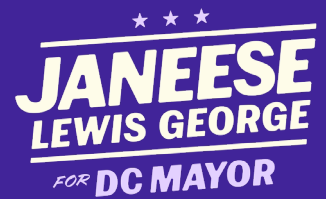


# SUPPORTING DC'S ARTS, CULTURE & NIGHTLIFE ECONOMY



Washington, DC's cultural identity is shaped not only by its museums and monuments, but by the artists, venues, restaurants, music venues, theatres, festivals, and neighborhood organizations that bring life to the city every day. Arts, culture, and nightlife are deeply connected to small business growth, tourism, job creation, public space activation, and the long-term economic health of our downtown corridors, and strengthen our communities across all eight wards.

As Mayor, Janeese Lewis George will work to make it easier and more affordable for artists, cultural organizations, venues, and hospitality businesses to live, work, and operate in the District by reducing unnecessary barriers. Her administration will focus on improving coordination across city government, reducing unnecessary barriers, and ensuring that arts and nightlife remain integrated into the city's economic development and recovery efforts.

Janeese will restore the Office of Nightlife and Culture as the District's central hub for stakeholder engagement, cross-agency coordination, and problem-solving related to arts, culture, nightlife, and hospitality. Through the restored Office of Nightlife and Culture, she will launch the Arts and Nightlife Activation Initiative (ANA), bringing together the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH), the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD), Events DC, the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA), and all thirteen Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Main Streets, cultural organizations, and community stakeholders to improve coordination around permitting, licensing, cultural activity, corridor revitalization, and economic development.

## KEY PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Creating a true one-stop shop for permitting by coordinating agency approvals, timelines, inspections, and licensing requirements for cultural events, performances, pop-ups, and venues, so artists and operators aren't forced to navigate disconnected systems across city government.
- Revamping pop-up permitting for vacant and underutilized spaces and creating clearer pathways for temporary cultural uses, festivals, and performances to transition into long-term venues and neighborhood-based creative activity.
- Expanding access to city-owned, underutilized, and commercial spaces for rehearsal, performance, exhibitions, and creative work by strengthening partnerships with property owners, developers, BIDs, and Main Streets, and creating stronger pathways for long-term cultural use so creative communities can remain and grow in the neighborhoods they help activate.
- Protecting and modernizing the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities funding mechanism to ensure stable, long-term investment in artists, cultural organizations, arts education, and neighborhood-based cultural activities.
- Relaunching and expanding 202Creates and 202Creates Month as citywide platforms for artist development, networking, and cultural visibility, better aligned with Art All Night and neighborhood-based cultural activity across the District.
- Supporting DC-led festivals and cultural producers by expanding access to National Park land, working to reopen Carter Barron Amphitheatre, and helping artists and organizations build sustainable creative work in the District despite growing affordability and space challenges.
- Ensuring the RFK redevelopment includes paid opportunities for DC-based artists and organizations, dedicated space for festivals, performances, and public art, and year-round cultural programming embedded as a lasting part of the site's civic identity.
- Championing fully funded arts education in every DCPS school, with a dedicated funding line, not just partnerships and grants, beginning with a pilot in the wards most underserved today.
- Supporting, preserving, and elevating Go-Go as DC's official music through performances, festivals, arts education, artist business development, archival preservation, and expanded opportunities for DC-based Go-Go artists across the city.
- Restoring DC's Poet Laureate program, vacant since 2017, in partnership with poets, educators, and literary organizations to elevate poetry and spoken word as part of the District's cultural identity, civic life, and neighborhood programming.
- Supporting venues, restaurants, and hospitality businesses facing rising liquor liability insurance costs by convening industry stakeholders, supporting risk-reduction practices, and advocating for policies that stabilize DC's nightlife and cultural economy.
- Supporting the Fair Swipe Act to eliminate credit card processing fees on sales tax and gratuities, reducing unnecessary operating costs for restaurants, venues, bars, and small businesses across DC's hospitality and cultural sectors.
- Addressing exploitative secondary ticket sales practices that inflate prices, undermine independent venues and artists, and pull revenue from DC's local cultural economy, while supporting fairer, more transparent access to live events.