

**Building
Bridges
Across
The River**



**SKYLAND
WORKFORCE
CENTER**

**THEARC
THEATER**



THE EQUITY FUND

LAUNCHED BY THE 11TH STREET BRIDGE PARK
A PROJECT OF BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS THE RIVER



ABOUT THE BRIDGE PARK

The 11th Street Bridge Park (a partnership between the Ward 8 non-profit Building Bridges Across the River and the District Department of Transportation) will be Washington DC's **first elevated park** connecting the historic Anacostia and Capitol Hill neighborhoods geographically divided by the Anacostia River.

From the beginning, community engagement and feedback have driven its conceptualization and design.

Throughout this community-led process, it became clear that the Bridge Park had the potential to be more than a park. In particular, the Bridge Park could symbolize a new unity and connection between a booming area of the city and one that has long been excluded from the city's economic progress. This is especially important for D.C. residents and small businesses located east of the river. Decades of disinvestment, coupled with the economic, racial and geographic segregation of Wards 7 and 8, mean that many of the communities east of the river are areas of low homeownership, high poverty and unemployment.

Recent data from the American Community Survey reveal multiple census tracts East of the River with child poverty rates near 50 percent and unemployment rates above 20 percent.



A key goal of the Bridge Park is to **serve as an anchor for equitable and inclusive economic growth**



The Bridge Park team spent years creating a series of anti-displacement actions focused on affordable housing, workforce training, supporting small businesses, arts + culture, and health + wellness strategies.

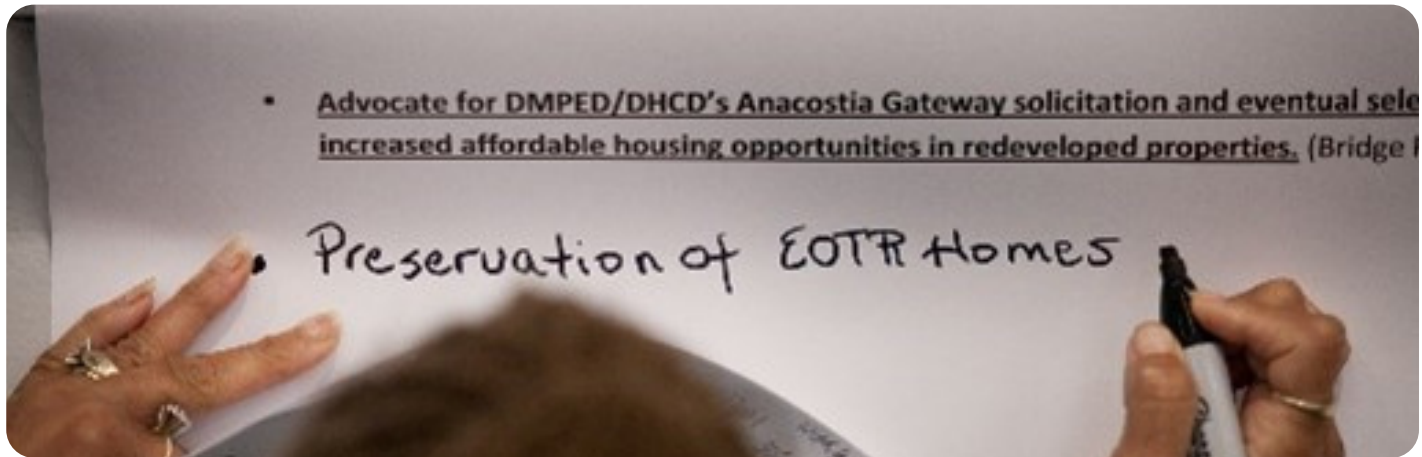
Since 2015, the Bridge Park team has invested over **\$92MM in this equitable development work which is more than it will cost to construct the actual park.**

This includes:

- **158 Ward 8 renters have become homeowners** after graduating from the Bridge Park's East of the River Home Buyers Club
- Standing up the Douglass Community Land Trust that has over **230 units of permanently affordable housing** in its portfolio
- Led **37 construction training programs with 250 East of the River residents employed** in the construction trades
- Provided pro bono technical assistance and **cash grants to 38 Black owned Anacostia businesses**
- **Repaired 15 nearby homes** through a new pilot with Yachad

The Bridge Park's design strategies will increase connectivity between those living on both sides of the Anacostia River **but more is needed to ensure residents and small businesses nearby will thrive in Anacostia.**

The time is now.



The 11th Street Bridge Park will begin construction in the spring of 2024. As construction cranes rise and this new civic space takes shape, there is tremendous concern that private speculators will try to snatch up nearby property and escalate an already inflated market.

As a result, the Bridge Park team is launching a \$20MM EQUITY FUND focusing on creating opportunities to build intergenerational wealth and ensure the park is a welcoming space for all.

This work builds on the Bridge Park's equitable development efforts which has become a national model for anti-displacement work across the country. This work has become a model across the country inspiring similar equity plans in Dallas, Milwaukee, Buffalo, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

ABOUT THE EQUITY FUND

- \$5MM supporting \$25,000 downpayment assistance for graduates of our East of the River Home Buyers Club serving 200 Ward 8 families.
- \$5MM supporting property acquisition working with the Douglass Community Land Trust creating permanently affordable homes for 100 families.
- \$10MM will be invested in a Park Equity Fund to remove barriers for local residents to utilize Bridge Park programming areas such as the River Amphitheater, Community Front Porch and Community Town Hall and ensure we are good stewards of this resident-driven civic space.

Donors to the Equity Fund will be acknowledged on the 11th Street Bridge Park.



THANK YOU

The 11th Street Bridge Park team invites you to discuss this opportunities with you. Please contact:

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