

2019 DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE MISSION TO ETHIOPIA



TRADE MISSION BOOKLET

November 8 -13, 2019

In Partnership with

DC Chamber of Commerce
DELIVERING THE CAPITAL



★ ★ ★ DMPED



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



About the Trade Mission

The purpose of the DC Chamber of Commerce's Diplomatic Trade Mission to Ethiopia, in partnership with the District of Columbia Government, is to strengthen diplomatic, trade and economic relations between Washington, DC and Addis Ababa; to Develop waste-management partnerships, knowledge management and promote tourism.

To renew our sister city agreement

- To promote DC as a destination for Ethiopia business and leisure visitors
- To establish trade relations with industries such as:
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Healthcare
 - Local Dept. Structures
- To establish new educational partnerships between Ethiopia and Washington, DC-based universities.

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

Greetings from Washington, DC!

As Mayor of the District of Columbia, I am honored to lead this diplomatic and trade mission to Ethiopia in partnership with the DC Chamber of Commerce.

The metropolitan DC region is home to more than 30,000 Ethiopian immigrants—the largest population of Ethiopia-born people in the United States. Our Ethiopian community is a valued part of our city and has played a critical role in building the diverse, inclusive, and vibrant Washington, DC that we live in today.

Just as I was proud, last summer, to celebrate Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's visit to Washington, DC by proclaiming July 28, 2018 "Ethiopia Day in DC," I am now honored to renew our Sister City Agreement with Addis Ababa. Our Sister City Agreements with capital cities around the world play a key role in breaking down barriers and building international relationships that allow us to improve the lives of people in DC and abroad. Working closely with our counterparts in Addis Ababa, we will continue to support economic development, education, health care, transportation, and more.

As we embark on this mission, I want to thank the Prime Minister and President of Ethiopia and the Mayors of Addis Ababa and Lalibela for your hospitality and for welcoming our delegation. When we reach beyond our borders and build collaborative partnerships, we make our world a better place for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Muriel Bowser
Mayor



MESSAGE FROM VINCENT B. ORANGE, SR.

PRESIDENT & CEO
District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce

Dear Delegates:

It is an honor and privilege to greet and welcome you as a member of this historic Delegation assembled for this 2019 Ethiopian Trade Mission to Addis Ababa and Lalibela.

The District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce ("DC Chamber") is pleased to be a partner with the Honorable Muriel E. Bowser, Mayor of the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. and the Interim Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), John Falcicchio to embark upon this historic Ethiopian Trade Mission by the Government of the District of Columbia. We are also delighted to have, as part of the Delegation, DC Councilmembers Kenyan McDuffie and Brandon Todd.

The purpose of this Trade Mission is to renew our sister city relationship with Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, establish business opportunities, explore investment opportunities and promote tourism. Specific goals of the Ethiopia Trade Mission are to establish educational partnerships between Ethiopia and Washington, DC based schools and institutions and establish trade relationships with key industry sectors such as healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, and educational services.

At a glance, our Trade Mission will feature a Diplomatic Day, a Cultural Day in Addis Ababa and one day in Lalibela, and a Business Industries Day focusing on Roundtables with local chambers and business stakeholders.

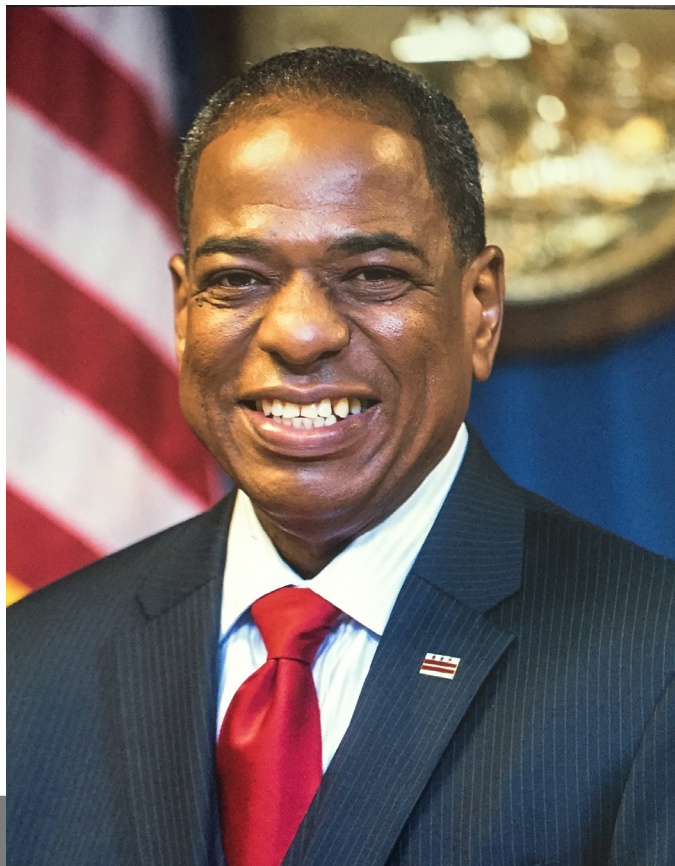
Thank you to all who were involved in the planning and advance visit to Ethiopia to make this a successful venture including John Falcicchio, Chief of Staff for Mayor Bowser; Karima Woods, DMPED, Director of Business Development and Strategy; Andres Hayes, DMPED, International Business Manager; Margaret Singleton, DC Chamber Vice President; and Erika Wadlington, DC Chamber Director of Public Policy; and supporting Staffs.

The DC Chamber of Commerce looks forward to an official relationship with AmCham of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce.

Finally, our sixty plus person Delegation is diverse, talented, professional, resourceful and are great Ambassadors for the District of Columbia. Thank you so much for your presence and support.



VINCENT BERNARD ORANGE SR
President and Chief Executive Officer



2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia

MONDAY, JUNE 24

8:30 AM EST

Delegation Checks-In at Ethiopian Airlines Counter at Dulles International Airport
Flight ET 501 Dulles to Addis Ababa (Direct) 13.15hrs flight

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 (CULTURAL DAY - ADDIS ABABA)

7:15AM (Local time)

Arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport
Delegation to be greeted at the airport
Depart to the Hotel for Check-In (Sheraton Hotel)
Tour of Addis Ababa, Tour of the National Palace, Cultural Events

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 (CULTURAL DAY - LALIBELA)

Breakfast at Hotel
Mayor Bowser and the delegation will depart to Lalibela

- o Flight ETDC51 Addis Ababa to Lalibela (Ethiopian Airlines chartered flight)

 Visit Digital Library
 Visit 3 underground cathedrals
 Lunch at Ben Abeba Restaurant
 Depart to Addis Ababa via Lalibela Airport
 Private Dinner hosted by Henok Tesfaye

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (DIPLOMATIC DAY)

Breakfast at Hotel
 Business Networking with members of AMCHAM Ethiopia at Sheraton Hotel
 Cocktail Reception hosted by the US Ambassador
 Renew sister city agreement at Sheraton Hotel
 VIP Dinner at Sheraton Hotel

- o MOU signing between Carlos Rosario and CTTI

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTHCARE DAY)

Breakfast at Hotel
 Meeting with the Office of the Ministry of Transportation and Traffic Management
 Business Networking with Ethiopia Chamber of Commerce/MOFA and Addis Ababa Municipality

2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTHCARE DAY) - CONTINUED

Lunch at Castelli Restaurant

Visit Local Market

Delegation Farewell Reception at Diamond Hotel

Hotel Check Out

Depart to Addis Ababa Bole International Airport for return to Washington, DC

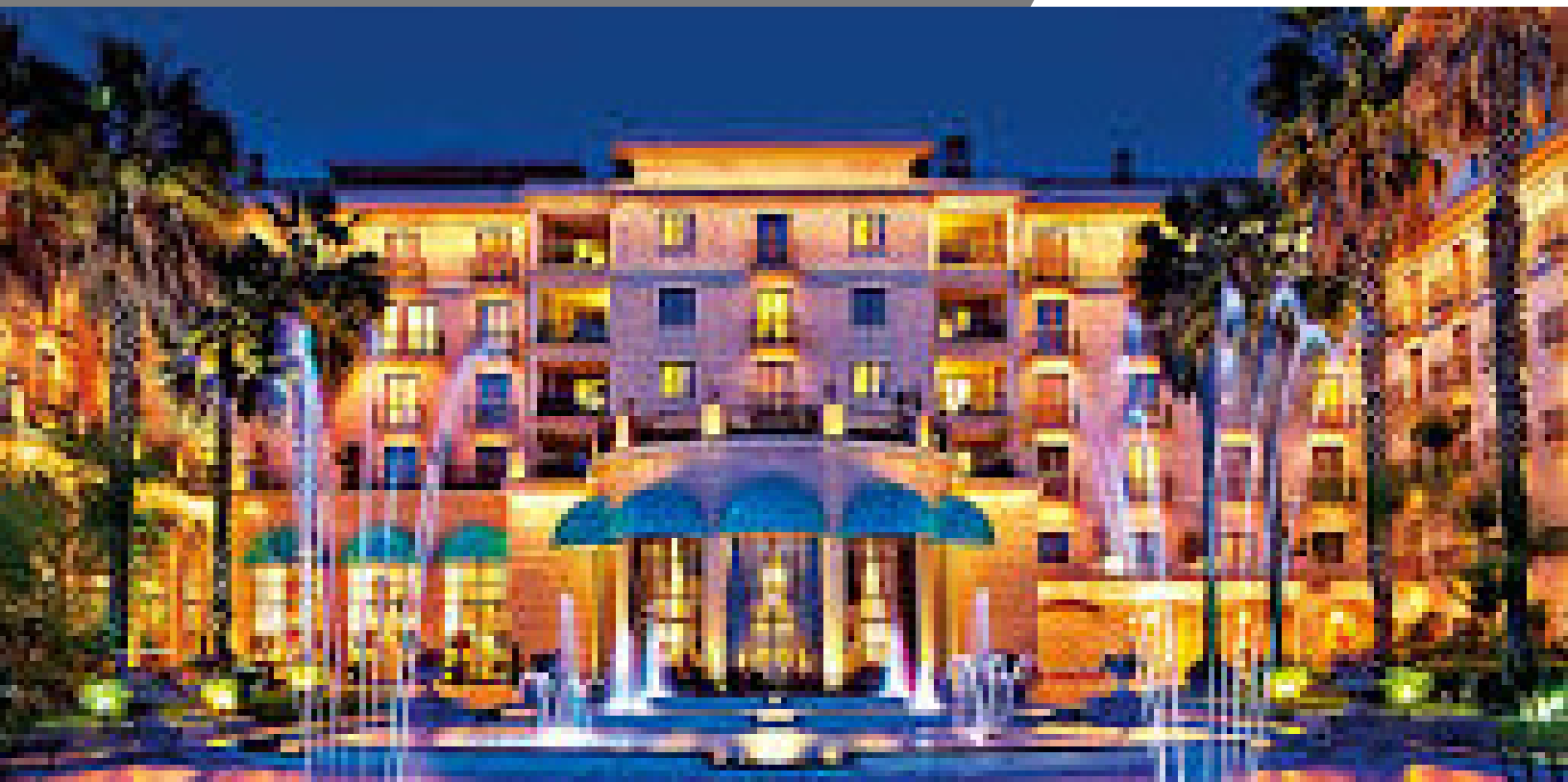
Airport Check-In

Flight ET500 Addis Ababa to Dulles 17:25hrs flight (stops in Dublin for 1 hr)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:15 AM (EST)

Arrival of Flight ET500 at Dulles Airport



DC Chamber of Commerce

DELIVERING THE CAPITAL



WHY DC CHAMBER?

The District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce is the “Voice of Business” in the nation’s capital, Washington, D.C. The DC chamber advocates, connects and educates while delivering the capital.

ADVOCATE

The DC Chamber’s advocacy has resulted in lowering the corporate franchise tax from 9.75% to 8.25%; increasing the DC Estate Tax Exemption from \$2 million to \$5 million; a DC Government commitment to pay-off the bonds on Nationals’ Stadium ten years early; and getting rid of a \$600 million Carbon Emission Tax. The DC Chamber of Commerce is currently advocating for the reduction in taxes and addressing other legislative initiatives.

CONNECT

The DC Chamber connects members to policy makers, businesses and communities through initiatives like the State of the District & Region Conference; Small Business & Economic Development Summit; Forums on Technology, Cyber Security, Hospitality, Health, Smart Cities & Technology, Workforce Development; Morning Fix with Government Leaders, Business Networking Receptions and so much more.

EDUCATE

The DC Chamber educates through its publications such as the 2018 State of the Business Report: Towards A More Inclusive Economy; 2017 State of the Business Report: Twenty Years of Change Since the Revitalization Act; External Report of Growth and Retention Strategies for Small of Medium-Sized Businesses in the District of Columbia; and the International Business Guide in five languages: English, Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic & French.

The DC Chamber also operates the Employer Advocacy Program where free legal representation is offered to DC-based employers before the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The DC Chamber also offers weekly consulting meetings with the DC Small Business Development Center (*DC SBDC*), a small business counseling program that is grant funded through a collaboration of Howard University and the US Small Business Administration. DC SBDC provides assistance with government contracting including certification prep (Federal, State, and local) and strategy development.

In addition, quarterly Lunch and Learns are presented by Chamber members on a wide-array of business services topics.

Become a member of the
DC Chamber of Commerce

The DC Chamber is here for you!

Visit us at dcchamber.org or contact
Membership Services at membership@dcchamber.org

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janice Adams, JMA Solutions, 1st Vice Chair
Rosie Allen-Herring, United Way of the National Capital Area
Bill Alsop, Hines
Robin Anderson, Giant Food
Joe Andronaco, Access Green
Joseph Askew, Verizon
Claude E. Bailey, Venable
Emmanuel Bailey, Intralot/DCO9
Dana Barnes, Microsoft Corp
Marc Battle, Pepco
Winell Belfonte, CohnReznick
Robert C. Bobb, Robert Bobb Group
Kristina Bouweiri, Reston Limousine
Lisa Brown Alexander, Nonprofit HR
Ryan Chaffo, City National Bank
Colette Chichester, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
Lisa Cohen, Too Fierce, LLC
Karen Dale, AmeriHealth Caritas DC
Carl Hairston, City First Bank
LaTara Harris, AT&T
Earle C. Horton, Tiber Hudson LLC, General Counsel
Carolyn E. Howell, Events USA, Secretary
Mark Jackson, Goulston & Storrs
Marie C. Johns, Parker Poe & PPC Leftwich, Immediate Past Chair
Michael Keatley, MC Dean
Neil Kerwin, Ph.D, American University
J. Scott Kilbourn, Perkins Eastman
Tonya Vidal Kinlow, Children’s National Hospital
Troy LeMaile-Stovall, The University of the District of Columbia
H.H. Leonards, Mansion on O Street
Ajay Madan, OST, Chairperson
James Martinko, CohnReznick, Treasurer
Renee McPhatter, George Washington University
Heather Ness, KPMG
John O’Brien, Washington Gas
Henry Osborne, Anchor Construction
James Page, Page After Page
Necole Parker, Elocen Group
Donna Rattley Washington, Comcast
John B. Richardson, EagleBank
Rynthia Rost, Geico
Carolyn Rudd, Ed.D, CRP Inc., Chair-Elect
Calvin Smith, Bridgepoint Healthcare
David A. Smith, PNC Financial Services Group
Benjamin M. Soto, Premium Title & Escrow LLC
Andrew Surine, M & T Bank, 2nd Vice Chair
George Tawiah, Bank of America
Maria Tildon, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
Joseph L. Torraca, RCN
John Tucker, TD Bank

DC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

Vincent B. Orange, Sr. | *President and Chief Executive Officer*
Margaret Singleton | *Vice President of Contracts & Programs*
Janelle Morris | *Vice President of Membership & Business Development*
Natalie Harris | *Director of Operations*
April Miller | *Executive Assistant to the President & CEO*
Lucky Ames | *Information Systems Administrator*
Jannie Orange | *Office & Tourism Coordinator*
Linda Currie | *Business Outreach Coordinator*
Beatrice Pedroncelli | *Intern*
Erika Wadlington | *Director of Public Policy & Programs*
Brittany Osazuwa | *Membership Sales Coordinator*
Traci Baker Jackson
Julian Ragland
Junior Cox | *Controller*
Josephine Spurlock | *Accountant*
Ryan L. Jones, Esq. | *Employer Advocacy Program Attorney*

2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia Delegates November 8 - 13, 2019

Yimaj Kalifa Abdulkadir | *CEO*
Capitol View General Construction Inc

Gizachew Andargreh |
Transportation Planner
DC Department of Transportation

Phillippos Artin, CCM, PMP |
Associate Vice President
AECOM

George Banks | *Chairman & CEO*
Sentry Security

Lafayette Barnes | *President & CEO*
Zulu Global Enterprises LLC

Cora Masters Barry |
Chief Executive Officer
Recreation Wish List

Kimberly Bassett |
Secretary of the District of Columbia
Government of the District
of Columbia

Tsega Bekele |
Deputy Chief of Staff
DC Department of Housing
and Community Development

Muriel Bowser | *Mayor*
Government of the District
of Columbia

Angelique Brunner | *President & CEO*
EB5 Capital

Priscilla Clarke | *President & CEO*
Clarke & Associates

Alelign Dessie
Carlos Rosario International Public
Charter School

Hammere Gebreyes | *Vice-Chair*
The Society of Ethiopians Establishes
in Diaspora

Kedist Geremaw |
Clinical Program Manager
CNMC

Dawitt Gizaw |
Ethiopian Community Services and
Development Council Inc.

Linda Mercado Greene |
President & CEO
The Linda Greene Group

Corey Arnez Griffin | *President & CEO*
Global Government and Industry

Alvin Gross | *President*
Alvin Gross Group

Andres Hayes |
International Business Manager
Office of the Deputy Mayor for
Planning & Economic Development

Sarah Humphrey | *President & CEO*
Cap City Realty, Inc.

Aly Badara Kaba | *Director*
DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs

Tom Kadida | *Principal*
Kadida Development Group

Solomon Kassa | *Influencer*

Tonya Kinlow | *Vice President*
Community Engagement, Advocacy
& Government Affairs

Allison Kokkoros | *President & CEO*
Carlos Rosario International Public
Charter School

Kenyan McDuffie |
Ward 5 Councilmember
Council of the District of Columbia

Asefa Mekonnen | *Physician/Partner*
Council of the District of Columbia

Mele Melton | *President*
Culturified

Worku Mengesha |
Information Technology Specialist
Office of the Chief Technology
Officer

Yonas Menji | *Senior Project
Manager*
MCN Build

Genet Sida Mersha |
President & CEO
G Sida General Services LLC

Huda Mumim | *Chef & President*
Chef Huda's Kithcen

Jannie Orange |
Office & Tourism Coordinator
DC Chamber of Commerce

Vincent Orange |
President & CEO
DC Chamber of Commerce

Nigel Parkinson | *President*
Parkinson Construction Company of
Washington, DC

Vivianne Pommier | *President*
West End Travel

Rudolf Seikaly | *CEO*
MCN Build

2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia Delegates November 8 - 13, 2019

Degfae Setegn | *President and
Chairman of the Board*
United Ventures Consortium (UVC)

Nadia Shash | *CEO*
Polycon Solutions

Yodit Shibru | *Center Director*
Anacostia Economic Development
Corporation

Margaret Singleton | *VP, Contracts &
Programs*
DC Chamber of Commerce

Weymouth Spence, Ed. D. | *RT President*
Washington Adventist University

Casey Stringer | *Managing Member*
Broughton Construction Company

Mulueshet (Jay) Sugebo | *CEO*
Adila's Tech LLC

Yohannes Zewge Tafesse |
Senior Business Manger
Savvy USA
Kassahun Tefera | *CEO*
Metro Lab DC

Eva Telemaque | *Founder & President*
Transformative Solutions, Inc.

Henok Tesfaye | *CEO*
U Street Parking

Ben Tesfaye | *Partner*
U Street Parking

Sima Tessema | *Managing Partner*
Square and Lot

Brandon Todd |
Ward 4 Councilmember
Council of the District of Columbia

Mama Tutu (Yeshimebeth Belay) |
Owner
Ethiopian Yellow Pages

Erika Wadlington |
Director of Public Policy & Programs
DC Chamber of Commerce

Chanda Washington |
Director of Communications
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning
& Economic Development

Alemtsehay Wedajo |
Founder and Managing Partner
Tayitu Cultural and Educational Center
Annie Whatley |
Asst. VP of External Affairs
University of the District of Columbia

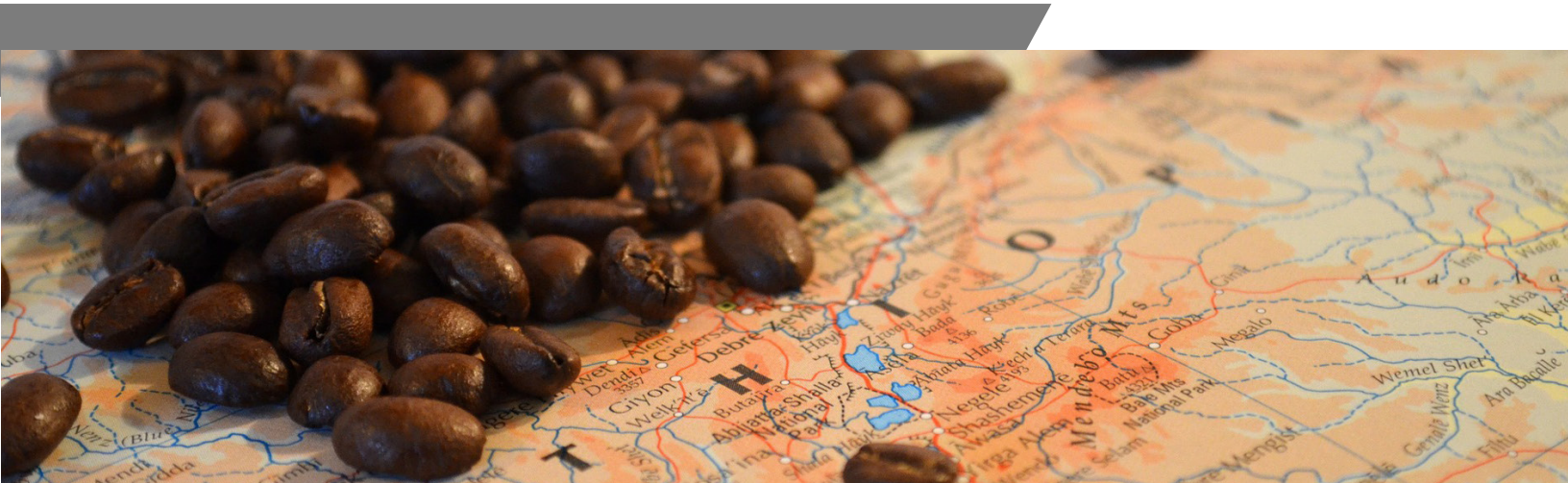
C. Brian Williams | *Founder*
Step Afrika!

D. Simmone Williams |
Founder
Williams Global Law, PLLC

Bereket Woldu |
Executive Vice President
The Forge Company

Karima Woods | *Director of Business
Development & Strategy*
Office of the Deputy Mayor for
Planning & Economic Development

Elias Zewde | *Managing Director*
KHAFA Global Services



2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia

YIMAJ KALIFA ABDULKADIR

CEO

Capitol View General Construction Inc.

Yimaj Kalifa AKA Steve is Operations Manager /owner of Capitol View General Construction Inc dba Mitchell Heating & Cooling (that provides HVAC, plumbing and electrical services). Mr. Kalifa received his degree from Northrop University in Business and Finance, and a degree from American University in Engineering.

As the Operation Manager of Capitol View General Construction Inc dba Mitchell Heating and cooling Mr. Kalifa has taken a hands-on approach to ensure quality service. He regularly oversees all bulk purchase of tools and equipment; schedule and verify upcoming projects. Mr. Yimaj's work in the building industry did not begin as a general contractor.

In 2016 Mr. Kalifa took on the role of CEO for Mitchell Heating & Cooling when he purchased a well establish company in Colorado under Capitol View General Construction Inc.—since then, Mr. Kalifa has been in charge of the day-to-day operations toward building the brand's presence in DMV area, which entails ensuring that standards and sales targets are being met on a quarterly basis.



GIZACHEW ANDARGEH

Transportation Planner

DC Department of Transportation

Gizachew Andargeh currently works in the Office of the Director at the District Department of Transportation providing recommendations on policy that increase transportation efficiency and create safe public spaces. His portfolio includes various policy and regulatory issues including micro mobility (e.g. shared bikes/scooters), congestion pricing, and curbside management.

Previously, Gizachew served as the International Business Manager at the DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. He was responsible for attracting foreign direct investment to city real estate and infrastructure projects while promoting Washington, DC to foreign businesses preparing to expand into the United States. Gizachew coordinated and planned Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral trade missions to foreign countries including Canada, China, India, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. Gizachew contributed to increasing the foreign investment portfolio in public projects by over \$200 million.

Prior to leading this portfolio with the Office of the Deputy Mayor, Gizachew was the principal architect of DC's first export promotion program as the Export Manager. He was responsible for advising new-to-export businesses as well as veteran exporters on new foreign markets and sales opportunities in multiple markets including Mexico, Canada, Kenya, and South Africa. In this role, he assisted the sale of nearly \$1 million dollars' worth of DC products and services, a milestone for the program.



PHILLIPOS ARTIN, CCM, PMP

Associate Vice President
AECOM

Philipos Artin has 36 years of experience in the Construction Industry most of his work being in Washington, DC. Philip was part of the Program Management team that built the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the Nationals Baseball Stadium and also was a Program Lead for DC Public Schools facilities modernization and renovation; a major initiative taken by the City. Philip currently works for AECOM, one of the leading infrastructure design and construction firm in the World as an Associate Vice President. His responsibilities include managing the Capital Program for DC Courts facilities, business development and mentoring young professionals.

Philip is a member of several professional associations such as CMAA (Construction Management Association of America), PMI (Project Management Institute), ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers). Philip holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Howard University and Information Systems Management degree from George Washington University.

Philip was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia but lived in the USA for the last 40 years. He is excited to be back to his place of birth with this mission.



GEORGE BANKS

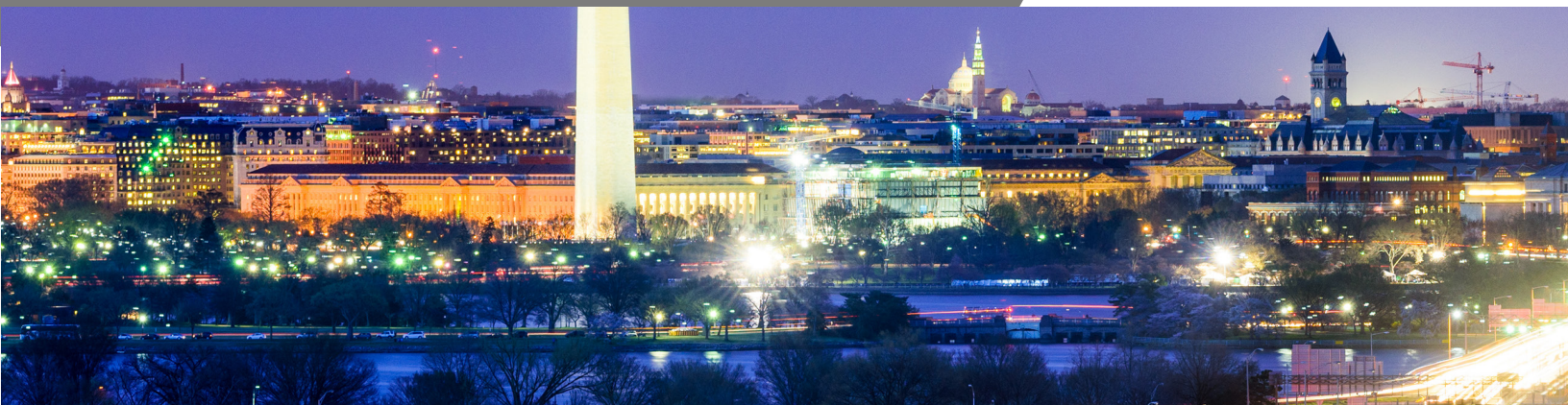
Chairman & CEO

Sentry Security

As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Sentry Security Inc. (SSI), George S. Banks presides over Sentry Security and its respective divisions. Under his leadership, SSI has grown tremendously since its establishment in 1999. SSI has acquired numerous US Government contract as well as contracts with the District of Columbia government. Aside from government contracts, SSI receives a multiplicity of contracts from private entities. SSI provided security alongside with secret service for the Chinese President in 2016 and for every presidential inauguration since 2001.

Banks began his career in 1981 as a news reporter for the Liberian News Agency in Monrovia, Liberia. In 1985, Banks joined the legislative branch of the Liberian Government as the Chief of Staff for Senator Archibald Bernard. After serving in a leadership role in the Liberian government, Banks migrated to the United States to pursue a degree in Justice Studies and Political Science at Rhode Island College in Providence, RI. Banks began his security career with Guardsmark in 1990. After holding management positions within the security company, Banks continued to soar gracefully in the security and criminal justice field for over 29 years. Banks continued his career serving as a Security Officer, Security Supervisor, Assistant Security Manager, Private Investigator and now the owner of a thriving international security company.

Banks' journey to success, wisdom and expertise he acquired along the way could not have been fulfilled without the grace of God and with the support from his employees. On his pathway to success he learned the unparalleled importance of a tireless work ethic and perseverance.



LAFAYETTE BARNES

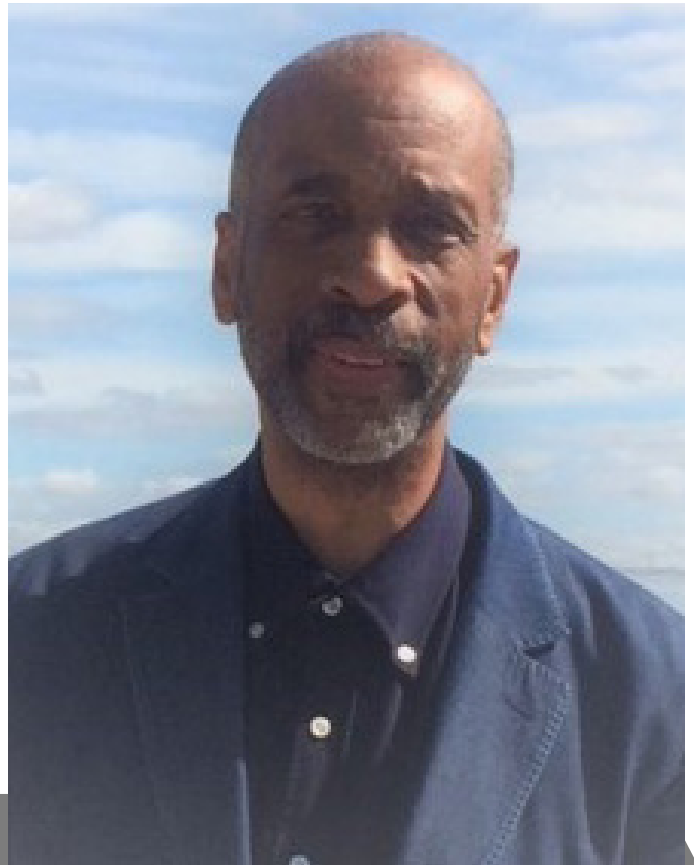
Chairman & CEO

Zulu Global Enterprises LLC

Lafayette Barnes has over 25 years of experience working collaboratively with U.S. and global business, non-profit (NGO), and public-sector decision makers and senior executives from diverse cultural backgrounds and successfully establishing and sustaining mutually beneficial partnerships.

Lafayette is the founder of Zulu Global Enterprise, LLC (ZGE), a professional services corporation, based in Washington, D.C. ZGE builds long-term business partnerships that are based on trust, high ethical standards, integrity, timely market intelligence, and superior client responsiveness. Its core services are global B2B match making, organizational capacity building, and accessing capital and grant resources. Under his leadership as President and CEO, ZGE has established clients in Colombia, South Korea, and prior to establishing ZGE, Lafayette directed the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services in the Executive Office of Mayors Muriel Bowser, Vincent Gray, Adrian Fenty, and Anthony Williams. He was a Cabinet Member for all four District of Columbia Mayors, and a Mayoral Appointed Commissioner on the Commission for African Affairs by three of the four Mayors. During his tenure with the government, Lafayette facilitated the signing ceremonies for the District's Sister City Agreement with the City of Tshwane (Pretoria) in South Africa and renewal of its Sister City Agreement with the City of Dakar in Senegal, West Africa. He has briefed members of the White House sponsored Mandela Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI), and nonprofit leaders in the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Lafayette is a graduate of LaSalle University where he earned his Bachelors of Arts in Political Science. He is also a contributing writer on African Affairs for the Washington



CORA MASTERS BARRY

Chief Executive Officer

Recreation Wish List

Civic leader Cora Masters Barry, Chief Executive Officer of the Recreation Wish List Committee, former University of the District of Columbia political science professor and former First Lady of the city of Washington, D.C. She attended California State and Texas Southern universities and obtained a Master's degree from Howard University.

Masters Barry began her career with community projects in Anacostia and in Shaw, where she worked as a counselor for teenage girls with Operation Sisters United. She met Marion Barry in 1971 at a political function and in 1976 she began teaching at the University of the District of Columbia. During Barry's bids for city council, and again in 1978, during his successful bid for mayor, Masters Barry campaigned for Marion Barry.

Masters Barry and Marion Barry were married in 1994 and together they launched his mayoral comeback. Barry was re-elected in 1994 and served until 1998.

After her service as Washington D.C.'s First Lady, Masters Barry started the nonprofit foundation, the Recreation Wish List, serving as its Chief Executive Officer. The organization built the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center where urban youth in Washington, D.C. learn about tennis.



KIMBERLY BASSETT

Secretary of the District of Columbia

Government of the District of Columbia

Kimberly A. Bassett was appointed to serve as the Secretary of the District of Columbia by Mayor Muriel Bowser on December 11, 2018. In her role as the Secretary, she is the custodian of the Seal of the District of Columbia and manages the City's ceremonial services; government document publishing and issuances; notary commissions and authentications; international and diplomatic activities; and public records and archive maintenance.

Ms. Bassett was the former Director of the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives (MOWPI) during Mayor Muriel Bowser's first term. In this role, she served as the Bowser Administration's chief advocate representing the needs and interests of women in Washington, DC. Ms. Bassett advised Mayor Bowser on political positions and initiatives while also serving as her traveling Chief of Staff. Under Ms. Bassett's leadership, MOWPI coordinated workshops programs and large-scale events to address issues including equal pay, healthcare access, public safety, and domestic violence. She oversaw the launch of the Work Smart Salary Negotiation Program in partnership with the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She also launched Mayor Bowser's first women's leadership conference on civic engagement.

Prior to joining the District Government, Ms. Bassett was the former Executive Director of The Wireless Foundation, the philanthropic affiliate of CTIA-The Wireless Association. In this role, she was responsible for the Foundation's charitable programs that enhance America's communities through wireless technology.

Ms. Bassett joined The Wireless Foundation after having served as Director of External Affairs for Verizon Washington, DC, where she was responsible for community engagement, government relations, employee advocacy and management of the Verizon Foundation. Prior to Verizon, she was the Director of Programs for DC Vote, an educational and advocacy organization dedicated to securing full voting representation in Congress for the residents of the District of Columbia. She worked as the Director of Programs and Partnerships for The Stephen Case Foundation (AOL), an initiative to bridge the digital divide in underserved communities. She also served as a presidential appointee in the Clinton Administration under U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley.

Ms. Bassett holds a Bachelor of Arts from North Carolina Central University and a Master of Arts from North Carolina A&T State University.



TSEGA BEKELE

Deputy Chief of Staff

Department of Housing and Community Development FOR THE Government of the District of Columbia

Tsegazeab (“Tsega”) Bekele currently serves as the Chief of Staff at the Department of Housing and Community Development, the District’s primary agency focused on the production and preservation of affordable housing, the creation of homeownership opportunities, and the revitalization of neighborhoods through community development and economic opportunity. Mr. Bekele’s duties include the stewardship of the District’s Housing Production Trust Fund (\$100M+ fund providing gap subsidy for the production and preservation of affordable housing), efforts to reclaim and transform vacant and blighted property, and the Inclusionary Zoning program. Previously, Mr. Bekele served as legislative counsel to the Council of the District of Columbia’s Committee on Economic Development and, more recently, he served as a special assistant in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development where he led city-driven, mixed-use real estate projects.



MURIEL BOWSER

Mayor

Government of the District of Columbia

As Mayor of her hometown, Muriel Bowser is committed to building pathways to the middle class and making sure every Washingtonian gets a fair shot. Washington, DC is a growing and prospering city—now 700,000 residents strong. To keep up with this growth, the Bowser Administration remains focused on making DC's prosperity more inclusive, advancing DC values, and building safer, stronger, and healthier neighborhoods across all eight wards of the District.

On November 6, 2018, Muriel Bowser became the first woman ever re-elected as the Mayor of Washington, DC and the first mayor to earn a second term in 16 years.

During her first term, Mayor Bowser took bold steps to expand employment opportunities, build a health care system that meets the needs of residents, drive down homelessness, and invest in programs and policies that set more families up for success. Today, Washington, DC is a diverse and inclusive city, a leader in tech and innovation, and a place where residents and entrepreneurs of all backgrounds can thrive.

Because of the Mayor's commitment to leveling the playing field, today, Washington, DC has:
the DC Infrastructure Academy to train DC residents for high-paying DC jobs;

a plan to build a new acute care community hospital and health services complex on the St. Elizabeth's East campus; the Safer Stronger DC Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, which is taking a public health approach to violence prevention; the Immigrant Justice Legal Services grant program to ensure that immigrants in the District know their rights and have access to legal supports during a tumultuous political climate; the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity which has helped bring the unemployment rates in Wards 7 and 8 to historic lows; and the Office of Federal and Regional Affairs, which allows the voices of District residents to be heard on federal issues as the fight for statehood continues.

First sworn in on January 2, 2015, Mayor Bowser pledged to bring a fresh start to the District of Columbia and foster a culture of inclusion, transparency, and action. Prior to her time as Mayor, Bowser served as the Ward 4 Councilmember on the Council of the District of Columbia – first elected in a special election in 2007, and re-elected in 2008 and 2012. As a Councilmember, Bowser served as the Chairwoman of the Committee on Economic Development which created more than 5,000 units of affordable housing, passed legislation to build a new soccer stadium and secured from the federal government the best portion of the Walter Reed campus for DC. Bowser led her colleagues to pass comprehensive ethics reform and increased transparency in government contracting.

Bowser, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Chatham University and a Master's degree in Public Policy from American University, entered public service as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in the Riggs Park neighborhood.



ANGELIQUE BRUNNER

President & CEO

EB5 Capital

Angelique “Angel” Brunner is the Founder and CEO of EB5 Capital, an \$800 million EB-5 investment fund. She provides strategic direction to the company providing oversight of its investments, marketing, and legal departments.

Ms. Brunner is a highly respected EB-5 investment fund manager, and an enthusiastic advocate for innovative financing solutions and urban development.

In 2017, at the request of the United States Senate, Angel submitted official congressional testimony in support of the EB-5 Program. She currently serves as a board member for a public REIT, the Chesapeake Lodging Trust. She and her work have been featured prominently in major publications like The Washington Post, Forbes, and Fast Company.

Angel is also a passionate community advocate. She’s an active member of the Urban Land Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Real Estate Executive Council. She serves as the Industry and Membership Chair and Spokesperson for the EB-5 Investment Coalition and recently joined as a Founding Member of the Silicon Valley Blockchain Society.

Ms. Brunner holds a BA in Public Policy from Brown University as well as an MPA and Certificate in Urban Planning from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School where she studied under Ben Bernanke, former chairman of the Federal Reserve.



PRISCILLA CLARKE

President & CEO

Clarke & Associates

Priscilla Clarke has built a reputation as one of the most sought-after public relations strategists for media campaigns, advising some of the most influential figures in government, philanthropy, and entertainment. Nationally recognized for brand building, celebrity engagement, strategic alliances and crisis communications. Clarke is President/CEO of Clarke & Associates, LLC, where she leads a seasoned team of some of the most respected publicists in the industry. With a 20-year track record of executing high profile campaigns and an extensive media network, she has an impeccable work ethic. Clarke has achieved her vision to operate a full-service public relations firm where she continues to oversee all aspects of the agency’s practice areas and serves on various boards and is an active member in various professional associations.



ALELIGN DESSIE

Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School

Alelign Dessie has worked at Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School in Washington, DC as an employment specialist since 2013. In this role, he partners with employers in the community and other professionals to maximize employment opportunities for students, provides case management and career guidance to students based on their needs and goal plans, and facilitates job readiness workshops.

Prior to joining Carlos Rosario School, Alelign worked with Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services as an employment specialist. He managed a caseload of recently arrived immigrants searching for employment and coordinated a broad range of services including administering assessments, conducting educational and career advising, identifying barriers to employee retention, and creating tailored plans to ensure progress and success.

Alelign graduated from Addis Ababa University with a B.A in Sociology and Social Administration. He is a Certified Workforce Development Professional, obtained from the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (USA). In addition, Alelign is also a Certified Work Place Excellence Facilitator with many years of experience.



JOHN FALCICCHINO

Chief of Staff

Executive Office of the Mayor

John Falcicchio serves as Chief of Staff to Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and was recently appointed as the Interim Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. John has served as the Mayor's Chief of Staff since the start of her Administration after volunteering as a campaign advisor and director of Mayor-elect Bowser's transition. He previously served as a Senior Vice President of DKC, a New York based public relations firm; as a Regional Political Director for the Democratic National Committee during the re-election of President Obama; and as a long-time aide to former Mayor Adrian Fenty. He also worked as a field organizer for Howard Dean's presidential campaign and finance director/Get Out the Vote coordinator for Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson's first mayoral run. John is a graduate of the Catholic University of America



HAMMERE GEBREYES

Vice-Chair

The Society of Ethiopians Establishes in Diaspora

Hammere Gebreyes is an experienced leader with over 20 years of experience directing project implementation, resource mobilization, stakeholder engagement, and budgeting within mission-driven organizations.

Currently serving as Director of Government Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement for the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA), one of the largest affordable housing providers in the District of Columbia. First joining the agency in 2009 as Manager of the Local Rent Supplement Program, Ms. Gebreyes launched a capital grant program, releasing millions to projects creating or preserving deeply affordable housing and was instrumental in stabilizing and growing this newly created housing assistance program. She has also served in other roles, including as Special Assistant to the Executive Director and Chief of Staff. Prior to her tenure at DCHA, she has served in human services, community development, and international trade.

Ms. Gebreyes also devotes her time to a variety of organizations that support and nurture academic pursuits, professional excellence and community service. Ms. Gebreyes is Vice Chairman of The Society of Ethiopians Established in Diaspora (SEED), a 26-year-old non-profit organization serving the Ethiopian Diaspora community through community empowerment activities, scholarships to youth and promotion of community service and excellence. Since joining the Board in 2016, she is working to further strengthen the organization's impact in the Ethiopian American Diaspora in the areas of academic excellence, professional development, and community service.

As a member of the Washington, DC chapter of the Tesfa Ineste ("Let's Give Hope") Initiative with The Fistula Foundation, Ms. Gebreyes and a team of professional women led fundraising efforts to help build a new fistula hospital in Harrar, Ethiopia. Fundraising efforts of the District metro area was responsible for two-thirds of all diaspora funds raised for construction of this hospital.

A native of Ethiopia, Gebreyes spent her childhood in Europe and the US. She has a BA in Psychology from Boston University. She lives with her husband and two energetic boys in the Washington DC metro area.



KEDIST GEREMAW

Clinical Program Manager CNMC

Kedist Geremaw is a Clinical program Manager at Children's Medical Center who resides in the greater Washington, DC area. She has worked as an educator, a television reporter, a mentor, a campaign organizer, and a volunteer with organizations in the DC area and overseas. Kedist is particularly committed to addressing issues facing women and children and creating awareness and empowerment for people with disabilities. Kedist holds a BSc. in Biology from Oklahoma City University, an MS in Health Administration from Central Michigan University, and a 2nd masters in Education Specialist degree from The George Washington University, Kedist is currently a doctoral Candidate in Disability Studies at the GWU.

Kedist has served two consecutive terms as a commissioner for the Mayor's office on African Affairs, and is currently serving as a commissioner at the Mayor's Rehabilitation Council.



DAWITT GIZAW

Ethiopian Community Service and Development Council Inc.

Dawit Gizaw was born and raised in the heart of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He joined Puna University in India and completed his first degree in Computer Science. After he moved to the United States in 1997, He joined Strayer University and graduated with Business Education.

Dawit Gizaw has always been an active member of the community who always dream of organizing the immigrant community to have a better position economically and socially. He has worked for a community based non-governmental organization where he had seen the gap and came up with the idea of organizing a corporation to work with the community.

Dawit and his younger brother Daniel Belayneh with other community members established and registered under the DC government as a corporation in Aug 2002. Since its emancipation, Ethiopian community service later named Ethiopian community service and development council (ECSDC) has focused on the vulnerability of African immigrants to adverse living conditions characterized by high levels of unemployment, poverty, crime, risky reproductive behavior, poor health outcomes and homelessness. Mr. Dawit has always been a community advocate to achieve the mission of ECSDC to ensure the success and well-being of African immigrants.



LINDA MERCADO GREENE

President & CEO

The Linda Greene Group

Linda Mercado Greene is the Founder and CEO of The Linda Greene Group, a nationally and internationally renowned full-service public relations company located in Washington, DC established in 1989. Linda's diverse career spans from serving as a political advisor, strategist, and fundraising consultant to many members of the United States Congress, to planning national events, to representing and providing consultation to African Heads of State, including the late President Nelson Mandela, His Majesty Otumfou Osei Tutu II (Asanthane) and other delegations, the African Ambassadors Spouses Association, to being a senior executive of an institutional investment firm, to representing many acclaimed entertainment and sports figures. She has orchestrated many political victories in her home base of Washington, DC, planned and managed Mayoral Inaugural events, and proudly served as Chief of Staff to The Honorable Marion Barry. She has been appointed to serve a second three-year term on the Historic Preservation Review Board by Mayor Muriel Bowser.

Linda is also the Co-Founder, Board Chair, and CEO/Owner of Anacostia Organics, a minority woman-owned medical cannabis dispensary in the District of Columbia and the first to open in DC to serve the most undercapitalized demographic population in the city. She has gained national status in this new industry as Chair of the DC Medical Cannabis Trade Association and is on the Executive Team as Strategic Advisor of the Cannabis Trade Federation (CTF), and the Chair of the CTF Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force comprised of the top civil rights leaders and advocates in the US. She is the Host of a daily podcast, "Cannabis Conversations Podcast with Linda Mercado Greene", on DCRadio.gov, 96.3HD4, and SoundCloud. She is crisscrossing the country for speaking engagements and media interviews relative to the burgeoning cannabis industry.

Linda proudly served as the National Director of Fundraising for the Million Man March in 1995. A sampling of her numerous boards and memberships service include the Minority Cannabis Business Association, DC Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Greater Washington, Washington Performing Arts Society, and the National Cannabis Festival. She has been featured in Big Buds Magazine, Hemp Connoisseur, Cannabis Business Executive, the Washington Post, the Washington Informer, and the Washington Afro.

Linda attended Virginia Union University and Christopher Newport University. Amongst her many honors are MEA Magazines "50 Women of Influence and Power", a DC Council Recognition Resolution, and one of the top 100 people to watch by Hemp Connoisseur Magazine.



COREY ARNEZ GRIFFIN

President & CEO

Global Government and Industry

Griffin is the president and chief executive officer of Global Government and Industry Partners, LLC (2GIP) a professional services firm specializing in providing government affairs, business advisory, management consulting, and international development services founded in 2010. 2GIP works with both large and small firms with specific business interest in the District of Columbia, including Cisco Systems, a fortune 100 information technology firm. Other sectors include real estate development, energy, transportation, health, and non-profit. Griffin's work focuses on stakeholder engagement, business development, public-private partnerships, corporate social responsibility, and promoting public policy.

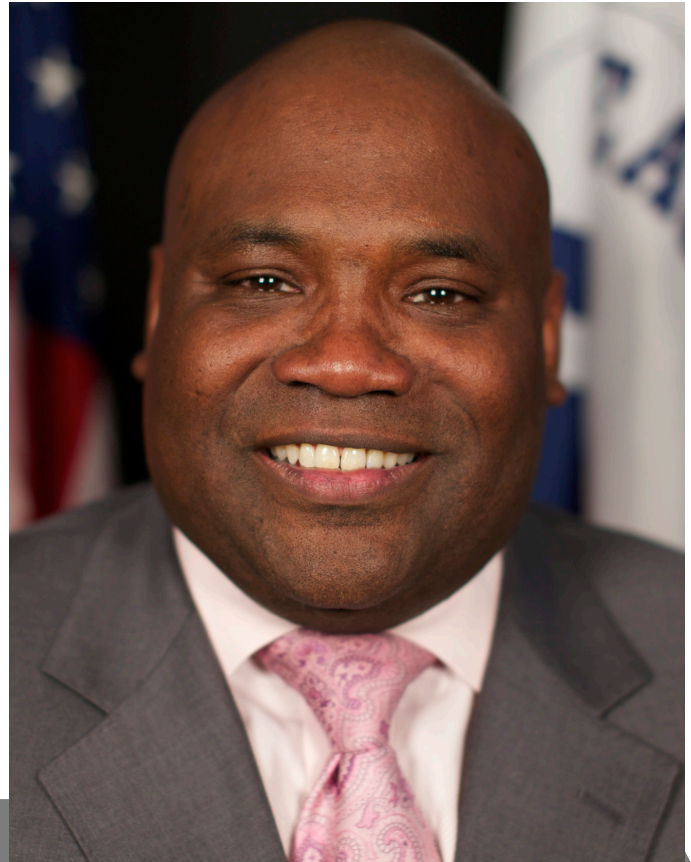
In 2012, Griffin was appointed by President Obama to serve in the position of Associate Director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships at the Peace Corps as a Senior Foreign Service Officer. Griffin led a team of practitioners responsible for the development and management of Peace Corps' partnerships with USAID, Rotary International, National Peace Corps Association, KOICA, Coca Cola, Google, Arizona State University, amongst many others.

Prior to his role at the Peace Corps, Griffin served as chief of staff to the chair pro tempore for the Council in the District of Columbia. In this role, he served as the Councilmember's chief political advisor and strategist on issues that included workforce and economic development, legislative and public policy and municipal administration.

Before his tenure in the public sector, Mr. Griffin spent nearly 2 decades in the private sector. He was Vice President for Business Development at Mainstream Government Services and more than 14 years at Microsoft Corporation working in various roles and leadership positions. As Director of International Development, Griffin was responsible for Microsoft's strategy for aid, trade and finance agencies. Griffin developed innovative public, private partnership models to drive Information, Communications, and Technology (ICT) solutions to developing countries. Griffin is noted for brokering a first-of-its-kind collaboration between Microsoft, USAID, PEPFAR and the MCC in 2007 that facilitated broader, cross-agency ICT partnerships around the world.

Griffin has served on the boards for many local and international organizations. He attended Morgan State University and has completed executive education course work at George Washington University, Harvard University, UCLA, and Cornell University.

Griffin is a Leadership Greater Washington graduate of the class of 2007 and a fellow with the American Council for Technology - Industry Advisory Council. He served as co-chair for the mayoral transition team for business innovation in 2010 and later co-founded DC Innovates, a non-profit structured to support technology inclusion. Griffin was also appointed by the mayor of the District of Columbia to serve on District of Columbia's Innovation and Technology Inclusion Council and the Saint Elizabeth East Advisory Board.



2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia

ALVIN GROSS

President

Alvin Gross Group

Alvin E. Gross, Jr. obtained a BS from Howard University in 1985 and an MBA from GW in Real Estate Development and Urban Planning in 1994. As a full time, independent real estate investor and developer with over 30 years of experience his Companies have acquired, renovated and developed over 250 properties in Washington DC for rental and for sale. Additionally, his companies have acquired and developed properties in Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Howard County and Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, and in Dade County, FL and Broward County, FL.



ANDRES HAYES

International Business Manager Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development

Has 25 years of experience in Banking and Hospitality most of them in the Credit Card Business where he worked for Visa International for 11 years, 7 years in Miami and 4 in London England. One of the youngest Regional Managers, he was selected to open the new Operations Center for Central Europe Middle East and Africa in 1994. After Visa International he managed two major Card Operations Centers in the Americas and Europe as Senior Vice President. He was the Restaurant Manager for B. Smith's in Washington DC for 4 years and the GM for The Mansion on O ST. for 2 years. He is fluent in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Mr. Hayes was the Principal and CEO of AH Consulting Firm, a Hospitality and Tourism Consulting Firm.

Hayes, is extremely active in the DC community where he served as a board member of the DC Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Advisory Board of Carlos Rosario International Charter School Culinary Program, Raised funds for the Greater Washington

Area Covenant House and is the immediate past President of Skål International Washington DC , an International organization of Tourism Professionals.

He is extremely passionate about the hospitality industry and always focused in providing the highest level of service.

SARAH HUMPHREY

President & CEO

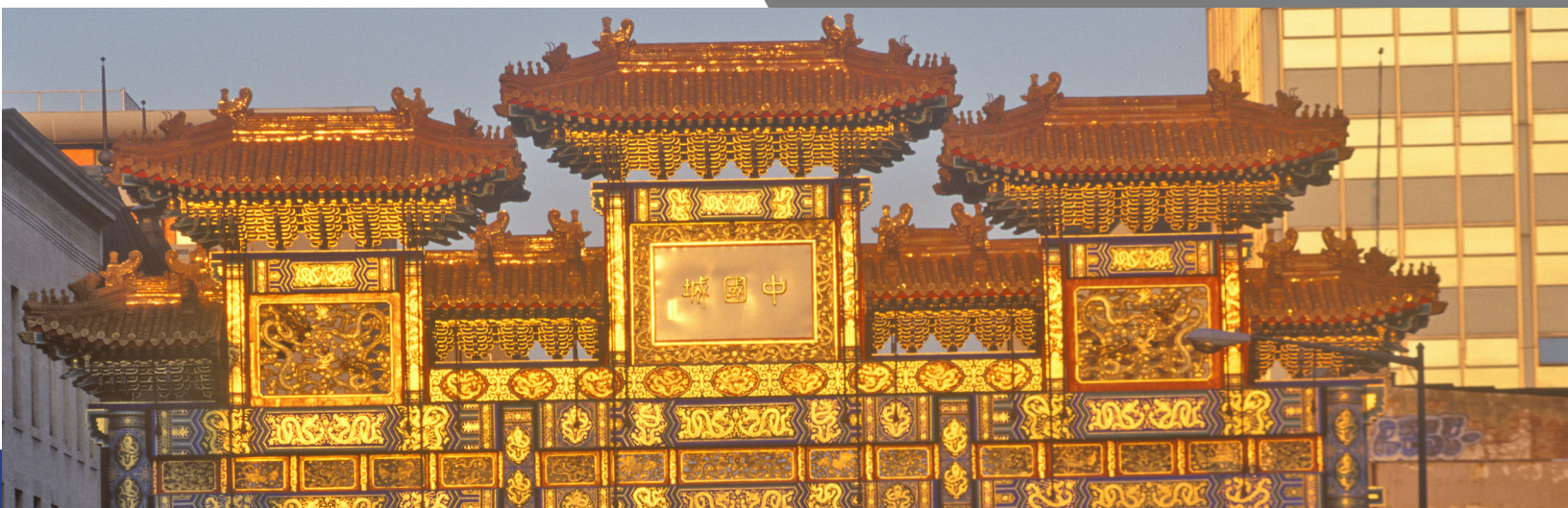
Cap City Realty, Inc.

Sarah J. Humphrey is a licensed attorney in the District of Columbia and specializes in real estate and mortgage counseling. Humphrey has over 17 years of experience and brings a unique combination of experience as a licensed attorney, real estate broker, and former mortgage originator. This unique combination of experience allows her to bring a deeper expertise to her clients and any deal.

She has a Masters of Law in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center. From September 2002 to May 2006, she served as a clerk for the Honorable Maurice B. Foley of the United States Tax Court. The clerkship offered her invaluable experience in various areas of tax law including taxation of real transactions. After completing her clerkship, she started practicing employee benefits law at the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, where she has worked for over 13 years.

During her clerkship with the United States Tax Court, she began her career in real estate, assisting families and individuals in meeting and/or exceeding their real estate goals. Her primary goal is to represent the best interests of her clients by getting to know their needs as well as the tax ramifications regarding their real estate purchases and/or sales.

Humphrey's extensive knowledge of the District of Columbia's real estate market is complemented by her thorough analysis and marketing skills involving relocation, lease negotiations, property management, market analysis, and property marketing. These qualities, along with a strong work ethic, have enabled her to become a respected presence within the market. She has been featured on the "Closer to the Nightlife" episode of HGTV's "Designed to Sell," which is a nationally syndicated real estate show that educates homeowners on the real estate market. She also hosts several professional development seminars for investors in the DC area.



ALY BADARA KABA

Director

DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs

Aly Kaba is the Director of the Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA), where has served in various capacities since 2015, first as the Language Access Program Coordinator, then as the Community Outreach and Relations Specialist, next as the Deputy Director for Grants and Operations, and most recently as the Interim Director.

Throughout his tenure at MOAA, Kaba has dedicated himself to ensuring the District's African immigrants have greater awareness of, access to, and civic engagement in DC government programs and services for economic and social development. An advocate for language access resources and services, he has led outreach efforts to African immigrants with limited English proficiency, which comprise 40% of the District's African residents. He works alongside community-based organizations, commissions, and government agencies to complement MOAA's efforts.

Prior to serving in DC government, he was the Director of Operations at Guinea-Edugrade, a non-governmental organization that promotes education in Guinea. He also previously worked as a Development Economist at the Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt in Liege, Belgium, where he conducted research on alternative models of financing the development of Africa and analyzed development implications of economic integration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Kaba holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Social Policy and a Master of Arts in International Economics and Globalization with a focus on International Development from the University Pierre Mendes. He is fluent in French, English, Pular, Sosso and Mandinka.



TOM KADIDA

Principal

Kadida Development Group

Aly Kaba is the Director of the Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA), where has served in various capacities since 2015, first as the Language Access Program Coordinator, then as the Community Outreach and Relations Specialist, next as the Deputy Director for Grants and Operations, and most recently as the Interim Director.

Throughout his tenure at MOAA, Kaba has dedicated himself to ensuring the District's African immigrants have greater awareness of, access to, and civic engagement in DC government programs and services for economic and social development. An advocate for language access resources and services, he has led outreach efforts to African immigrants with limited English proficiency, which comprise 40% of the District's African residents. He works alongside community-based organizations, commissions, and government agencies to complement MOAA's efforts.

Prior to serving in DC government, he was the Director of Operations at Guinea-Edugrade, a non-governmental organization that promotes education in Guinea. He also previously worked as a Development Economist at the Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt in Liege, Belgium, where he conducted research on alternative models of financing the development of Africa and analyzed development implications of economic integration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Kaba holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Social Policy and a Master of Arts in International Economics and Globalization with a focus on International Development from the University Pierre Mendes. He is fluent in French, English, Pular, Sosso and Mandinka.



2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia

SOLOMAN KASSA

Influencer

Kadida Development Group

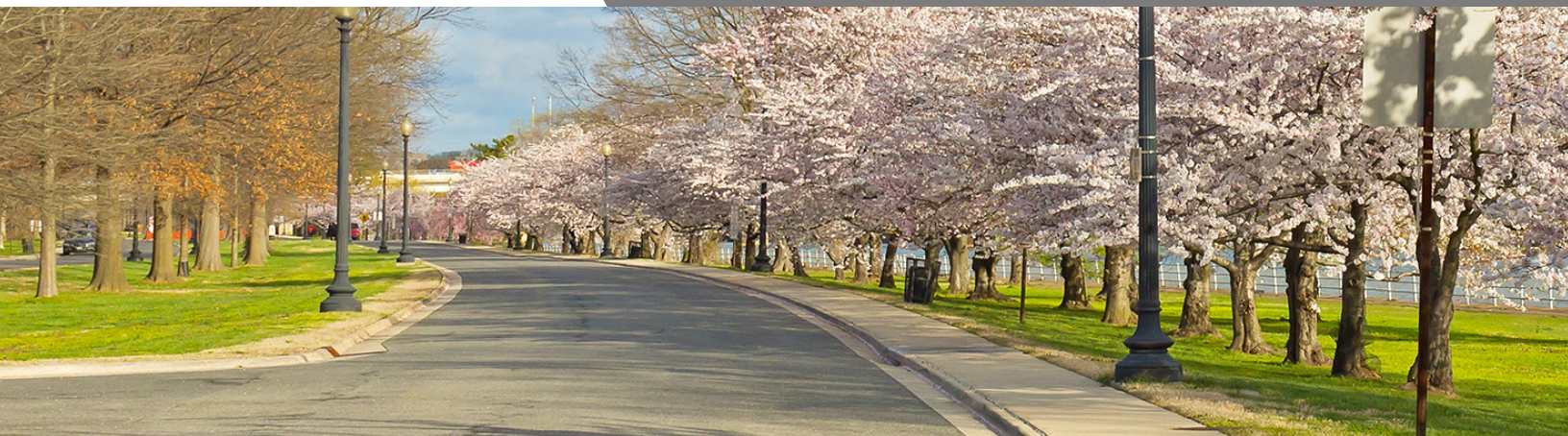
Currently a technology consulting manager at a Fortune 500 Global Consulting Firm, Solomon is also a producer and host of “TechTalk With Solomon,” a very popular science and technology television show on Ethiopia Broadcasting Services (EBS), which has more than 30 million viewers in Ethiopia and around the world. He is also an author of “ግረምት ሳይቱክ” - the first of its kind Amharic science and tech book, a public speaker, a social media influencer with more than 360,000 followers, and a coach. His book was reviewed and endorsed by PM Abiy Ahmed.

He is the recipient of the 2016 Society of Ethiopians Established in the Diaspora (SEED) award in recognition for his extraordinary commitment to teaching science and technology for millions in his native language Amharic. In 2017, H.E. Ethiopia's Ministry of Science and Technology recognized Solomon as an ambassador of science and technology for advancing STEM in his country. In addition, Solomon has been nominated to be on the 2018 Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD), Under 40, Global 100 List in support of the International Decade for People of African Descent, proclaimed by United Nation's General Assembly.

Invited by the Minister of Science and Technology Ministry of Ethiopia, Solomon traveled to Addis Ababa in April, 2018 to give a 5 day technology strategy and policy solo lecture to more than 1000 government policy makers, executives and officials. The event was held at the headquarter of United Nations' Economic Commission of Africa.

In June 2019, Solomon traveled to Addis Ababa to engage with Mayor Takele Uma on several initiatives, mainly on STEM education and launching a platform to facilitate volunteer work for 2nd generation Ethio-Americans.

Featured on BBC, VOA, several mainstream TV networks in Ethiopia, Tadias, George Washington University website and others, Solomon appeared on several media.



TONYA KINLOW

Vice President

Community Engagement, Advocacy & Government Affairs

Tonya Vidal Kinlow, M.P.A., is vice president of Community Engagement, Advocacy & Government Affairs at Children's National. She leads Children's local and national advocacy and education efforts under the umbrella of the Child Health Advocacy Institute. She also works with federal and local government stakeholders to ensure that the needs of children are kept in the forefront of the development of policies and regulations. Prior to joining Children's National in 2014, Ms. Kinlow was the vice president of Government Affairs for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield in the National Capital Area.

She has spent 25 years leading and managing government relations for associations and health care payers including the District of Columbia Hospital Association, the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc., and the National Medical Association. As a prominent community leader, Ms. Kinlow has held a number of elected and volunteer leadership positions with Washington, D.C., metropolitan area community organizations. Her advocacy on behalf of children extends beyond her work in health care. Ms. Kinlow is a former member of the D.C. Board of Education and was the first ombudsman for D.C. Public Schools. In both roles, she fought to make sure all District children had access to quality, free public education. She currently holds board membership roles with the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, the Greater Washington Urban League, and the Consumer Health Foundation, and is also co-chair of the Federal City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta GEMS. Ms. Kinlow received her master's degree in public administration from American University and her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Loyola University of New Orleans, La.



ALLISON KOKKOROS

President & CEO

Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School

Allison Kokkoros has more than 25 years of experience in adult education and immigrant integration. She was named CEO of the Carlos Rosario School in 2014 after serving in a variety of roles at the organization ranging from teacher to principal. Under her leadership, the School has grown to serve more than 3,000 students annually and launched new programs in response to community need, including a small business program, a bilingual teacher training program, and a college transitions initiative. Inspired by Mayor Bowser's new sister city agreement with San Salvador, in 2018 she established the School's Puentes/Bridges program, through which the School is collaborating to support Salvadorans at home and in Washington, DC in partnership with a counterpart school in El Salvador. The School will expand this exchange program to Ethiopia during Mayor Bowser's 2019 delegation trip to Addis Ababa.

Allison earned her Master's Degree in Business Administration with a focus in Nonprofit Management from George Washington University and completed undergraduate studies in English, Education, and Journalism at Eastern Mennonite University. She has been honored with the SmartCEO Brava Award, DC STARS Tribute Most Outstanding Adult Principal award, and the DC Learns Mike Fox Literacy Leader award. She currently serves on the board of the DC Association of Public Chartered Schools.

Allison is thrilled for her first visit to Ethiopia with this delegation and is joined by Yeshimebeth Belay (Mama Tutu), a member of the Carlos Rosario School's Board of Trustees, and Alealign Dessie, the School's Student Success Coordinator.



KENYAN McDUFFIE

Ward 5 Councilmember

Council of the District of Columbia

Kenyan R. McDuffie, Councilmember for Ward 5, was first elected to the Council of the District of Columbia in a 2012 special election and has served as Chairman Pro Tempore since 2013. He is a member of the Workforce Investment Council and in 2017, he served as the chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Since January 2017, Kenyan has served as the Chairperson of the Committee on Business and Economic Development (Committee), which has oversight of over 20 District agencies and commissions, including the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, the Department of Small and Local Business Development, the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, and the Public Service Commission.

As Chair of the Committee, Kenyan has worked to ensure that the District's economy continues to grow and remain competitive, while creating economic opportunities for all residents, including women and minority-owned small and local business. As Chairperson, Kenyan championed legislation to protect capital investment programs for District small businesses and entrepreneurs, ensure quicker payments to District contractors and simplify the government contracting process.

Prior to joining the Council, Kenyan served as an Assistant State's Attorney in Maryland and a trial attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. He also worked for a member of the United States House of Representatives. He graduated summa cum laude from Howard University and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Kenyan and his wife, Princess, live in his childhood home in Ward 5 with their two daughters, Kesi and Jozi.



ASEFA MEKONNEN

Physician/Partner

Rockville Internal Medical Group

Dr. Mekonnen is passionate about Sleep Medicine and working closely with his patients across the Rockville-area to help them achieve their optimal health. Dr. Mekonnen went to Addis Ababa University Mekonnen in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and completed his post-doctoral residency training at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, IL.



MELE MELTON

President

Culturified

Mele Melton came to the US as a teenager, quickly finding and pursuing her passion for learning about other cultures. She soon joined multicultural groups and help organize a multicultural showcase in high school. In college, she reluctantly decided to pursue a degree and career in finance over anthropology, on the advice of a counselor who thought finance offered better odds of financial success. After graduation, she embarked on a successful finance career. Soon after, she moved to DC and started attending cultural events, where she was met with the same spark of excitement she felt while pursuing her love of multicultural studies in high school.

In 2009, Melton launched Culturified.com, a social networking site and community forum where members were asked to share their cultures and learn about others. The project continues to grow and encourage global learning,

but Melton wanted to make even more significant impacts in the global education arena. Thus, she formed the Culturified Foundation, dedicated to increasing cultural awareness and creating new and better opportunities for DC-area students to be exposed to other world cultures in a positive and life-enhancing way.

Melton holds a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Finance from Temple University's Fox School of Business and Management, a Master of Business Administration in International Business from the University of Delaware's Alfred Lerner College of Business & Economics, and is an active PhD candidate. With her husband, she owns Five Guys Burgers and Fries and Taco Bell franchises in Atlanta, Georgia. In her spare time, she enjoys trying new restaurants, traveling, attending sporting events (especially basketball, which she played in high school) and shopping.

WORKU MENGESHA

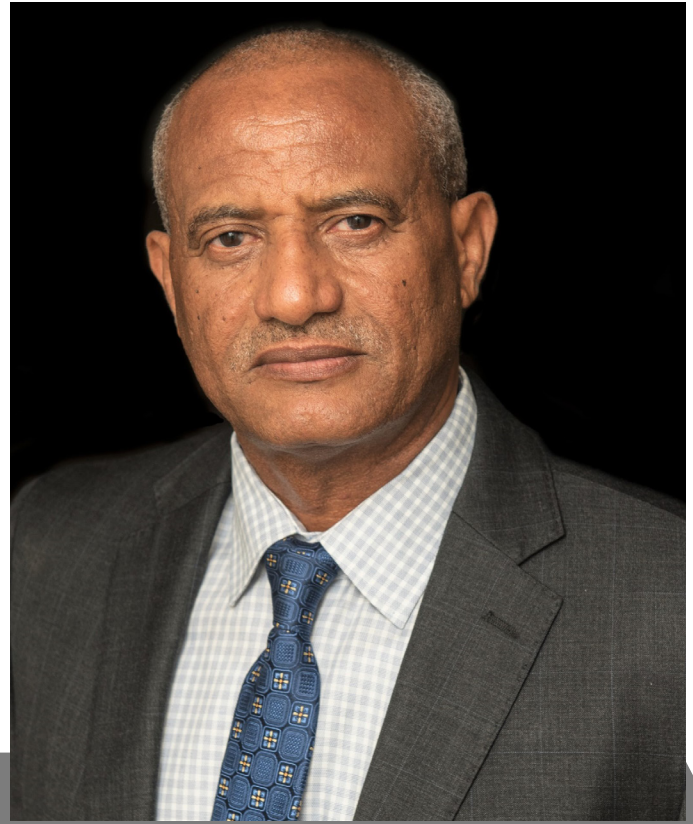
Information Technology Specialist

Office of the Chief Technology Officer

Worku W. Mengesha is an Information Technology Specialist at the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer, overseeing the Executive Office of the Mayor, the Office of the City Administrator and several other executive offices within the District. Mr. Mengesha leads a team of professionals, ensuring the delivery of expedient and efficient end-to-end customer support services via an IT service management framework. Mr. Mengesha also delivers comprehensive and flexible solutions that enable the completion of strategic initiatives while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Worku had served as Chemist with the Ethiopian Institute of Geological Survey (EIGS) for a decade. In early 1990s, he trained with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Seibersdorf laboratories in Vienna, Austria. He earned a diploma from City & Guilds Institute of London. He also enrolled College in USA and obtained several Industrial certifications in the Information Technology (IT) field in Networking, Systems Administration and Information Technology Service Management (ITSM).

Worku is a graduate of Addis Ababa University is married with three children.



YONAS MENJI

Senior Project Manager

MCN Build

Yonas Menji has more than 15 years of experience in the construction industry. His main focus is on educational and residential projects. As a senior project manager, he devotes time and knowledge to lead and support his project teams. Yonas understands how to manage stakeholders and advance large projects through all phases of completion. He is a strong leader who excels at directing all facets of fast-track projects. He is knowledgeable and precise in all areas.

2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia

GENET SIDA MERSHA

President & CEO

G-Sida General Services LLC

Genet Sida Mersha was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and upon completing her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in Nairobi, Kenya she moved to the United States in July 2003. Over the few years Ms. Mersha has held positions with the District of Columbia Public Schools, Howard University Hospital and worked with Providence Construction Company as a Permits and Licenses Expediter at the Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs (DCRA).

In 2011, Ms. Mersha was a Co-Founder, President/CEO of the GNT Group, LLC in Washington DC and provided commercial janitorial services to Recreation Centers, Government Buildings and Schools throughout the Washington DC region surrounding States. In 2013, Ms. Mersha founded G-Sida General Services, LLC, a Washington DC Headquartered company and a Certified Business Enterprise (CBE). G-Sida provides full-service facilities management, logistics services, landscaping/snow removal, IT consulting services as well as providing IT hardware equipment.

Ms. Mersha has a passion for giving back to her community and is also a Co-Founder of a non-profit organization called "SIDA Family" foundation, which supports schools in Ethiopia by providing necessary supplies and program assistance. In addition, the SIDA Family foundation is also involved in providing assistance to Washington DC public and charter schools as well.

Ms Mersha is a successful entrepreneur with a commitment to hiring and training District Residents and providing pathways to the middle class. As a result of her passion and commitment to growth, her firm employs over 100 employees and is poised for continued growth in 2020.



HUDA MU'MIN

Chef & President

Chef Huda's Kitchen

Chef Huda Mu'min is the Founder, and Executive Chef of Chef Huda's Kitchen (CHK), an innovative and culturally conscious culinary company specializing in Healthy Comfort Food and chef-curated special events. She is blazing a new trail in the culinary world and is the Record-Setting Champion of Food Network's "Cutthroat Kitchen" and a favorite on ABC's Emmy nominated show, "The Taste" with Anthony Bourdain. As the host of the award-winning show, "The Kitchen Table Series", Chef Huda is a culinary powerhouse to watch. Her mission is to educate, empower, and inspire people through food.

A proud graduate of the University of Maryland and the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu, where she finished at the top of her class. She is also an alumna of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program. Chef Huda has worked amongst the best in the industry. Her delicious culinary creations have received national rave reviews from A-list Hollywood celebrities, tastemakers, and political icons such as President Barack Obama & First Lady Michelle Obama, Anthony Bourdain, Alton Brown, Patti LaBelle, Nas, and Lisa Leslie, to name a few.

Outside of the Kitchen, Chef Huda serves as an Ambassador for The American Heart Association and supports the American Diabetes Association. She also supports impactful organizations such as; The James Beard Foundation, Kevin Durant Charity Foundation (KDCF), YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Wanda Durant The Real MVP Foundation, and The Salvation Army. Chef Huda served as a spokesperson for The CW Network's "Healthy DC" Campaign and the First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Chef's Move to Schools initiative.

Chef Huda serves as Executive Chef and Culinary Ambassador for The Just Savor Group (TJSG), a collective of hospitality leaders with over 60 years of experience and expertise in the culinary arts, workforce development, food and beverage operations and upscale catering services.



2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia

JANNIE ORANGE

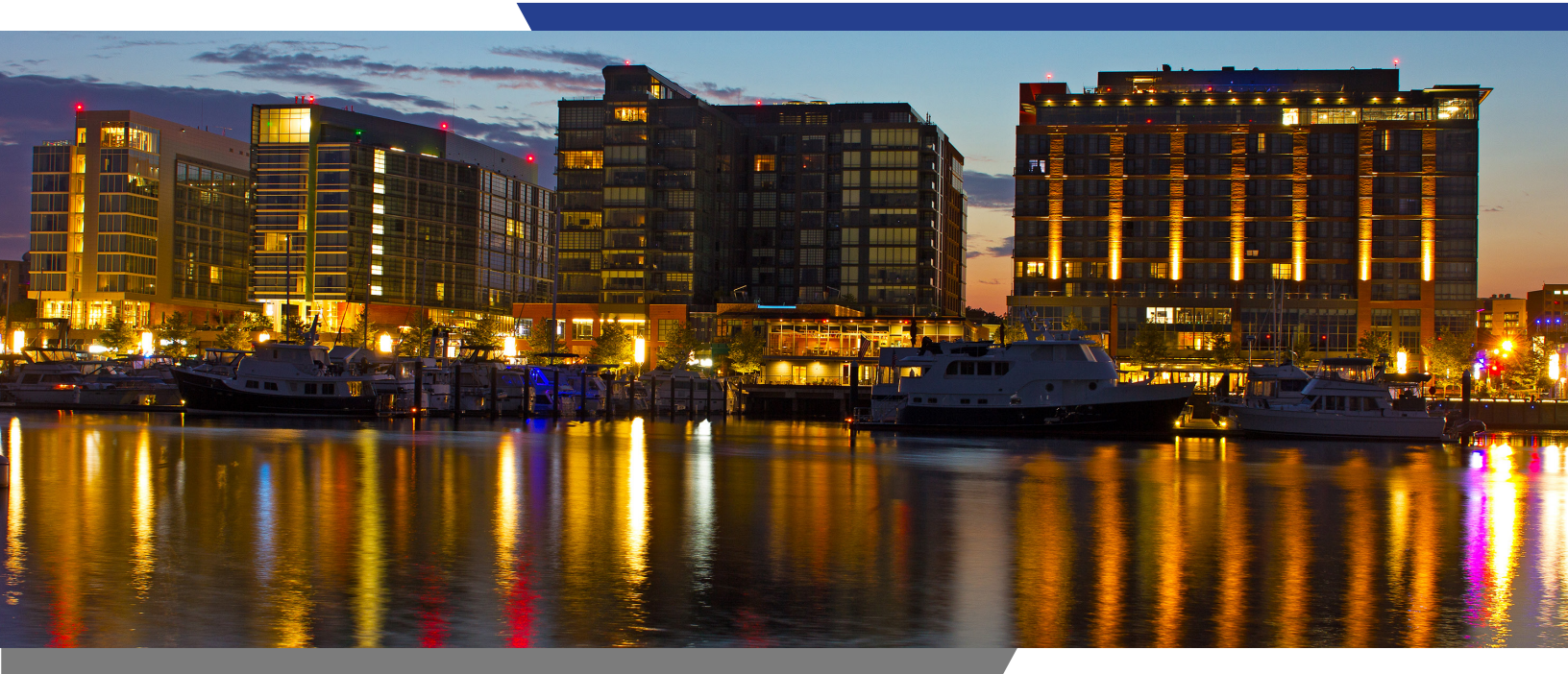
Office & Tourism Coordinator DC Chamber of Commerce

Jannie Elizabeth Orange was born and raised in Washington, D.C. Growing up in a culturally diverse and political hub city like D.C., Jannie developed an interest for many cultures, government relations and international affairs.

After graduating from St. John's College High School, Jannie went on to pursue a bachelor's degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. During undergraduate studies, Jannie participated in academic excursions to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Spain where she continued education in international relations and strengthened her Spanish language skills. As a result of this experiences abroad, Jannie is a strong advocate of global education, and encourages students to pursue international experiences.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Spanish from Spelman College in 2017, Jannie returned to Washington, D.C. with the hopes of working in international affairs and cultural tourism.

Currently, Jannie serves as the Office and Tourism Coordinator for the DC Chamber of Commerce, where she began as a voluntary International Business Intern. In the fall of 2019, Jannie will begin a journey to pursue a Master of Arts in Intercultural and International Communications from the American University School of International Service.



VINCENT BERNARD ORANGE, SR.

President & CEO

DC Chamber of Commerce

The Honorable Vincent Bernard Orange, Sr. became the President and Chief Executive Officer of the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce on August 15, 2016.

Prior to Mr. Orange joining the DC Chamber of Commerce, he was an at-large member of the Council of the District of Columbia having won a special election on April 26, 2011. He was re-elected to a four-year term on November 4, 2012 and served as the chairman of the Committee on Business, Consumer, and Regulatory Affairs. From 1999 to 2007, Vincent Orange, Sr. served two-terms as the Ward Five Councilmember. From 2001 to 2007, he served as chairman of the Committee on Government Operations with oversight over twenty-three agencies including the Office of the Mayor, City Administrator, Inspector General, Chief Technology Officer and Contracts and Procurement. He also served as co-chair of the Committee on Special Education.

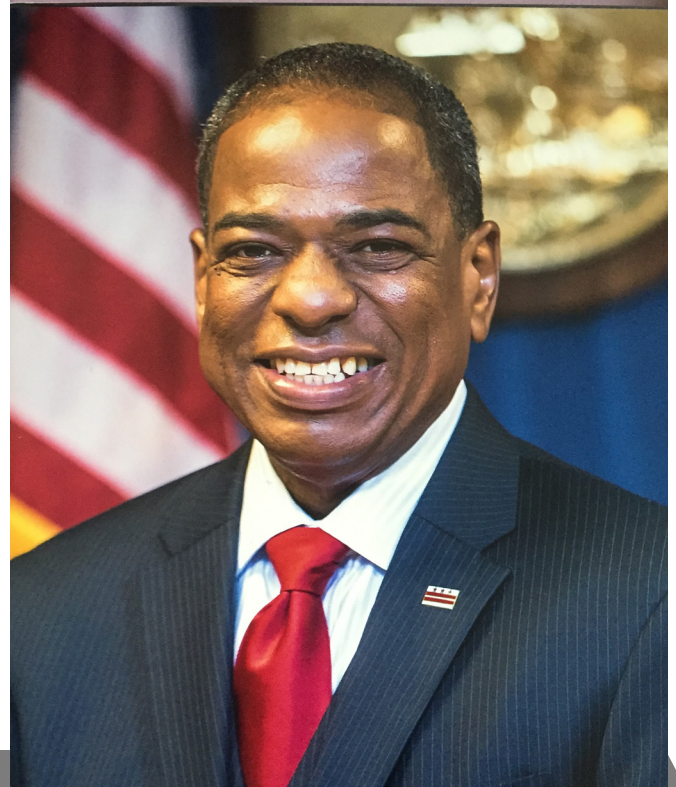
Vincent Orange's accomplishments include championing the passage of the 2016 emergency legislation to implement a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour for District workers, the living wage of \$13.60 per hour, the minimum wage and five days of sick leave pay for tipped wage workers, enactment of the wage theft law, a smoking ban within twenty-five feet of a playground, recognizing by law the American Sign Language in the District, adding gender identification or expression to the list of protected classes under the DC Human Rights Act, establishing the Office of African Affairs, protecting pregnant workers' rights, securing economic development and recreation centers for Ward 5, introduced and championed the legislation that created the District's only public holiday, April 16 - District of Columbia Emancipation Day, which was approved in 2005, and much more.

Vincent Orange is an attorney and a certified public accountant. He earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration and a Bachelor of Arts in communications from the University of the Pacific, a Juris Doctor's from Howard University School of Law, and a Master of Laws in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center. He also earned two certificates from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government for Senior Executives in State and Local Government, and for Crisis Management: Preparation, Performance, and Leadership.

Vincent Orange has received numerous awards and recognition-including the 2018 induction into the Washington, DC Hall of Fame Society, the 2017 induction into the DCTV Hall of Fame, the 2017 and 2016 Washington Business Journal Power 100 Recognition, the Prince Hall Lodge No. 14 - 2017 Life Time Achievement Award, the 2016 Certified Business Enterprise Award for championing the establishment of "a one billion dollar expendable budget for goods and services" to be spent with District of Columbia businesses, the 2016 Sigma Delta Tau Legal Fraternity, Inc. Outstanding Service Award for career accomplishments promoting excellence in the study, practice and judicial processes of the law, and the 2016 Ready, Willing & Working Award for having a positive and lasting impact on the lives of the District of Columbia Clean Teams.

Vincent Orange Sr. is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a Prince Hall Affiliated Mason, a member of Leadership Greater Washington class of 2004, and a member of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church located in Washington, DC.

Vincent Bernard Orange Sr. is married to Gwendolyn Evans-Orange and has three children, Vincent Jr., Paul Wesley and Jannie Elizabeth Orange, and one granddaughter Layla Elizabeth Orange.



NIGEL PARKINSON

President

Parkinson Construction Company of
Washington, DC

Mr. Parkinson is the President of Parkinson Construction Company of Washington, DC, and Brentwood, MD, and Managing Partner of 2414 Morgan, LLC, a Washington, DC-based limited liability development company with offices in Brentwood, MD, and Pittsburgh, PA. Parkinson Construction, which was founded in the early 1990's by Nigel, has grown from its initial single painting contract to become the largest self-performing African-American owned contracting firm in the Washington DC, metropolitan area. Nigel Parkinson has been active for years with

professional trade associations representing the construction industry. He served one term as President of the Associated General Contractors of Washington, DC, and three terms as President of the National Association of Minority Contractors.

He is a past member of the federal government's General Services Administration's advisory board. In addition, Nigel participated in an ENR (Engineering News Record) Roundtable and is a founding member of the District of Columbia ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) Mentor Program. He has represented the industry at The White House, in numerous media interviews, and in seminars and meetings throughout the country.



VIVIANNE POMMIER

President West End Travel

Vivianne opened West End Travel in 1981 to service corporate accounts in the Washington region. Formerly the office manager of a large D.C. law firm, she saw the need for travel agencies to improve their service for the corporate arena. West End Travel has been listed in the Washington Business Journal as one of the top women owned businesses in the metropolitan Washington area, and as one of the top volume Travel Agencies in the metropolitan area. Vivianne continues to work directly with clients to ensure they receive the best travel offerings.

In addition to being the President of West End Travel, Vivianne has also been the “travel reporter” on local DC stations, WUSA and WTTG, covering consumer and leisure travel on weekly segments and spot news. Vivianne continues to work closely with both networks and is often featured upon request.

Vivianne is a graduate of George Washington University and dedicated DC sports fan. She handles the travel for our WNBA Champions Washington Mystics, DC United, Capital City Go-Go, and Washington Valor. She is a kidney-transplant recipient and works to promote organ donation and kidney-disease awareness.



2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia

RUDY SEIKALY

CEO

MCN Build

Rudy Seikaly is a serial entrepreneur and philanthropist, with more than 30 years of experience leading businesses and creating shared value in local communities and abroad. A refugee from Lebanon and wounded as a teen in the civil war, Mr. Seikaly is now a Co-Founder and CEO of MCN Build, Inc., a purpose-driven construction company, headquartered in Washington, DC. The firm specializes in building schools and community-centered projects and the adaptive reuse of public facilities.

Throughout his career, Mr. Seikaly has built, supported, and pioneered multiple businesses in the United States and abroad that create opportunities for the surrounding communities, striving to solve social issues.

Mr. Seikaly serves on the board of trustees for the not-for-profit Bread, Inc., The Charter School Development Corporation, Teach for America, and the Federal City Council, and chairs the MCN Build Foundation, his firm's nonprofit arm, which builds schools and libraries on a pro bono basis around the world. He is also a member of Leadership Greater Washington.



DEGFAE SETEGN

President and Chairman of the Board United Ventures Consortium (UVC)

Degfae Setegn is the President and Chairman of The Board of United Ventures Consortium (UVC); a District of Columbia-based company. UVC focuses on Transportation, Fleet Management, Real Estate, Fintech, and Investing in the District of Columbia. Born in Ethiopia, Degfae studied there, graduating from Addis Ababa University with a degree in Medical Technology. After graduation, he worked at Sidamo Regional Medical Laboratory, where he published in multiple scientific journals on tuberculosis and bacterial antibiotic resistance. As his career expanded, he determined he wanted to expand his education, so he left Ethiopia for London, to study at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Upon receiving his advanced degree in Tropical and Infectious Diseases, he moved to the United States.

The company, under his leadership, is proud to have been selected to partner with and implement many of the Mayor's iconic transportation improvement projects, including providing transport access to many of Washington, D.C.'s underprivileged communities. For many, these programs are literally, life changing. Degfae's business story reads like a "how to" bestseller, focusing on his personal relentless passion to help underserved communities.

UVC, under his leadership, will shortly expand into relevant business ventures in Ethiopia, serving the country of his birth. As a great advocate of serving and giving back to communities that gave to him, Degfae has previously Co-Founded the non-profit organizations "Serve Global" and "US Ethiopia Business and Investment Council," both of which are headquartered in Washington, D.C.

NADIA SHASH

CEO

Polycon Solutions

Nadia Shash is the Chief Executive Officer of PolyCon Solutions. She brings over a decade of professional and federal acquisitions business services experience. In her many roles, Ms. Shash has prepared and managed various types of contracts totaling over a billion dollars in support of national technical and systems programs. She has briefed and advised programs on pre- and post-award procurement guidelines/regulations, managed source selection teams and provided audit, policy and oversight support. In addition to her direct acquisition professional work, Ms. Shash was a member of a large-scale civil and criminal litigation team in Washington, D.C. She was responsible for analyzing, researching and advising others on complex case documents, reviewing case materials and presenting findings and evidence at strategy meetings. Ms. Shash is a licensed attorney and member of the State Bar of Georgia and the District of Columbia Bar. While with the federal government, she held a Level III Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting and an Unlimited Warrant. Ms. Shash obtained her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School and her B.S. from University of Southern California - Marshall School of Business.



YODIT SHIBRU

Anacostia Economic Development Corporation Center Director

Ms. Yodit Shibru is a proud Ethiopian American professional who resides in Ward 1 of the District of Columbia and also is the Center Director at the District of Columbia Small Business Development Center (DCSBDC) at the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation (AEDC). Ms. Shibru is currently providing leadership in overseeing the development, delivery, and reporting of all programs, activities, and services at the AEDC Business Development Center.

Ms. Shibru also provides export and import consulting and coaching to DC based small businesses interested in the global market, in the areas of export/import readiness assessments, export/import business plan development, assessing foreign market opportunities, compiling market research, developing an export strategy, import/export financial planning, identification of trade shows and trade missions and general business practices.

In June 2019, Ms. Shibru was appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser as the Chairperson of the Commission of African Affairs for the District's Office on African Affairs.

Her educational background includes a Master's Degree in International Development and Education from George Washington University and a B.A in Business Administration from Strayer University. In 2018, Ms. Shibru obtained her Executive Coaching Certificate from Howard University/Sherpa. In 2014, she obtained her SBA International Trade Certificate. In addition, Ms. Shibru has earned the following certificates from America's SBDC - How to Run an International Trade Center, Importing into the United States, International Trade Compliance, and Best Practices for New-To-Export Clients.



MARGARET SINGLETON

VP, Contracts & Programs

DC Chamber of Commerce

Margaret Singleton is Vice President of Contracts and Programs at the DC Chamber Commerce where she has overall strategic and operational responsibility for all external program grants and contracts. This position has broad responsibility and fiscal oversight of externally funded programs and leveraging business development opportunities to expand the capacity and pipeline to increase and diversify revenue sources.

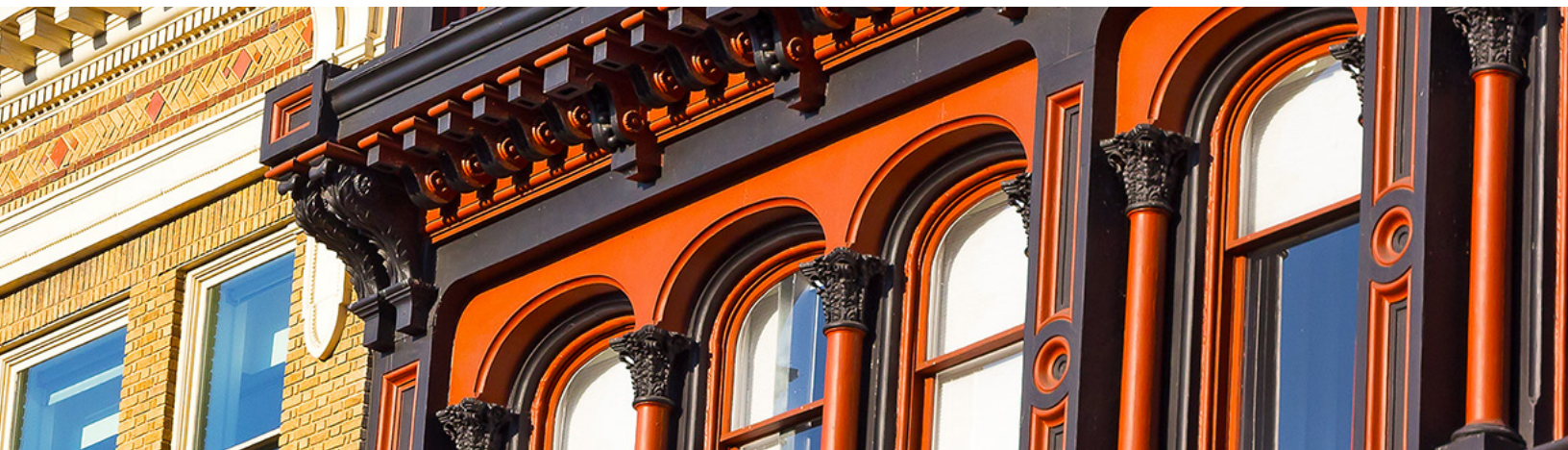
Currently, she focuses on enhancing the Chamber's economic development strategy in the areas of international business development assistance; education and awareness for small businesses on DC Health Link; and leveraging promotions of the city to international visitors and conventions. Ms. Singleton is the lead team member in planning and developing the framework for industry sector policy forums in partnership with public and private organizations.

Previously she served as Interim President & CEO of the DC Chamber of Commerce, while the Chamber undertook an executive search for the position. During this time, she maintained collaborative working relationships with key business and public policy organizations and regional chambers and directed an assessment of the needs and interests of the 1,400 members and partners.

During her tenure with the DC Chamber, Ms. Singleton developed and implemented the Executive Leadership Development Program for high growth small and medium sized companies; Mentor Protégé Program (StrA-Part) for small to midsize information technology companies and coordinated several business summits and access to capital forums.

As Executive Director of the DC Chamber of Commerce Foundation, she managed a full-service business resource center that provided no-cost consulting and access to financing to over 300 DC based businesses annually.

Under her chairmanship of the 2013 Mayor's Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) Advisory Group, regulatory recommendations were developed to strengthen the CBE program for the District's small businesses. She has served as a member of the DCRA DC Business Regulatory Reform Taskforce and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Council for Small Business and on the boards of Leadership Greater Washington and Covenant House of Greater Washington.. She is a member of the Walter Reed Local Redevelopment Authority and Community Advisory Group.



WEYMOUTH SPENCE, ED. D., R.T.

President

Washington Adventist University

A transformational leader with more than 38 years of progressive advancement in leadership roles in higher education and healthcare organizations.

Dr. Weymouth Spence is the nineteenth president of Washington Adventist University, located near the nation's capital in Takoma Park, Maryland. Washington Adventist University (WAU) is one of the thirteen higher education institutions in North America with an affiliation to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He began his presidency at WAU in January 2008 and during his tenure has put together a leadership team that elevated and transformed the former Columbia Union College (CUC) to university status and is continuing to build on the legacy of former presidents to elevate the University standing to one of international distinction.



CASEY STRINGER

Managing Member

Broughton Construction Company

Casey Broughton Stringer is the Managing Member of Broughton Construction Company, LLC, a Design-Build, General Construction and Construction Management firm headquartered in Washington, DC with regional offices in Baltimore and Prince Georges County Maryland. Casey is a native of Washington, DC where he attended D.C. Public Schools and later, Howard University's School of Business earning a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in 1984, as a second-generation Howard graduate.

In New York City, Casey worked for Owens Corning Fiberglas in Sales and Marketing for the Commercial and Residential Building Division as a regional Sales representative where he gained valuable experience from the professional training of a Fortune 500 company which he would utilize to compete in the tough New York City construction market and throughout the rest of his career.

Casey has built a reputation for building Fast Track, Award winning projects for Design and Sustainable Energy and is one of the few Minority, General Contractors with the expertise and capacity to compete for large scale commercial projects with Federal, State and local government agencies. In addition to being the owner of a successful business enterprise, Casey has served on the Board of the Duke Ellington Performing Arts School Fund which focuses on fundraising to sustain this world-renowned performing arts High School located in the Washington, DC.

Casey was also a member of the Maryland Minority Supplier Diversity Council, the Minority Contractors Association, the DC Building Industry Association and the Bachelor Benedict Club in Washington DC.

MULUESHET (JAY) SUGEBO

CEO

Adila's Tech LLC

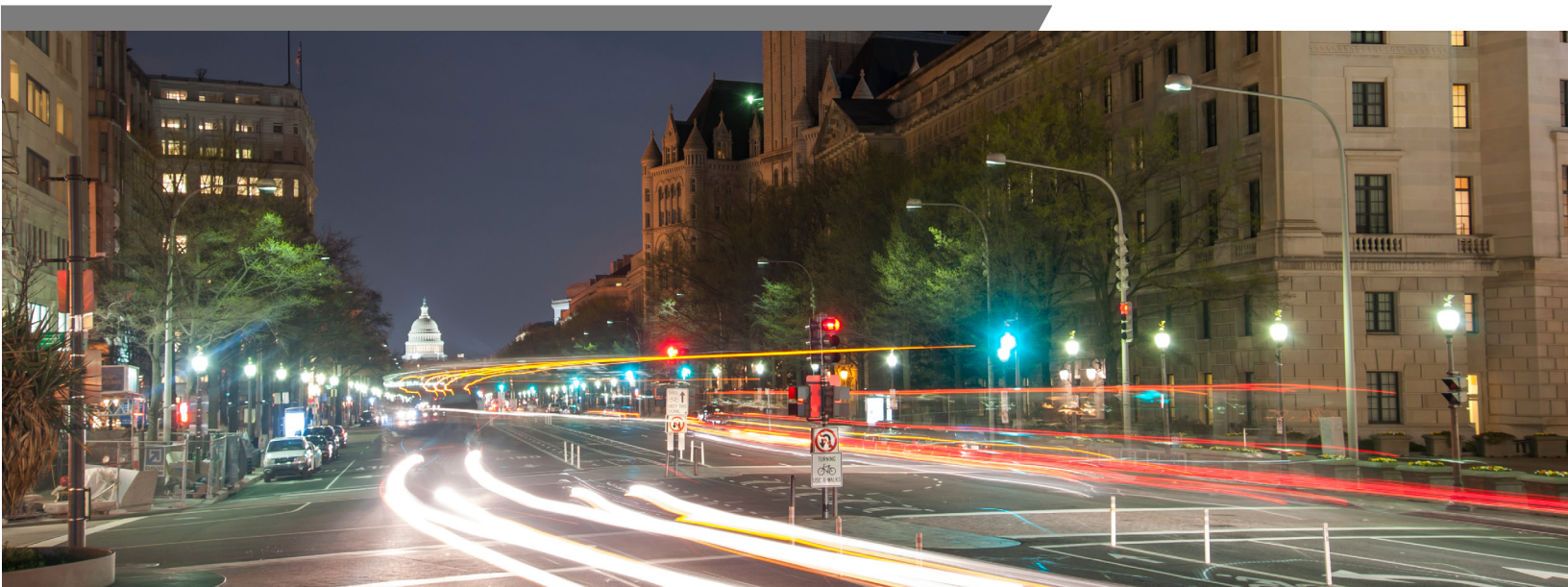
Jay is an accomplished entrepreneur and Sr. System Engineer with over 10 years of experience in the Information Technology industry and business administration. Jay is currently the Founder and CEO of AdilasTech, an IT consulting and training company.

Jay started AdilasTech in October 2018 bringing over 9 years of technology industry leadership, IT Project management, software development, System architecture, cybersecurity, Database, ERP and DSI MEP (Mobile Enterprise Platform) Implementation and support experience to his role with the company.

Jay manages direction and strategy at AdilasTech while facilitating & overseeing business activities in innovation, consulting, sales, marketing, IT training and support. He is also a technical lead providing IT consultancy for the government (currently US Department of Defense (DoD)) and private sector clients in financial services, manufacturing, distribution and supply chains.

Before moving to the United States in 2012, Jay was also an entrepreneur as well focused on Agroindustry, in Ethiopia. His agro-business achieved quarter a million (ETB) sales and created job opportunities for more than 20 people in just 6 months since he founded the business. He moved to the States hoping to become an international businessman.

Jay is a Microsoft Certified Solution Associate (MCSA) and holds a BA degree in Development and Environmental Management Studies (DEMS) from University of Gondar.



YOHANNES ZEWGE TAFESSE

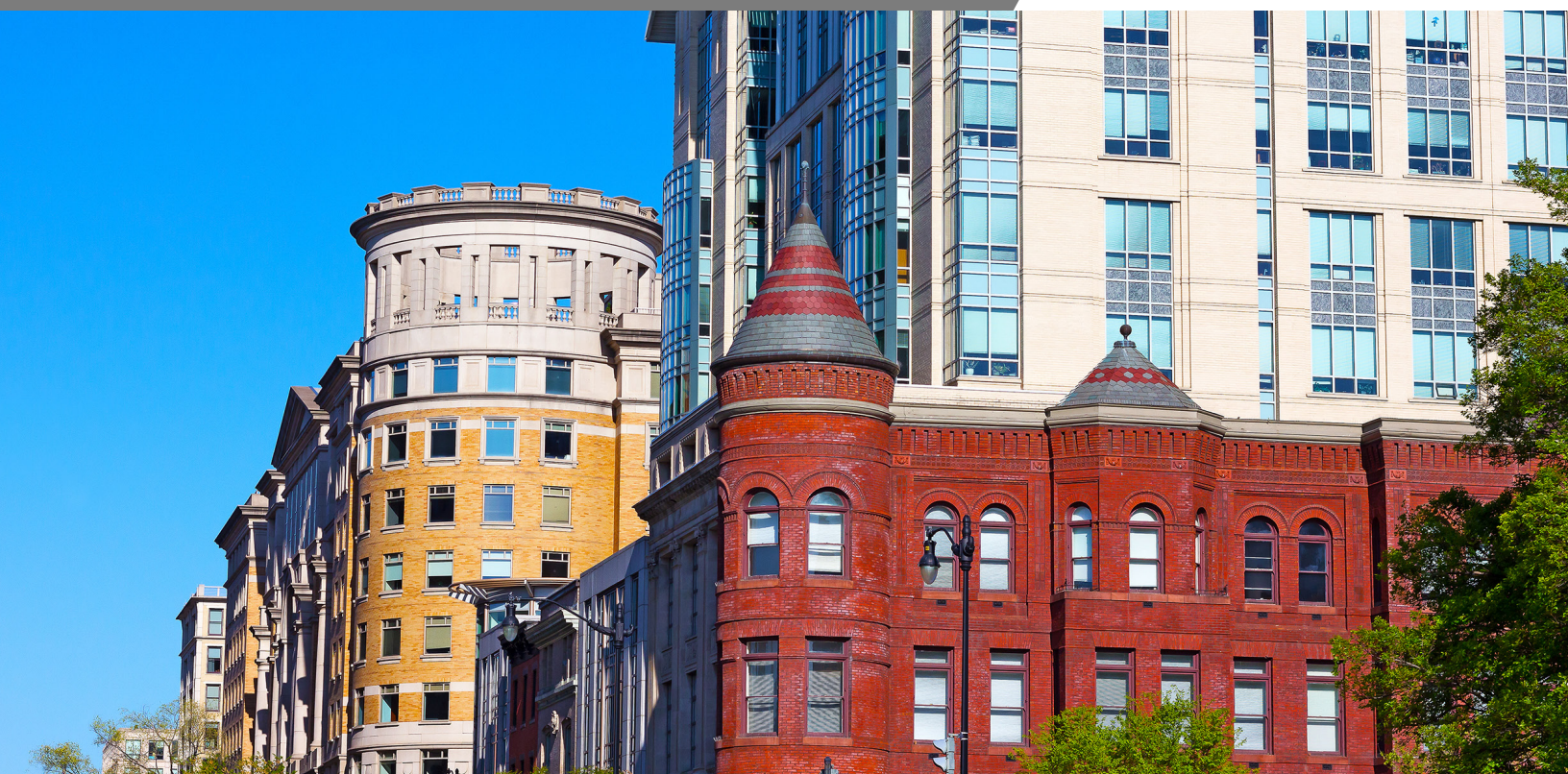
Sr. Business Manager

Savvy USA

Yohannes serves as vice president at RedFox Solutions Group and as a Sr. Business director at Savvy Technology Solutions. His primary duties include working with customers to understand their needs and architecting solutions, developing detailed project plans, developing business and partner relationships and helping internal teams and clients keep up with and contribute to cutting edge technology.

Yohannes has more than a decade of professional experience in the fields of Telecommunication Systems, Cloud Solutions and Data Science. Yohannes holds a M.S. degree in. in Electrical Engineering from Michigan Technological University and he is currently pursuing his second master's degree in computer science from Georgia Technological University. He is also an AWS certified Cloud Architect. Yohannes has published two IEEE journal papers and multiple whitepapers.

He has worked with America's largest Telco and Carriers and also possesses Mobile Network Planning and deployment experience. He worked at the RF planning team at U.S. Cellular prior to his current position. Prior to that he worked at AT&T as a Specialist RAN Engineer for years.



KASSAHUN TEFERA

CEO

Metro Lab DC

Mr. Tefera grew up in his native country of Ethiopia and graduated from high school with distinction. Mr. Tefera furthered his education and graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with an associate degree in engineering. With his love for the medical field and his technical background, Mr. Tefera graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Biotechnology. After graduation, he worked in the District government for several years and held supervisory positions in medical labs and hospitals setting. In 2008, Mr. Tefera founded Metro Lab LLC, a full service professionally accredited medical lab. Metro Lab has grown to 4 locations (2 - Washington, DC, 1 - Alexandria, VA and 1 - Baltimore, MD). Mr. Tefera is a member of American Clinical Pathology and holds the following certifications - MT, ASCP, MRO-A, CPCT.



EVA TELEMAQUE

Founder & President

Transformative Solutions, Inc.

As the President of Transformative Solutions Inc., Eva Telemaque oversees strategic planning efforts and guides business development activities to advance the company's mission and promote its growth. She began her career in public service with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she demonstrated her ability to lead program operations, guide research and evaluation activities, and execute award-winning technical support in public policy and legislative areas.

In addition to public service, Eva has held leadership positions in the private sector and academia. In these roles, she applied her expertise in community engagement to national projects for diverse audiences and clients, such as the HHS-Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the Johns Hopkins University Primary Care Center for Underserved Populations. Through Transformative Solutions Inc., Eva recently led a delegation of students and faculty from Howard University on a global study tour to Ghana, West Africa, that

included a conference at the University of Ghana, consulting projects with local Ghanaian businesses, and cultural excursions.

Mrs. Telemaque holds a Master's degree in Health Policy from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Virginia. She resides in Washington, D.C. with her family.



HENOK TESFAYE

CEO

U Street Parking

For over twenty years, Henok Tesfaye has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of U Street Parking, Inc. (USP), a company he founded in 1998. Under Mr. Tesfaye's leadership, USP has become a premier parking company in the highly competitive parking market in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.

Mr. Tesfaye's efforts proved successful when U Street Parking, Inc. was awarded the multi-million-dollar contracts to manage the parking facilities at the 5 of the busiest Airports on the East Coast, adding Orlando International Airport earlier this year. He is also involved in the real-estate sector, at United investments with multi-million-dollar properties currently in development within the DC Metropolitan Area.

Henok is a Board Member at Capital Bank and the Washington Architectural Foundation, as well as a member of numerous civic and professional associations including the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, the Enterprise Development Group, and the National Parking Association. Mr. Tesfaye also plays an important role in giving back to the community. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Mary Joy Foundation USA, a non-profit organization that seeks to help children and seniors in his homeland, Ethiopia.



BEN TESFAYE

Partner

U Street Parking

Ben Tesfaye is a seasoned businessman with expertise in the Parking Management and Real Estate sector. Ben is a partner in multiple businesses with an operating role at U Street Parking Inc. (USP), United Investment Group, and DC General Construction (DCGCC). Ben has led the growth of USP from a single location operation to over 100 locations scattered around key cities, Washington, DC, New York, Texas, Florida, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During his years as a Real Estate Professional, he held many roles; property manager, realtor, construction manager, and developer. He has managed over 100 units scattered throughout Richmond, VA. As a realtor he was in the Million Dollar Club three out of five years. He was responsible for selling the majority of homes in Randolph West subdivision. During his days as a VP at DCGCC, he oversaw the renovation of multiple DC Public Schools, several residential flip projects, and multi-unit Apartment Complexes. Currently as a developer, Ben oversees projects in Washington, DC, Virginia, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which is comprised of over 450 units. Ben enjoys working with

people in providing full service Real Estate consulting. He serves on the Board of Shaw Main Street. When he has free time, he likes to travel with his wife and three kids.



SIMA TESSEMA

Managing Partner Square and Lot

Mr. Tessema is an investment and real estate development professional in Washington DC. He actively develops residential and commercial properties and has assets in the District of Columbia to house students, transitional and low-income families offering affordable housing. Mr. Tessema has designed, restored and developed more than 500,000 sq. ft. of real estate in various neighborhoods of Washington, D.C. Mr. Tessema also serves as a managing member at Square and Lot, a real estate development company he co-founded. Square and Lot focuses on redeveloping neglected and underutilized buildings into upscale condos and apartments. Prior to establishing his career in real estate, Mr. Tessema worked for two of the largest investment banks in New York City handling high net worth and institutional client's trades.



BRANDON TODD

Ward 4 Councilmember Council of the District of Columbia

Councilmember Brandon T. Todd is a native Washingtonian and attended Eastern Senior High School on Capitol Hill. He received his Bachelor of Science in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations from Bowie State University and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration on Organizational Development from Trinity Washington University.

Councilmember Todd is committed to moving forward an agenda that focuses on expanding services for seniors, improving education in D.C. schools, supporting economic development and small business growth, and improving the quality and safety of District neighborhoods. He serves as Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations. He sits on the Committees on Health, Human Services, Transportation & the Environment, and Youth & Recreation Affairs. Councilmember Todd is also Vice-Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, and is a member of the National Capital Region Transportation

Planning Board and the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force.

On April 28th, 2015, Brandon T. Todd was elected as the fifth Councilmember representing Ward 4 for the District of Columbia, and was subsequently sworn into office on May 14th, 2015, in the District Council Chamber. On November 8th, 2016, he was re-elected to a full four-year term.



MAMA TUTU (YESHIMEBETH BELAY)

Owner

Ethiopian Yellow Pages

Yeshimebeth T Belay is an Ethiopian American entrepreneur. She founded the business directory Ethiopian Yellow Pages in Washington DC in 1993, started an Amharic newspaper and a restaurant, and has led economic regeneration initiatives in the Shaw Howard area of Washington.

With her husband Yehunie Belay, Yeshimebeth has two children, Feker and Selam.

Yeshimebeth Belay is founder and president of the company Feker Inc., publishers of Ethiopian Yellow Pages.

Ethiopian Yellow Pages was officially launched in 1993. The first edition contained 80 pages. The directory has since been made accessible through the internet. Washington DC Council declared September 15, 2007 to be "Ethiopian Yellow Pages Day" in the District of Columbia. The directory was described by the Washington Post in June 2011 as an "Immigrant's Directory ... an all-purpose tool for cultural acclimation."



ERIKA WADLINGTON

Director of Public Policy & Programs DC Chamber of Commerce

Erika Wadlington has served as the Director of Public Policy & Programs for the DC Chamber of Commerce since January 2015, where she coordinates the organization's policy agenda and government affairs strategy aiming to make the District one of the best places to grow and start a business. Additionally, Ms. Wadlington supports the DC Chamber's government contracts and serves as the liaison to local media and external partners.

Prior to being an advocate for the District's business community, Ms. Wadlington worked for the Council of the District of Columbia where she was Committee Director for the District of Columbia City Council's Committee on Education under the Chairmanship of former Councilmember David A. Catania. As committee staff, Ms. Wadlington managed the Committee's legislative and oversight agenda and led the Committee's legislative research projects. Erika Wadlington started in the City Council as a Legislative Assistant working on education policy in 2012, and subsequently the education advisor to Chairman Phil Mendelson. Before joining the DC Council Erika worked for nearly five years, as the Advocacy & Outreach Director for Friends of Choice in Urban Schools (FOCUS).

Prior to working in education, Erika was the Program Assistant for the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development in Washington, DC. Erika graduated from Howard University with a Bachelors in Political Science where her concentration on community development and focus on social policy inspired her to be a catalyst for change. Erika has a Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University and she resides in Washington, DC and continues to be a leader in her community through policy and service.



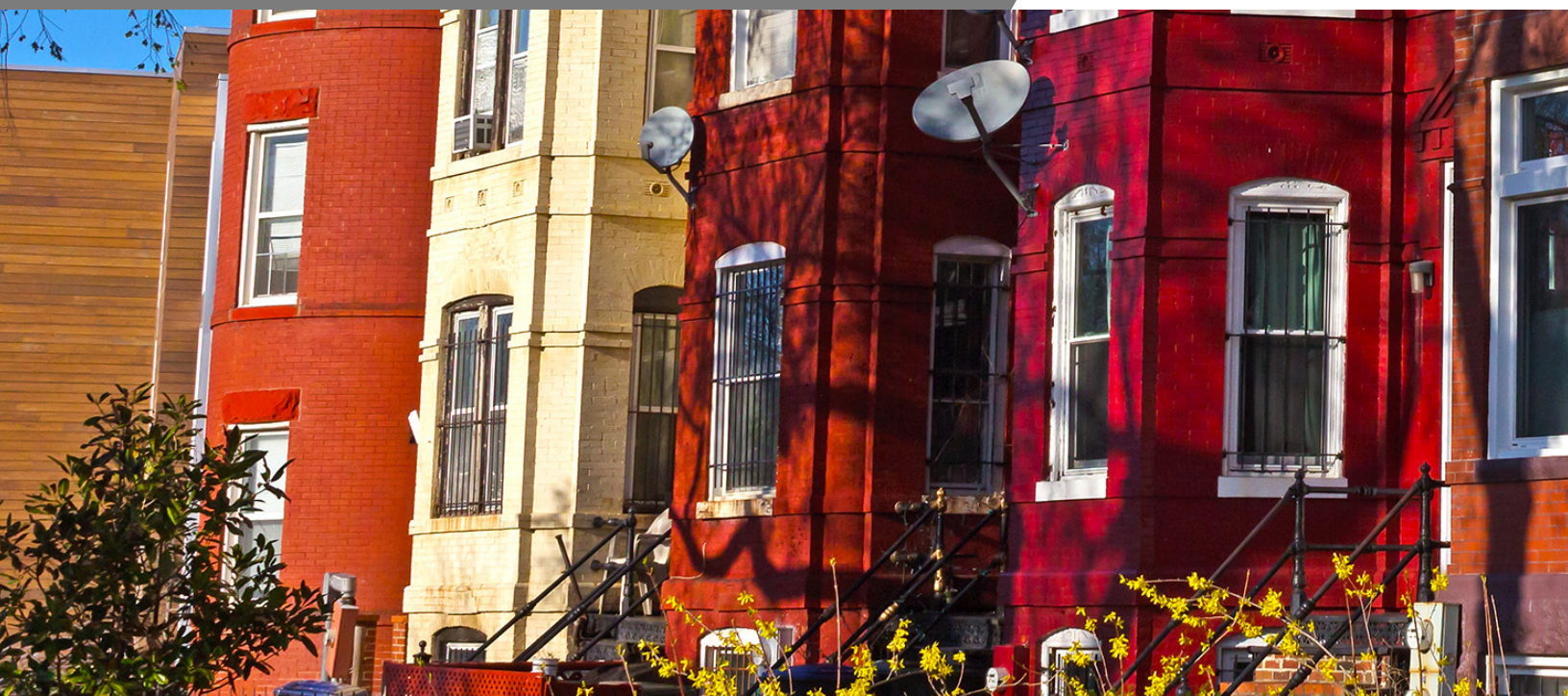
CHANDA WASHINGTON

Director of Communications
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development

Chanda Washington serves as the Director of Communications for the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED). In this role, she is responsible for developing and executing the communications strategy for the agency's work regarding increasing affordable housing, growing the District of Columbia's tax base and creating jobs for DC residents.

Prior to joining DC Government, Ms. Washington worked for The Washington Post for 17 years. During her tenure, she held key editorial roles including community news editor for the publication's Local Living section, deputy news editor, assistant photo editor and copy editor. She also worked at The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky.

Ms. Washington earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Arkansas State University.



ALEMTSEHAY WEDAJO

Founder and Managing Partner Tayitu Cultural and Educational Center

The founder of Tayitu Entertainment and currently artistic director of Tayitu Cultural and Educational Center is the famed Alemtsehay Wedajo, one of the giants of Ethiopian culture and arts. Alemtsehay's distinguished artistic career spans more than three decades. A versatile artist known for her creativity, Alemtsehay is an accomplished director, playwright, actor, writer, poet, lyricist and community activist.

One of the few well-known and most revered actresses in Ethiopian theatre, Alemtsehay Wedajo started performing professionally at the very young age of thirteen. She has received professional training in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, and the Soviet Union among other places and acted in Ethiopian movies as well as a large number of stage and TV dramas and appeared on over fifteen international stages in Great Britain, Germany, Nigeria, Russia and USA, to name a few. Alemtsehay is versatile enough to be onstage as an actress and offstage as a director. While working as a lead actress for the Ethiopian National Theater, she wrote several plays and two full stage productions including one short story theater for stage and TV.

Among her many accomplishments, she was assistant director on five major theatrical productions and has served as the head of Programming and Production as well as Head Public Relations Officer of the Ethiopian National Theater. Her brilliant career reached its zenith when she was named the first female director of the Ethiopian National Theater.

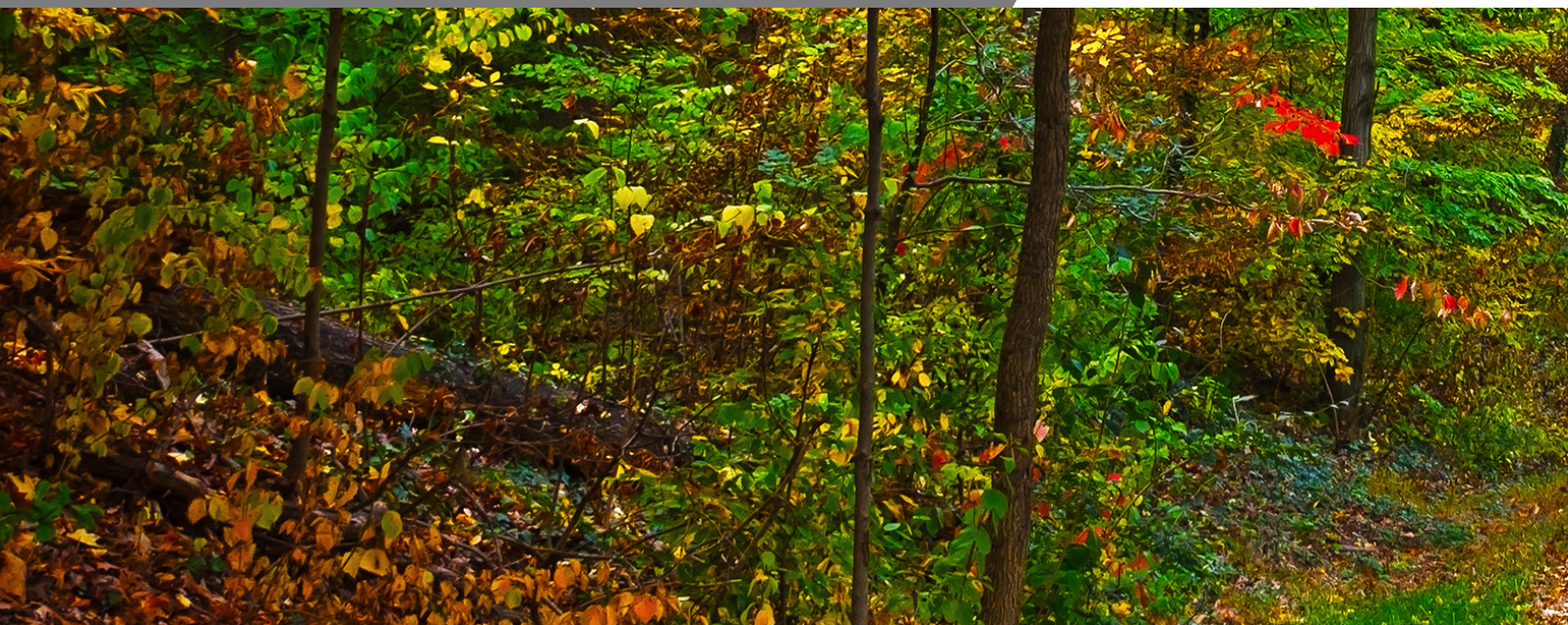


C. BRIAN WILLIAMS

Founder Step Afrika!

After living in Southern Africa, Brian began to research the percussive dance tradition of stepping, exploring the many sides of this exciting, yet under-recognized American art form and founded Step Afrika! in 1994. Brian has performed, lectured and taught in Europe, South & Central America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the Caribbean and throughout the United States. He is a founder of the historic Step Afrika! International Cultural Festival in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Under Brian's leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America's newest cultural exports and inspired the designation of Step Afrika! as Washington, DC's official Cultural Ambassador. Brian has been cited as a "Civic/Community Visionary" by NV Magazine; "Nation Builder" by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; and "Minority Business Leader" by the Washington Business Journal. His work is prominently showcased at the National Museum of African American History and Culture and Brian is featured in Soulstepping, the first book to document the history of stepping, and several documentaries discussing the art form. Brian is also a recipient of numerous awards including the Mayor's Arts Award for Innovation in the Arts and the Pola Nirenska Award for Contemporary Achievement in Dance. In 2018, Brian received the Mayor's Arts Award for Visionary Leadership from the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities.



DENISHA SIMMONE WILLIAMS

Founder

Williams Global Law, PLLC

Simone Williams is founder and Managing Attorney representing international businesses and investors in matters relating to U.S. and global immigration, EB-5 investments, corporate formation and corporate compliance. Ms. Williams advises high net worth individuals and multinational companies on all aspects of U.S. immigration law, with a particular emphasis on U.S. and global investment visa options to acquire temporary residency, permanent residency and foreign citizenship. Ms. Williams has assisted foreign investors and multinational companies with all aspects of establishing new operations in the U.S. She regularly advises investors and entrepreneurs on immigration strategies. Ms. Williams also advises employers on staffing strategies, personnel policies, corporate compliance and best practices.

Ms. Williams has also worked as General Counsel to an EB-5 Regional Center (an organization designated by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that sponsored capital investment projects for investment by foreign investors). In this role, she was in charge of a multi-million immigrant investment fund and managed the immigration process and operations for the company, its projects and foreign investors. Prior to this role, she worked at Baker & McKenzie's Toronto and Washington DC office for eight (8) years, where she served as outside counsel to multinational corporations, Fortune 500 companies, and high net worth investors in all areas of U.S. immigration and global migration issues.

Ms. Williams is regarded as one of the top global business and migration attorneys in the country. In July 2019, Ms. Williams was awarded the "International Pioneer Award" by the International Law Section, of the National Bar Association (NBA).



BEREKET WOLDU

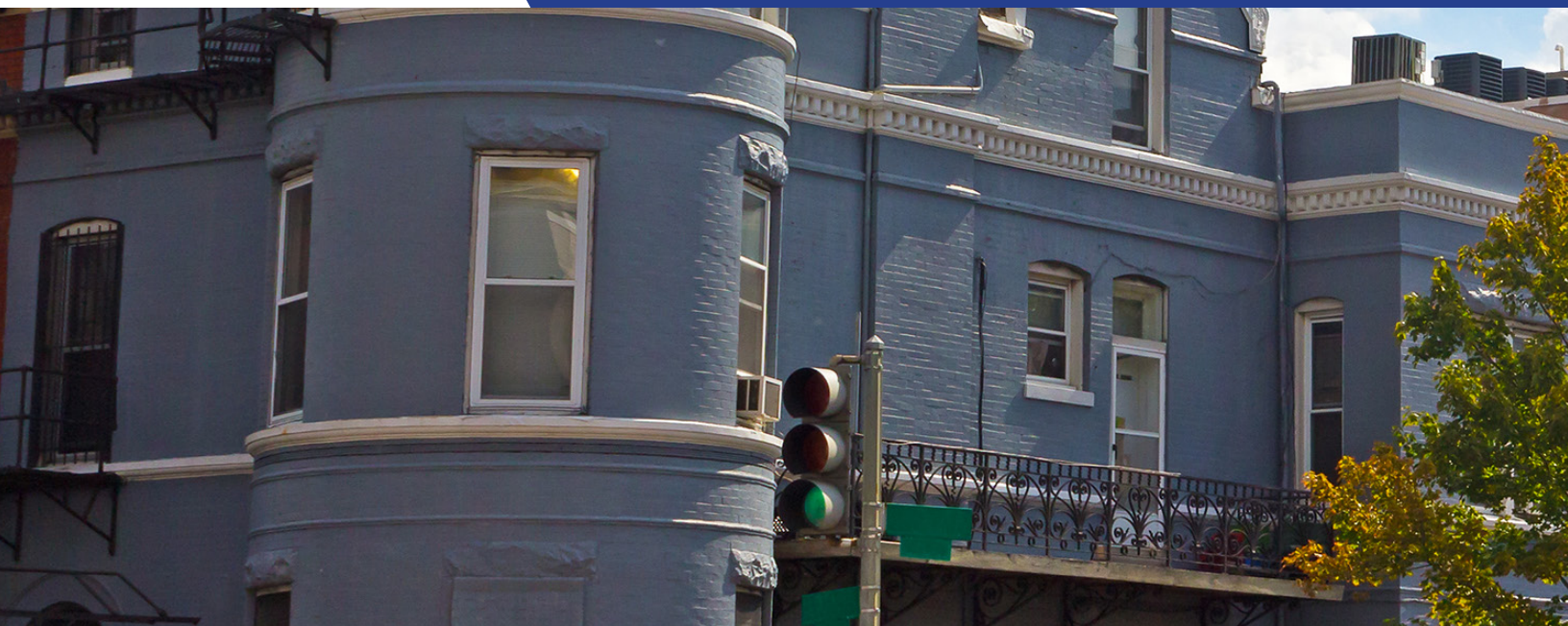
Executive Vice President The Forge Company

Bereket Woldu has over 30 years of experience in the parking industry. He is currently the Executive Vice President of The Forge Company, a private real estate and transportation holding company based in Washington, DC, whose principal operating units are Colonial Parking, Inc., the largest parking management service provider in the Washington, DC metropolitan market, and PortfolioFirst Parking Solutions, an international parking asset management firm.

Prior to joining the Forge team, Bereket served for over 30 years at Colonial Parking where he progressed to become Senior Vice President, responsible for all operating and development functions of Colonial's Leased portfolio and some of its Managed portfolio.

Bereket is also the founder of RACE4EVER, a registered 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization whose aim is to address the problem of mentally and physically challenged, poverty-stricken Ethiopian youth affected by HIV/AIDS by creating an annual Marathon, Half-Marathon, and 5K Fun Run in Washington, DC and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He is a member of the Board of the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID), as well as The Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC). An active supporter of the Ethiopian and Hispanic communities in Washington, Bereket has received prestigious awards from several reputable organizations for his community related services. Bereket holds a B.A. from The University of Baltimore.



KARIMA WOODS

Director of Business

Development & Strategy

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development

Karima M. Woods currently serves as the Director of Business Development and Strategy at the DC Deputy Mayor's Office for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), where she is responsible for attracting new businesses to the District, retaining existing businesses and promoting entrepreneurship. Prior to holding this position, Karima served as Deputy Director of Business Development, International Business Manager, and Senior Business Development Specialist, where she helped to shape signature business development initiatives and establish new business relationships with international markets such as China, Qatar, Dubai, Canada, Cuba El Salvador and Israel.

Karima has over 18 years of experience in public-private partnerships, economic and community development. Prior to joining the District, Karima served as Director of the D.C. Neighborhood College at the GWU Center for Excellence in Public Leadership and held various leadership roles at local and national nonprofit organizations like DC Agenda and the Public Education Network.

Karima completed her MBA at George Washington University and BA in law and society at the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1997.



2019 Diplomatic and Trade Mission to Ethiopia

ELIAS ZEWEDE

Managing Director
KHAFA Global Services

Mr. Zewde has more than 40 years' experience in engineering design, environmental studies and development of ground water resources. His primary focus at KHAFA is on projects involving potable water process evaluation design, and construction management. Mr. Zewde's engineering career also includes project management experience in water and wastewater treatment facilities, raw water intakes, pump stations, finished water transmission, and wastewater collection systems. His engagements include development of groundwater resources, aquifer monitoring programs, impact assessment of effluent recharge on ground water. Additionally, he has been involved in several Design-Build engineering water supply and wastewater projects.

In West Africa he has been engaged on major regional and urban drinking water supply project developments in Ghana, Senegal and Togo. In Ghana he directed the development of regional water supply projects for three major regions with a major development budget of nearly one billion USD. He was formerly employed with two major international design engineering firms, Black & Veatch and CH2M Hill.

He is a graduate of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with degrees in civil and Environmental Engineering. He has also received executive management training at Northwestern, Dartmouth and the University of Wisconsin.



WHY DC?

Washington, DC has been experiencing an urban renewal for the past 15 years, with billions of dollars in new investments across the city. As a world renowned city, Washington, DC has been recognized as a top tier investment market for international, national and local investors and entrepreneurs.



#3

Greenest Metros
Business Facilities, 2017



#4

**Best Place to Live
in the U.S.**
U.S. News, 2017



#5

**Most Future-Ready
Global Economy**
Dell, 2016



#1

**City for Women
in Tech**
Smart Asset, 2017



13.2%

**Increase in Population
since 2010**
Census, 2016



WASHINGTON, DC IS:

A **WORLD-CLASS** DESTINATION

Washington, DC offers visitors world-class museums and monuments, unique neighborhoods, top-rated restaurants, gorgeous parks and gardens, and endless performing arts options. DC has powerful experiences, with local culture as memorable as the monuments.

- **69 museums and art galleries call the nation's capital home.** DC was recently named the top museum destination in the world.
- **Nearly 2,000 restaurants and counting.** Ranked Restaurant City of the Year by Bon Appetit and has 12 Michelin Star restaurants.
- **#6 most popular U.S. destination for international travelers.** DC and its world-famous National Mall were recently ranked #4 top "American Experiences."



Yards Park in Capitol Riverfront

A **SUSTAINABLE** COMMUNITY

Washington, DC demonstrates how enhancing our natural and built environments, investing in a diverse clean economy, and reducing disparities among residents can create an educated, equitable and prosperous society. Washington, DC is leading the U.S. in green design and sustainability initiatives. In just one generation — 20 years — the District of Columbia will be the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the United States.

- **#3 among the greenest cities** in the U.S. and Canada
- **120 LEED certified "green" buildings.** DC has the highest number of buildings per capita (29.04) than any other state.
- **#1 on the continent for area of green vegetated roofs** with nearly 1.6 million square feet
- **#4 for the number of green economy jobs** in the 100 largest metro areas
- **#2 for the number of commuters** who take transit in the country

Friendship Archway in Chinatown
(courtesy of DowntownDC BID)



AN **INTELLECTUAL** CAPITAL

Washington, DC has over nine colleges and universities serving as major employers and innovation centers. As economic engines in their own right, they contribute \$1.42 billion to the gross city product. DC is also home to one of the most educated populations in the country with 55% of its residents obtaining a bachelor's degree or higher. Major colleges and universities in Washington, DC include:

American University • Gallaudet University • The George Washington University • Georgetown University • The Catholic University • Howard University • Trinity University • University of the District of Columbia • Corcoran College of Art + Design



34% of DC residents have a graduate or professional degree (Esri, 2017)

A HOT REAL ESTATE MARKET



Half Street development in Capitol Riverfront

Washington, DC is one of the hottest real estate markets in the U.S. DC's population growth and public and private investments can be experienced throughout the City. National accolades have followed with several neighborhoods being recognized as great places to live, visit and invest. Current real estate development projects seeking FDI include:

- **Walter Reed** / 3.2M SF
Residential, office, medical, retail and education uses
Total investment: \$1 billion
- **McMillan Sand Filtration Site** / 2.1M SF
Residential, office, medical, retail uses
Total investment: \$720 million
- **Capitol Crossing** 2.2M SF
Office, residential, retail uses
Total investment: \$1.3 billion
- **The Wharf** / 3.0M SF
Office, retail, hotel, residential uses
Total investment: \$1.2 billion
- **Saint Elizabeths** / 5.0M SF
Office, retail, hotel, civic, education, residential uses
Total investment: \$1.5 - 2.0 billion

**90
MILLION**
Square feet of
Class A Office Space
Costar, 2016

50K+

Registered Businesses
DC Dept of Consumer &
Regulatory Affairs

**6.1
MILLION**

DC Metropolitan Residents
Census, 2016

**22
MILLION**

Annual Visitors
Destination DC, 2016

\$106K

Average Household Income
Esri forecasts for 2016

A VIBRANT TECHNOLOGY HUB

Washington, DC boasts an active technology sector focused on software development, systems integration, and consumer internet products. DC offers access to countless customers such as federal agencies, international nongovernmental organizations, and major corporations in finance and hospitality. With over 200 tech startups pioneered in DC, and festivals like Digital Capital Week which attracts 10,000 attendees, the District of Columbia is attracting technology entrepreneurs from throughout the region. DC's active urban culture, educated population, and boundless professional opportunities attract talented engineers, sales, and marketing experts.

- **Top 5 city for startup success**
- **Over 30,729 technology employees.** More engineers as a share of the workforce than any other state in the USA.
- **3rd best tech city** with 20.6% growth in tech employment since 2001
- **Access to over 150 venture capital and equity firms** and nearly 20 federal labs with commercialization opportunities
- **\$94 billion Federal IT budget in 2017**



DC is the #3 Tech City in the U.S.
(Cushman & Wakefield, Tech Cities 1.0)



The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) is charged with executing the Mayor's economic development strategy, which encourages growth and investments across Washington, DC. The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development is responsible for:



**Promoting Real Estate
Investment Throughout
The City**



**Attracting, Retaining,
and Growing
Businesses**



**Coordinated and
Customized
Business Support**

DC is ready to assist investors, businesses and entrepreneurs in finding exciting opportunities. For additional information about the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, please visit us at dcbiz.dc.gov or contact us at **(202) 727-6365**.



 **GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR**



OCTOBER 2017



wdcep.com



dmped.dc.gov



dc.gov

ABOUT THE DC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We leverage relationships with key contacts in the DC Council and the Federal Government in order to positively impact regulatory reform with the goal of maintaining our current business community while attracting new businesses to the District. The DC Chamber of Commerce is the voice for all businesses in the city - small, medium and large. It is the Chamber's vision to create a vibrant, thriving economy that improves the quality of life for all in the District establishing mutually beneficial partnerships between business, government and the community. To achieve that vision, we have made it our mission to be the most valuable resource and leading advocate for businesses throughout the District of Columbia. The Chamber proudly serves a diverse membership of more than 1,400 entities to create a better environment in which to do business in the District.

DC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1133 21st Street, NW | M200
Washington, DC 20036

202-347-7201

202-204-5162 (fax)

www.dcchamber.org

Stay Connected!

<https://twitter.com/dcchamber>

<https://www.facebook.com/DCCofCommerce>

<https://www.instagram.com/dcchamber/>