DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Happy Post Summer Everyone!!!! It’s good to be back and start another exciting academic year. While taking meetings, writing grants, standing up programming, and generally running from one thing to the next...

I forgot the importance of stopping, bonding, and sharing precious moments with our youngest community members. They piled into my office and I closed my laptop. Foods that start with each letter of the alphabet became the afternoon challenge. The boys came in later and it was absolutely lovely. This is why we are here for each other, a safe place to just be!
Juneteenth also known as “Freedom Day” is a national holiday to celebrate the end of the Civil War and the enslavement of African Americans in the United States in the year of 1865. This day of independence recognizes the perseverance of African Americans for 400+ years - turning difficulty into victory. And in recognition, all 50 states including the District of Columbia annually acknowledge the generational resiliency of African Americans on June 19th.

African Americans have been storytellers for centuries, inspiring the community and others. The FH Faunteroy Community Enrichment Center is located in the heart of Deanwood, a primarily African American community prided in its historically stable, self-reliant, and self-sufficient roots.
The FCEC held its 2nd annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 18th. Guests enjoyed a plethora of engaging activities including: Yoga with Asherah Anu; Creative Arts Corner for youth including caricature drawing and canvas painting; Live performances from the East of the River Steelband and Time to Eternity, a local D.C. band; G.U.A.C. Marketplace; and food.

Everyone has a story, a story that originates in passion and sparks creativity. In present day, the Green Urban Arts Collective (GUAC) is a community of storytellers who use their creativity to promote sustainable art through a myriad of avenues (photography, painting, composting, and fashion).

The success of the event would not have been possible without the help of our partners Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Dreaming Out Loud INC, United States Botanic Gardens, ABC Metro Washington, Blossom Bakery, NOAA, Anu Yoga, DCUMC United Medical Center, DPR, Serve DC Apprenticeship Academy, HSEMA, Department of Energy and Environment, and We Are Washington DC.
Exposure II @ Faunteroy is a youth summer camp designed for rising 9th and 10th graders with intention of providing a relaxation and rejuvenation for the coming fall, while keeping students engaged, stimulated and supervised. Youth Exposure Campers spent every day trying new things, going to new places and meeting new people. And while it seemed like a summer of nothing but fun, in actuality they were developing the soft skills employers look for in their employees; advocating for yourself, an ability to work with different personalities and an ability to code switch based on one’s environment.

Our Summer Exposure Counselors (MBSYEP 22-24 youth) and Junior Counselors (MBSYEP 18-21 youth), lead campers into the city daily, building their own supervisory skills, including advocating for others, the firm but supportive hand of leadership and connecting with program partners like National Geographic Museum, DPR Pools, US Botanical Gardens and the Spirit of Washington. Our Counselors developed their occupational skills, as many youth have an interest in Youth & Community Outreach. However, the best part is that these skills can translate to several different career paths. We are also pleased to report that several of our Counselors will partner with the Center to provide youth programming in the fall and spring.
A group of DCPS Special Needs teachers recognized a gap in summer programming for their students. To further support special needs youth and the Deanwood community, these teachers created an organization and designed Level Up Summer Enrichment Program. In need of a space, they discovered the Faunteroy Center; and a partnership was born. Level Up was a 6-week program for 11 autistic elementary students, support by a Junior Camp Counselor (MBSYEP 15 youth).

Through Faunteroy’s partnership with GUAC, a nonprofit organization designed to support art culture in the Deanwood community, young artists’ pieces will be displayed for a Showing in September to introduce them to the DC art world. Throughout the summer, Youth Artists were supported by a Site Supervisor (MBSYEP 23 youth) to provide guidance and mentorship, as needed. Both Youth Artists and our Site Supervisor were given an opportunity to develop their occupational skills by being introduced to the process that any professional artist would encounter. Additionally, each artist has the opportunity sell a piece, or pieces, and meet members of the DC art community. These experiences allow youth the realistically discover how a professional artist operates, allowing better understanding for long-term career goals.
Etana Sesay is from Los Angeles, California. Eager to flourish in the East Coast, she moved to DC to attend Howard University. Currently in pursuit of her masters in architecture, Etana is passionate about inspiring communities through intentional design. She has joined our team at the F.H. Faunteroy Center as our content creator, tasked with maintaining our social media platforms as well as designing posters and newsletters.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

On September 13th we celebrated the completion of our first pilot program management of a Workforce Development cohort trained in Construction Orientation Readiness Education (CORE). We collaborated with DC Students Trade and Construction who delivered the CORE in 8-weeks and the FCEC provided the wrap around services for the A. Wash & Associates led initiative funded by the DC Workforce Investment Council. This pilot program has given us much to consider as we design similar programs as a conduit for the community and employers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Welcome to another season of the Green Urban Arts Collaborative (GUAC)!!! We are ready for Season 2 as it launches with the Youth Summer Arts Reception featuring work inspired by their research on Nannie Helen Burroughs. As if that won’t be moving enough, Pull up a Chair exhibit will also be featured. Community, come and see the art, right here in your own neighborhood! Art feeds the soul, and whether we are in a state of weeping or laughing it provides us with a pathway to commune, heal, and connect.
RESILIENCE HUB

In this issue we are featuring the re-start of the Thursday evening Series. This year we have intentionally re-branded it as Ready in Ward 7. It features once again community leader, Mr. Dennis Chestnut and partnering DC government agencies DOEE, HSEMA, and Serve DC. Representatives of the government agencies are here to listen and serve the community. In hosting the series, we plan to be a conduit for meaningful community outreach that results in solving community issues and designing solutions collaboratively with the community. Our focus underpins the recently awarded NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant: Nothing Without Us: Building Environmental Literacy, Resilience, and Sustainability in DC through a Multi-Partner, Community-Led Approach.


MR. LAWRENCE BRADFORD

It is with a heavy heart that the Bradford family announce the passing of our patriarch Mr. Lawrence “Brad” Bradford. Our world will never be the same as we feel the infinite void he leaves behind.

Our family does not mourn alone. Brad, CEO and Founder of Smooth & Ez Dance Institute, has touched tens of thousands through dance. His guidance and teaching will be sorely missed.

At the FCEC we will miss his energy, generosity, and enthusiasm in sharing his passion and gift for hand-dancing. He cannot be replaced!

We look to continue hand-dancing on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm with a new instructor.
COMING SOON

- Pull Up a Chair Reception: November 5th 4-7pm
- Pull Up a Chair Artist Talk: November 20th 1-4pm
- Community Create N Sip: November 12th
- Summer Youth Artist Exhibition: October 16th 1-4pm

ON THE SCHEDULE

- Every Tuesday 7-8pm - Jazzercise
  https://form.jotform.com/222374338523152
- Every Wednesday 7-8pm - Hand-dancing
  https://form.jotform.com/222344502333141
- Every Thursday 7-8pm - Ready In Ward 7: Community Empowerment Series https://bit.ly/readyinward7
- Senior Bingo every Thursday 1-2pm
  https://form.jotform.com/222355230032137

Volunteer, community service, and youth employment opportunities available!

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