The COVID-19 pandemic brought about unprecedented economic challenges for workers, families, and businesses. As we continue our comeback, this budget is focused on supporting small and local businesses, adding grocery stores and restaurants East of the River, galvanizing a revitalization of our entertainment and hospitality sectors, infusing resources and training for workers, and spurring the recovery and reimagining of downtown DC. Under Mayor Bowser’s leadership, Washington, DC has become a world-class entertainment and hospitality destination and this budget doubles down on keeping DC a city where people want to live, work, visit, and open businesses.

- $7.5M to attract and retain transformative businesses
- $233K to plan a new residential conversions incentive program and funding for $2.5M per year in incentives starting in FY 2024
- $73M across FY22 and FY23 to add fresh food access points East of the River
- $4M to help local businesses buy commercial property in DC
- $3.4M to help small and medium business growth and $500K to increase DC’s top employers contracting DC small businesses
- $8M to continue the Bridge Fund and $1.5M to continue waiving public space fees for neighborhood festivals and community events
- $21M to raise participant wages in training programs in all Department of Employment Services programs
- $5M in new competitive grants to create or enhance attractions for families to visit the city
- $5M for a new marketing campaign to attract leisure and business travelers
- $1.25M to sponsor large events and festivals and $750K to pay DC musicians to play music at key destinations to activate and enliven public spaces
- $5M to help businesses renovate office space