

A LOOK BACK AT OUR **PROGRESS** AND A LOOK AHEAD TO OUR **COMEBACK** 96 MONTH REPORT



“
MARK MY WORDS: WE
WILL COME BACK, WE
WILL WIN, AND WE WILL
DO IT TOGETHER.”

-MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

MAYOR.DC.GOV

WE ARE
WASHINGTON
DC GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Washingtonians,

Earlier this year, I was honored to be sworn in as your mayor for the third time. A third term is a special opportunity to be bold, to think big, to push the envelope, and above all else, to win for Washington, DC. Now is the time to be bold and to set a course to win the tough fights ahead.

We've been through a lot together over the last three years. From the pandemic, to protests, to an insurrection, we've stood together. And we made it through together.

Now, on the other side, I have more optimism and more hope for the future than ever before. Not a blind optimism, but one that is informed by a tested leader who knows where we are strong and who knows where we must be stronger. I'm optimistic about our future because I know our past. And I know our story. Everybody loves a winner and a good comeback - and that's DC's story, isn't it?

We remember when Vince Lombardi once said that "winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing." That's what he said, this is what I say: "You win by winning...every day, every project, every initiative." Which for us has added up to more than 96 months of progress.

But we know we can't rest on our laurels. We still have some big challenges to overcome. We must get all our students back on track. We must and we will win back our downtown because it is the economic engine that allows us to invest in our schools, our safety net, and our public works. We will fight for the middle class. We will defend our democracy. We will continue to build a stronger, more resilient future.

And, above all else, as we look ahead to the next four years, there is nothing more important to me than the safety of our residents. So, we will continue to work together to support our public safety teams, to get guns off our streets and to hold people accountable when they harm our community, to connect residents to opportunity, and to build a safer, stronger DC.

DC, when we work together, there is nothing that we cannot take on. Success is ours to grab.

I'm honored to be your mayor, I'm committed, and mark my words: we will come back, we will win, and we will do it together.

Sincerely,

Muriel Bowser
Mayor

DC'S COMEBACK PLAN

DC's Comeback Plan is focused on equity and on making sure our city has the revenues we need to support world-class city services, our robust network of social programs, and the resources – like our schools, libraries, and recreation centers – that keep people in DC.



Want to be part of DC's comeback? Find DC Government career opportunities at careers.dc.gov

The comeback plan sets six goals to achieve by 2028:

- Create 35,000 new jobs in high-growth target sectors, which will include increasing apprenticeship programs and filling gaps in training and credentialing;
- Increase the share of minority-owned employer businesses to 33% of all employer businesses;
- Increase access to opportunity for residents and eliminate key amenity gaps (food access, affordable housing, and internet) across all neighborhoods;
- Add 15,000 residents to the downtown population by adding seven million square feet of residential units;
- Retain current residents and reach a population of 725,000; and
- Increase economic prosperity in DC by lifting the median household income of Black residents by \$25,000.

Read the full plan: comeback.dc.gov

REIMAGINING DOWNTOWN



Downtown is the economic engine of our city, and our comeback will in large part rely on our ability to find new ways to change the spaces, fill the spaces, and bring people downtown to create a 24/7 economy.

One of the lessons we learned during the pandemic is that mixed-use communities are more resilient in the face of adversity. Unfortunately, right now, our downtown is 87% commercial and 13% residential. We need a better balance.

RESOURCES FOR THE COMEBACK



The Vitality Fund is a tool that will enhance DC's competitiveness in attracting new, high-growth companies to the District by providing grants to employers with 25 or more employees that commit to locating in Washington, DC. Preference is given to those who fall within the Vitality Fund Target Area, and who commit to hiring and contracting locally.



The Neighborhood Prosperity Fund incentivizes community development, economic growth, and job creation by leveraging local funds to provide gap financing for projects that attract private investment to communities in need of amenities.



The Dream Pitch Program is an eight-week training program for microbusinesses in Ward 7 and 8, culminating into the Dream Pitch Competition - an opportunity for participants to pitch their business to a panel of judges, showcasing the knowledge gained through the program, and resulting in a pitch award between \$2,000 to \$7,500.

Learn more about these programs and other funding opportunities at [ObviouslyDC.com](https://www.ObviouslyDC.com)

FIGHTING FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

A relentless commitment to every Washingtonian getting a fair shot means that we provide a hand up to those who are struggling and we find ways to make the journey smoother for those who have made it to the middle class. We know that this is worth fighting for.



Increased the maximum down payment assistance under the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP) from \$80,000 to \$202,000

Funded Heirs Property Legal Services to assist 1,000 multi-generational families in maintaining their family property after the original homeowner passes



Reduced the annual increase cap to property taxes for seniors from 5% to 2%

BLACK HOMEOWNERSHIP

“It is our charge and our responsibility to put in place policies that are intentional about ending structural racism and reversing the legacies of policies that intentionally locked Black and Brown Washingtonians out of opportunity and the ability to build wealth.”

Find your pathway to homeownership at frontdoor.dc.gov

In June 2022, Mayor Bowser launched the Black Homeownership Strike Force made up of government and public experts in housing and financial counseling, lending/underwriting, real estate development and services, as well as representatives and advocates from the faith-based, senior, immigrant, and LGBTQ+ communities who focus on addressing social and racial inequities. The Mayor charged the Strike Force with providing recommendations for uses of a \$10 million Black Homeownership Fund.

With the release of the Black Homeownership Strike Force Report, Mayor Bowser set a new goal to add 20,000 new Black homeowners by 2030.

HELP A YOUNG DC RESIDENT FIND THEIR PATHWAY TO THE MIDDLE CLASS THROUGH THE MAYOR MARION S. BARRY SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Are you an employer in DC? Want to help a young DC resident gain new skills, build their support network, and stay engaged over the summer? Host an SYEP participant!

Meet seasonal staffing needs and be part of a life-changing experience for young people aged 14-24 from all over the District.

The Department of Employment Services will cover training wages for participants over a 6-week period.

Participants at your worksite may be eligible to receive a scholarship. Since 2017, SYEP has awarded over \$1.2 million in scholarships.

Learn more visit, summerjobs.dc.gov/page/employers

Own a business in DC? Browse opportunities to work with DC Government.

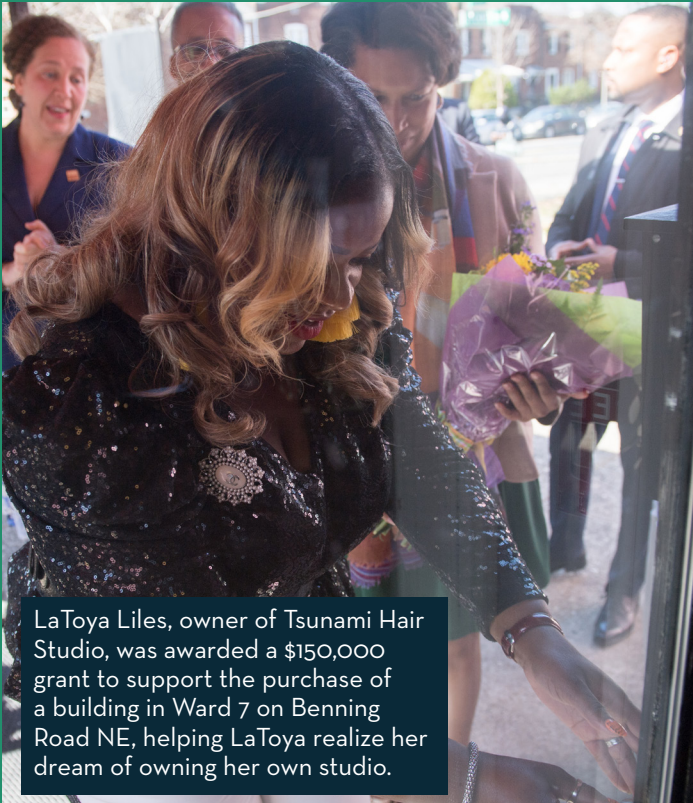
In 2016, Mayor Bowser created the **Green Book** to support the District's small and local businesses. Through the Green Book, Small Business Enterprises (SBE) can explore potential business opportunities based on their industry and view agency-by-agency overviews of SBE spending availability. To learn more about available procurement opportunities and to view the FY23 Green Book and Interactive District Spend Data Dashboard, visit GreenBookDC.com.

Commercial Property Acquisition Fund

Mayor Bowser launched the Commercial Property Acquisition Fund in 2022 as part of a package of Legacy Initiatives developed to keep longtime residents and businesses in DC. The Commercial Property Acquisition Fund helps eligible DC-based businesses purchase property in DC and turn their rent payments into mortgage payments.



The Spice Suite's new home in the Langdon neighborhood of Ward 5 is part of owner Angel Gregorio's larger vision: Black and Forth. Black and Forth is a block of commercial space that will house five Black, female-owned small businesses, including The Spice Suite, a nail salon, hair salon, brow bar, and braid bar.



LaToya Liles, owner of Tsunami Hair Studio, was awarded a \$150,000 grant to support the purchase of a building in Ward 7 on Benning Road NE, helping LaToya realize her dream of owning her own studio.

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A SAFER, STRONGER DC

The District's public safety ecosystem has been impacted by a range of local, national, and global events over the past several years – the COVID-19 pandemic and the isolation it created, the economic crisis that accompanied the global health crisis, four years of an unstable White House, and a nationwide reckoning on racial injustice.



A Police Department That Represents & Reflects DC

Mayor Bowser has made it a priority to ensure the Metropolitan Police Department has the resources and staff it needs and officers that represent and reflect our community. In 2022, Mayor Bowser announced a new \$20,000 hiring bonus – now \$25,000 – that will make MPD more competitive and help the Department recruit new officers, with a focus on hiring more DC residents and women.



The 30x30 Pledge is a national initiative to advance the representation and experiences of women in police departments. The goal is to increase the representation of women in police department recruit classes to 30% by 2030, and to ensure police policies and culture intentionally support the success of women officers throughout their careers. Nationwide, women make up approximately 12% of sworn police officers and 3% of police leadership. Currently, Washington, DC is ahead of the national average, with women making up 23% of MPD's sworn officers and approximately 50% of recruit and cadet classes.



Members of the MPD Cadet Corps earn a salary, starting at \$35,637, while also taking college courses, and earn up to 60 tuition free credits toward a degree at the University of the District of Columbia Community College.

“What we know is that we have to work together - with all our stakeholders, with every branch of government, with the community, with our schools, with our faith leaders - to put in place policies that keep people safe and hold people accountable.”

Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Achievement Centers

The Achievement Centers offer a range of programming led by expert staff who help young people develop their strengths and confidence. The programming is free of charge and open to all District youth ages 14 to 21.

Families and young adults can learn more about the Achievement Center programming by calling or visiting: **2101 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE | Phone: (202) 645-5787**
450 H Street NW | Phone: (202) 576-7299

Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement Leadership Academy

The ONSE Leadership Academy is a school-based initiative providing mentorship, conflict mediation, and individualized supportive services to students in Kelly Miller, Kramer, and Paul Public Charter Middle Schools, as well as Anacostia, Paul Public Charter, and H.D. Woodson High Schools. Families interested in obtaining more information or registering for the ONSE Leadership Academy should email **ONSE@dc.gov** or talk to the administrative team at the middle and high schools where the program is currently offered.

SAFE PASSAGE/SAFE BLOCKS

Safe Passage/Safe Blocks provides 52 schools in priority areas with 160 specially trained staff supporting safe travel to and from school for students.

DC SCHOOL CONNECT

The Department of For-Hire Vehicles operates DC School Connect, a transportation service for a select number of DCPS and public charter schools in designated Safe Passage Zones in Wards 7 and 8. This program allows schools to select shared locations as designated pickup and drop-off locations.

21 schools participated in SY21-22 • 31 schools are participating in SY22-23

Families can call **855-435-3835** or email **DCSchoolConnect@dc.gov** to learn more.

PUTTING ALL STUDENTS ON PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

When we invest in our school communities and provide opportunities and programs that challenge and engage students, families trust us. When families trust us – when they know that their children will be loved and challenged in our schools – that benefits our entire community. This school year, the number of students enrolled in our public schools is at its highest level since the Office of the State Superintendent of Education began doing a District-wide count of public school students in 2007.

EXPANDING EARLY LEARNING

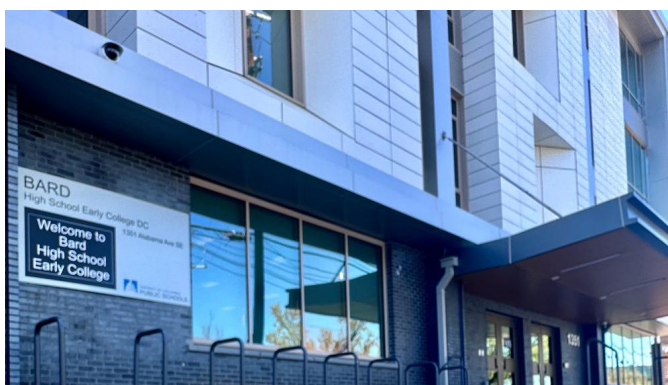
Washington, DC already has the most robust free pre-K program in the nation, and in recent years, Mayor Bowser has invested over \$100 million in the expansion of early childhood education opportunities. Since 2020, DC has opened three DCPS Early Learning Centers – Historic Randle Highlands (Ward 7), Military Road (Ward 4), and Stevens (Ward 2).



EARLY LEARNING BY THE NUMBERS

- Between FY18-FY20, 47 Access to Quality Child Care grants helped create 1,244 new child care seats
- A new \$10 million Access to Quality Child Care investment will help at least five providers create almost 300 new seats
- 80% of all DC 4-year-olds attend free pre-K
- 11,866 students are enrolled in free pre-K3 and pre-K4

REIMAGINING THE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE



Bard High School Early College DC first opened in August 2019 as a partnership between Bard College and DCPS. It is the first District-wide high school program that offers students the unique opportunity to earn up to 60 transferable college credits and an associate degree from Bard College alongside a high school diploma, free of charge.



Launched in School Year 2022-23, the Advanced Technical Center is a centralized Career Technical Education (CTE) program co-located at Trinity Washington University. The ATC allows students to take dual credit high school and college courses focused on cybersecurity and nursing. In its first semester, students cumulatively earned 415 college credit hours, a value of \$350,000.



Mayor Bowser reached a historic contract agreement with the Washington Teachers Union, which represents more than 5,000 DCPS educators, raising average salaries from \$92K to \$103K and offering a 4% retention bonus, ensuring DC keeps more of our teachers in their schools.

High Impact Tutoring

Our multi-year investment in high-impact tutoring will allow the District to reach at least 10,000 students.

Sign up to be a tutor:
citytutordc.org/join

DPR's Rec for ALL Community Grants support programs, activities, and events for young District residents. These grants empower community-based organizations to engage youth ages 6-18 through recreation with an emphasis on those with barriers to access.

Through the Mayor's FY23 Recreation for ALL investments, DPR converted Langdon Recreation Center gymnasium into the first DPR gym solely dedicated to gymnastics. The site has a spring floor, bars, trampoline, and a balance beam. DPR moved its small gymnastics program to Langdon and grew it exponentially to serve more residents from across DC, and the program is currently at 98% capacity with 178 participants.



REC FOR ALL GRANTS INCLUDE:



Support Grants - Up to \$5,000 that can be used to purchase equipment, supplies, or materials for existing programs.



Engagement Grants - Up to \$10,000 to support field trips and other enrichment activities.



Event and Travel Grants - Up to \$10,000 to provide travel to athletic competitions for youth groups.



Programming Grants - Up to \$150,000 geared toward established organizations to fund the expansion of new or existing recurring programs.

The deadline to apply for a grant through DPR's Rec for All Community Grants program is July 30, 2023. Learn more about DPR's Rec for ALL Community Grants and apply:
recforallgrants.splashthat.com.

BUILDING A HEALTHIER, MORE CONNECTED AND RESILIENT DC



In February 2022, Mayor Bowser, Universal Health Services (UHS), George Washington University, and Children's National Hospital broke ground on the new Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center, GW Health in Ward 8 at the St. Elizabeths East Campus. The new full-service hospital will offer the resources that the community has asked for:

- A certified trauma center;
- Women's health services, including newborn delivery with a neonatal intensive care unit;
- A full range of hospital, emergency, and specialty care services, including but not limited to orthopedic, liver, heart, kidney, brain, bones and joint care – all staffed by practitioners from GW Medical Faculty Associates in coordination with the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences; and
- A children's emergency department and neonatal care unit staffed by Children's National Hospital.

Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center will open in early 2025.



In October 2022, Mayor Bowser and UHS cut the ribbon on the new Cedar Hill Urgent Care, GW Health. Owned and operated by UHS and in partnership with the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the GW Medical Faculty Associates, the full-service urgent care provides comprehensive services for a wide range of illnesses. Cedar Hill Urgent Care, GW Health is the first location to open as part of a partnership between the District and UHS to create a comprehensive system of healthcare serving communities east of the Anacostia River.

INCREASING FOOD ACCESS POINTS



In September 2022, Mayor Bowser and community members celebrated the grand opening of Lidl's first store in Washington, DC, located at Skyland Town Center in Ward 7. Lidl is the first full-service grocery store to open East of the River in more than a decade.

In 2022, the Mayor distributed the third round of Food Access Fund grants. The Food Access Fund increases equitable access to fresh, healthy, and affordable foods by supporting grocery stores and restaurants, existing small businesses, and attracting new businesses to communities that are underserved by grocery and other food amenities.

CONNECTING DC



In 2015, DC had 63 miles of bike lanes and fewer than six miles of protected bike lanes. Now, in addition to 63 miles of trails, there are 108 miles of bike lanes, including 31 miles of protected bike lanes.



The newest section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail, between Brookland and Fort Totten, opened in 2022. When fully complete, the 8-mile trail will go from Silver Spring, MD to Union Station.



In March 2022, Mayor Bowser announced the creation of the DC Build Back Better Infrastructure Task Force, which advises on priority projects to be funded through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

BY THE NUMBERS: PROGRESS TOWARD 36,000 NEW HOMES BY 2025



In 2019, Mayor Bowser set a goal to add 36,000 new homes by 2025, including at least 12,000 affordable homes.

By early 2023, the 28,279 homes had been added, including 7,025 affordable homes.



The Asberry will be the first on site building to be delivered under the New Communities Initiative at Barry Farm. The Asberry, a historically significant project for African Americans in Washington, DC, will be a mixed-use building with 108 units of affordable rental senior (55+) housing and approximately 5,000 square feet of commercial space. The Asberry will be located on 1200 Sumner Road SE across from the Barry Farm Recreation Center.



The Elle will be a new apartment building downtown that will be converted from the old Vanguard building. The Vanguard building opened in 1965 and, for years, was home to the Peace Corps. The conversion of the building marks a significant step in reimagining the downtown area as a more vibrant mixed-use community, where residents can live, work, and play.



The Ethel is a new building in Hill East that will provide 100 units of permanent supportive housing for residents exiting homelessness. In addition to housing, the Ethel will offer residents on-site services and resources, including fitness facilities, cooking classes, a clothing closet, hair salon, and on-site caseworkers who will assist in connecting residents with a range of services from healthcare to professional development.

MEET YOUR MOCRS

MAYOR BOWSER'S EYES AND EARS IN THE COMMUNITY



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