



District Bridges Mission

To enrich neighborhood vitality by bridging community engagement and economic development opportunities so residents, businesses and organizations can thrive together.

Our Programs

District Bridges invests in communities and supports local businesses. Specifically, we manage the Columbia Heights|Mount Pleasant, Lower Georgia Avenue, U Street, Logan Circle, Cleveland Park, and Chevy Chase Main Street programs funded in part by the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD). Additionally, District Bridges develops and spearheads initiatives that offer a comprehensive approach to small business technical assistance such as the Business Preservation Assistance Program (BPAP), Access to Capital, workshops and seminars, and more. Through these programs, we support community-based economic development across eight neighborhoods in Northwest DC.

ANC 3/4G Report - November 2022

Chevy Chase Main Street

Recent Activities

1. First Fridays

▪ CCMS hosted a community engagement event on November 4th at the PNC parking lot on Connecticut Ave that included Lattimore's Funnel Cake Truck, Abracadabra Alex Magic Show, and Live Jazz from Sarah Nichols and Landon Paddock. QuistMD and CCMS did outreach regarding programming, there were lawn games and chalk art, a dress up station, balloons, and a Safeway gift card raffle. It was the final First Friday of 2022 as the event will take a brief pause until Spring 2023.

2. Neighborhood Strategy Council Interest Meeting

▪ CCMS hosted a dinner at The Avenue for the current and potential new candidates for the Neighborhood Strategy Council (an advisory committee that supports the Main Street program.) An overview of the FY23 goals and workplan was shared, and a discussion was had about the future of the Main Street program and ways to increase impact and connectivity within the community. Two new members were added, and CCMS is still seeking new members. Please email manager Anna Claire if interested at ccms@districtbridges.org.

Recent Technical Assistance

- CCMS is currently connecting a business with a marketing consultant to increase awareness of their events and Holiday Specials
- CCMS is following up with grant awardees from FY22 to assess impact of grant and collect data for the new year.
- CCMS is currently supporting a business in their endeavor to resolve some tenant/landlord issues.
- CCMS is connecting local senior living centers with local businesses to coordinate involvement and engagement. For instance, connecting local restaurants with senior living centers that do lunch events and connecting activity coordinators with art studios and activities in Chevy Chase to increase vitality on the corridor.

Current Issues

- CCMS is currently seeking to add new NSC members and increase NSC and volunteer engagement. CCMS is particularly interested in increasing NSC membership across socioeconomic, gender, race, and age spectrums. Anyone interested should reach out at ccms@districtbridges.org
- Businesses across the corridor are struggling with staffing shortages. CCMS will be adding a new column to our community newsletter and a highlight on our Instagram with job openings in the hopes to spread the word to a wider audience about openings and positions available throughout the neighborhood.
- CCMS would like to coordinate a community effort to garden in our local tree boxes. Any community group or organization that has an interest in contributing to the health, ecology, and beauty of our commercial corridor, please contact ccms@districtbridges.org

Announcements

***Holiday Lights** - Holiday Lights is underway! Find out more here :<https://dcholidaylights.org/>
December 3rd, ChArt and CCMS are partnering on an exciting event on the corridor! An Art Market and Small Business Party will include an outdoor art market, business specials, free treats, and a “flurry corner” with Elsa from Frozen and local carolers! Find out more here:<https://www.districtbridges.org/events/spark-art-fest/>

***Light Pole Banners-** This month, CCMS completed their project of corridor wide Light Pole Banners along Connecticut Ave and connecting streets. Keep an eye out for these unique and unifying flags along the road and see if you can spot the historically significant architecture and Main Street colors! Thank you to Gelberg Signs for their beautiful work!

***Call Box Restoration Project** - The Call Box Restoration Project has completed the Call Box at Connecticut and Oliver Street. Babe King’s proposal was selected, and she designed a green and gold exterior with a photo of an early Chevy Chase Railroad trolley car and the history of the trolley’s importance in the development of Chevy Chase. The photo and history are on a metal plate to withstand the weather. Babe has a personal interest in the Call Boxes as her grandparents lived on Connecticut Ave, in one of the first houses, where the Exxon station is now. Congratulations to Maise Derlega and the team of Sarah Joyce-McCarron, Laura McCarron, and Danielle Benaka. The committee has selected these two proposals to honor Vera Ruben, the astronomer who discovered the phenomenon of “Dark Matter” in 1978, while working at the Carnegie Institute on Broad Branch Road. Maise is 15 years old and a student at Jackson-Reed High School. The art will be installed at the Call Box at 32nd and Jocelyn Streets.

There are several more Call Boxes which have been restored and are ready to be painted and finished.

The committee is looking for historical input for the two remaining boxes on Connecticut Ave. The neighborhood survey, conducted last spring, showed that there was interest in historical information for the boxes on Connecticut Ave. Suggestions have been offered for images of the Avalon Theater, The Arcade Building, and the Streetcar building. A map of the development of the area also would be of interest. Historical figures who have lived in the neighborhood would be suitable such as the 3 civil rights workers, Julian Bond, James Reeb & James Farmer, two Tuskegee Airmen and others. There is excellent information and photographs on the Historic Chevy Chase DC website: <https://www.historicchevychasedc.org>

Two other call boxes under consideration are at McKinley and Chevy Chase Parkway and Rittenhouse at 33rd St. The survey suggestions for these neighborhood boxes were; art work, famous people who lived in the area, Sears/Kit homes, artists such as Morris Louis and Kenneth Noland, Rock Creek Park, Fort DeRussy, etc.

As funds are available more Call Boxes will be added to the list. All donations are welcome but Donors who give \$1,000 will have their names added to the call boxes with a plate on the box. There are approximately 8 – 10 boxes that could be refurbished and add to the charm of our neighborhood.

Donations for the Call Boxes should be sent to Edward Hayes, 3206 Morrison St, NW, Washington DC 20015 or contact ehayes1635@gmail.com

Proposals for the Call Boxes: Submit jpgs of drawings, sketches, photographs of design, along with a short paragraph describing the proposed Call Box Transformation.

Send proposals to: ccms@districtbridges.org

Learn more: Anna Claire Walker, 202-929-8121, annaclaire@districtbridges.org, [IG/Facebook/Twitter](#)