



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

**MATTHEW FRUMIN**  
Councilmember, Ward 3

**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
Executive Administration and Labor  
Facilities and Family Services  
Hospital and Health Equity  
Housing  
Transportation and the Environment

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

**I write to submit my budget priorities on behalf of Ward 3 residents and request that you include these items in your proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024.**

Ward 3 is a great place to raise a family, start a business, age in place, and earn an education, but we can do better still as we seek new opportunities and growth for our community. I look forward to partnering with you to address the District's challenges and fund future-focused solutions to make Ward 3 and the city a welcoming, inclusive home for all.

These funding priorities were identified after weeks of robust community engagement with hundreds of constituents. Each of the ambitious budget priorities in this letter are organized into my "Ward 3 for All" framework, which seeks to use legislative and budget processes to expand opportunity for all residents.

We have an opportunity in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget to make significant progress on our shared goal to create a more vibrant, just, and equitable Ward 3 and District. With intentional appropriations, we can: fully fund our schools; support and retain our teachers; expand economic opportunity; promote affordable, abundant housing options; nurture safe, healthy neighborhoods; invest in safer streets and accessible transit; support our seniors; and celebrate local arts, culture, and recreation.

**I respectfully request you include the enclosed budget priorities in your proposal and take bold action to foster a more vibrant, equitable Ward 3.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Frumin".

Matthew Frumin  
Ward 3 Councilmember

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### **Fully Fund Our Schools**

Successful, matter-of-right feeder patterns that give families in every community a quality path for their children from pre-K through high school are critical to the future of the city. The pandemic was devastating for student achievement, and it is imperative that we ensure adequate and predictable funding for all our schools. At the same time, we must support our educators with a renewed focus on teacher retention, enrichment, and advancement.

- **Preserve the buying power of DCPS school budgets.** Initial school budgets for fiscal year 2024 (FY24) were released on February 15. For many schools across the city, they reflect significant cuts, up to 5% in nominal dollars, even where enrollment has stayed stable or grown. This will lead to a destructive loss of services at many schools. The upcoming fragile post-COVID year is the wrong time to cut services. The Administration should restore buying power in our schools, securing the dollars to do so either by increasing the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) foundation amount or by addressing inequities relative to the charter sector in the levels we fund enrollment for DCPS and impose a UPSFF tax for building maintenance and operations (M&O). Based on a very preliminary review of the data, restoring buying power for our schools seeing cuts likely will require increasing the DCPS school budgets by \$25 million to \$30 million.
- **Address critical funding shortfalls in the FY23 school budgets.** The Hardy Middle School budget is the most dramatic example of a shortfall impacting Ward 3 students. Last year, the Hardy budget had a \$360,000 shortfall in funding needed for efficient and successful operation of the school. While for many schools preservation of buying power will be key, at schools like Hardy buying power must be increased to address persistent shortfalls.
- **Fund the Department of General Services (DGS) to resolve the backlog of school-related work orders and address ongoing maintenance issues.** The city has invested billions in modernizing our schools. We must properly maintain them to serve our students and preserve the investment of our taxpayers. This will require adequately funding reactive maintenance

requests as well as increasing strategic preventative maintenance. The FY24 budget should increase funding for school maintenance by at least 10% compared to FY23. Further, consistent with lowering the UPSFF tax on DCPS for building M&O, the cost of DCPS utilities should be moved out of the basket paid for through the UPSFF and into the DGS budget.

- **Add \$5 million to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the planned addition to Stoddert Elementary School to add at least two classrooms and to allow for placement of the cafeteria on the west side of the campus for optimal functionality.** Stoddert should be built large enough both to serve its community today and to prepare for continued enrollment growth: in FY23, Stoddert received 260 PK-4 applications for only 19 available seats. Additionally, placing the cafeteria on the west side of the building, rather than the current planned eastern placement, will improve functionality and facilitate expanded capacity in the future should it be necessary, which the Council explicitly called for in the FY23 budget.
- **Add \$1.5 million to the CIP to assess and repair the Jackson-Reed High School auditorium, including its roof.** For years, despite occasional repairs, persistent leaks in the Jackson-Reed auditorium roof have damaged the lighting, audio, visual, and other electrical systems, as well as the curtains, screens, and floors. The auditorium is a critical space in this overcrowded school and the inability to use it not only deprives Jackson-Reed of essential art programming opportunities but has rendered a crucial school gathering space nearly unusable.
- **Fully fund the Office of the State Superintendent (“OSSE”) to resolve driver and attendant shortages and implement an app for parents to track the transportation of their child in real time.** In January, we faced a crisis in our transportation of special education students. Many factors contributed to the crisis, staff shortages prominent among them. Parents struggled to get reliable information about when their child would be picked up or returned. Launching a route tracking app, which an OSSE contractor is already developing, should not be costly and will offer greater transparency and peace of mind for parents. Hiring drivers and attendants in a highly competitive labor environment will require additional investments. OSSE should evaluate what resources are necessary to fully staff drivers and attendants, and the city should provide commensurate funding. We cannot repeat the recent failures to serve some of our most vulnerable students and their families.
- **Add \$11.5 million to fully fund the implementation of the DCPS Comprehensive Technology plan.** Prioritize the replacement of devices provided under the Empowered Learners initiative as they approach the end of their life cycle, invest in an asset management support structure to minimize loss and maximize the city’s investment in school technology, and emphasize digital literacy skills building in daily instruction.
- **Provide \$8 million to OSSE to fully fund and implement Healthy School Meals for All** to make school meals universally free and accessible for all DCPS and public charter schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. This legislation benefits the 75% of students who identify as economically disadvantaged, as well the 42% of DCPS students who are at-risk, creating a more economically and racially equitable and just food system.

- **Increase funding for the FRESHFARM FoodPrints program by \$300,000, for a total annual budget allocation of \$1.9 million.** Additional funding would allow the program to expand from 19 to 21 schools, reaching 7,600 students in neighborhoods with limited options for fresh nutritious food. FRESHFARM teachers are embedded in DCPS schools to engage students in experiential food education that gets them excited about growing, preparing, and enjoying nutritious foods and aligns with DC standards for learning in STEM and health.
- **Expand funding for OSSE educator wellness grants from \$500,000 to \$750,000** to support the five partner organizations working in 25 DCPS and Charter schools to improve educator wellness and retention, both deeply strained since the pandemic.
- **Invest \$14.7 million annually to increase salaries for Early Learning Program Directors commensurate with OSSE licensing credentials.** The city has rightly increased salaries for early childhood educators but has not yet increased compensation for program directors. Strengthening our early childhood education infrastructure requires that these education leaders, like their teacher counterparts, be compensated fairly and without imposing unduly high fees on parents to ensure programs remain broadly accessible.
- **Allocate \$10 million to OSSE to pilot flexible teacher scheduling programs.** Relentless schedules have been an impediment to teacher retention, particularly as professionals in many other fields enjoy increased flexibility in the post-COVID era. Currently, a dozen DC schools are designing and piloting flexible scheduling. Grants of up to \$400,000 per school could support innovation at 20 schools and put the District on the cutting edge of educator wellness and retention, student enrichment, and differentiated instruction models. Schools already piloting flexible scheduling have testified to its positive effects on both educator morale and student recovery and engagement.

**Promote Affordable, Abundant Housing Options**

Ward 3 needs more housing options. Affordable and accessible housing opportunities will lead to a more welcoming community and address the lingering effects of a history of exclusion.

- **Add \$4 million each to the existing budgets for the replacement of the Chevy Chase Library and Recreation Center within the Chevy Chase Civic Site.** Current proposals for the site envision a new library and recreation center, as well as adding housing and preserving generous green and play space. Underground, as opposed to surface, parking will be critical to achieving these goals within the site, as well as supporting the commercial district. If the housing element of the project were required to bear the full cost of parking, financing for higher levels of affordable housing would be significantly more challenging. Realizing the potential for the Civic Site requires the highest quality library and recreation center and for those projects to bear their share of the cost of underground parking.

- **Allocate \$100 million for the creation of a fund to support the acquisition of commercial properties to be converted to housing, with an emphasis on affordable housing.** The District's ambitious goal of creating 12,000 new units of affordable housing by 2025, including 1990 units in Rock Creek West, underscores the importance of achieving housing equity and economic opportunity. While the District has had funds previously that could be used to purchase commercial properties, the city has not in recent years used this tool to advance housing goals. Consolidating and making additional investments can enable the District to be nimble as opportunities arise and generate more, and more deeply, affordable housing than the private market through inclusionary zoning requirements would generate. Any new fund should complement the Housing Production Trust Fund and enable qualified mission-driven affordable housing developers to move quickly to gain access to properties and accelerate affordable housing production.

### **Expand Economic Opportunity**

The city must seize once-in-a-generation opportunities to revitalize commercial centers and civic cores in Ward 3, adding housing for all income levels in the process. Brick-and-mortar small businesses are struggling due to changing economic dynamics and need additional support to keep our corridors vibrant, while our residents need additional diverse pathways to employment and advancement.

- **Fund the purchase of the Whittle School and a planning process to evaluate future use opportunities.** The vacant Whittle School (formerly Intelsat), 3400 International Drive, NW, sits on 13.7 acres and includes a 650,000+ sq. ft. renovated building with 300,000+ sq. ft. below-ground parking and supportive facilities. It is located on Metro rail and bus lines and adjacent to the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and is ripe for reimagining as an innovative, multi-use public-private partnership. The site could potentially accommodate a school, senior wellness center, affordable housing, and/or retail that would enliven the Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor and advance multiple policy priorities for Ward 3 and the District.
- **Increase per DC Main Street program funding by \$50,000 (an overall increase of \$1.4 million) to expand technical and financial assistance for local businesses,** as well as make investments in placemaking in the city's commercial districts. The pandemic and ongoing recovery period have demonstrated the vital role Main Streets play in supporting, sustaining, and expanding the District's small business ecosystem. Per program funding for the city's 28 programs, however, has been static on an annual basis, while the demand for and costs associated with providing direct business assistance have risen steadily.

- **Increase the annual allocation for the Connecticut Avenue Clean Team by \$86,905** for a total annual budget allocation of \$200,000. This clean team serves the business districts of Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Van Ness, and Woodley Park along Connecticut Avenue from Calvert Street to Western Avenue. Additional funding is required to bring this Clean Team into alignment with other programs serving similar commercial corridors and to respond to the significant clean and safe services required by four business districts.
- **Increase the annual allocation for the Wisconsin Avenue Clean Team by \$62,000**, for a total annual budget allocation of \$236,275. This clean team serves Wisconsin Avenue, from Lowell Street to Western Avenue, including Cathedral Heights, City Ridge, Tenleytown, and Friendship Heights. Additional funding would: support expanded clean and safe services in Friendship Heights, which local businesses and property owners have requested as part of the business district's strategic commercial revitalization program; respond to increased foot traffic in Tenleytown due to new mixed-use developments; and improve sidewalk maintenance surrounding the Metro station. The expansion of the Connecticut Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue Clean Teams would create additional jobs for returning citizens and support eight major commercial centers.
- **Provide \$150,000 in startup funding for the Friendship Heights Business Improvement District (BID).** The current effort to revitalize the historic Friendship Heights business district by attracting new retail, building mixed-use developments with housing, creating community gathering places, and working creatively with partners across the DC-Maryland border is an important, complex project. Property owners, business leaders, and community members have joined to establish a BID in support of this exciting project. One-time startup funding will sustain momentum for this effort as the BID formalizes the tax structures to fund itself.
- **Invest a minimum of \$300,000 to enable UDC to offer tenant improvements at commercial retail properties owned by the university.** UDC must compete with other commercial landlords to attract quality, stable retail tenants, but is at a disadvantage when other commercial properties routinely offer \$50 per sq ft in tenant improvement funding. UDC's current budget does not allow for such tenant attraction incentives, and there are real opportunity costs for UDC and the surrounding Van Ness neighborhood from retail vacancies. Tenant improvement allowances are an investment recovered in multiples through rents, business taxes, new jobs, and vibrant commercial districts.
- **Allocate \$2.6 million in FY24 for DDOT to complete the design of the Tenleytown Multimodal Access Project and \$13 million, over FY25 and FY26, for project construction.** The project is intended to improve pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular safety and improve public spaces surrounding the Tenleytown-AU Metrorail Station at the gateway to the Tenleytown commercial district. DDOT is currently developing concept designs, anticipated to be completed in FY23, for pedestrian, streetscape, and multimodal safety and access improvements, in close consultation with community stakeholders.

- **Allocate \$4.2 million over three years for the final design and construction of the Van Ness Commercial Corridor Project;** DDOT completed concept plans in 2022. This project will address longstanding pedestrian safety concerns and streetscape improvements necessary for the revitalization of the commercial district.
- **Increase access to the Child Care Subsidy Program to families earning 350% of the federal poverty level (FPL)** up from the current 250% and proposed 300% thresholds. Childcare costs impose a crushing burden on many of our families. Expanding this benefit will greatly increase the number of families who can afford childcare, many of which struggle to cover those costs at 350% of the FPL.
- **Increase funding for OSSE’s “Grow Your Own” Program Grants** from \$1.4 million to \$3 million annually. These grants provide a debt-free pathway for local high school students and paraprofessionals to become licensed educators at DC public and charter schools, diversifying and strengthening the city’s talent pool of community-based educators.

**Invest in Safer Streets and Accessible Transit**

We must do more to protect all pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers using Ward 3 streets. We can make our roads safer for children, seniors, and people with disabilities through commonsense traffic calming measures. This includes ensuring safe routes to school for all students, expanding multimodal transit options, and promoting sustainable alternatives to driving.

- **Provide \$4.5 million to DDOT for planning and implementation of bus service to address the gap in public transportation routes to the new MacArthur High School.** The high school is not reasonably accessible via public transit either from within or outside its catchment area; only one Metrobus route traverses a small portion of the school’s boundary and serves a fraction of in-boundary students. Minimum travel time estimates in the catchment area are up to 75 minutes for students. The frequency of existing bus service will need to be increased. A new bus line, either through a new local Metro Bus or Circulator Line, that incorporates stops at one of several Red Line stations within the catchment area will be necessary to facilitate access and connect students to educational and/or athletic programming at other secondary and higher education institutions. Such a new bus line would also offer students outside the catchment efficient points of access from other parts of the city. Further, the new bus line would connect neighborhoods, provide transportation for visitors and workers, offer additional connection to many of the area’s most significant institutions, and support local commerce.
- **Include \$3 million to purchase and stabilize the Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle Bridge and design a multi-use Palisades Trolley Trail.** The trail has the potential to fill an important gap in pedestrian and cycle routes in Ward 3, with the trestle bridge a centerpiece amid scenic ravines and sweeping views of the Potomac, connecting the Palisades and the Georgetown

commercial district. Additionally, the trail would provide an accessible bike route to the new MacArthur High School, as well as facilitate biking to three other schools.

- **Include \$9 million over three fiscal years for the final design and rehabilitation of the Arizona Avenue Pedestrian Bridge and connecting trails.** Completion of this project, in tandem with the Palisades Trolley Trail, would provide connector routes in Ward 3 for the Capital Crescent Trail and canal towpath.
- **Provide \$200,000 for a mobility and transportation study focused on pedestrian and bike safety and multi-modal transit in Friendship Heights.** Given the breadth of development contemplated for Friendship Heights, including nearly 1,000 new housing units in the near term, it is important to assess and plan for how people will travel to and within the commercial and residential neighborhood. A decade old DDOT study of the area does not align with the Office of Planning’s current Wisconsin Avenue Development Framework.

### **Foster Safe, Healthy Neighborhoods**

We can make our neighborhoods safer and healthier for all with a modern, equitable public safety strategy that prioritizes accountability, services, and care. We must invest in comprehensive services and responsible policing to keep our families and communities whole.

- **Add \$3.3 million to the Department of Behavioral Health for Mental Health Community Residential Facilities (MHCRF).** MHCRFs provide housing and services for adults with mental health disorders and have not received a rate increase since 2018. The additional funding request is based on an 18.14% increase, which is the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index increase from December 2018, when the rate was last increased, to December 2021.
- **Fully fund the Pathways to Behavioral Health Degrees Act of 2022, which would establish a Master of Social Work program at UDC and provide scholarships for District residents** to address the city’s gap in available licensed social workers. DC Health should also receive sufficient resources to invest in staffing and technological improvements to process and administer out-of-state and professional license applications, which would facilitate hiring for vacant positions.
- **Continue to build community-based behavioral health services by adding \$1.9 million in local funding for the Department of Behavioral Health to leverage \$7.5 million in federal Medicaid funding.** Community-based organizations work annually with approximately 27,000 District residents with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder. Increased funding is needed to avoid cuts to services like therapy, community support, and Assertive Community Treatment upon which many District residents depend.



- **Invest an additional \$8.2 million for the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to cover the funding gap for school-based behavioral health services in every school.** This amount would provide \$103,000 per clinician per school for 253 schools, maintaining level funding with DBH-provided FY23 grants plus a 3.6% inflationary adjustment. The pandemic made the need for school-based behavioral health services abundantly clear and having clinicians in schools improves classroom environments, reduces response times for mental health crises, and addresses the experiences of trauma faced by this city's youth.
- **Invest in Out of School Time (OST) Programs. Fund \$10 million in Learn24 grants and allocate \$14 million to fund security expenses for OST programs in DC schools.** Students across the city deserve equitable access to high quality, supportive OST programs. Research cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) emphasizes the academic, health, and safety benefits OST provides, often for our most vulnerable children. Increased grant funding will allow qualified non-profit organizations to provide access to 5,000 additional OST seats.
- **Invest \$18.6 million in the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) to expand the availability of domestic violence housing units,** including: developing a new 20-unit affordable housing project and a 27-unit permanent supportive housing project, providing 15 new units of transitional housing with supportive services, and administering emergency housing support for two additional units per week for a year, serving approximately 104 sexual assault survivors. Current survivors must be supported while the city works towards addressing the root causes of domestic violence. Providing stability and healing for families also breaks generational cycles of abuse which decreases domestic violence for future generations.
- **Fully fund the Taft Bridge suicide barriers.** The FY23 budget includes funds to design the barriers; construction must follow promptly after design to prevent further loss of life. Funding should support both temporary installations, to be installed in tandem with the design process, as well fabrication and installation of permanent preventative barriers.
- **Allocate \$300,000 for the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to study the detrimental health effects of nighttime aircraft noises** for District residents and make recommendations for mitigating those impacts, working in partnership with the DCA Reagan National - Community Working Group (CWG). Due to proximity to the region's airports, Ward 3, along with Wards 2, 6,7, and 8, is affected by nighttime flight noise. Several US and international studies have documented the negative impact of nighttime aircraft flights on residents, including cardiovascular health and cognitive development.

## **Support Our Seniors**

Ward 3 is home to one of the largest populations of seniors in DC. It a great place to age-in-place, but we can do better. We must fully support both existing senior services and neighborhood organizations working directly with older adults. We can expand programming for Ward 3 seniors and distribute the vibrant activities throughout the community.

- **Push forward on creating a brick-and-mortar senior wellness center for Wards 2 and 3.** The FY23 budget allocated \$500,000 to the Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) to support a feasibility study, planning, and design process for a senior wellness center in Wards 2 and 3. Unfortunately, the full allocation was included in the Capital budget. Please implement DACL’s request that \$300,000 of those funds be transferred to the Operating budget for the completion of the study and planning process and that \$200,000 be retained in the CIP budget for a subsequent initial project design phase. It is long past time that we get this moving.
- **Fully fund the Direct Care Professional Payment Rate Act of 2022**, which was enacted in the FY 2023 Budget Support Act of 2022. For FY 24, that would include \$14 million in local funds and \$14 million from the HCBS Enhancement Fund to fund the portion of the mandatory wage increase for direct care professionals. Long term care for seniors and those with disabilities has faced a staff shortage crisis, due in large part to poverty-level wages for direct care workers, who are predominately women of color. Fully funding the mandatory wage increase would meet the care needs of thousands of residents and provide economic opportunity to essential workers. As we increase funding for these professionals, we should also explore how to attract and train professionals with language skills to serve our non-English speaking residents including our Spanish and Amharic speaking residents
- **Fund a 15% increase in the Medicaid per diem reimbursement for Adult Day Health Programs (ADHP)** reflecting substantial post-COVID staffing and food costs for these programs. The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) has committed to sustaining the 20% rate increase Assisted Living Providers received during the pandemic; other Medicaid providers similarly received a 15% rate increase. However, funding for ADHPs has remained static at pre-pandemic rates with only modest inflationary increases, despite rising programmatic expenses. ADHPs, which are required to maintain a minimum staffing level, are challenged to compete in the current labor market absent increased funding. Federal ARPA funds, if used by DHCF to fund provider payments, would be eligible for a 70% federal match; only 30% of the cost would need to be financed with local dollars.
- **Restore funding for Around Town DC at the FY22 level (it was not funded in FY23) of \$730,000 on a recurring basis for three years with annual inflationary increases.** An estimated 74% of older adults in the District live alone, with 26% of the population living with one or more disabilities. Iona Senior Services’ Around Town DC is the only program of its kind that offers senior wellness activities, educational programs, community building, and socialization both in-person and virtually, serving 800 older adults across the city.

- **Allocate \$450,000 for the Dementia Navigator and Money Management programs on a recurring basis for three years with annual inflationary increases.** An estimated 14,000 individuals are living with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias in the District, representing more than 17% of the older adult population. Iona Senior Services’ Dementia Navigator and Money Management programs provide communities citywide, primarily communities of color and the underserved, with critical resources and direct interventions needed by caregivers and are the only programs in the District providing these resources.
- **Fully fund the implementation of the No Senior Hungry Omnibus Amendment Act, with an allocation of \$8 million in FY24 and \$8.2 million in FY25.** Passed in 2022, this act supports programs to end senior hunger in DC by creating an Interagency Senior Food Insecurity Taskforce, developing a communications plan to connect senior nutrition services with the community, adding home delivered meals and medical nutritional therapy to the Medicaid waiver, and increasing SNAP and other nutrition program participation among seniors. At 14.3%, DC has the highest rate of food insecurity among seniors in the nation.

**Celebrate Local Arts, Culture, and Recreation**

Ward 3 has a tight knit community connected by local arts, culture, and recreational activities. Neighbors are enthusiastic about creating more opportunities to gather and support local culture and community. To meet this demand, we should expand recreation facilities and support athletic and arts activities for all ages.

- **Allocate \$600,000 per year for FY24 through FY27 to install dedicated pickleball courts at recreation facilities across the city.** Current estimates indicate this investment could result in up to 5 courts constructed annually. Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the United States, and locally the District is projected to have at least 2,000 players by the end of 2024, growing from just 150 prior to the pandemic. In Ward 3, the average age of players is 66; pickleball has proven to be a great way to keep seniors active and healthy. Currently the city has only 10 dedicated pickleball courts, compared with 138 dedicated tennis courts. While the Department of Parks and Recreation has provided temporary relief for the excess demand by painting pickleball lines on tennis courts, this is a temporary solution that requires pickleball players to assemble heavy equipment and negatively impacts tennis players.
- **Allocate \$5 million, over three fiscal years, in support of the renovation of the Washington Ballet’s headquarters,** located at 3515 Wisconsin Avenue in a 110-year-old building. For nearly 80 years, the Washington Ballet (TWB) has served the District through a professional performing company, regional dance school, and mission-based community engagement programs that reach all eight Wards. Annually, TWB provides \$300,000 in scholarships to local students in need. The headquarters renovation would offer additional community spaces, make DC a destination for American dances forms and international

dancers, and support production of the highest quality performance experiences in Downtown theaters, contributing to making Downtown DC a cultural destination.

- **Allocate \$105 million to the CIP for construction of the DC Archives and fully fund two FTEs in FY24** to review, categorize, digitize, and maintain the existing Archives in preparation for the opening of the new facility. Funding should enable a construction schedule that allows the Archives to open by July 4, 2026, when the city celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nation's founding.
- **Increase funding for the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) Park Maintenance Grants from \$150,000 to \$300,000.** Community-based friends groups and conservancies across the District have initiated successful green jobs programs that employ and train residents in the hard work of maintenance and ecological restoration. These programs need additional resources to sustain and expand their efforts.