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Building Bridges Across the River Honored by Leadership Greater Washington
Ward 8 Nonprofit Receives Community Partner of the Year Award



Washington, DC – June 20, 2023 – Building Bridges Across the River was honored by Leadership Greater Washington (LGW) today, receiving the organization’s Community Partner of the Year Award.

Mike Schwartz, program officer for the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, presented the award on behalf of LGW to Building Bridges President Rahsaan Bernard and Senior Vice President Scott Kratz. Kratz is the director of 11th Street Bridge Park, a joint project between Building Bridges and the DC government.

“Building Bridges Across the River is honored to receive LGW’s 2023 Community Service of the Year Award,” Kratz said. “Our goal is to serve as a collective force for social change building a more equitable and inclusive capital city.

Leadership Greater Washington is a Washington, DC-based leadership incubator, with a focus of bringing together the region’s most visionary influencers across professions and geographies, uniting them for a shared purpose: taking on the DC region’s toughest problems. Building Bridges President Bernard is a 2020 graduate of the program.

WC Smith Chairman and CEO Chris Smith founded Building Bridges in 1997 to improve the quality of life for children and adults who reside east of the Anacostia River by providing leadership, management and financial oversight of the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC), 11th Street Bridge Park, THEARC Farm, THEARC Theater and Skyland Workforce Center. Through these projects, Building Bridges uses a multi-sector approach to address significant social, health, environmental and economic disparities that exist in DC.

Smith is chair of the Building Bridges board of directors.

The 11th Street Bridge Park is Washington, D.C.'s first elevated public park. Located on the piers of the old 11th Street Bridge, this venue will be a space for healthy recreation, environmental education, and the arts and has been implementing community-driven equitable development strategies since 2016. The project works with community and local partners to invest in the residents and neighborhoods surrounding the Park with various initiatives and support programs. To learn more about 11th Street Bridge Park and receive updates on its design, please visit [here](#).

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About WC Smith

WC Smith (www.wcsmith.com) is a Washington, DC-based multidisciplinary real estate firm, providing integrated real estate services to the Washington metropolitan area since 1968. Recognized and respected as one of the largest, most capable property management firms in Washington, WC Smith is one of a very few organizations whose portfolio spans market-rate and affordable multifamily rental and common ownership communities to commercial and office properties. WC Smith’s development experience spans the full spectrum from acquiring, renovating and repositioning multi-family communities, to repurposing obsolete facilities, to constructing new office buildings and large-scale multifamily and mixed-use properties. The development, commercial brokerage, and finance divisions have completed close to \$2 billion of real estate and developed more than 7,000 units of multi-family housing in the District of Columbia area. The property management division maintains more than 10,000 residential units as well as office and commercial properties.