

Building Bridges Across The River™



Who Are We & How Do We Deliver?

Our work is centered around **three core service areas:**



Our Theory of Change: Building Bridges Across the River reduces structural barriers to social and economic mobility to build a more equitable city.

Who Are We & How Do We Deliver?

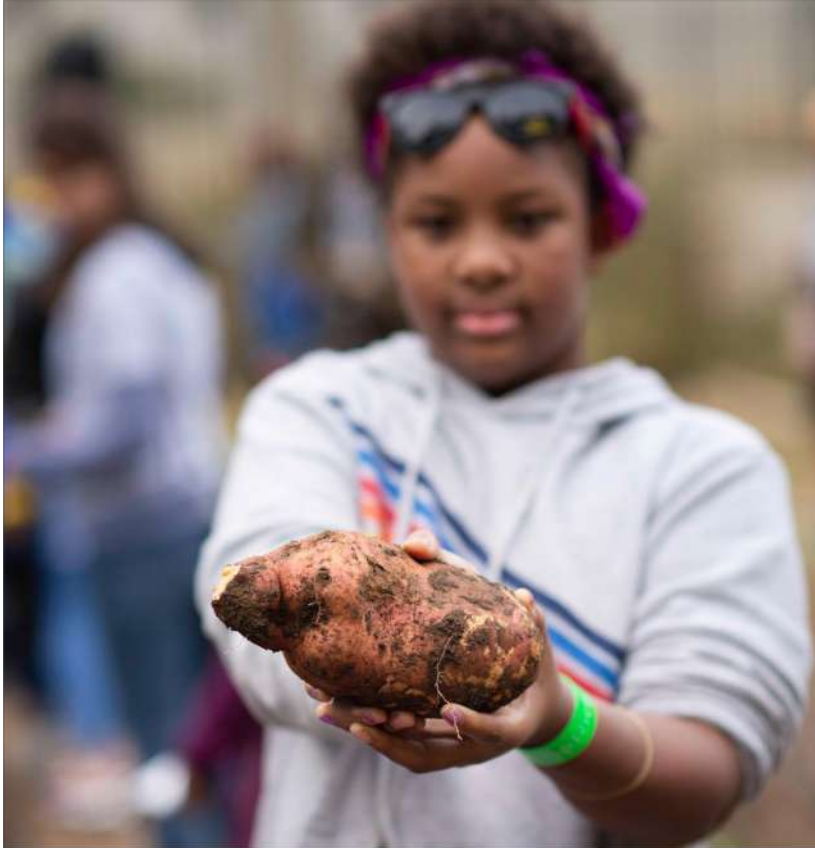
And delivered through our **five signature programs:**

1. 11th Street Bridge Park
2. THEARC
3. THEARC Theatre
4. Building Bridges Farms
5. Skyland Workforce Center

We *build, convene, and innovate* in partnership with communities East of the Anacostia River



Health & Well-Being



Building Bridges Farms

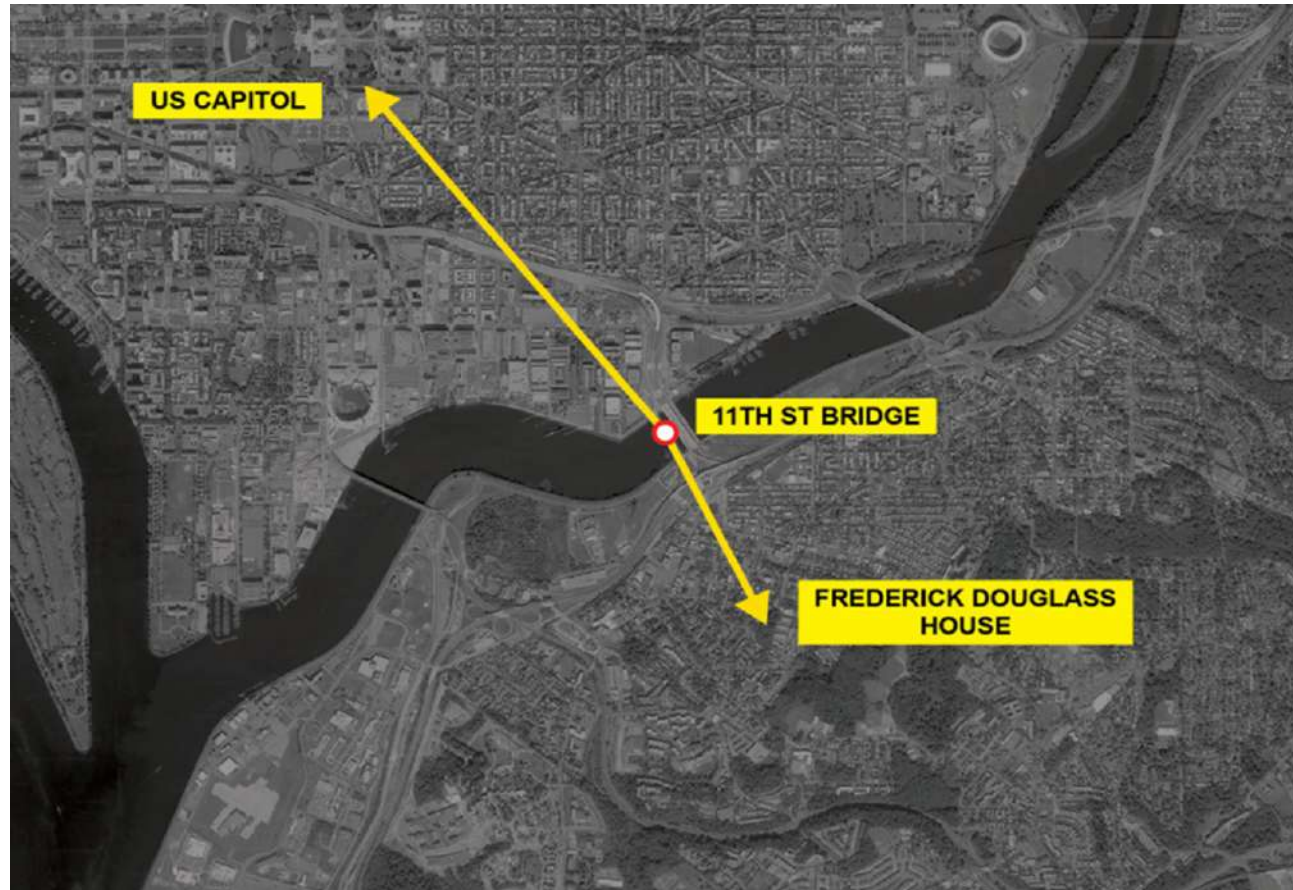
Working in collaboration with communities of faith and non-profits, we've created a network of 7 urban farms in SE DC. This is for a neighborhood that has only one full-service grocery store serving 75,000 residents.

In 2022 we harvested approximately 6,000 pounds of produce and provided weekly bags of locally grown fruits & vegetables to 200+ local residents.

“Thank you nourishing our bodies & spirit at your amazing Farmer’s Market!”



11TH STREET BRIDGE PARK RECONNECTS COMMUNITIES



TRANSFORMING INFRASTRUCTURE







PROJECT GOALS

ENVIRONMENT: Re-engage residents with the Anacostia River

HEALTH: Improve public health disparities

SOCIAL: Reconnect long divided communities

ECONOMIC: Serve as an anchor for equitable and inclusive growth

SHAPED BY THE COMMUNITY



REMOVING BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

- Connect to existing community meetings
- Provide childcare
- Provide food / refreshments
- Compensate participants with stipends
- Continued community engagement – show results!





COMMUNITY LED PROGRAMMING

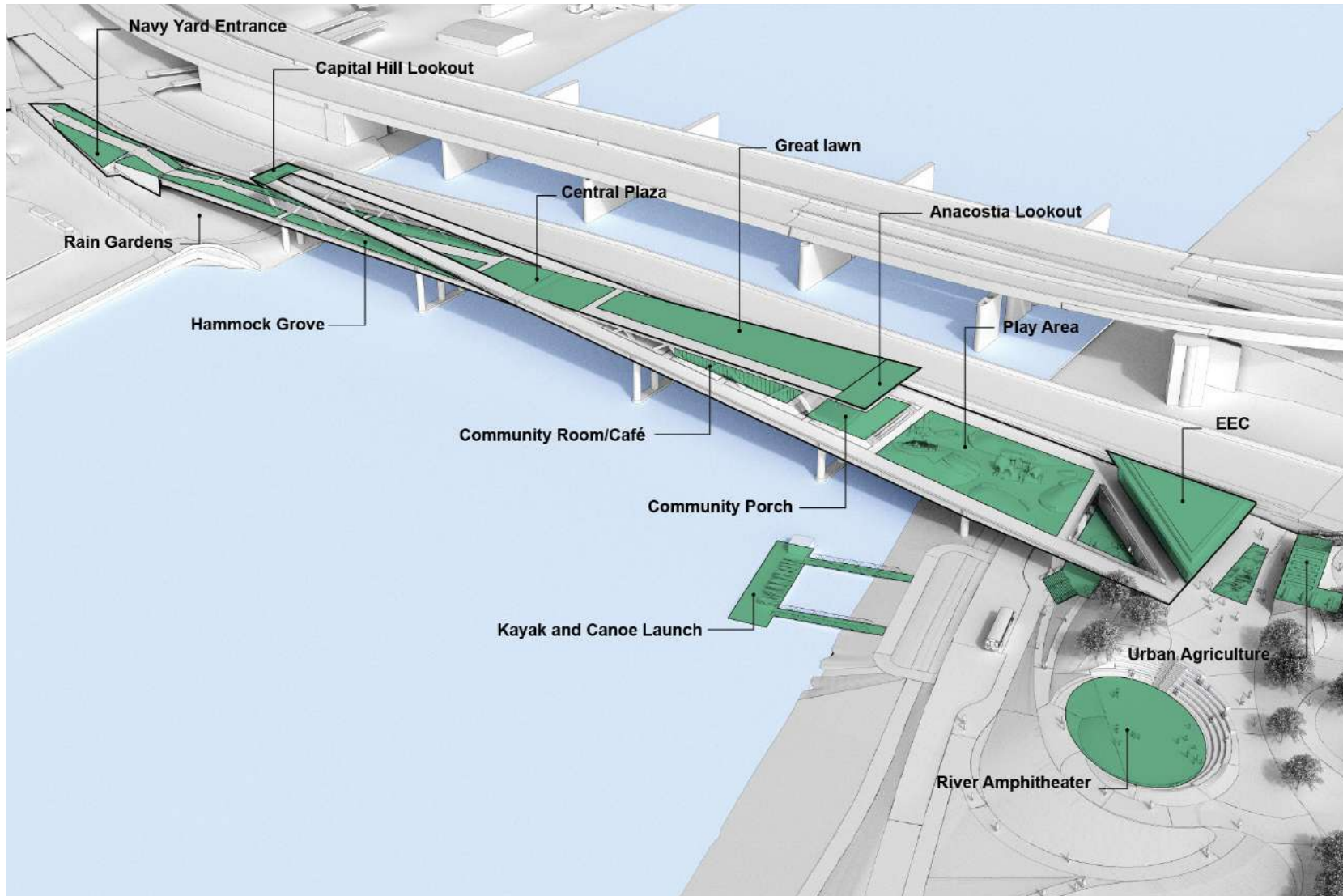
- **Environmental Education Center**
- **Kayak & Canoe Launch**
- **Urban Agriculture**
- **Public Art**
- **Performance Space**
- **21st Century Playground**
- **Café / Restaurant**





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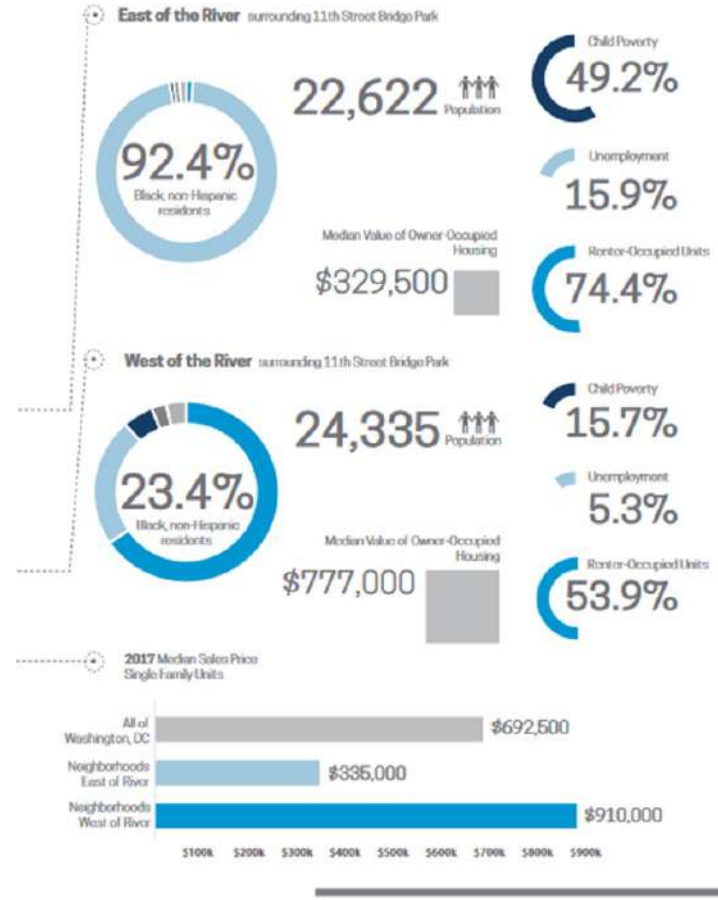
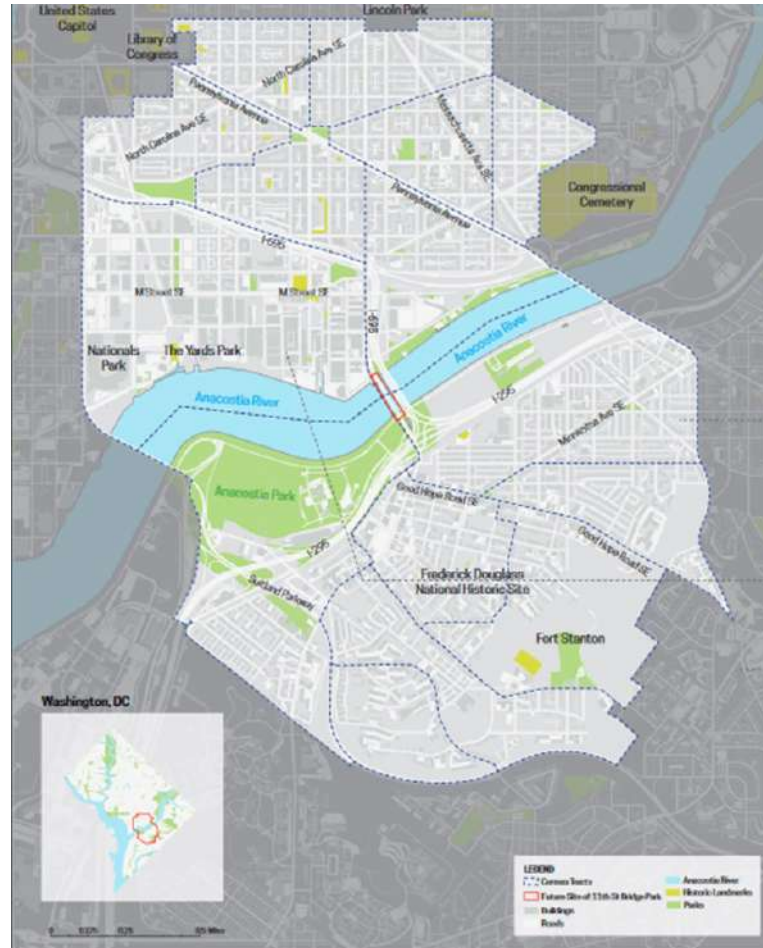




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BRIDGING THE ECONOMIC DIVIDE



7 STEP PROCESS

- **Step 1:** Identify key stakeholders such as residents, municipal leaders, NGOs active in the area, civic associations, business owners, etc.
- **Step 2:** Establish your geographic area of impact and collect data
- **Step 3:** Engage stakeholders as part of the planning process & build ownership
- **Step 4:** Release Equitable Development Plan
- **Step 5:** Begin implementation of strategies
- **Step 6:** On-going evaluation
- **Step 7:** Celebrate early wins to build confidence





HOUSING

Ward 8 Homebuyers Club

We are helping build **generational wealth, education and empowerment**, through homeownership.

122 WARD 8 RENTERS HAVE BECOME **HOMEOWNERS**
BUILDING GENERATIONAL WEALTH.

“Now when we ride past, my kids can say
‘Mom, that’s our house.’”





WORKFORCE TRAINING

Skyland Workforce Center

150+ EAST OF THE RIVER RESIDENTS PLACED IN
CONSTRUCTION JOBS

“I always knew I was going to be able to find a job. It just so happened that the program was here for me, and that was a blessing.” – Skyland Workforce Center graduate





SMALL BUSINESS

Building Wealth Opportunities

Providing **grants, loans** and **technical assistance** to Black owned small businesses east of the river.

\$1,000,000+ INVESTED TO DATE

“The team has been extremely helpful to my transition into a new space. The work will be helpful to our new venture.” – Darrell Gaston, Kitchen Savages





ARTS & CULTURE

Elevating Local Voices

Commissioning **art installations**, producing **festivals** and establishing 7 **urban farms**

9,424 ANACOSTIA RIVER FESTIVAL ATTENDEES

“The 11th Street Bridge Park says I see you, I see the value in what you do, and let’s do this together. And I think that’s completely different.” – Anika Hobbs, Ward 8 small business owner





THRIVE EAST OF THE RIVER

Pandemic Relief

Largest privately funded unconditional cash transfer ever attempted in the United States

650 FAMILIES RECEIVED \$5,500 EACH

“Just to know I will have this is such a blessing. Not really having to worry about food and a place to live, the ability to have basic needs just to provide for my family. Financially stable – that’s where I want to be.” – Zabria Proctor



LESSONS LEARNED

- Act early & be intentional
- Put the community at the center
- ***Change Moves at the Speed of Trust***
- Don't Reinvent the Wheel - Build NGO Asset Map
- To Impact the Future, Know Your Past
- Take a Multi-Sector Approach
- What Gets Measured Gets Done
- Impact Policy for Long Term Change
- Collaborate! Build Sustainable Partnerships



EDP 3.0 – HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Health
- Physical Activity and Recreation
- Access, Mobility, Pathway, and Connectivity
- Environmental Health and Justice





FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**Building
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The River™**

