

WATERFRONT WATCH

Anacostia Waterfront News Digest



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DC Streetcar Construction to Start Soon in Anacostia

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is ready to resurrect the District's streetcar transit system, beginning with the construction of the Anacostia line segment. A construction schedule will be finalized in early March.

WTOP first broke the streetcar story after interviewing DDOT Director Gabe Klein, who spoke at the Board of Trade's Transportation Forum on February 20th. DDOT spokesperson John Lisle told WTOP, "That segment has been extended to about two miles and will stretch from a new maintenance facility on South Capitol Street to Firth Sterling Avenue, east on Howard Road, and then north on Martin Luther King Boulevard to the area of Good Hope Road." Plans call for the streetcar system to cross the new 11th Street bridges when they are built and along the H Street corridor in Northeast.

It's been 47 years since the last streetcar ran in the District. The new streetcars will run on streets fitted with rails and will be powered by overhead electric wires. The District joins many other cities that are incorporating streetcars into their transit systems. One of the reasons that streetcars are becoming an attractive transit addition is because of the streetcar's role in stabilizing communities and promoting neighborhood improvements.

Click here to read WTOP's story:

www.wtop.com/?sid=1610001&nid=25

Anacostia Waterfront Forum 2 on March 17th

On Tuesday, March 17th, the second forum in the Anacostia Waterfront Forum Series will focus on the economics of developing the Anacostia Waterfront. **Nina Albert**, a project manager in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), will be the presenter. Ms. Albert is the person responsible for coordinating DMPED's role in the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. **Neil O. Albert**, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, is scheduled to deliver remarks to welcome participants. Last month, the inaugural forum at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library drew a standing-room-only crowd of over 200 people.

For more information, visit www.theanacostiawaterfront.com or call (202) 715-6641.

Also, District Channel 16 is broadcasting the inaugural forum. Stream it at:

http://www.octt.dc.gov/services/on_demand_video/channel16/2844.aspx

The Next Anacostia Waterfront Forum: Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Topic: "Green Waterfront, Green Jobs, Green Living in a Green DC"

Waterfront Park Dedicated to Slain Anacostia Youth

Diamond Teague's life was snuffed out when he was murdered in 2003. But the way the 19-year-old Anacostia youth lived his life will be memorialized in an Anacostia waterfront park that will be built and named in his honor. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty joined community leaders in a groundbreaking ceremony on February 13th for Diamond Teague Park, an \$8 million waterfront park that will link Nationals Park to the Anacostia River.

Teague had been a member of the Earth Conservation Corp (ECC) for two years before his tragic death. In an exclusive interview before the groundbreaking ceremony, Diamond Teague's parents told *Waterfront Watch* how they felt about the city's recognition of their son. "I just want everybody to know there's a diamond in all of you," said Ivory Teague. His wife, Florence Teague, hugged a framed picture of Diamond and whispered, "This means so much to me. What I share today, I share with other parents."

Several piers at the park, located at First Street and Potomac Avenue, SE, are expected to be completed by April 13th, which is the Opening Day of the Nationals' baseball season. The official dedication of Diamond Teague Park is scheduled for April 28, 2009.

To read more about Diamond Teague Park, visit: www.dcbiz.dc.gov

R.E.E.L. Solutions On The 'River East'

An evening of engagement, music, and networking marked the kick-off social event for the River East Emerging Leaders (R.E.E.L.). The organization was forged by young professionals and residents who live and work in Wards 7 and 8. Hosted at the Honfleur Art Gallery in historic Anacostia, the event was a celebration of culture, civic commitment, and a new energy to revitalize Anacostia. R.E.E.L. members repeatedly sounded their pledge to improve the quality of life in 'River East', a.k.a. 'east of the river.'

"R.E.E.L. started with an idea and a shared value," said Charles Wilson, director of the Historic Anacostia Block Association and member of the R.E.E.L. steering committee. The 'River East' moniker, he added, is part of the re-branding. "Our goal is to shift and redefine how other District residents view us, and how we view ourselves."

Later in the evening, participants broke out into small groups that provided an opportunity to grapple with the challenges and possibilities for a revitalized community. The collective concerns included greater community engagement in revitalization, green development, historic preservation, and increased transparency from developers and District government as projects come off the drawing board.

Visit the newly launched R.E.E.L. blog: <http://rivereastidealists.blogspot.com>

Please visit the Anacostia Waterfront Facebook page.

Go to the search function on your Facebook page and type in "anacostiawaterfront".

For more information about how the District of Columbia is creating a world class Anacostia Waterfront, visit our web site: www.theanacostiawaterfront.com

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