



PROGRESS

THE NEW FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

SPRING 2021 EDITION

**STRIVING
FOR HIGHER**



**LOOKING AHEAD, SETTING
NEW STANDARDS, AND
PERSEVERING...TOGETHER**

**PROGRESS AND
PERSEVERANCE
SUPERSTRUCTURE WORK
IS UNDERWAY**



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The past 12 months have been marked by unprecedented change across our world, our nation, and our District. As an agency, we have been reminded of the essentiality of safe and varied transportation, both for our teams and the communities we serve.

Even more apparent through this season is a renewed sense of determination across our organization. We continue to persevere in meeting our collective needs through even the greatest of obstacles.

The hardworking men and women building the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge are not just dedicated; they are creative, solutions-oriented, and resilient. Constantly embodying the ideals of our bridge's namesake, we are striving for higher by looking ahead, setting new standards, and persevering ... together.

As we embark on a new Spring season, we choose to do so through the lens of optimism, acknowledging that while unexpected change or challenge may still exist, we are now - through our experiences - better equipped than ever to push through.

In this reflection issue, we recognize stories of success, partnership, and persistence that bring to life our District's commitment to building the bridge between cultures, communities, and people - through it all, in every season.

We begin with a spotlight on one of our most important relationships along this journey: The South Capitol Bridgebuilders (SCB). Read about how their joint venture came to be and what their cross-functional teams are doing to adapt and overcome building challenges through the pandemic.

Also in the issue:

- An update on the superstructure phase of construction on the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge and the exact steps to installing a deck that sets a new standard;
- How Kathy Dalby, local entrepreneur and CEO of Pacers, is looking ahead to the future for her award-winning specialty retail business by meeting runners where it's safe in today's environment;
- A walk in the shoes of one of our bridge's ironworkers, Willie Howard, and why he's excited to contribute toward such a historic and significant project; and
- A DBE journey spotlight on Soil and Land Use Technology, Inc. (SaLUT) and how they're working to overcome difficulty, rise to the challenge, and compete in the spirit of Frederick Douglass.

Get better acquainted with the efforts and people persevering each and every day through adversity. As I serve in this new effort of leading the way - sometimes where there is no clear path - I'm reminded of the words of Frederick Douglass:

"You are not judged by the height you have risen, but from the depth you have climbed."

With hope for all that is to come,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Everett Lott". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Everett Lott

INTERIM DIRECTOR, DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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judged by the
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FREDERICK DOUGLASS

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#FDMBVantagePoint: Social Media Snapshots





Samuel Fisher



Eric Hayes



Ken Butler

FEATURE STORY

STRIVING FOR SYNCHRONY

Meet the contractor for the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge (FDMB) project, South Capitol Bridgebuilders (SCB) – a joint venture between Archer Western Construction LLC (Walsh Group) and Granite Construction Co., with AECOM serving as the bridge designer and Engineer of Record. We offer an inside look into how this joint venture partnership and design-build project came to be and feature the voices of the men who are leading the charge in bringing it to fruition.

South Capitol Bridgebuilders is a joint venture of Archer Western Construction LLC and Granite Construction Co. to manage the construction of The South Capitol Street Corridor Project, the largest infrastructure project in the history of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). This project includes replacing the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, creating new traffic ovals east and west of the Anacostia River and reconstructing the Suitland Parkway interchange with Interstate 295.

ERIC HAYES

Project Executive
Walsh Archer Western

Eric serves as the Design-Build Project Manager for South Capitol Bridgebuilders. In leading the contractor side of this project, he oversees everything from quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC), safety and operations to contracting and administration, which includes payroll and compliance. He is a 20-year veteran of the construction industry and started working on the project during the procurement and bid phase and has been leading the contractor team since the award of the contract.

SAMUEL FISHER

Program Manager
Granite Construction

Samuel serves as the Deputy Project Manager for South Capitol Bridgebuilders. In this role, he supports the management of the overall project and oversees all business-related functions for Granite, including financial projections and management of Granite's employees. He has more than 20 years' experience in civil engineering and he joined the project in August 2020.

KEN BUTLER

Senior Vice President
AECOM

Ken serves as the Chief Bridge Engineer for complex bridge practice at AECOM. As Design Manager of the New FDMB, he was responsible for leading a group of 130 designers through the process of designing the bridge and is now providing construction support to South Capitol Bridgebuilders. He has nearly four decades' experience as a bridge engineer and has been working on the project since its inception.

What does it mean to have a joint venture partnership?

A joint venture partnership in the construction world allows two companies to come together pooling resources, staff, and expertise as one unit to fulfill the requirements of a large job, or what is called a "megaproject" like the New FDMB.

"This fully integrated joint venture runs as one cohesive job. There is no dividing up the work between companies. We put the best people on the field from each team," states Eric Hayes.

What this looks like in practical terms is the person identified to be the leader of the project is selected from the managing partner's organization and the deputy is selected from the other company. All the other staff are chosen from each organization based on expertise to meet the needs of the project and both companies complete the work side-by-side.

What is a design-build?

Historically, construction projects have worked under a bid-build structure where the owner of a project hires an engineering firm who does 100% of the project design, drawing, permitting, and plans for the project. The owner then bids the work out to a contractor, who is hired to build out those plans.

On a design-build, the contractor partners with the designer to pursue the construction jobs together. The owner of the project (DDOT, in the case of the New FDMB) performs 30% of the preparation work (permitting, schematics, guidelines, and rough drawings). The contractor is then hired and works with the

designer to offer all of their best ideas, refine the rough preparation work of the owner (in some cases make drastic changes) and they are responsible for the full design, permitting and construction of the job jointly.

"By going through a design-build process on the South Capitol Street Corridor project, it probably shortened the delivery time of the project by three or four years. We didn't have to wait for the design to be 100% completed before we started the construction process," states Eric Hayes.

For a design-build project like the New FDMB, contractors will select a qualified engineer to manage the design. AECOM was selected, as it is one of the largest, most qualified engineering firms in the world with multiple local offices and a sizable staff or manpower that could meet the design requirements.

"We like working on these design-build projects because we fully integrate as a team. We bring the design aspect, and they bring the build aspect. It is an ideal process because we have the input going in, allowing us to deliver a better product in a more cost-effective and timely way than we used to do it," states Ken Butler.

How did this joint venture partnership come to fruition on the New FDMB?

Being two of the larger, most respected civil contractors in the United States and considering the mutual respect as competitors, a partnership between Archer Western and Granite on the New FDMB seemed inevitable. With more than a decade of experience in doing joint ventures, this partnership was primed for success.

"On these very large projects where you have to fully staff large-scale jobs very quickly, it works best to partner with another company of equal size and quality to fulfill the requirements. It allows us to rely on each other's expertise and resources," states Eric Hayes.

What was the inspiration for the design of the New FDMB and how did the team go about arriving at the final design?

AECOM's design work in each city is a little different in that it aspires to understand the cultural significance that each city brings for a particular project. Their vision for the New FDMB took into account that South Capitol Street, the street that feeds into the bridge, is a gateway from the neighborhoods in Southeast to the monumental core.

"Being born in Southeast D.C. with parents who were Washingtonians, I knew the Anacostia neighborhood and city very well. I appreciated Pierre L'Enfant's design and plan of the city from a historical perspective. Being a city of arch bridges - e.g. Arlington Memorial Bridge & Francis Scott Key Bridge - I envisioned taking that form of an ancient arch and marrying it to modern technology," states Ken Butler.

The challenge of the AECOM design team was to redesign a functionally outdated bridge and create a modern iconic one. This thought process was the inspiration for an above arch deck, versus a traditional under deck arch. The vision was to push the arches as high above the city street and deck as possible and have them dip back down into the water to make it appear as if they were springing off the water from the east side to the west side into the city.

"DDOT set aesthetic goals and gave us a schedule, however they really gave us a blank canvas from which to work. We knew that this was to be an iconic bridge serving as a grand boulevard for the South Capitol Street corridor. We balanced that vision with an engineering and architectural approach as key drivers to creating this iconic structure," states Ken Butler.

Working in concert with the contractor, bridge team and architecture team, the entire design process took approximately a year to complete. The process began with 30 concept designs. Next, the design team worked with the contracting team to evaluate physical, monetary, and constructability constraints with each design. After a series of design workshops, they selected a final design.

"Now that the design process is complete and the design team has produced drawings for the construction team, we have fallen into more of a construction support role. As issues arise or if there needs to be any modifications to the design to support construction techniques, we support them," states Ken Butler.

How is this project different from any other bridge project?

"As we were designing the bridge, we tried to research Frederick Douglass and understand what drove him. He was a really well-traveled, interesting and unusual man. In attempting to memorialize his legacy in the way of an infrastructure project, we strived to convey aesthetically his love for dialogue and creating alliances in a strong, confident, yet elegant structure. In the words of our bridge architect, we wanted this bridge to reflect 'his clarion call for unity and integration.' It was important to us that the bridge reflected that legacy." -Ken Butler

"This is the largest job I've ever worked on as a project manager. The job itself, building a signature bridge that has a 100-year life span in the nation's capital, is what makes this project interesting. I'm most looking forward to Spring of 2022 being able to watch people using the bridge. I'll be able to say that I contributed to this amazing project."
-Samuel Fisher

"The most significant difference between this project and any other project I've worked on is the fact that we are working on a local street level. Most of the projects I've personally worked on have been interstate work - large bridges over water or through the city that were all interstate work. This project is urban-centered, which means you have other components to consider like utilities, business owners and people walking on sidewalks around the job site. In interstate work, you can set up a work zone and pretty much be in your own world. On this project, you have others in your work zone all the time. The number of stakeholders, existing infrastructure and outside agencies with different opinions about how things should be run makes it strikingly different." -Eric Hayes

What do you like most about working on this project?

"I like the significance of this project. This is not just a J.O.B. for me. We're making an impact for a long time in revitalizing this part of the city. This is one of those projects where you get to show our grandkids someday. I enjoy getting to drive by and see a physical bridge that I had a hand in bringing to life."
-Eric Hayes

"I've been fortunate to have delivered projects in most of the major cities around the country and a few around the world, but this one in particular is really gratifying because it's in the nation's capital. It brings a different prominence and high-profile nature to the project. Because my parents were Washingtonians, it was sort of like coming home to deliver what is a legacy project that I and generations beyond me will be proud of." -Ken Butler

"Being that I'm the new guy on the project, it's been a lot of getting up to speed and learning new systems and ways of doing business. I really like that it is a fully integrated joint venture and it's been nice to see other ways of doing things and getting to work with more people in a different environment."
-Samuel Fisher

In what way has this project persevered or demonstrated examples of striving for higher against all odds?

"We adapt and we overcome. We're engineers; we're problem solvers. What we've experienced with the pandemic is just one of the many things that we need to protect our employees from on a construction site. It adds complication with social distancing and other protective measures, but that's what we do. We come up with new and innovative ways to build and we move forward. I enjoy the challenge of building and try to figure out how to get things done on budget with a very tight schedule. That's why I got in the business in the first place. I look forward to those challenges here."
-Samuel Fisher

"One of key realizations early on for this project was that for this to be a success, DDOT and SCB would have to be true partners. We knew we would need to recognize the demands of the third parties and the stakeholders and how we're going to accommodate or manage those demands inside the terms of the contract. We come up with the plans and solutions together when challenges arise. We don't just throw it on the other partner and say this is your problem. No, it's our problem." -Eric Hayes

"We designed this bridge to have a 100-year life expectancy, beyond the normal 75-year design life. We've implemented state of the art materials and design requirements to help minimize maintenance and improve durability and service life of the structure. I believe that's looking ahead to improve the longevity of this beautiful infrastructure and help to make this a nicer place to live and visit. From a design perspective, the bridge is built to persevere." -Ken Butler



PROGRESS AND PERSEVERANCE

The superstructure phase of construction on the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge continues as visible signs of progress shine from almost every vantage point of the city. The superstructure work, which includes the bridge's deck and suspension cables, began in the fall upon the completion of the arches.

"We have made a number of traffic switches and started our first cycle of deck erection. By the end of February, we will be getting close to landing on the east abutment with the bridge deck," states Adam Hollon, South Capitol Bridgebuilders Project Manager.

Much like the arches, the 1445 foot-long deck will be constructed in segments. The steel cable stays, which connect the bridge deck to the arches, are being installed during this phase as well.

The bridge is currently about 60% complete and construction is running on schedule. The anticipated timeline for the completion of the bridge is Fall 2021. The entire South Capitol Street Corridor project will be completed by Spring 2022.

Fun Fact

The New FDMB is using 700 tons of structural steel. That is the weight of 55 city buses.



Want to know more about how the New FDMB deck is being installed?

Here is a simple visual guide.

- 1** Steel is erected.
- 2** The vertical cables are installed.
- 3** The precast panels are set.
- 4** The cables are stressed to get the bridge section to the correct elevation.
- 5** Construction crew places concrete between the precast panels to complete the segment.
- 6** After all segments are erected, the curbs, medians, handrail and deck overlay are installed.



LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT: **PACERS**

RUNNING AHEAD

We are proud to shine a spotlight on Pacers, an award-winning specialty retailer in running footwear, gear, and events. Pacers has multiple locations in the D.C. region, including the Navy Yard, a neighboring community of the New FDMB in Ward 6. Our conversation with Pacers' CEO Kathy Dalby, sheds some light on how local businesses like Pacers are persevering during this season and looking ahead to the future.

What is the story behind Pacers? What makes Pacers unique?

Pacers was a small, family-owned running gear retailer that opened in Old Town Alexandria in 1991. My business partner Chris Farley and his family purchased the store in 2004 and I spearheaded the launch of the events side of the company in 2006. Since that time, Pacers has opened six other retail locations, including its newest store in Georgetown, which opened in November 2020. The stores specialize in helping runners of all levels invest in the best footwear based on the shape and size of their feet and their running needs.

What types of events does Pacers host and what was the inspiration behind the events arm?

The events arm of the company primarily focuses on running races. We assist with the fundraising and production of existing events and host our own races and walks. We started the events side of the business

by hosting a race that raised \$120,000 for hurricane relief during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. We helped to manage the Nike Women's half marathon in D.C. in 2012 and other clients have included the So Others Might Eat Turkey Trot and the Whitman Walker HIV Walk. We're ultimately a community-based organization so we'll also host that local 5k to raise funds for a cancer research organization or local school. Our events can run anywhere from 200 people to massive productions with thousands of participants.

Why was it important for you to have a location in the Navy Yard, a neighboring location of the bridge?

As a resident of the Navy Yard, I can say that it's really a great, vibrant community. We came into the neighborhood fairly early in 2015 when the development was just starting. That area has a lot of trails nearby, being close to Anacostia Park so it is ideal for our clients. It's a cool neighborhood, with lots of areas to hang out and walk/run outdoors. We're also great tenants because when we have a run, the runners patronize the retail stores in the community.

What's next for Pacers?

The nice thing about this season has been that more people are out running, walking and biking more so that has been good for our retail business. As far as our events, we've mostly transitioned to virtual. For example, we've hosted Run Discover, where we give

our runners 4 trails to run in a certain area on their own time and when they register, we send maps and offer a history of the trail. We have also brought back fun runs, which are free community runs, and they have been very intimate with about 10 people. We're also participating in partnerships with businesses in the neighborhood like Shake Shack who will offer our runners a free milkshake for participating.

What are you most looking forward to with the new bridge opening?

I love to watch the bridge being built every day. It's on my exercise route so I've been able to see it come to life. It has a distinctive look that I can even admire from my parents' home in Rosslyn. I'm of course also very excited about the expanded shared use pathway and how the project is expanding the connections to the surrounding trails for walkers, runners, and cyclists.

What inspires you about Frederick Douglass, the bridge's namesake?

What he did for voting rights is incredible. From a community activism standpoint, it's so relevant right now. His lifelong work continues to have roots today. In fact, in September we just participated in Womxn Run the Vote Relay, a virtual relay from Atlanta, Georgia to Washington, D.C. More than 10,000 athletes helped to raise more than \$270,000 for Black Voters Matter, an organization dedicated to increasing voter participation in marginalized, predominantly Black communities.

How has Pacers persevered during this time?

For any small business in the District the last ten months have been about learning how to pivot and persevere in the midst of adversity. Our most important consideration was how to keep our people employed. Our biggest question was how can we get to the other side? We're currently working on a strategy for the next twelve to eighteen months that will help us get there with a sense of humor and clarity. As a nod to my fellow owners in the small business community, we've just got to hustle and make things happen like we always do.

Fun Fact

Kathy sold athletic shoes while in college and started her career at Pacers working part-time as a sales associate.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: WILLIE HOWARD, IRONWORKER A WALK IN THEIR SHOES



Meet Willie Howard, a first-year ironworker with South Capitol Bridgebuilders (SCB). As an ironworker, Willie assists with one of the most vital elements of the construction process - securing the steel and iron components as part of the structural framework for the bridge. As a native Washingtonian, born and raised in Ward 6, Willie shares why he's so excited to have an opportunity to work on such a historic and significant project in his city.

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

I was previously working in carpentry. I started working on the bridge project in the summer and joined the On-The-Job (OJT) program shortly after.

What made you decide to be part of the OJT program?

I wanted to try something different, something that challenged me. I've always had an interest in construction, so I saw this as a way to learn something new that would keep me in shape. I also saw a huge opportunity in being able to join the union, which would allow me to secure a good job with good benefits.

What is your role on the New FDMB and what valuable skills have you learned so far?

As an ironworker, my job consists of setting floor beams and girders and supporting the precast concrete work and stay cables. It's also been cool to learn the process of toning the nuts that secure the bolts. There has to be a certain amount of pounds of pressure to apply to each bolt and learning how to make sure the tension is right is one of the skill sets I've gained.

What do you like most about this job?

I love the history of it all. Being able to say that I put my hands on the finished product is important to me. Just learning how to do work like this is significant.

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

I see myself going all the way and having a long-term career in construction. My next goal is to be a journeyman. It would be great to maybe even be a foreman or supervisor someday.

What would you say to someone considering joining the OJT program?

It is a good opportunity and starting place to your career in construction. I tell a lot of people to get into it. It's physical work so it keeps you sharp and in shape.

DBE PROFILE: SALUT SETTING THE BAR

Dilan Mack serves as Operations Manager for Soil and Land Use Technology Inc. (SaLUT), a consulting civil engineering firm specializing in geotechnical engineering, environmental engineering, and occupational health and safety. This work primarily consists of environmental, hygiene and remediation services for asbestos, mold and lead.

On the South Capitol Street Corridor project, SaLUT's work involves supporting efforts to remove lead-based paint on the bridge structures at the Suitland, Firth Sterling and Howard bridges. They also support the efforts of the other trades working on the bridge, which include providing hazardous materials surveys, air quality monitoring, disinfection in response to COVID pandemic. This work ensures that when it is time for demolition, the surrounding environment is protected from any lead-based assets.

"Small businesses typically don't get to work on large projects like this. I appreciate the opportunity that the District has given companies like ours. It's great to say that if you're qualified, you have an opportunity to be a part of a major project like this because of how DBE initiatives level the playing field. We're also very thankful to South Capitol Bridgebuilders and The Walsh Group for awarding us with this project."

SaLUT has a crew of almost ten personnel working at one time on the bridge project. This team includes professional engineers who perform lead-based paint remediation, superintendents who oversee the project, industrial hygienists who perform air monitoring, and a safety officer who provides safety oversight.

As Operations Manager, Dilan oversees this team of professionals and is responsible for ensuring that they have the proper training for their respective roles. He also manages the recruitment and hiring processes for SaLUT.

"To work on the New FDMB is the biggest highlight in my career because of the magnitude and historic nature of the project. I feel privileged to be a part of it."

SaLUT was founded in 1976 and purchased in the 1990s by its current owner Pradeep J. Perera. Since that time, SaLUT has been operating as a Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) and a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) in the District of Columbia. They have been awarded multiple environmental and hygiene service projects for the city, including its biggest client,

the District Department of General Services (DGS). Their work for DGS primarily involves water testing for lead and asbestos and indoor air quality studies to make sure the air quality is good for the children.

"We are proud to be a DC-based company, and our crew comes from all walks of life and different communities and countries. We have a very diverse workforce and we're also proud to say that an overwhelming majority of our new hires are D.C. residents."

When SaLUT began working on the bridge project, Dilan recalls researching Frederick Douglass and being inspired by his character and how he overcame adversity. He believes SaLUT's ability to overcome difficulties, rise to the challenge and compete is reminiscent of Douglass' persevering spirit.

"One of the biggest challenges over the last six months for small businesses, including ours, was figuring out how to survive in this difficult environment. Fortunately for us when a lot of companies were laying off people, we were hiring people. We were honored to be part of COVID response team for D.C., so we had an opportunity to hire a new workforce, get them trained, acquire the PPE they needed, and get them back to work. That's the kind of resilience we have demonstrated, and we are proud of that achievement."

Fun Fact

Dilan is originally from Sri Lanka and it was always a dream of his to work and live in D.C. He currently uses the existing bridge to attend games at Nationals Park and dine at the restaurants in Navy Yard.





IN THEIR WORDS: **THELMA D. JONES**

A VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

For more than four decades, award-winning community activist, breast cancer survivor and advocate Thelma D. Jones has served as a voice for the voiceless in her community. A longtime resident of the Southwest River Park community in Ward 6, Thelma strives to make a difference in the lives of her neighbors, particularly seniors and youth who are oftentimes unable to advocate for themselves. In our interview with her, she shares the inspiring story behind her important work and why she is so excited about the opportunities that the New FDMB will open for neighboring communities.

Thelma remembers always being involved in community efforts. Her parents raised her with altruistic values, encouraging her to volunteer and give back, even as a child. She continued that work into her high school and college years.

"My parents were involved in volunteer work, from assisting with voter registration to church affairs, and my mom was PTA president. I also grew up in a household of four generations, so I have always had an affinity for elders and serving them."

Nearly 40 years ago Thelma joined the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), where she has served in numerous positions including vice president and president and has chaired various committees and task forces. She also created a program through SWNA's Youth Activities Task Force (SWNA YATF), which offers neighborhood youth computer classes to help reduce the digital divide while assisting them with building up their

computer skills. She credits her focus on this program to her breast cancer diagnosis and the treatment she underwent as a result.

"I needed to channel the horrible thoughts of if I was going to live into new meaning and focus. This brainchild project that was birthed during that challenging period for me became the signature program of the SWNA YATF. The experience was so daunting that when I was undergoing surgery, I promised God that if he brought me through this, I would dedicate my life to helping other women, men, and young girls who are at risk or suffer from this disease."

That experience was also the inspiration behind and genesis of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund (TDJBCF). Beginning as a support group for breast cancer survivors in April 2010, the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund came to life on Thelma's 60th birthday in September 2012. The support group invites speakers to talk about a variety of topics including breast health, mental health, and healthy eating, among others. It is a safe place for survivors to discuss their diagnoses and concerns while receiving hope, inspiration, and courage during their journey.

"We feel that no one should travel their breast cancer journey alone. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, I have had a number of survivors say how much they miss the support group meetings. I now send out inspirational messages to the members to keep their spirits lifted throughout this challenging season."



We have persevered in the sense that we are an all-volunteer organization with an unpaid staff. To be able to do what we do without funding is the epitome of perseverance.

– Thelma D. Jones



In addition to the work with the support group, TDJBCF has served more than 10,000 healthy World Central Kitchen meals to seniors and immune suppressed residents in her River Park neighborhood. Through generous donations and the support of volunteers and partners like James Creek Resident Council, the SW BID (Business Improvement District), and Ron Williams Seafood, who donated large amounts of fresh produce, she's been able to provide her neighbors with full meals every weekday, and many Saturdays. These mealtimes have allowed these vulnerable residents to break the isolation, save money and most importantly, keep them from having to go to grocery stores as often, putting them at a great risk.

It was these acts of kindness that prompted the New FDMB project team to partner with TDJBCF to organize a Give Back Day during the summer. Due to the fundraising efforts and generous support of donors, the project team was able to distribute a large supply of PPEs (personal protective equipment), soap, tissue, sanitizers, cleaning supplies, and healthy refreshments.

"I loved how this event made the seniors feel special, like someone cared about them. What brought me great joy is seeing my fellow residents walking around the complex with the masks made by a breast cancer survivor and the mom of one of the New FDMB project team members."

Due to the success of the Give Back Event, Thelma has continued her partnership with the New FDMB team through a canned food drive during the holidays. She's currently exploring other ideas to expand on the relationship and help the team get more involved.

"I've enjoyed the partnership with the New FDMB. It's within walking distance of our community and I drive over the bridge a couple of times a week. To know that I am connected to the project and the people that are working on it is absolutely phenomenal. I believe it also gives the bridge staff an opportunity to get out of their homes and offices and learn more about what's happening in the community and being able to feel that they're helping someone. It also allows us as residents to feel connected with what's going on with the project. It's a win-win for us all."

Fun Fact

Thelma was a special invited White House guest several times under the Obama Administration, including serving twice as a panelist on breast health during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She was also awarded the coveted White House Champion of Change Award.

THROUGH IT ALL



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.

In November 2020, the New FDMB project team partnered with the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund to collect canned goods and monetary donations to support eligible families and seniors in the Southwest community during the Thanksgiving holiday. Participating partners included Aridai, HNTB, Justice and Sustainability Associates, RK&K, South Capitol Bridgebuilders, and TB&A.

In partnership with the Metropolitan Police Department PSA 702's Holiday Community Walk and the Anacostia Coordinating Council, the New FDMB project team hosted a Toy Drive for the community in December 2020. Hundreds of items that included sports equipment, art supplies, games, books, bikes and toys were distributed to 40 families at Young's Memorial Holiness Church in Southeast. Participating partners included Aridai, HNTB, Justice

and Sustainability Associates, RK&K, South Capitol Bridgebuilders, and TB&A.

And the winner is....

We're pleased to announce that the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Committee on Transportation Communication, known as TransComm, presented DDOT and the New FDMB project with two awards for its 2020 Skills Contest. The bridge project won in two categories – External Publication for Progress Magazine and Video Production, Long Form for "Building on a Legacy of Progress."



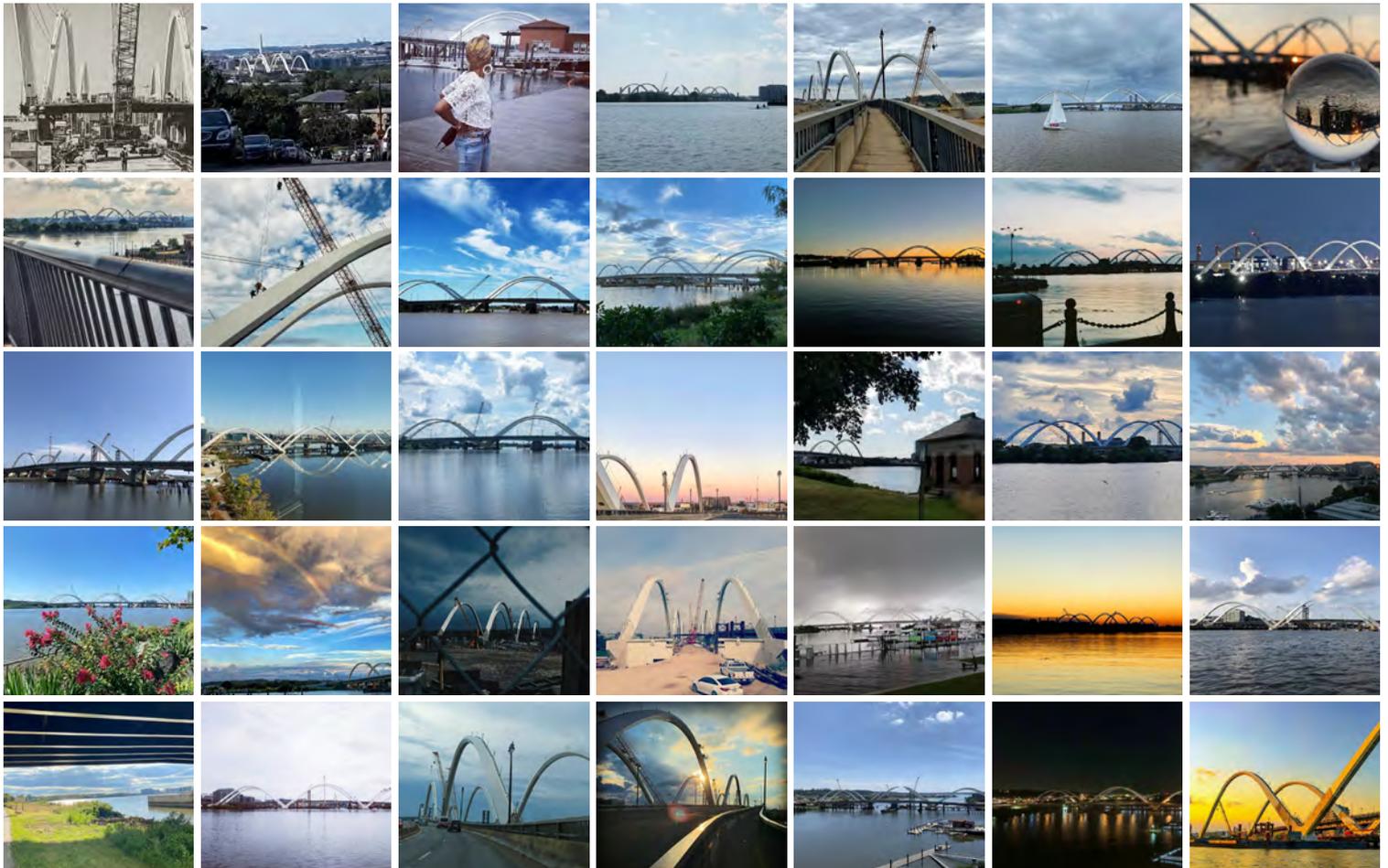


Left: Thelma D. Jones and New FDMB project team preparing canned goods for families in the Southwest community.

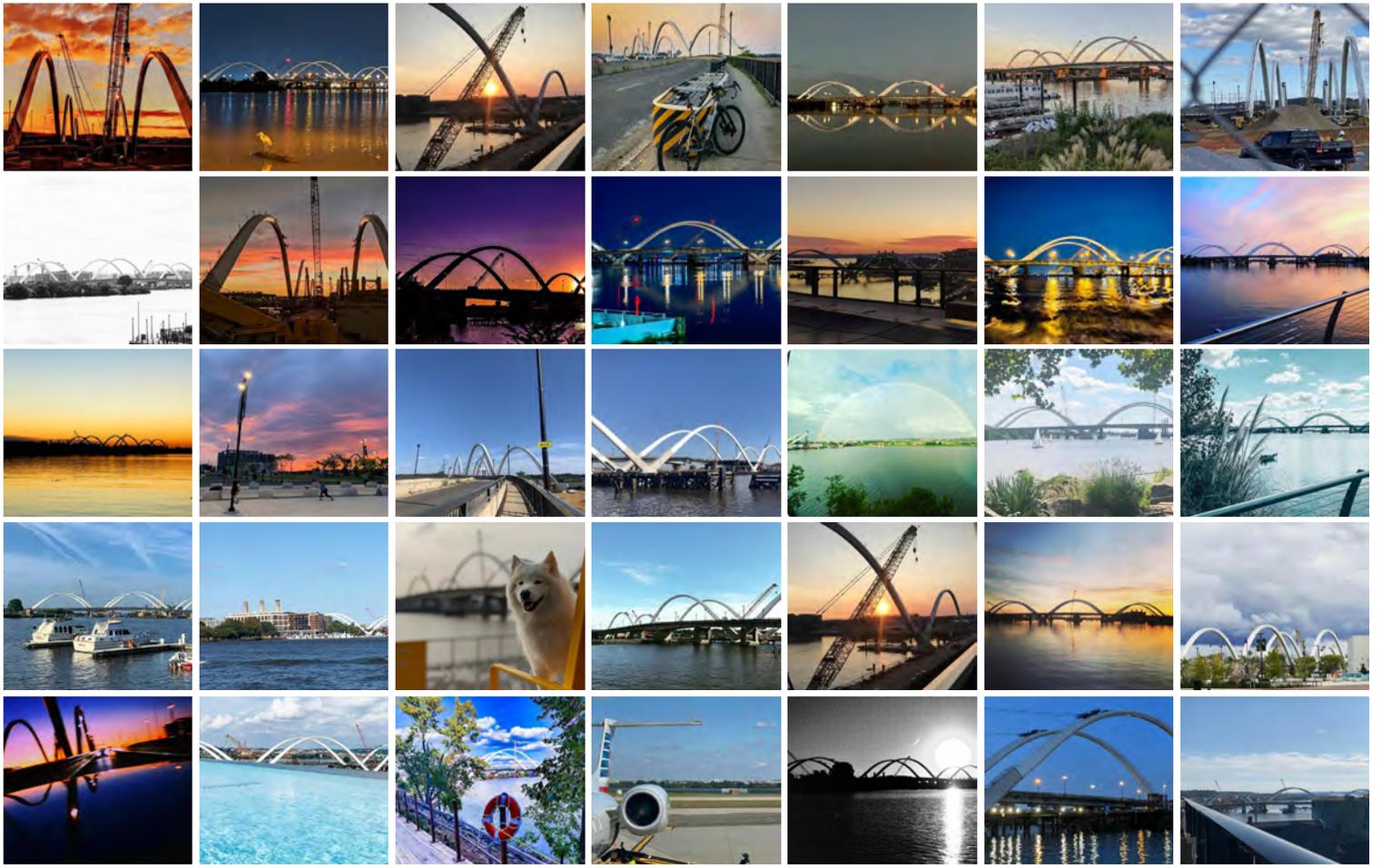
Right: PSA 702 officers preparing gift bags to distribute to families as part of the Holiday Community Walk.

#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: @aaronscottwebster, @ANACOSTIASERIES, @ardisbougiethriftstyle, @awaiters85, @BlueAce83, @boatdogs_dc, @borowskieth, @brentandco, @brianbeary, @bundokbiker, @c8twilson, @capsduck19, @CKain, @cloudguy62, @coffeeneur, @cra66x, @daedam, @desgod, @dheartful, @dildinedave, @dimarco3, @djechter, @dmv_mxm76, @dopephotosdc, @drlmaxwell_IG, @eliteyachtconciierge, @ericjammers, @evansleesellsc, @fergindc, @ginahardin, @i.lazz, @instacmr, @itprofessional68, @jakesauser, @jeffkassebaum, @JenWing1, @kazak99, @labela_chan, @makesmot, @marenaptsdc, @mellisico, @mjs73, @named.juan, @nateward_8, @ncaminimental, @PGDCster, @plannerthon, @rigel_samoyed, @scottclowney, @scottjancy, @smheffern, @stevenleewalker, @thareal_dmv, @that_krust, @thebiggreenw, @thisisangieunderwood, @tommiadamphoto, @Vincent Morris, @vu.memories, @watermarkatbuzzardpoint, @wdcreator, @wharfwrats, @wizzylizz, @zmas920



HAVE ANY COOL PHOTOS TO SHARE FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT?

Have any cool photos to share from your vantage point? Send to us at 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



SPRING 2021