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**Newsletter Vol: 4 • No: 19**  
**June 11, 2021**



## Foggy Bottom News

*The Foggy Bottom Association (FBA) is the 2nd oldest civic organization in Washington, DC, incorporated in 1959. Our mission is to preserve the history, beauty, and charm of the Foggy Bottom/West End community by making Foggy Bottom/West End a wonderful, safe, desirable, diverse and inclusive place for all. FBA supports the arts, green spaces, and local businesses, and celebrates the community's history.*



## From the President

Welcome to June! ... 2021 is moving so quickly as the weather warms and we start to emerge maskless into the streets, restaurants, sporting events, and more. Yay! The Arts in Foggy Bottom Biennial Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit premiered on Saturday June 5, 2021 to rave reviews! The artist's reception at The Watergate Gallery was a terrific venue to showcase artists and mingle with community members. Thank you Dale! While this issue highlights information about the exhibit, please follow these links to see a partial list of the media attention the exhibit has garnered:

[We Are Everyone](#) - "The Power of Art and Mental Wellness with Kayleigh Bryant and Peter Maye"

[East City Art](#) - "Weekly Events List June 7-13, 2021"

[East City Art](#) - "Arts in Foggy Bottom 2021 Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition: Human/Nature"

DCist - "12 Virtual And IRL Things To Do In D.C. This Weekend"

[Washington City Paper](#) - "City Lights: Stroll Through Arts in Foggy Bottom"

[WUSA9](#) - "Arts in Foggy Bottom' kicks off with theme of 'humans and nature'"

We should all be very proud of this important cultural / community event and thankful to the founders and the 2021 creative team who helped make this year's exhibit possible.

As I have noted many times, the Foggy Bottom/West End is a microcosm within a microcosm – that is a neighborhood within a broader neighborhood and city. We have such unique parts to our neighborhood – Hughes Mews; Snows Court; The Watergate; West End, GW, and the Historic District all part of our great city – Washington, DC. And with numerous neighborhoods throughout the city, we are fortunate to get the attention of

Recently, I walked around our neighborhood with Joe Florio from the Mayor's office of Community Relations (MOCR) and discussed what was working and what wasn't. He saw first-hand the homeless encampments that exist; the sidewalk conditions that impede smooth pedestrian traffic, the trash that end of year transitions produce as well as illegal construction that continues. I am confident he heard our concerns and will help. At the same time, we are thankful for DPW's regular grass maintenance; trash pick-up; and to DOH for rat patrols. We continue to work with DCRA on abandoned properties and GWU on setting expectations for off-campus students and housing.

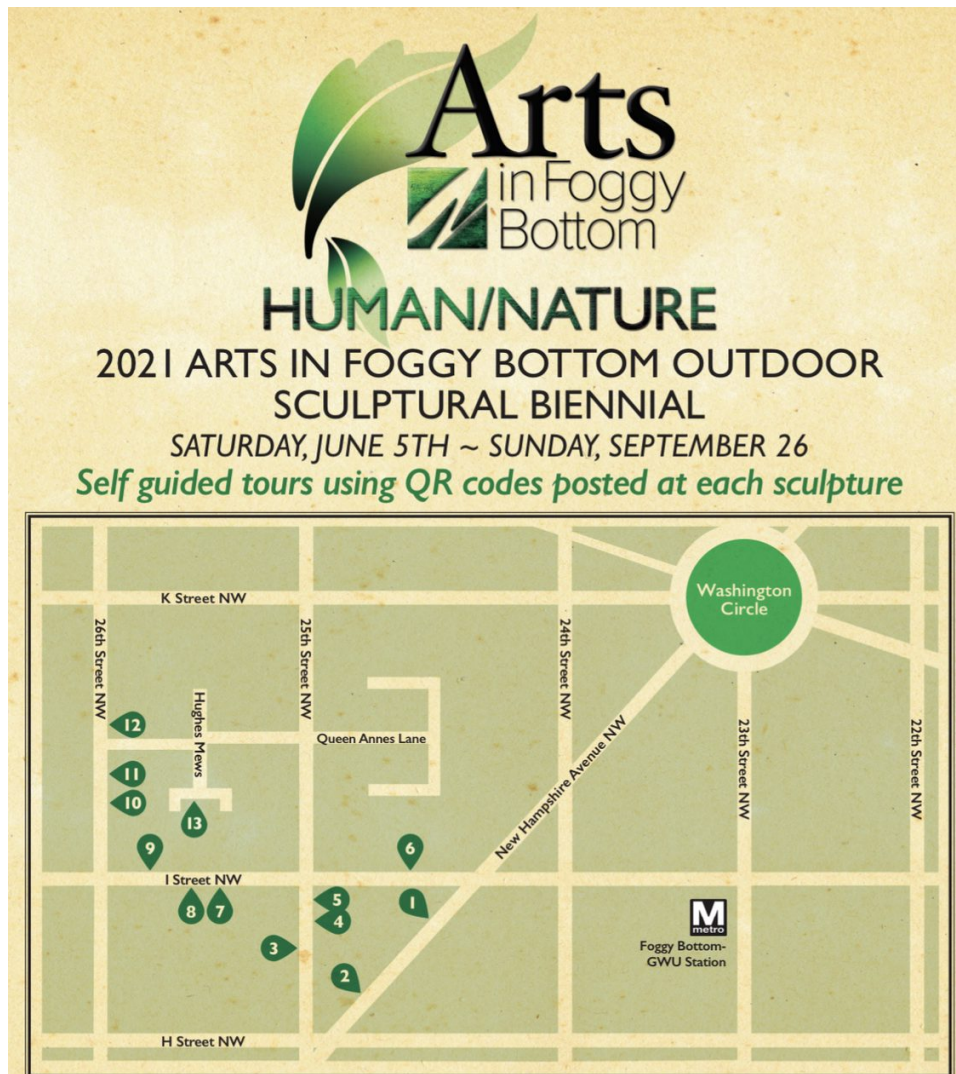
So much to do, but please continue to read about our progress and monitor details in upcoming newsletters.

A special thank you to the many members who have contributed to the garden committee and the FBA during the month of May. Each and every dollar improves our neighborhood!

Happy reading... JPG

## 13 thought-provoking sculptures all within a 3 block radius!

**2021 Arts in Foggy Bottom Outdoor Sculptural  
Biennial - June 5, 2021 - Sept 26, 2021**





Arts in Foggy Bottom seventh biennial exhibit, by the award-winning arts program, features pieces that offers a unique exploration of climate justice, human connectedness with nature, and the impacts of the collision between natural and manmade environments and uses materials that evoke natural elements and affirm an urgency towards climate justice.

Arts in Foggy Bottom enlisted the expertise of [Kayleigh Bryant-Greenwell](#) as the curator for this year's collection. A native of Washington, DC and current Head of Public Programs with the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery, Greenwell's curatorial work focuses on the intersection of art, activism and social change.

This seventh exhibit by the award-winning arts program features original creations by 12 artists installed throughout the yards and homes of the historic Foggy Bottom neighborhood located between 24th and 26th Streets NW and H and K Streets NW in Washington, DC.



Meet the artists on the Arts in Foggy Bottom webpage following this [Arts in Foggy Bottom link](#)

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## Foggy Bottom Beautification





FBA Board Member, Denise Vogt, is helping homeowners who would like beautiful their curbside area with black metal fencing. To create a unified look to our streetscapes, we are hoping to achieve a long-term goal of 90% coverage and create a lasting impression. Many homeowners have already purchased this low fencing. The contractor for this initiative is “offering a 10% discount” on group orders of five or more. Currently, he has three new orders in the historic district so we only two more are needed to get the discount. The fence cost varies depending on the size of tree box. In general the range is from \$1,500 (small box) to \$3,000.00 (double house box). This discount is not limited to row houses in the historic section of FBWE, but other locations would need to be close by. Contact Naty at 202-294-9292 or [natyironworks@gmail.com](mailto:natyironworks@gmail.com). Neighborhood contact: Denise Vogt, [dvogt@dvdesigns.com](mailto:dvogt@dvdesigns.com).

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## FBA News Flash

### **Wanted: More FBA Members!**

We thank our current members and welcome new members to the FBA. Your membership renewals and participation in the community makes us better. Thank You! To underscore our gratefulness, we will continue the delivery of our newsletter to member’s email boxes as well as limited printed delivery. As we are continue to cleanse our distribution list - starting June 30, 2021 we will remove non-members from our newsletter distribution list. If your membership has lapsed, we encourage you to renew.

### **Sidewalk Palooza – Sunday July 13, 2021 4:30 pm – 26th Street Park**

Come join neighbors and friends as we walk the community to document sidewalks in need of repair. Water and snacks provided. Look for Yannik Omictin (ANC 2A01) and Marina Streznewski

### **FB/WE Village Seeking Volunteers**

The Foggy Bottom / West End Village is currently looking for more volunteers. The Village is a local nonprofit created to help older adults stay in their homes as long as possible. There are a number of volunteer services offered to help facilitate that mission. These include calling isolated members, visiting members, walking with members, helping with local errands, simple home repair, and other small tasks. You can volunteer in a variety of

around on their own. Helping older adults get to crucial appointments is a major component of the village and we always need more drivers to fulfill these requests.

If you're interested in volunteering in any capacity with the village please email, [jfrumkin@fbwevillage.org](mailto:jfrumkin@fbwevillage.org). We're happy to provide more info and find a role for you.

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## **Funkstown: Foggy Bottom History By Frank Leone**



### **The George Washington University and Foggy Bottom**

The George Washington University first arrived in the Foggy Bottom/Old West End in 1912 and is here to stay. But it has had a peripatetic history. First envisioned as a Baptist Institute in Philadelphia in 1818, it was founded as Columbian College in Washington D.C. in 1821. In the same year, Congress granted a Charter to the university (as Congress did for other colleges in D.C.). It was first located in College Hill, just north of Boundary Street (Florida Ave.), which marked the border between Washington City to the south and Washington County to the north. Following the Civil War, the College occupied several buildings in mid-town D.C. (15th and H Streets NW), with the law and medical schools located elsewhere. In 1904, as part of a plan to obtain funding from the George Washington Memorial Association and relocate to Van Ness Park (17th St. & Constitution Ave.), the institution adopted the name of The George Washington University. The relocation plan however, fell through due to insufficient funds.

Through the efforts of GW Trustee General Maxwell Van Zandt Woodhull, whose house (1855) at 23rd and G Streets is still stands as part of the GWU Museum, GW rented and later bought the vacant St. Roses Industrial School at 2023 G Street (1910). In 1920s, GW constructed additional buildings nearby and grew to occupy University Yard. Under the aggressive leadership of Presidents Cloyd Heck Marvin (1927-1959) and Stephen J. Trachtenberg (1988-2007), the University continued to expand. It grew to occupy 43 acres in Foggy Bottom, resulting in the demolition of numerous older buildings, including scores of row houses and the original St. Paul's Parish Church (1866-1944), as well as repurposing of other buildings.

As part of negotiations with D.C. that resulted in its 2007 Campus Plan, GW agreed to establish the George Washington University/Old West End Historic District and nominate several buildings outside of that district for DC Historic Landmark Status. (ANC 2A had first proposed a historic district for the GWU campus in 1984.) The plan was adopted and the GW/Old West End Historic District (which is separate from the Foggy Bottom Historic District) now comprises portions of 13 blocks generally within boundaries of 19th and 23rd



to current location in 1970), the first dormitory (Strong Hall, 1937, with its awesome roof deck), former apartments turned residence halls (e.g., Lafayette (formerly Calhoun) Hall, 1925; Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis (formerly Milton) Hall, 1938), and the striking stripped-classical cube of Lisner Auditorium (1941).

One historical building – which GW plans to demolish soon – is the 1886 Waggaman Row House at 22nd and I Streets – the last remaining row house in that area of what is now GW. See John Kelly 6/1/21 WaPo article ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/gw-foggy-bottom-history/2021/06/01/b39b6bac-c2f2-11eb-93f5-ee9558eef4b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/gw-foggy-bottom-history/2021/06/01/b39b6bac-c2f2-11eb-93f5-ee9558eef4b_story.html))

Sources: GWU Walking Tour, <https://hr.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs3571/f/GW-Historic-Walking-Tour.pdf>; Kayser, Elmer Louis, Bricks without straw: The evolution of George Washington University. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts (1970); GW/OWE Historic District Nomination (2013), <https://planning.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/op/publication/attachments/George%20Washington%20University%20Old%20West%20End%20HD%20Nomination.pdf>.

The Foggy Bottom Association **History Project** seeks to collect, document, and share Foggy Bottom history. In addition to the newsletter articles, please visit the FBA website for more information. <https://www.foggybottomassociation.org/history-new-info>. We invite your participation in discovering and communicating Foggy Bottom's history.

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## "The Green Thumbs" FBA's Garden Committee by Denise Vogt



### Grants for Property Improvement

At least one homeowner in historic Foggy Bottom (FB) received a grant to improve their front lawn area with landscaping and hardscape at a minimal cost to them. The *RiverSmartHomes* program offers incentives to D.C. homeowners interested in reducing stormwater pollution from their properties.

Rainwater becomes stormwater when it falls on impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, roads, sidewalks and even lawns, if it is unable to soak into the ground. As stormwater moves from our yards to our streams it picks up pollutants such as oil and grease from our roadways and driveways, nutrients from fertilizers on our lawns, and bacteria from pet and other animal wastes. Once in the stream, the fast-moving surges of water associated with storms cause erosion and destroy habitat for fish and other wildlife.

controls installed on our properties. *RiverSmart* Homes can help you take steps to reduce stormwater pollution and beautify your yard. Note that there are some restrictions on the types of areas not eligible (sidewalks/patios) for the grant. For complete information on the program - <https://doee.dc.gov/node/18652>

Make a Donation to the Garden Committee

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## Foggy Bottom Folks by Susan Lampton



### Music to our Ears

Who could resist the opportunity to stop and chat with smiling Campbell and his mother Jennifer Mondie? if you are lucky enough to catch them coming out the front door of their blue house on 25th Street, they might help you add your contribution to their Poetry Garden on the garden fence or they might explain this year's Foggy Bottom Human/Nature sculpture (*Safe Haven* by Lisa Fedon) arching over their beautiful garden path. Jennifer and Campbell live with their roommates... "a bunch of cats and a few easy fish" and have loved living in Foggy Bottom for many years where, as Jennifer puts it, "everything you need is pretty much steps away with a feel of community and trees and neighbors in real houses right in the city". Campbell (a student at St. Patrick's Episcopal School) refers to himself as a "city boy". The reason Jennifer chose Foggy Bottom as her home was because she has been a member of the National Symphony Orchestra viola section since 1995.

Her "commute" is a short walk up to the Kennedy Center. Along with her involvement with the Symphony, Jennifer is also active in the Union leadership of the musicians of the National Symphony and has been a member of the governing board of the League of American Orchestras. During Covid Jennifer continued teaching lessons on her back porch where neighbors might have heard strains of Hindemith and Bach as we all hunkered down in our homes. Jennifer has also organized mini outdoor concerts during the past art exhibits. Music, poetry, art, and a fairytale garden make the Mondie home a very special place in our neighborhood.

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And, speaking of fairytales...Michael J. Evans who lives within sight of Jennifer's home on the other side of 25th street, has just released his latest project: *The Adventures of Florian*, an epic adaptation of an old fairy tale performed by the Janacek Philharmonic and illustrated by Apolline Etienne. A prolific composer, Michael has recorded with pianist Karolin Rojahn, Sirius String Quartet, St Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra, Millennium Symphony Orchestra, Kiev Philharmonic, Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, and, the Moravian Philharmonic to name only a few. He often uses literature, short stories, or art as inspiration for the pieces he creates (<https://www.mjevansmusic.com/>). He has been described as "a composer of orchestral, chamber, and solo instrumental works. His musical language is post-modern, mixing elements of various styles and time periods into a cohesive work". Michael uses his home as his studio where he sits everyday composing in the afternoons and evenings. Looking out of his front window his devoted "audience" of birds arrive every day to be fed, something Michael has enjoyed doing for over 16 years. People often make a point of stopping by just to see the amazing aviary activity.

With these two highly accomplished musicians living in our neighborhood, we may need to have this block of 25th Street in Foggy Bottom designated a cultural highlight because of Jennifer and Michael!

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Suggest a Neighbor to Feature

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## **Support FB/WE Local Businesses Foggy Bottom / West End Preferred Merchant Program**

As we emerge from the pandemic, we are reenergizing our Preferred Merchant Program. Sadly some of our FB/WE businesses were closed by the pandemic. We are confirming that our current preferred businesses are still able to participate in our Preferred Merchant Program as well as adding new ones. If you would like to see a business join the program, please reach John George at [johngeorgedc1@gmail.com](mailto:johngeorgedc1@gmail.com). See the discounts to Foggy Bottom Members on our website at: [FoggyBottomAssociation.org](http://FoggyBottomAssociation.org). Here are some of our Preferred Merchants:

GW Hospital Cafeteria / Subway (when facilities open to the public)  
Watergate Gallery  
Melrose Hotel – TBD  
Orange Theory – NEW!

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## Mark Your Calendars

- **Arts in Foggy Bottom on display through September 26, 2021**  
Visit [ArtsinFoggyBottom.com](http://ArtsinFoggyBottom.com) for details.
- **June ANC Meeting: Wednesday - June 16, 2021 @ 7:00 pm**  
Visit [anc2a.org](http://anc2a.org) for information.
- **June Foggy Bottom Association Meeting: Tuesday - June 29, 2021 @ 7:00 pm** Topics: Western Market and more...  
Visit [FoggyBottomAssociation.org](http://FoggyBottomAssociation.org) for information.

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## Connect with Us



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## Join the FBA Today!

The FBA wants you to join us! We need your voice and your participation.

### Membership Dues (per person)

One Year: \$20 ● Two Years: \$30 ● Student: \$10

Must show valid GW ID



Join with a credit card by scanning the QR Code or click the button below to join online.

*The Foggy Bottom Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Dues and contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.*

[Click to Join FBA on our website](#)

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## Newsletter Contributors: We Want You!

Our goal is to inform and build community, so you'll see regular columns sharing perspectives from the FBA President; Community Events; Neighbor Spotlight; Business Showcase; and Comings & Goings. We welcome aspiring reporters and volunteers to



## FBA Board of Directors

*FBA's all-volunteer board of directors is led by the President and supported by eight to ten board members.*

**President:**

John George

**Vice President:**

Julia Gustafson

**Membership Director:**

Mary Ellen Signorille

**At Large Members:**

Eileen Carey  
Christine Farnsworth  
Peter Maye  
Denise Vogt  
Jennifer Schaus

**Key Contacts:**

FBA Website: [foggybottomassociation.org](http://foggybottomassociation.org)

FBA President: [johngeorgedc1@gmail.com](mailto:johngeorgedc1@gmail.com)

Sidewalk or street repairs: [DC 311](#)

GW Student Incident Reports:

[GW Student Conduct](#)

**Contributors to this Issue:**

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