



Foggy Bottom
Association

2023 Annual Report



Reflections on 2023

John George, FBA President



As we reflect on 2023, the FBA and our members across Foggy Bottom and the West End had a very busy year! Whether it was helping with the spring or fall cleanups, attending our community meetings, taking a

Historic District walking tour, viewing the Arts in Foggy Bottom Biennial Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit, eating at one of our preferred merchants, or working to address local issues, we've done a lot. Our neighborhood has a long and rich history of working at a grassroots level and our residents, both old and new, value the past and actively contribute to the future. Each of these activities builds our community and our future.

The FBA helps navigate the future by working with community members, DC government officials, and our local businesses. The all-volunteer FBA board meets monthly to further the civic, cultural, social and economic welfare of the Foggy Bottom/West End Community; preserve and enhance the residential character; and promote historic preservation. This is accomplished in so many ways.

As President of the FBA, I thank the community for their support and I am delighted to present the 2023 Annual Report to highlight some of our achievements.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the independent Foggy Bottom Association Defense and Improvement Corporation, which grants the FBA the overwhelming majority of our operating budget. It suffices to say that we could not provide the many benefits to the community that we do without the Corporation’s support.

Thank you,



John George
President
Foggy Bottom Association

FBA Board 2023

President.....	John George	
Treasurer.....	Zach Cohen	
Debbie Baker	Sadie Cornelius	Will Crane
Amy Lewis	Peter Maye	Denise Vogt

Best in Show

The 2023 Arts in Foggy Bottom Exhibition

The Foggy Bottom Association was delighted to organize the 8th Biennial Arts in Foggy Bottom Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit, which lasted from May to October, and was a tremendous success.

This year's exhibit, 'Sites for Centering and Reflection,' was curated by fine art consultant and National Museum of American History specialist, Jarvis DuBois. The exhibit featured a collection of 13 original creations with one of the most diverse line-ups of DC metro-based artists in the event's history. The show included multi-material pieces by Rodney 'Buck' Herring, whose work has been recognized by the NAACP image awards and featured on Netflix; Duke Ellington School of the Arts' Asha Elana Casey; furniture designer Scott Benjamin Tucker, and more.



FBA Board Member/AiFB Director Peter Maye is interviewed for WETA's 'If You Lived Here'

“With issues such as political turmoil, climate change, and the pandemic always on the back of our minds, we need space to



Left: Artist Jabari Jefferson with
'D.C. Stride, 5 Generation Strive'



Right: Artist Kokayi with
'Monolith'

stand still for a moment more than ever,” said curator Jarvis DuBois. “The artists included in the 2023 exhibition are not only exploring their own pursuit of respite, but are inspiring audiences to do the same.”

The FBA led monthly tours and concluded with a special tour featuring original musical compositions by *Michael Evans* and *Jennifer Mondie*. Audiences were also able to take self-guided video tours to learn more about the artists and their work using QR codes. The exhibit received coverage by more than 30 online, broadcast, social media, and print outlets including The Washington Post, HillRag, and WETA’s TV program *If You Lived Here*.

The community is grateful that this important event has endured over the years and looks forward to many more in the future.

Uncovering “Funkstown”

The History Project

This year, the **History Project** continued to research and increase awareness of the Historic District’s past. The co-founders and co-chairs, *Denise Vogt* and *Frank Leone*, engaged with GWU professors and students, historians, residents, local historical organizations, WETA, WTOP, GWU Hatchet, D.C. representatives, and local librarians. *Frank Leon* also represented Foggy Bottom at DC Preservation League’s Historic District Coalition and the WETA broadcast of ‘If You Lived Here,’ Foggy Bottom episode.

Thanks to last year’s grant from the FBADIC, we were able to create an interactive **House History Map Project**, that is accompanied by 250 individual House History pages. In March, we participated in the **DC History Conference**, showcasing the House History Map and FBA. In November, several months of meetings culminated in the DC History Center agreeing to **host the map**, providing a stable home and increased visibility, *at no cost*.

As research uncovered new information, we revised the Historic District’s **on-line walking tours**. To date, **over 10,000 people** have accessed the History and/or Arts Tours. For the third year, we led EventsDC’s *WalkingtowntownDC’s* Foggy Bottom Historic District in-person walking tour.

Our bi-monthly *Funkstown* history blog, included in the *FBA News*, continues to be well-received.

In 2024, we hope to update the Map with additional census and other information by including the periods from 1920 to 1950. We will continue research and share important parts of Foggy Bottom and West End history through *Funkstown*, presentations, and walking tours. If our submission is selected, we plan to make a presentation on the House History Map project at the DC History Center's conference in April.



The Greenest Neighborhood in D.C.

Garden Committee

The Garden Committee continues its mission of maintaining and improving the public green spaces in Foggy Bottom. The Garden Committee accomplished many projects in 2023, including:

- **The “Green Wall” at 26th & I.** After many years of coordinating with DDOT, the FBA finally received permission to plant evergreen firethorn bushes along the concrete wall across from the heritage tree and evergreens along the curve. We expect this greenery will reduce the traffic noise, visually improve and soften the space, and promote safety by deterring people from sitting on the dangerous wall. These areas should be self-sustaining in a few years.
- **Seasonal Maintenance.** The Garden Committee has established a seasonal cleanup schedule with our gardener to keep the neighborhood beautiful. We have strived to focus on projects that require little maintenance and, once established, will not need regular watering in the summer. After the initial planting, we were able to coordinate with DC Water to tap into fire hydrants to save money and time.
- **FBA/GWU Cleanup.** On November 4, 2023, over 30 GWU students, FBA Board members, and neighbors worked together to weed, mulch and, rake leaves throughout the area, beautifying our neighborhood

and building a stronger community as well. The FBA is grateful to the GWU Student Association, including Director of Sustainability *Carolyn Pierson*, who organized the GWU volunteers.

The Garden Committee thanks the many volunteers!



FBA-planted evergreens at the 26th & I curve



FBA President John George welcomes GWU students to the community cleanup

Keeping Foggy Bottom Working

Infrastructure Committee

Living in an Historic District is a privilege, but with age comes maintenance. The Infrastructure Committee, led by Board member *Will Crane*, has been hard at work keeping Foggy Bottom working:

- **Snows Court Sewer Repair.** FBA worked closely with DC Water to repair an aged 12” sewer main under Snows Court that had been compromised by roots from a Dutch Elm. Repairs began in February 2023 with a process called Cured In Place Pipe, which uses robots to avoid invasive digging. The project lasted through November when the last house was connected.
- **Site Visits.** Many elected officials know little about Foggy Bottom and the unique challenges faced by the neighborhood. The Infrastructure Committee has hosted walkthroughs with D.C. Council Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Pinto, MPD Lieutenant Howden, and DC Water. Many of these officials are now part of the *Snows Court Task Force*, which is focusing on long-neglected alley spaces.
- **Building Relationships.** From trash collection, to parking enforcement, and water issues, city agencies are at the heart of maintaining our quality of life. The Infrastructure Committee has nurtured relationships with key decisionmakers to solve problems quickly.

Our 2023 Initiatives

Advocacy. The FBA Board remains deeply engaged with the Government of the District of Columbia on issues from the dog and children's' park renovation to parking, trash, traffic issues on Virginia Avenue, and homelessness. Thanks to these efforts, DDOT installed beautiful brick sidewalks along the west side of 26th St. NW, freeing up funds for use on other aspects of the parks. We are excited for construction to start early next year, and will continue to push for progress until the ribbons are cut.



Biennial Shred Event. On November 11, nearly 50 neighbors brought files for secure shredding right in Foggy Bottom. The cherished event keeps folks' private information safe without a drive to the Ft. Totten transfer station. Thanks to this fall's co-sponsor and neighbor, *Sally Charnovich* (Long & Foster Realtor).



Community Meetings. Monthly FBA Community meetings are an important way to connect the community with DC agencies, officials, and other informative guest speakers. In 2023, we learned from about DC budget priorities; DC Water projects; DDOT construction projects; Foggy Bottom-West End history; Arts in Foggy Bottom; GWU; the Farmer's Market and much more. Our online meetings have dozens of attendees. In 2024, we plan to offer trial hybrid meetings.

Finance Optimization. The FBA has moved most of its funds to a high-interest-yielding Fidelity Investments account, allowing our money and work to go further. The Board is grateful for *Rob Schmitt* of Verdence Capital Advisors, who is assisting the Association at no cost.

GWU Relations. FBA partners with GWU on many community programs and participates in an internship program to mentor students and hear their perspectives. GWU offers community members access to a variety of campus benefits, including use of the libraries, course audits for neighbors 60+, and the opportunity to join the health center.

Holiday Party (2022). The FBA held its holiday party in person with over 85 attendees. Many thanks to *St. Paul's Church* for donating their space for the event. The Association recognized those who have given back to the Foggy Bottom-West End community, including *Susan Lampton* and *Barbara Kahlow*, who were honored with the *Olga Corey Spirit of the Community Award*.



*2022 FBA Board at
Holiday Party*



*John George with
Barbara Kahlow*



*John George with
Susan Lampton*

Kitty Snows. Our neighborhood ‘Blue Collar Cat’ continues to enchant those who cross her path. Kitty Snows’s mere presence brings joy to all who are lucky to spot her on the sidewalk or resting in a sunbeam. The neighborhood was delighted to welcome Sylvester, the new black cat on the block, sponsored by Hughes Mews residents. Kitty and Sylvester have formed a stellar team to keep rodents at bay while delighting neighbors and visitors alike.



*Kitty Snows & Kai Crane supporting
the FBA Infrastructure Committee*

Marketing & Membership. To improve our communications with members and new neighbors alike while reducing costs, the FBA, led by Board member *Sadie Cornelius*, switched email marketing platforms; created a new newsletter template; restarted our Instagram page; and now share a table at Farmer's Market with the Foggy Bottom West-End Village to promote membership and Historic District awareness.

Matera Happy Hour. In March, the Matera Restaurant in the River Inn teamed up with the FBA to host a welcome happy hour. We were delighted to see dozens of neighbors support this new Foggy Bottom business, and thoroughly enjoyed their hospitality.

Move-Out Dumpster. With thanks to the generous support of GWU, the FBA again co-sponsored dumpsters around the spring student move-out to reduce dumping in our neighborhood. The events were significant successes, with student neighbors and long-time residents alike taking advantage of the opportunity.



FBA Board Members (Zach Cohen and Will Crane) and GWU Director of Community Relations (Kevin Days) get 'hands on' in the dumpster.

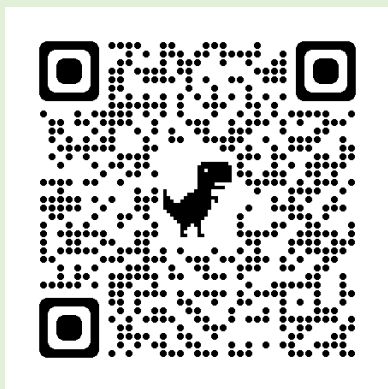
Newsletter. Our FBA News, an online newsletter published every other Friday, continues to be wildly successful. Our editor and publisher, *Peter Maye*, assembles interesting articles and regular features from a variety of residents throughout the Foggy Bottom-West End area. Readership is very high. With over 20 issues produced and emailed each year, our average open rate is 75%—that means over 200 members read the publication every week. The FBA also keeps members informed of special events through announcements issued periodically, as needed.

Preferred Merchants. This year, we were pleased to add to our 17 preferred merchants the Matera Restaurant (River Inn). We continue to reach out to new businesses opening in Western Market as we expand the list of Foggy Bottom businesses participating. The Preferred Merchant program is not only a great benefit to FBA members (who receive up to a 20% discount) but helps attract customers to keep our small businesses strong for years to come.

Website. This year, the FBA improved the usability of our website. We updated the Resources section, providing the latest up to date contacts and websites for various city departments and community organizations; providing access to Board meeting minutes in a shared Google Drive folder; and launched the FBA print-on-demand store to sell branded merchandise with the FBA logo for fundraising and to promote neighborhood pride.



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