



FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC

389 O STREET, S. W.

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FriendsSWDC@yahoo.com donate: www.FriendsofSWDC.org/donate

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Throughout 2016, Friends of Southwest DC continued to advance its educational, charitable and community development missions. The year was a success for us in many ways. We were able to provide grants both to past partners and to community organizations we had not worked with previously. Although much of our focus was on programs to benefit youth, we were also able to support a worthy new initiative to benefit Southwest seniors. Our donor base expanded somewhat, contributions were up, and our balance sheet remained healthy. Organizationally, two new members joined our Board of Directors. The Board is grateful for the continuing community engagement and interaction that have made our efforts possible. This support has been vital to our work to make Southwest a better place for all its residents.

BOARD MEMBERS

Friends of Southwest DC (FOS) began 2016 with the following board members and officers: Coralie Farlee, President; Rodney A. Ross, Vice President; Jean Sammon, Secretary; C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer; Joyce Bouvier; Farley Fisher; and Cecilie Jones. In March, Jean, C.W. and Cecilie were re-elected to 3-year terms. Farley Fisher resigned from the board during the summer. Peter Eicher joined the board in August, and Lucy Rojansky joined the board in December. Both Peter and Lucy were elected to fill vacant terms that end in 2018.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held on March 29, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We heard reports from representatives of seven of our 2016 grantee organizations, and had some good discussion and interaction among grantees and donors. We continue to welcome and encourage donors' advice and suggestions.

BOARD MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Board members engage with our grantees and the Southwest community in multiple ways. In 2016, these included visiting Camp Arena Stage, attending the Voices of Now program performance by Jefferson Academy students, attending

the SWNA scholarship awards ceremony, staffing an FOS table at the Community Forum's Summer in Lansburgh Park event, and having lunch with one of the FOS/SWNA scholarship students. In addition, a board member had conversations with people from "The Bard" about possible benefits to the community. And the entire board met with SWNA President Bruce Levine for a discussion about the new Southwest Community Foundation.

OUTREACH/PUBLICITY

Friends of Southwest DC is visible to the community through ads in The Southwester newspaper and the FOS brochures. Brochures are distributed/placed in the Southwest Library, some condominium buildings and churches, SWNA meetings and other community events. The FOS website FriendsOfSWDC.org is regularly updated with current information, reports and photos, including those from our grantees. In 2016, board members explored additional technology avenues by posting items about FOS in the new "Nextdoor" online community forum, and obtained a link to the FOS website on the "Southwest: The Little Quadrant That Could" blog site swtlqtc.com. We continue to look for new ways to make Friends of Southwest DC known in the community, and appreciate our friends and donors who help us spread the word.

ADMINISTRATION

We revised the FOS grant application to make it more comprehensive for organizations requesting a grant for the first time, and still easy to use for our previous grantees. We also revised our brochure to make it more engaging and up-to-date, and printed 2,000 copies for distribution. We started a process to plan for new communications and fundraising strategies and development of long term goals. We continued to keep administrative costs to a minimum. In 2016, administrative and fundraising expenses were \$1,001.80 which is 4.2% of total spending.

FUND RAISING

In 2016, FOS raised \$27,726.44 through our Spring and Fall fund-raising campaigns, and a special contribution from the Wharf District Master Developer. The Spring and Fall campaigns were done with ads in The Southwester and mailings to previous donors. Contributions in the Spring were matched three-for-one and contributions in the Fall were matched dollar-for-dollar, thanks to two very generous donors.

Donations are welcome throughout the year. Tax-deductible contributions by check should be made out to "Friends of Southwest DC" and mailed to 389 O St.

SW, Washington, DC 20024. Donations by credit card may be made via Razoo at Friendsofswdc.org/donate.

Grants totaling \$22,706.24 were awarded. The description of the grants follows.

Amidon-Bowen PTA

In order to help this Southwest public school develop a new positive identity, the PTA proposed the creation of a professional logo, mascot, school colors, along with design for t-shirts, car magnets, pens, stationery, etc. The sale of the items would build the school's identity and help support PTA activities. A grant from FOS helped support this project.

Arena Stage's Camp Arena Stage

A grant to Arena Stage provided for two Southwest students to attend the four-week intensive arts program of Camp Arena Stage, conducted in 2016 for the 12th summer. Held at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, the program is for young people ages 8 to 15 and provides the opportunity for the participants to learn from Arena Stage professional artist-educators. They can choose a variety of classes on dance, music, theater, or the visual arts or can choose to delve deeply into one art form.

Arena Stage's Voices of Now

A grant helped support Arena Stage's Voices of Now program at Jefferson Academy (Southwest's middle school). The after-school program is conducted by Arena Stage in several schools in the area. Each year, the Jefferson Ensemble develops a theatrical piece based on the members' life experiences. At the end of the school year, the group performs its play at Jefferson and in Arena's Kogod Cradle for enthusiastic audiences.

EmmaUS Learning Center

FOS has helped support EmmaUS educational activities since 2002. For several years, including 2016, our grant helped sponsor trips for Southwest youth to the National Archives and to Philadelphia's National Constitution Center. The trips expose the participants to US historical documents and the country's early history.

Girl Scout Troop 4298 (Southwest)

A small grant supported trips to the Chesapeake Children's Museum for three workshops to help the girls complete Scout badges. Brownies (grades 2 and 3) and Juniors (grades 4 and 5) were involved. In addition, the grant covered room rental for their bi-weekly meetings at King Greenleaf from January to June.

Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.

A grant helped support three new infant/toddler and youth programs at the Randall Community Center on Saturdays from June 25 to July 30. Sasha Bruce worked closely with community leaders to develop a plan to diversify the activities at Randall, with a focus on reaching low-income youth and families.

Southwest Comm-Unity Forum

An FOS grant helped support entertainment for children at the Forum's tenth annual Southwest Comm-Unity Day festivities at Lansburgh Park on August 27.

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly: Education and Scholarship Task Force

Two scholarships were awarded to Southwest college students. The 2016 recipients are Asha Marshall and Phillip O'Sullivan. Asha is a sophomore at Radford University in Radford, Virginia. Phillip is a freshman at the University of Chicago.

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly: *The Southwester*

FOS advertisements in *The Southwester* support this important community resource. The ads also increase visibility for FOS in the Southwest neighborhood, as well as that of the grantees, and we use the opportunity to also solicit donations and grant applications.

Students Taught Organization and Respect through Mentoring (STORM)

An FOS grant helped support an educational trip to Hampton, Virginia, for 15 participants in DC STORM's program, which seeks to enrich the lives of at-risk boys ages 12-14. The purpose of the trip was to teach the youth the importance of culture and Black history and to expose them to Hampton University and Norfolk State College.

Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association

The FOS grant provided matching funds upon the raising of \$2,000 in the community to complete preliminary work in setting up a senior village. Waterfront Village has since been formed and is operating in near Southwest and the Southeast waterfront area. It joins a network of over 180 similar organizations in Australia, Europe, and the United States seeking to provide support for older residents wishing to age in place.

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SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

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