



Newsletter

February 2023

Support Free Educational Programming, Donate Today!



February's Black History Month programs are presented in memoriam of longtime DCPL member Daniel R. (Dan) Smith, Sr., who passed away on October 19, 2022, at age 90. Prior to his death, Dan was believed to be the last person in the United States whose father was born enslaved during the Civil War. Dan was living proof that slavery is not distant history.

[Please take a moment to read more about Dan here.](#)

New Tour at DC Historic Sites: Exploring DC's Go-Go and Punk Music Scenes



Turn up the music with our newest virtual tour highlighting the legacies of go-go and punk music in the District. Read about the physical spaces, [found along 15 tour stops](#), where creatives and activists worked together to produce a distinctively DC sound.

The history of go-go stretches back to the 1970s with Chuck Brown (1936-2012) and The Soul Searcher's creation of the genre at [The Maverick Room](#) in Edgewood. The genre quickly captured DC's attention with its ability to engage the audience directly with the musicians in call and response. Its popularity has continued to this day. In February 2020, Mayor Muriel Bowser signed the [Go-Go Official Music of the District of Columbia Designation Act](#), giving credit to the genre that defined communities and the city for decades.

While DC did not create punk rock music, its quick success with young people in DC created a firestorm of new bands, trends, and world-renowned venues. Punk music and those that listened to it found a surprising sense of community in the white-collar, government-run city that echoed in the lyrics and chaos of the music.

While most of the tour stops are not historically-designated, the spaces associated with these musical genres are important to the city's built environment and culture.

[Click Here for the Tour](#)



Chuck Brown performing with Chuck Brown Band at Ibiza ([Photo courtesy of DC Public Library, The People's Archive](#), Chip Py Go-Go Collection, April 2, 2011).

Preservation Initiatives Grant Program Deadline: March 1st

It is not too late to submit the [2023 grant application](#) for the [Preservation Initiatives Grant Program](#). The program, administered by DCPL, provides matching grants to individuals and nonprofit organizations for **preservation planning, research, outreach/education, and bricks and mortar** projects related to historic and cultural sites. The program is supported by two separate funding sources: [Brightwood Car Barn \(Ward 4\)](#) and [Virginia Avenue Tunnel \(Area of Potential Effects in Southeast Washington\)](#). Projects must fall within those geographical boundaries.

If you have any questions, please contact [Zachary Burt, DCPL's Community Outreach and Grants Manager](#), at zach@dcpreservation.org.



DCPL's Executive Director Rebecca Miller Testifies at the DC Council's Committee on Business and Economic Development

A new year means DC Council's annual oversight hearings on DC government functions. On February 15th, DCPL's Executive Director Rebecca Miller testified at the DC Council's Committee on Business and Economic Development. **Her testimony focused on the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development's (DMPED) failure to maintain its properties.** She highlighted the recent fire in December 2022 that completely destroyed the [Saint Elizabeths Dry Barn](#), constructed in 1884 and one of the few remnants of the District's agricultural history, as well as the continued deterioration of [John Fox Slater School](#), [John Mercer Langston School](#), and [Anne Archbold Hall](#). In closing, her testimony addressed recent proposals to amend the **Height of Buildings Act**.

DCPL will also be testifying at **DC Council Performance Oversight Hearings** on the Department of Buildings, Office of Zoning, and Office of Planning (February 23rd), and Department of General Services (February 28th). [The schedule of hearings can be found here.](#)

[Read the Full DMPED Testimony Here](#)

4 Vacancies at Historic Preservation Review Board

In recent months, the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) has lost 4 members, either through resignations or term expirations. DCPL is incredibly concerned, considering the importance of HPRB in helping sustain a successful local historic preservation program. Each month, the 9-member board reviews historic landmark/district nominations and proposed projects. This project design review includes assessments of major alterations, complex additions, and new construction for numerous historic landmarks and contributing properties throughout the city's many historic districts. **Would you like to serve on the HPRB or do you know a good candidate? Click the below link to apply today!**

[HPRB Application \(Mayor's Office of Talent & Appointments\)](#)

(Webinar, Free)

Wednesday, February 22nd, 6:00pm - 7:00pm EDT



Image of Joe McGill

For the past 12 years, [Joe McGill](#) has slept in former slave dwellings in 26 states and the District of Columbia. He has done so to bring much needed attention to these often neglected dwellings and the enslaved people who lived in them. This presentation will focus on the nights that Joe McGill has spent at the [Octagon House](#), Lee-Fendall House, Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Belle Grove Plantation, and Liberia House. **We hope you join DCPL for this free, virtual event focused on the importance of preserved physical space for public education.**

This virtual program is free and open to the public. It will also be streamed live to [DCPL's Facebook page](#) and uploaded to our [YouTube page](#) after the event.

[Register Here](#)

Celebrating M Street High School's Legacy

(In-Person at the Perry School Community Services Center, Free)

Saturday, February 25th, 10:30 AM EDT



M Street High School Exterior. Image courtesy of the NPS HABS Survey.

[M Street High School](#) was one of the first high schools for Black students in the nation that was constructed with public funds. M Street produced national leaders and sent an unusually large number of its graduates to the nation's leading colleges and universities despite the Black population's restricted access to equal education opportunities. The school provided a rigorous curriculum and an extraordinary faculty that included Francis L. Cardozo, Sr., Robert H. Terrell, and Anna J. Cooper. Join DCPL for an in-person event highlighting the legacy of the former M Street High School, which continues to serve the community in its current state as the Perry School Community Services Center. This event is in partnership with the [African American Heritage Preservation Foundation](#) and the [Perry School Community Services Center](#). DCPL hopes to see you there!

Information about accessibility, parking, and general event protocol will be emailed to registrants for their convenience.

This program is free and open to the public. Space is limited, so sign up today!

[Register Here](#)



5 AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHITECTS TO KNOW

DC ARCHITECTS TO KNOW SERIES

The **DC Architects To Know Series** continues, with this installment focused on five African American architects who greatly contributed to the DC landscape: **Romulus C. Archer**, **Calvin T.S. Brent**, **Albert Cassell**, **William Sidney Pittman**, and **Hilyard Robinson**.

Is there an architect you would like to see highlighted? Let us know at info@dcpreservation.org, and stay tuned for upcoming additions to the series!

5 African American Architects To Know

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**We are looking for volunteers
who are interested in joining the
Education & Events Committee.**



**MEETINGS ARE HELD ONCE A
MONTH ON MONDAYS AT
5:00 PM LARGELY ON ZOOM**

**HELP PLAN EVENTS &
ASSIST WITH EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMMING**

**CONTACT SHAE COREY
SHAEC@DCPRESERVATION.ORG**

Save the Date: DC History Conference, March 23 - 25, 2023



[Click Here to Learn More](#)

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