

PROGRESS

THE NEW FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WINTER 2020 EDITION



PUSHING
FORWARD,
ONE DAY
AT A TIME



THE ARCHES ARE IN!
A LOOK INSIDE OUR BIGGEST
PROJECT MILESTONE TO DATE.

DBE SPOTLIGHT
THE STORY OF TREKNOT
ORGANIZATION.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

2019 marked a year of historical change and progress across our District. Under Mayor Bowser's leadership, the DDOT team continued to deliver on our mission to meet the needs of residents we serve as we prioritize safety and innovation in our everyday work.

Our celebration of the diverse perspectives working together to remake the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge continues. As spotlighted in our recent fall edition, building the future through innovation under the leadership of our esteemed team of construction professionals remains an example for our entire country to follow.

As we push forward in 2020, we pledge to continue to see opportunity where others see boundary, to listen to the voices of those we serve, and to steadfastly build this monumental bridge, step by step, day by day.

In this issue, we acknowledge those day-to-day seemingly small tasks and behind-the-scenes teams collectively making tiny steps toward progress. In doing so, we recognize that it's the small steps, the minute tasks, and the sometimes overlooked details that amount to significant impacts over time.

We begin with a spotlight on one of the most visible signals of progress to date: the installation of the bridge arches. Read about the steps leading up to this exciting phase and why project manager, Adam Hollon, believes these to be truly unique in both construction and design.

Also in this issue:

- How we're working to make real connections in the community through our new Progress LIVE! series, and a recap from our inaugural event in partnership with Busboys and Poets Anacostia.
- Our holiday giving at a glance and a few of the ways our teams spread the love and warmth to our most vulnerable citizens this season.
- A DBE journey spotlight on the TreKnot Organization and how they carved out a unique niche to secure a contract on the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project, helping those just like them.

This issue also provides an up close and personal look at the people and events that are hard at work moving the project forward in the new year. The FDMB team's work exemplifies Frederick Douglass's quote:

"People might not get all they work for in this world, but they must certainly work for all they get."

Let's continue our work, together.

With optimism and uplift,



Jeff Marootian

Jeff Marootian

DIRECTOR, DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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FREDERICK DOUGLASS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 1

The Arches Are In!

Feature Story

PAGE 3

Making Connections in the Community

PAGE 5

Local Small Business Highlight: A Bridge of Her Own

PAGE 7

Employee Spotlight: Kaliq Davis

PAGE 9

DBE Spotlight: TreKnot Organization, Iberia Miles

PAGE 10

In Their Words: The Work of Today, Inspired by Yesterday

PAGE 11

A Day to Make a Difference: Holiday Giving At a Glance

PAGE 12

Construction, Deconstructed



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FEATURE STORY

THE ARCHES ARE IN!

In 2019, the construction of the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge began to show visible signs of progress with the erection of its signature V-piers. Recently, the project experienced its most significant milestone to date: the installation of the first segments of the above-deck iconic arches - arguably the most aesthetically-pleasing component of the bridge.

"One of the things that makes the arches unique on this bridge is the fact that there is a seamless transition from the concrete to steel and back. The splices are internal, you won't see the nuts and bolts, giving it a clean look. There is also a nice line across the length of the arch that creates a beautiful continuous wave from one abutment to the arch to the next abutment," stated FDMB Project Manager, Adam Hollon.

The arches, which are made primarily of steel and divided into 56 pieces or segments, are carefully constructed in stages over a period of six months. Each segment of the arch segments weighs between 50 and 100 tons.

The process starts with building temporary arch supports on both the west and east abutments, which were constructed throughout the Fall of 2019 on both sides of the V-piers. Once the arch supports are bolted in, each piece is added one at a time, taking approximately three days to fully complete.

After the arches are complete, the temporary arch supports are removed and the work on the superstructure, which includes the bridge deck and suspension cables, begins.

Once completed, the fully constructed arches will be 9'6" wide and range from 15' tall at the base to 6' tall at the highest point of the arch. Its slender, modern design was the brainchild of AECOM, the lead designer on the project.



“

We are excited to see a project we've been planning for and designing for years start to take shape. The arches going up represent progress on this bridge in just about every way you can imagine.

– Joseph Dorsey, District Department of Transportation Project Manager





MAKING CONNECTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY: PROGRESS LIVE! EVENT RECAP

On November 19, 2019, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge (FDMB) team hosted its first Progress LIVE! event at Busboys and Poets Anacostia in Ward 8. This new quarterly community event series creates opportunities for the construction team to connect directly with the communities we serve.

Joseph Dorsey, DDOT Project Manager for the New FDMB, offered opening remarks welcoming attendees to the first ever Progress LIVE! with a background project overview. In an intimate and relaxed setting, neighboring residents interacted directly with the project team to get their questions answered regarding construction and the positive impacts the new FDMB will have on their community.

Busboys and Poets Anacostia, which was featured as the local business spotlight in the Fall 2019 edition

of Progress, hosted Progress LIVE! in tandem with their weekly Open Mic Poetry night. During the evening's poetry performance, community artists shared their works, some centered around the theme of progress, paying homage to Frederick Douglass and the ideals DDOT still champions today.

The New FDMB team was pleased to have its own Deputy Design Construction Information Liaison, Sean Moore, embody the bridge's namesake not just in attire and stature, but in delivering a powerful speech inspired by Frederick Douglass. Local spoken word artist Miss Kiane served as host of the Open Mic Night and offered several pieces of her own that spoke to progress and community.

Stay tuned for updates on the next Progress LIVE!, set to take place early 2020.



LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT: A BEAUTIFUL CLOSET A BRIDGE OF HER OWN

In this Local Small Business Highlight, we shine a spotlight on a one-of-a-kind business in Ward 6 focused on making the world a little more beautiful, one closet at a time. We sat down with Pamela Sofola, owner of A Beautiful Closet, to discuss what brought her unique clothing business to the burgeoning Wharf retail district and how she's building and maintaining a bridge of her own.

Tell us a little about your store and why you decided to open it.

I have always had a passion for fashion from a young age. A Beautiful Closet was born out of this passion in 2011, where I started doing trunk shows and then opened my first store in Houston, Texas in 2013 by the name of Armario De La Bella. When the Wharf was being developed, I thought that this would be a great location for another store and decided to pursue the opportunity.

What makes A Beautiful Closet unique?

What makes A Beautiful Closet unique is the fact that I source items from all around the world. I've had the privilege to travel to 45 countries and I try and bring that experience to the store by offering unique and one-of-a-kind beautiful pieces from each of those countries, which have their own unique style. I also carefully curate items that will look beautiful on anyone no matter your size or shape, as everyone deserves to be beautiful!

What inspired the name of your store?

On numerous occasions people have complimented me on the beauty and uniqueness of my style and attire. My friends would often say, "I would love to go shopping in your closet." This inspired me to come up with the name A Beautiful Closet.

How did you decide on your location at the Wharf? Why was it important for you to have a business like yours in that neighborhood?

It took me two years to find the right location in D.C. I wanted to be in a place where there is a lot of foot

traffic and visitors from out of town and The Wharf offers this. Being the capital of the United States, we are fortunate to be a tourist spot and a destination city. Having a store in a place where tourists frequent like The Wharf seemed ideal to me. I also thought it would be great to serve the southwest waterfront community, as there are not too many boutique shops in the area.

What type of relationship does your store have with the community?

We have a special relationship with our neighbors in the southwest waterfront community. We have regular customers who live at the Wharf and surrounding areas, and it's nice to be able to know our local customers by name and serve their needs. We also host events like ladies' night out and client appreciation days to connect with our neighbors and thank them for supporting us. One of the goals of A Beautiful Closet is to help others and reach out to those in need. When we host events at the store a percentage of sales usually goes to a charitable organization in the region. We're all about helping others, reaching out to the community and making everybody feel beautiful.

What's next for A Beautiful Closet?

We just opened our second location at the National Harbor and we are looking forward to opening another store in Virginia in the near future. We would like to concentrate our efforts first in the DMV area and then possibly expand to other states if it makes business sense. I have called this area home for many years now and it is exciting that A Beautiful Closet is considered the go-to place for unique beautiful items in the city.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: KALIQ DAVIS APPRENTICE OILER



In this issue's Employee Spotlight, we feature one of the dynamic team members who is working on the frontlines to bring the District's largest infrastructure project to fruition.

Meet Kaliq Davis, a second-year oiler apprentice with South Capitol Bridgebuilders (SCB). As an oiler, Kaliq assists the crane operator in the daily maintenance and inspection of the crane. As a native Washingtonian, born and raised in Ward 5, Kaliq 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 this project?

Before joining South Capitol Bridgebuilders, I worked for a building contractor by the name of Wings Enterprises as an ironworker specializing in steel reinforcement and tower crane erection.

What made you decide to be an apprentice oiler on the South Capitol Street Bridge project?

I didn't necessarily have any aspirations to be an oiler. I simply wanted to find a career that provided a wider avenue of options for career advancement.

What does your job as an apprentice oiler consist of?

My primary role every day is to prep the crane for a day of operation. That includes making sure the crane has the adequate amount of necessary fluids to work properly, cleaning windows to ensure maximum visibility, and watching the operator's blind spots to prevent destruction of the crane and personnel from getting injured. I'm also responsible for performing a vehicle inspection and completing and submitting a daily vehicle inspection report.

What are some of the valuable skills you've received so far working on the project?

Since I've had the opportunity to be a part of this project, I have mastered a number of skills and obtained a great deal of information. So far, I've learned the basic functions of a crawler crane, how to signal it and how to inspect it. I've even learned how to operate several different types of heavy equipment.

What do you like most about being an oiler?

The thing I like most about being an oiler is being exposed to all the different career fields that I have the option to pursue such as a crane operator, mechanic, or welding technician.

What are you most excited about or what is the significance to you getting to work on the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge?

It means a lot to me to work on this bridge. First, I currently live just six minutes away from the bridge on Good Hope Rd. SE. I once volunteered at the Frederick Douglass Museum for several months where I had the opportunity to learn a lot about Mr. Douglass. His story inspired me and because of that I consider it an honor to be a part of this project.

Fun Fact

Kaliq doesn't watch any sports at all and he has a deep interest in ancient history and cognitive psychology.

DBE SPOTLIGHT: TREKNOT ORGANIZATION, IBERIA MILES

Iberia Miles and her son Alphonzo Hampton founded TreKnot in 2014. TreKnot, formed out of a combination of her son's nicknames, was legacy-driven from the beginning. Not just for her family, but for the small businesses for which she advocates. TreKnot's primary goal: to help small businesses get work and people get jobs.

"We found that because we're a small business we know the challenges of small businesses. The number one challenge in this arena is getting them in front of the decision makers for large projects such as the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project. They need a point person, an advocate to help them get a foot in the door that otherwise would always be closed to them. When we help them get through the door, they get a contract. Making that difference for a small business is what makes all that we do worthwhile."

Since their work began on the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project in September 2019, TreKnot has provided oversight and reporting tools for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and On-the-Job-Training (OJT) Programs. They're also in the process of vetting and providing an introduction to businesses in the District that have the skill sets and resources to support the bridge project.

"We've wanted to work on this project since the beginning. As a long-time resident of this area, the District holds a special place in my heart. We wanted to create a collaborative effort that provides a win-win for everyone – both the bridge and the hard-working small business owners who have a lot of offer. We're building something big here and it requires teamwork."

In addition to federal and local regulation compliance, small business vetting and reporting services, TreKnot also has an expertise in process management, administrative support, community outreach and workforce development. They are currently working on projects that include the I-295 Malcolm X revitalization project in the District, the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel expansion project in Virginia Beach, VA; and the Clean Water Partnership

with Prince George's County. Additionally, for the last three years in a row, TreKnot has worked with the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative to produce the District Department of Transportation's DBE Summit, the largest DBE event in the District.

Fun Fact

This is not Iberia's first bridge project. She also worked as a contractor on the 11th Street Bridge project.



IN THEIR WORDS: MONIQUE DIOP THE WORK OF TODAY, INSPIRED BY YESTERDAY

Every community needs a champion of progress. For the Ward 8 community, one of those champions is ANC Commissioner, Monique Diop. As a long-time District resident and public servant, Commissioner Diop understands the work required of us all today to move progress forward in our communities and within our country as a whole. She offers a passionate charge to us all shared through the lens of a true Frederick Douglass aficionado.

As the ANC Commissioner for 8D04, Monique Diop's purview includes the communities of Bellevue, Fort Drum, Blue Plains and even parts of Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. For the last five years, she's seen her primary role as commissioner to be a master collaborator. She has collaborated with government and community organizations on a number of wide-ranging issues from art education programs and support for returning citizens to bikeshare installations and bringing a grocery store and nutrition classes to her community.

"There's a lot of opportunities here in Ward 8 for us to think outside of the box to advance progress. One of the initiatives I'm most excited about is working with the Department of Public Works and the Department of Recreation to create plots where residents can grow their own food and eat healthier. We are also working with DC Greens and Arcadia, a local farmer's market that comes to the Bellevue library every Wednesday in the summer time to distribute fresh produce at a discount to low-income residents," stated Monique Diop.

In addition to her full-time work for the federal government, Monique has a strong interest and affinity for D.C. history, with a particular focus on Frederick Douglass. Shortly after becoming a District resident, she volunteered at the Frederick Douglass House to learn more about his life here as a resident and elected official.

"I've read a lot of his work and his words are still relevant today. He was an interesting person and he was the truth. He was so passionate in the way he spoke and wrote."

When asked about what she is most looking forward to when the bridge is built, she expresses excitement about the green space under the bridge and the accessibility that it will offer for neighboring residents.

"I'm looking forward to both the bike and pedestrian lanes encouraging people to walk from Anacostia to the ball park. I think it's going to connect a lot of different people in a lot of different ways. It's going to encourage people to be outside near the water and make the area more bikeable and walkable."

Always being attuned for new opportunities to spark progress in her community, Monique is already thinking about how she can collaborate with the project in the future.

"I'd love to create a bike ride tour that showcases the new bridge in some way, sharing the history of the bridge and how it's going to connect the two communities in a new way upon its completion."

Fun Fact

Monique has memorized several speeches of Frederick Douglass and one of her goals is to portray him in some type of production. She's currently part of a storytelling and spoken word initiative called Story District.





A DAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: HOLIDAY GIVING AT A GLANCE

During the winter months and the holiday season, it's more important than ever to give to those in need. In the spirit of end-of-year giving, The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge (FDMB) project team continued its holiday giving effort from last year and participated in numerous events and donation initiatives throughout the District in November and December. Here are just some of the ways we spread some love and warmth to the District's most vulnerable citizens this season.

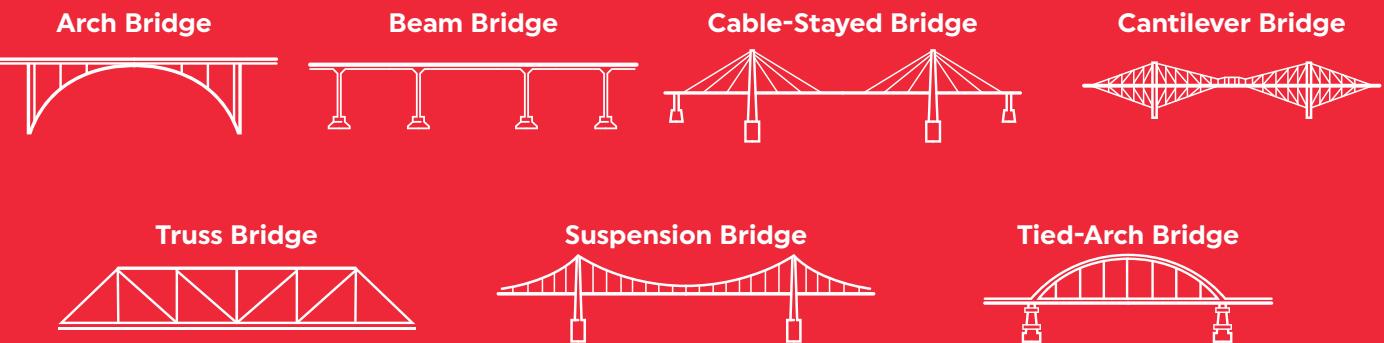
In November, we collected hundreds of canned goods, which we distributed to Martha's Table in Ward 8 and the Whitlow Foundation at the James Dent House in Ward 6. The Whitlow Foundation provides scholarships, culinary and art classes for low-income youth.

We partnered again with the Metropolitan Police Department's PSA 702 Outreach Committee on a Toy Drive and Community Walk that delivered hundreds of toys to the Garfield Heights community in Ward 8.

We thank our generous donors and supporters for helping to make our holiday giving efforts a success!

- 11th Street Bridge Park
- Brookfield Properties
- Capitol Services Management Inc
- Chozen Counseling
- COPT Property Management
- District of Columbia Building Industry Association
- Douglas Development
- Exodus Treatment Center
- HNTB
- POAH Communities
- Regional Contracting Services
- South Capitol Bridgebuilders
- TB&A
- TD Bank

CONSTRUCTION, DECONSTRUCTED



Ramp up your construction knowledge with these definitions and fun facts. Don't forget to take notes - this won't be the last time you hear construction lingo! Stay tuned for news on our upcoming Facebook trivia contest!

In this edition, we're giving you a crash course in the main types of bridges. The New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge is unique in that it is an arch bridge with a cable supported bridge deck.

Arch Bridge: A bridge that uses an arch as a main structural component. The core component of the bridge is its abutments and pillars, which must be built strong because they will carry the weight of the entire bridge structure.

Beam Bridge: One of the simplest bridge structures that employ one or several horizontal beams. These beams can either simply span the area between abutments or relieve some of the pressure on structural piers.

Cable-Stayed Bridge: This type of bridge uses deck cables that are directly connected to one or more vertical columns (called towers or pylons) that can be erected near abutments or in the middle of the span of the bridge structure.

Cantilever Bridge: Similar in appearance to arch bridges, they support their load, not through a vertical bracing but through diagonal bracing with horizontal beams that are being supported only on one end.

Truss Bridge: A very popular bridge design that uses a diagonal mesh of most often triangle-shaped posts above the bridge. Individual elements of this structure (usually straight beams) can endure dynamic forces of tension and compression.

Suspension Bridge: This bridge utilizes spreading ropes or cables from vertical suspenders to hold the weight of the bridge deck and traffic. This bridge has the ability to suspend decking over large spans, which makes it one of the most popular types of bridges in the world.

Tied-Arch Bridge: This bridge, also called a bowstring-girder bridge, is a type of bridge that has an arch rib on each side of the deck, and one tie beam on each arch, that support the deck. Vertical ties connected to the arches support the deck from above. It can be considered as a combination between an arch bridge and a suspension bridge.

THE NEW FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

REMAKING THE BRIDGE

BETWEEN
CULTURES,
COMMUNITIES,
AND PEOPLE



WINTER 2020