importance of the American Jobs Plan to infrastructure projects such as the New FDMB project.

Terry O'Sullivan, General President of the Laborer's International Union of North American Infrastructure (LIUNA) opened the program by emphasizing the magnitude of this project to the lives of construction professionals. **"Rebuilding the**

**Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge is an example of how infrastructure strengthens working people, their families, and their neighborhoods,"** stated Terry O'Sullivan.

His message was underlined by a LIUNA construction laborer currently working on the New FDMB, Sean Gilchrist. **"I'm honored to be a part of this historic bridge project. Investment in this bridge is a symbol of the commitment to infrastructure and this bridge is exactly what this city and nation needs at this moment,"** stated Sean Gilchrist.

As part of President Joseph Biden's American Jobs Plan proposed earlier this year, the federal government will make a significant investment in transportation infrastructure such as bridges and roadways, which will in turn, create thousands of jobs for laborers like those working on the New FDMB.

Connecting the American Jobs Plan to real life scenarios, Labor Secretary Marty Walsh commented, **"This will ensure when people like Sean walk off of this project, he has good pay, good benefits, and an opportunity to provide for his family in the future."**

In addition to helping to repair and replace more than 45,000 bridges that are in poor condition across the country, the American Jobs Plan aims to produce good-quality jobs with strong labor standards and fair wages and produce better transportation options to underserved communities.

**"We'll be making the biggest investment in jobs since World War II,"** stated Transportation Secretary Buttigieg. **"I'm most excited to see the people who are at work on this bridge and the livelihoods that are positively impacted by it. These are investments that are needed for the next generations to thrive."**

Congresswoman Norton, who was responsible for securing much of the funding for the construction of the New FDMB, stated, **"This bridge is a shining example of federal infrastructure at work. And infrastructure improvements are at the heart of this bill."**







# THE ROAD AHEAD

In our Fall 2019 issue of Progress, we shared some of the multimodal safety standards that the District Department of Transportation have implemented on the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project to accommodate the new ways residents travel between wards 6 and 8, as well as commuters access the city. In this issue, we continue that conversation and present new details on the pedestrian and bike pathways that the New FDMB will offer. Read more to get an in-depth peek into how the new bridge is leading the way in creating cutting edge forms of multimodal transportation for the District.

A multimodal transportation system supports diverse mobility options including walking, cycling, public transit and vehicles, and accounts for land use factors that affect accessibility.

When the New FDMB was in the design phase, the team knew that the new bridge had to be creative and thoughtful in how it accommodated multiple modes of transportation. This forward-thinking approach led them to creating the first split-use pathway for pedestrians and cyclists on a bridge in the District. In addition to the split use pathway, large traffic ovals on each end of the bridge will allow for better traffic flow and function as public parks

and gathering spaces. Additionally, the bridge will feature four scenic overlooks that will enhance the pedestrian and cyclist experience.

Each oval will have its own distinct look and feel. The East Oval will boast braided paths with gathering spaces, benches, and paths to amenities and the river walk. It will also have amphitheater-style seating, a path that provides access to the river edge, and bike racks. The West Oval will have a large open center and central plaza for events and informal gatherings. Additionally, it will have bioretention areas, a path leading to the river walk and esplanade, and a 3-tier boardwalk by the river. They will both have signalized crossings for pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Over the last twenty years, the District has made significant investments in improving the Anacostia River Walk Trail and cleaning up the Anacostia River. As part of the New FDMB project, the sections of the trail underneath the bridge will be extended towards Buzzard Point. The design of the ovals on the east and west sides of the river also includes extended shared-use paths like on the bridge. These designs are paving the way for a new network of trails across the District.

## INCREASED ACCESS & CONNECTIVITY

- Iconic gateway between the Capitol and East of the River
- Easy access to the Anacostia River parks and trails
- 18-ft-wide split-use paths on both sides of the bridge and along the outside of the east and west ovals (8 feet for pedestrians and 10 ft for cyclists)
- 4 pedestrian overlooks, featuring benches and unobstructed views of the water



## THE EAST OVAL

- 12-ft-wide paved interior path
- Access to riverfront esplanade
- 3 crosswalk connections
- Seating areas and gathering spaces
- 20 mph speed limit



## THE WEST OVAL

- 12-ft-wide paved interior path
- Access to Anacostia Riverwalk Trail
- 5 crosswalk connections
- Seating areas and gathering spaces
- 20 mph speed limit





## LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT: MARTHA'S TABLE

# COMMUNITY FIRST

Martha's Table is a local treasure, having served the District's most vulnerable residents for more than four decades. This beloved non-profit organization headquartered in historic Anacostia operates by the mantra that "every Washingtonian deserves the opportunity to thrive." In our conversation with President and CEO Kim Ford, we shed some light on how Martha's Table has expanded well beyond its humble beginnings striving to provide a safe space for children to access after-school meals. We also share how the bridge project team is partnering with this local gem to build bridges in our most deserving communities.

### How did you connect with Martha's Table?

I'm a native Washingtonian and resident of the Fort Lincoln neighborhood in Northeast. I began my journey at Martha's Table volunteering there as a middle school student at Sidwell Friends, which to this day still has a partnership with the organization. After going to college and coming back to D.C. to serve in the White House under the Obama Administration, and then taking jobs with the University of the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Department of Education, I returned to the place where I started my journey. I spent my entire career in education and workforce development at both the local and national level. When I started getting the notices about the job opening at Martha's Table, I realized I had a huge opportunity to work at a local level where I had more levers to affect systemic change.

### Tell us a little about the history of Martha's Table and its mission.

It is one of the longest standing nonprofits in D.C.,

having been founded in 1980. Our mission is to support strong children, strong families, and strong communities by increasing access to our three core pillars: health and wellness, education, family and community support. We do that primarily through two nationally accredited early childhood education centers, which supports young people between the ages of 6 weeks and 4 years old; health and wellness programs anchored by our Joyful Food Markets, which are free popup markets at every elementary school in Wards 7 and 8 where kids can shop at no cost for healthy fruits and vegetables and other perishable food items; and Martha's Outfitter's, a boutique (now a virtual webstore) where families can shop at no cost for children's clothes and adult workforce attire.

### What are some of the initiatives that the organization is working on right now that you're most excited about and proud of?

What I'm most proud of is that during the pandemic, our food operations never stopped. McKenna's Wagon, our longest standing program, is a free food truck that goes out every night of the week and provides a hot meal to those who are facing housing instability. No matter the weather, pandemic, protesting, this mobile food service has not missed a day ever and provides anywhere from 500 to 2,000 meals a day, depending on the day.

Additionally, we launched our first ever cash assistance programs for families, which provided \$9,000 per household free and clear. During the pandemic this helped the 137 enrolled families, which represented the 207 young people enrolled in our early child education centers who were sent

to virtual learning. We also provided \$15 per day, and diapers, wipes, and formula per child. This was a \$1.4 million investment back into the community at the craziest of times. Our survey of these families afterwards revealed that this assistance reduced stress in the household, which is one of the biggest causes of domestic violence, substance abuse and other challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. That program laid the foundation for a larger program called Thrive, East of the River, which is a collaboration between Martha's Table, Bread for the City, Far Southeast Strengthening Collaborative and Building Bridges Across the River. This program, which is being evaluated by the Urban Institute, supports a total of 500 families in Wards 7 and 8 and offers \$5,500 in cash, plus groceries and dry goods. We're very excited about the leadership we've shown in that space and being part of the national conversation around cash transfers.

Lastly, we're proud of the fact that during these difficult times, we were able to expand benefits to our employees through our Staff Training and Education Program (STEP). While other organizations had to go through layoffs and furloughs, we actually expanded benefits. We believe that you can be in a crisis and just freeze and just wait and hope for it to stop, or you can just cannonball into it and say let's just go, let's innovate. That's what we've been doing and we're very proud of that.

### What has it been like to partner with the New FDMB on its give back campaigns?

We're so grateful for the bridge project team reaching out to us and thinking of us. We had conversations about collecting resources that were needed for our families like masks, toilet paper, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc. We're just so happy to receive those items and the financial support as well. For us, everything goes such a long way. Our grocery bags, for example, are an average of \$8 per bag and it goes to essential items so these families can live and stay protected without having to go to the grocery store during the pandemic.

### Fun Fact

Kim ran for Congress to represent the District of Columbia in the House of Representatives in 2018.





# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: GIANNCARLO ATALLANA, ELECTRICAL FOREMAN

## A WALK IN THEIR SHOES

Meet Gianncarlo Matallana, an electrical foreman on the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project. As foreman, he supervises the installation of all the lighting components of the bridge. He works with Aldridge Electric, a local electrical company specializing in large projects such as the New FDMB. Gianncarlo, a native of Peru but a resident of this area for more than 20 years, is proud to be a part of this historic project.

### What were you doing prior to working on the New FDMB?

Prior to working on the New FDMB, I was an electrical foreman at Eisenhower Memorial.

### What is your role on the New FDMB?

I currently work for Aldridge Electric. As an electrical foreman for this project, I supervise the installation of the FRE (Fiberglass Reinforced Epoxy) conduit running underneath the bridge (Pepco transmission lines Duct bank), electrical junction boxes and conduit on the bridge deck, light poles, cabinets for power and control, navigation lights, and the decorative lighting. I oversee pretty much everything that goes on the bridge, as far as electrical goes.

### What do you like most about this job?

I really like this job because it is such a unique piece of work. I have worked on other bridges, but this one is especially unique because of the architectural features and the lighting system that will make this bridge one of a kind!

The other aspect I like about this job would be how much it challenges myself and my team. There are plenty of deadlines to meet and plenty of things to learn. This job has challenged me on multiple different levels, personally and professionally, and that's what I like the most about this job, it is pushing me to become a better person and foreman.

### What are you most excited about or what is the significance of getting to work on the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge?

I am very excited to see the final product and to be part of the history of this bridge. One day I hope to show my kids and grandkids this bridge and tell them the story of how we helped build it!

### What's next for you? Where do you see yourself in the next 5-10 years?

My plan is to continue to lead more jobs for Aldridge and get the chance to teach younger generations the art of the trade. I take pride in my work and my goal is to help create the next generation of electricians!

## Fun Fact

I came here to the U.S. when I was 15 years old and I didn't speak any English. I had to learn not only the language, but also the culture. My family taught me many valuable lessons, one of them was to work hard in life. My father always said, "what easy comes, easy goes." 24 years later, I am a foreman at Aldridge Electric, a licensed electrician, bilingual, CDL licensed and have more than 20 years of work experience in the electrical field.

## BUILDING TOGETHER, ONE BY ONE



Tasha Powell



Brandon DuBois



Jared Weiss

## MEET THE NEW QCC MEMBERS

As we strive to remake the bridge between cultures, communities, and people, we continue to look for opportunities to build and foster new connections with our neighbors on both sides of the river. One of the ways in which we do that is through the Frederick Douglass Quarterly Communications Committee (QCC), which is composed of community leaders ranging from public safety officials to representatives of community-based organizations and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. The FDMBQCC meets quarterly with the New FDMB project team to receive information about the project that they disseminate to their constituents and then, in turn, serve as a liaison on behalf of the stakeholders they represent.

Even though the bridge is nearing completion, our efforts to "build bridges" in our communities are ongoing. That's why we are proud to introduce you to our newest members of QCC. Meet Tasha Powell, Brandon DuBois, and Jared Weiss and learn a little more about why they chose to volunteer their time on this historic project.

Tasha Powell, a resident of Congress Heights in Ward 8, serves as ANC Commissioner for 8C03 and works as a government contractor in the cybersecurity field. As ANC Commissioner, she believes that it's her duty to represent the interests of the community she serves. She joined the QCC because it is important for her to represent her neighbors on such a monumental project that directly impacts their community. **"It feels amazing to be a part of something so significant and impactful to the community. I feel like I am coming in at the tail end, but I am still grateful to have a small fingerprint."**

When asked what progress means to her, she shares, **"Progress to me is moving forward. Setting a goal and making small steps to achieve that goal."** When the bridge is complete, she's most looking forward to the improved accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists and the better flow of traffic.

**"I am an avid traveler and have been to 14 different countries between personal travel and travel with the U.S. Navy. I've lived in both Bahrain and Iceland and had the privilege to see some of the world's greatest architecture."**

Brandon DuBois is a rowing coach with Capital Rowing Club and serves as president of the Anacostia Community Boathouse Association. He credits his excitement and love for the revitalization of the Anacostia River as his motivation for becoming part of the QCC. As a rower, he is most looking forward to rowing under the arches once the bridge is complete.

When asked how he feels to be working on such a monumental project in the city, he states, **"I can see the arches from upriver on our Boathouse docks, and when I am driving towards the Boathouse. The Anacostia River is such a wonderful part of the D.C. community, and we now have a bridge worthy of its glory."**

**"What inspires me about Frederick Douglass is how he recognized the importance of reading and writing at a young age and clandestinely taught himself over years when slaves were prohibited to read or write."**

Jared Weiss is proud to live a few short blocks from the New FDMB. Joining the QCC allowed him to jump right into his new role as ANC Commissioner representing his community ANC SMD 6D02. By day, Jared serves as the director of data science for AARP, where he describes his role as someone who builds models and crunches numbers, when he's not in meetings.

When asked what he's most looking forward to when the bridge is complete Jared shared, **"I'm most looking forward to being able to walk across the bridge and enjoy the beautiful view. While my part is extremely minimal, the bridge has already become a defining landmark for the neighborhood, and it is certainly a memorable experience to be part of."**

Jared believes one of the many inspirational things about Frederick Douglass is how he demonstrated the immense and long-lasting power of words, especially when used in service of the just.



# DBE PROFILE: BULLDOG CONSTRUCTION PARTNERS IN PERSEVERANCE



In this issue's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) feature, we shine a spotlight on Bulldog Construction Inc. An interview with owner Dave Byorick, offers an inside peek into this construction company specializing in concrete-post-tensioning and reinforcing steel placement on large structures.

Founded more than 15 years ago and now boasting over 200 employees, Bulldog Construction is the largest union rebar company in the region. Rebar, or reinforcing bar, is a network of steel rods used to reinforce and strengthen the concrete that is poured into a structure's foundation. In the case of the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge (FDMB) project, Bulldog was responsible for completing all the rebar work for the main structure as well as the secondary bridges.

**"This bridge project is the type of complicated job that Bulldog specializes in,"** states Dave Byorick. **"It is a complicated project because those arches are going up in concrete and there is structural steel in between the rest of the arch. It is not often that you see rebar work like that inside of an arch."**

Bulldog also installed parapet walls and closures for the project. A bridge parapet wall is a low standing wall commonly made of steel or concrete used primarily as a safety barrier for pedestrians and vehicles.

Some of Bulldog's other big projects in the region and beyond include the MGM Casino, the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel and several high rises and large treatment plants. Each project comes with its own set of challenges and complications to work through, but that is precisely what inspires Dave and his team to strive for higher and persevere.

**"We've pretty much worked consistently through the pandemic. We were grateful to not have been shut down on this project like we were on a large project we're working on in Pittsburgh. It's tough working through a virtual environment and having to take a lot more precautions while doing the type of work that we do but we've pushed through."**

## Fun Fact

Dave was born in D.C. and comes from a family of construction professionals. His father and uncles all owned rebar companies. Dave also owns D. Byorick's Steel Inc., a steel erection company and CBE (Certified Business Enterprise) in the District.



# DDOT LAUNCHES JOBENOMICS DC PILOT PROGRAM

District Department of Transportation Deputy Chief Engineer Rick Kenney and District GC founder Harry Thomas, Jr. join the New FDMB project team in congratulating the graduates of the Jobenomics DC Program.

Jobenomics DC is a local grassroots program focused on job training to connect residents to construction jobs and startup businesses. It is designed to help select hard to employ residents in the most impoverished communities in the District of Columbia starting with Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The introduction to the civil construction pilot program, which launched this March, is managed by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and is one of six major business initiatives, all with detailed business plans and proven technology. This program works to place participants in heavy civil construction jobs on DDOT projects within their communities after completing a 10-week pilot curriculum from March 2021 to May 2021.

**"This program addresses some of the social issues that men and women from impoverished communities face that are barriers to success such as transportation and work/life balance issues. For example, we have some young men in the program who are main caregivers of their children, and it's difficult for them to hold down jobs without the proper support and training. We're working to give them the tools to overcome these barriers,"**

states Harry Thomas, Jr., founder of District GC, the principal provider for the program.

District GC, a D.C. based company that provides employee training and general contracting services, has partnered with Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative to provide professional case workers who offer the life skills component of the program. They offer a range of training from stress and life/work management skills to understanding insurance, payroll, and personal finance so they can be wise in healthcare and money management. District GC has also partnered with Building Trades, the largest building and construction trades union in the country, to provide heavy civil training, which includes basics like blueprint reading, construction signal learning, bricklaying, and steel/sheet metal work.

Angelo Martin, of the Congress Heights neighborhood in Southeast, credits this program with not just preparing him with the skills for a potential job, but with the proper mindset for having a career.

**"This program helped to open up my eyes and think outside the box. Mindset was the biggest thing. I never saw myself going back to school after completing high school so completing this course was a major accomplishment for me,"** states Angelo Martin.

All the participants of the program were paid a stipend of \$25/day for completing training for four hours a day, Monday through Friday for ten weeks. There was also a virtual training mechanism in place to allow for minimal interruption of training when/if issues would arise for participants in getting to the physical training location, which was held at Ivy City Smokehouse in Northeast Washington.

**"I think the biggest success of this pilot program is finding responsible and committed people who want to create a better life for their families. It was our job to make sure that people who want to work have an opportunity to overcome some of the obstacles that have kept them from doing that. We have people in our program who were out of work simply because of job loss due to the pandemic. It is a dream come true to do this every day – to help great people get connected to the life skills they need to get back on track and back to work,"** states Harry Thomas, Jr.

Ty Elliot, a resident of the Congress Heights neighborhood in Southeast, previously worked in environmental services prior to joining the program. He credits Jobenomics with helping him get back on his feet after losing his job during the pandemic.

**"That \$100 per week stipend went a long way for me as a full-time father of two sons. It felt more like a family than a school. I was on a negative spiral after losing my job, but this program really helped me, not just financially, but preparing myself mentally for a career. I see myself going into plumbing or becoming an electrician now,"** states Ty Elliot.

The program does not guarantee a job at the completion of the training, but the goal is to at a minimum, assist participants with securing placements in apprenticeships, On-The-Job training programs, or interviews for full-time employment. In the first round of the program, all six participants who completed the program received placements for interviews.



# PROGRESS FOR THE PEOPLE: COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NEWS

Progress hasn't just transpired on the physical bridge. We're excited to share how we've been making progress in remaking the bridge between cultures, communities, and people. Check out what our teams, partners and neighbors have been up to over the last several months.

This spring we partnered with The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund and the Anacostia Coordinating Council to help the families in Wards 6 and 8 in Washington D.C. Generous donations allowed us to provide essential supplies such as face masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies to our neighbors in need. Additionally, we partnered with local bookstore MahoganyBooks for a Summer Book Drive collecting

books to support children between the ages of 1 to 5 at Martha's Table Early Childhood Center in Ward 8.

During Black History Month, we launched our "Frederick Douglass Builds a Bridge" animated children's video. This dynamic two and a half-minute video teaches the six steps to building a bridge, technically, but also how we as community members can build heart-centered bridges of our own. The video premiered at four neighboring schools of the bridge and the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center in February. It can now be found on our website at [www.newfrederickdouglassbridge.com](http://www.newfrederickdouglassbridge.com).

In conjunction with video release, the New FDMB project team partnered with several elementary

schools, including Cedar Tree Academy and Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School on the first "Frederick Douglass Builds A Bridge Art Activity." In an effort to celebrate all "future bridge builders," we encouraged students to participate by drawing an image that represents what it means for them to build a bridge of their own in the community.

In May 2021, the New FDMB project team launched STRIVE, a Mentorship Teaching Program in partnership with Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy. Students with an affinity for S.T.E.M. and also those looking to define their career paths attend weekly virtual learning sessions on topics related to heavy civil engineering and construction.

The 6-week program focuses on key areas such as ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) & lighting, heavy equipment and operations, concrete and masonry, maintenance of traffic, and communications outreach. The mission of the program is to inspire and shape young minds to "Build the Bridge to Your Future" by equipping them with the necessary skills to make a significant impact

in their future fields. STRIVE aims to create a robust experience that will provide students with:

Career Exposure: Students are exposed to a range of career paths that lead to public infrastructure professions in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Foundational Knowledge: STRIVE builds on the knowledge and concepts taught in school through weekly sessions taught by experienced mentors in the field.

Industry Relationships: Students have an opportunity to engage with engineering and construction professionals to foster meaningful industry relationships that can be leveraged as they begin their careers.

If you are interested in getting involved as a mentor for our next cohort in the fall, please email Errol Williams at [errol.williams@dc.gov](mailto:errol.williams@dc.gov) with "STRIVE Mentor Interest" in the subject line.

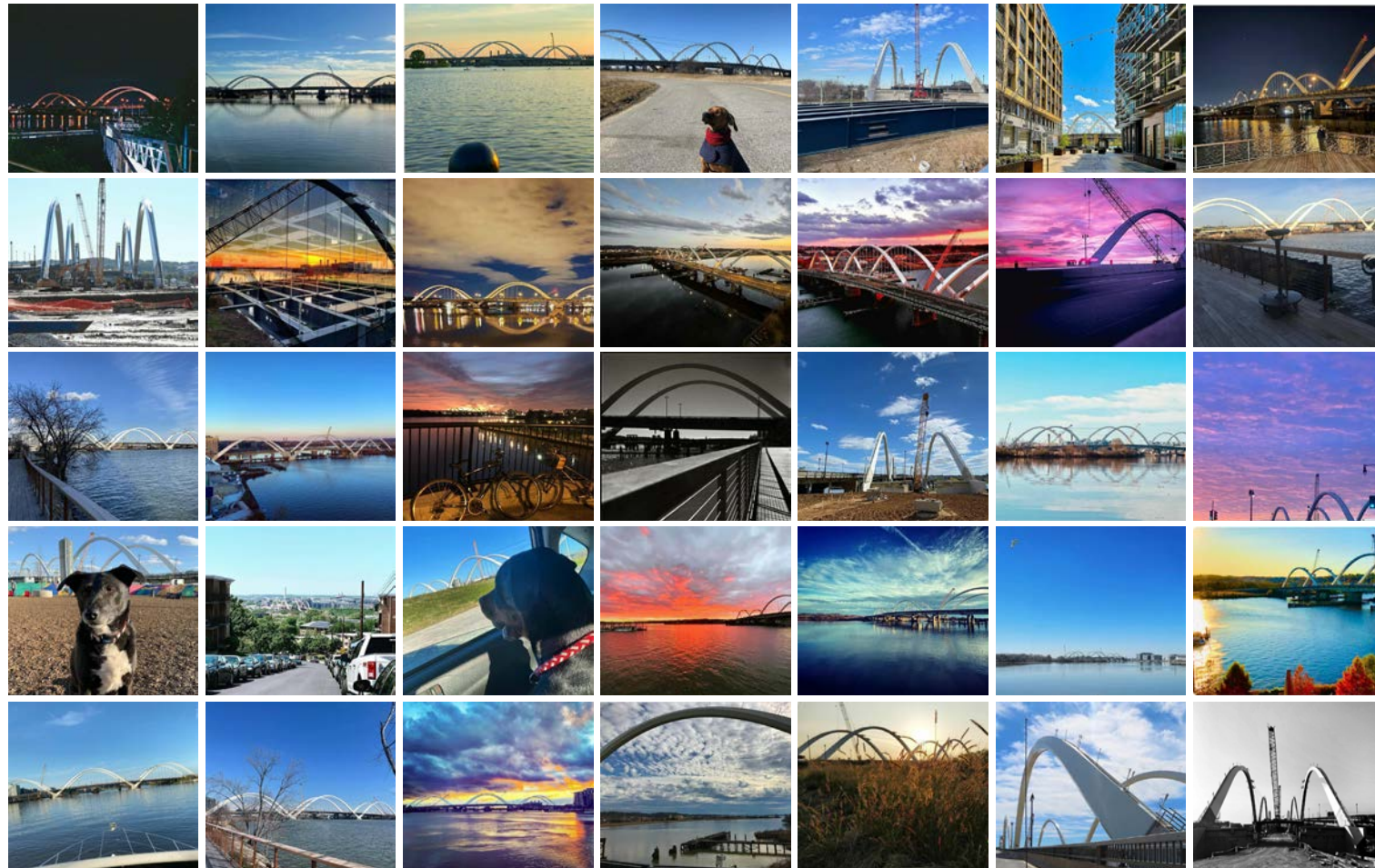


The New FDMB project team joins Thelma D. Jones in collecting essential items for families in need in Wards 6 and 8 in Washington D.C.

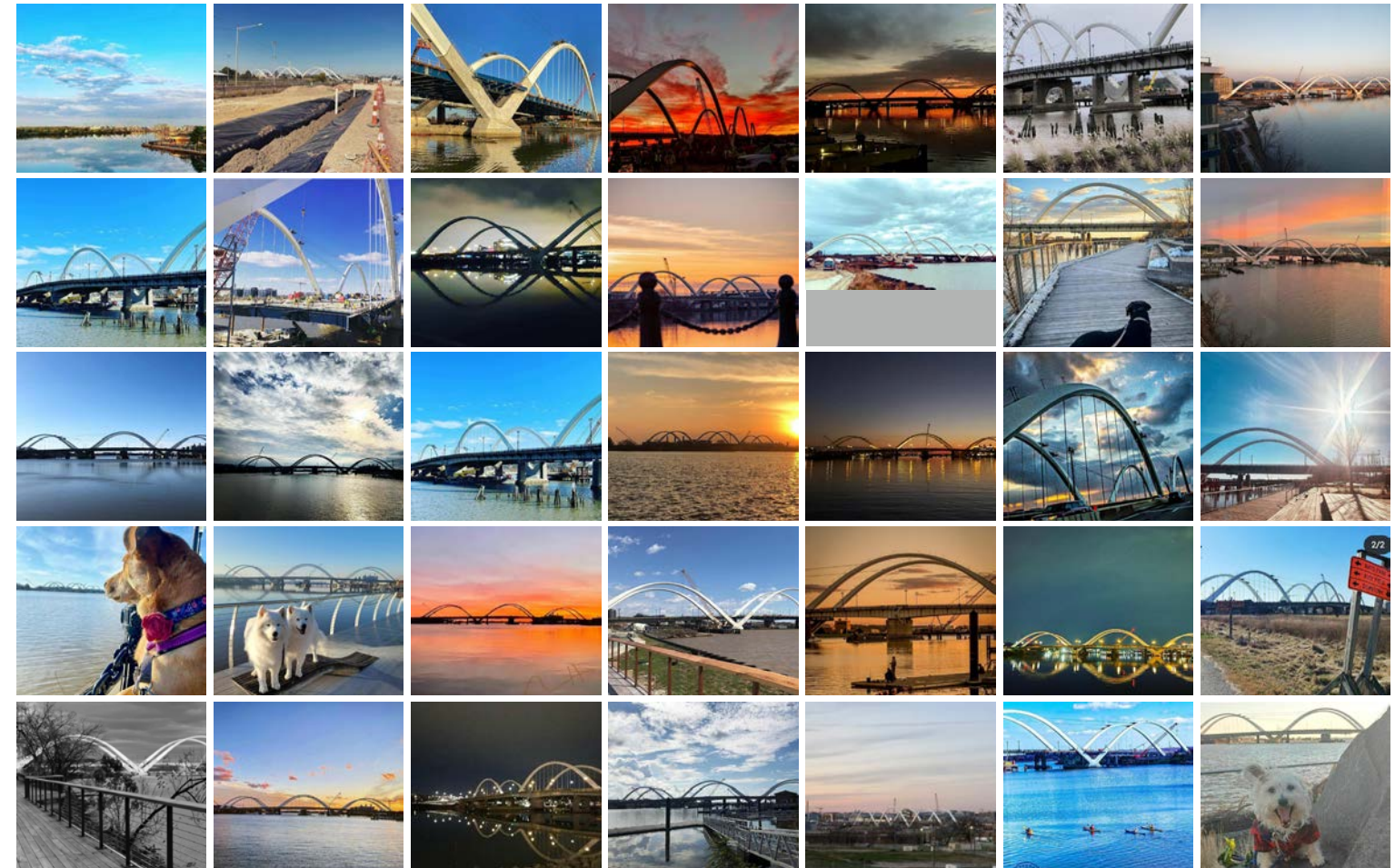


# #FDMBVANTAGEPOINT: SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOTS

Progress looks different depending on where you're standing. We thank all of our neighbors across the region for tagging us and sending us your images of the bridge from your vantage point! Here's a snapshot of our collective #progress, through the lens of our digital community:



**Featured photos by:** @after\_midnite, @airbus777, @apartmentalist, @aridgebacknamedjackson, @atrudedrew, @attucksadams, @atweber, @bede17, @bioswale, @blatnergretta, @borowskikeith, @c8twilson, @choose2bcurious, @chrisrhartranft, @citygrid.realestate, @coffeeneur, @dc\_jwt, @dc\_jwt, @dc\_jwt, @dineda75, @DobromirV, @drhassanbahgat, @emilyrposey, @eserum52.06, @eventsdc, @falcicchio, @fanu\_takes\_dc, @ginahardin, @ignatius\_jude, @insta\_grace2000, @itsmarkventura, @jatipphoto, @jbizdc, @jbizdc, @jenwingharper, @jessicasutterw6, @johnccchadwick, @johnny\_bops, @jonwhitney99, @kidupandgo, @lgomez66, @marenaptsdc, @masiedc, @mechecmartinez, @mila\_the\_rottweiler\_puppovich, @mjs73, @mjs73, @mle.explores.dc, @ndbusa, @pupbealady, @rigel\_samoyed, @robertyoungiam, @rootchopper, @samkittner, @shimuanjir, @smartinbrough, @stressfreecycling, @SWDCnewsies, @that\_krust, @the\_scan\_man, @thellisru, @thisisangieunderwood, @timetravelingmedia, @timsloandc, @trelaine, @twainandpicasso, @viz002, @walterdeleondc, @watermarkatbuzzardpoint, @yoshi\_biscuit



**HAVE ANY COOL PHOTOS TO SHARE FROM  
YOUR VANTAGE POINT?**

Send to us at [info@newfrederickdouglassbridge.com](mailto:info@newfrederickdouglassbridge.com) or tag us on social media @newfdmb with #FDMBVantagePoint for a chance to have your photo featured in our next issue!



# THE NEW **FREDERICK DOUGLASS** MEMORIAL BRIDGE



## REMAKING THE BRIDGE

BETWEEN  
CULTURES,  
COMMUNITIES,  
AND PEOPLE



SUMMER 2021