



FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC

389 O STREET, S. W.

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FriendsSWDC@yahoo.com donate: www.FriendsofSWDC.org/donate

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Friends of Southwest DC (FOS) had a successful year in 2017, awarding over \$27,000 in grants to eight community organizations. This is the highest dollar amount since FOS was founded in 1998. In addition to providing grants to longstanding partners who rely on our support, we further expanded our range of grantees. We are grateful that both the size of our donor base and the overall level of contributions increased in 2017. Our balance sheet remains healthy.

FOS continued to fulfill a unique role in supporting small community groups working to advance educational, charitable, and community development in Southwest, in line with our mission. Most of our grantees are small organizations that do not have robust fundraising capacities and would otherwise not be able to undertake the programs that FOS supported. In all instances, our grants expanded the scope of what otherwise would have been possible.

The FOS Board is grateful for the continuing community engagement and interaction that have made our efforts possible. This support has been vital to our work to make Southwest DC a better place for all its residents.

BOARD MEMBERS

Friends of Southwest DC began 2017 with the following board members: Coralie Farlee, President; C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer; Jean Sammon, Secretary; Joyce Bouvier; Peter Eicher; Cecilie Jones; Lucy Rojansky and Rodney Ross. Coralie Farlee was re-elected to a 3-year term and another 2-year term as President. C.W. Hargrave was re-elected to a 2-year term as Treasurer. Rod Ross left the board in March, and Lucy Rojansky left the board in September, leaving three vacancies on the Board.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held on March 30, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Attendees heard reports from representatives of eight of our 2016 grantee organizations, who all expressed gratitude for the grants. They described the projects they were able to do, and people they were able to help, because of the grants. The treasurer noted the increase in funds raised and grants given from 2015 to

2016. The president announced the spring “triple match” fund drive. She noted that FOS is always open to suggestions from supporters and grantees.

BOARD MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Board members participated in a variety of outreach activities, including the SWNA Scholarship awards event, a Camp Arena Stage tour and the Voices of Now program at Arena Stage. The president was invited to speak at the Southwest community event held by the Omicron Eta Lambda Charitable Foundation in Lansburgh Park, which was also attended by another board member.

PUBLICITY

FOS issued a revised brochure, which was made available in local outlets and distributed to households. Copies were also inserted in The Southwester, with the generous assistance of Perry Klein. The Southwester published a lengthy article, with pictures, describing the FOS annual meeting. The River Park newsletter also carried an article on FOS. Advertisements also appeared in The Southwester for our fund drives and annual meeting. Beyond providing information to the public, the Board regards its paid advertising in The Southwester as a contribution in support of an important Southwest institution. The FOS website FriendsofSWDC.org was regularly updated with current information, reports and photos, including those from our grantees. Board members continue to look for new ways to make Friends of Southwest DC known in the community, and appreciate our friends and donors who help us spread the word.

ADMINISTRATION

FOS renewed its DCRA license, its web domain registration and hosting, and its membership in the Center for Non-Profit Advancement. We filed our IRS report using the short form, after investigation showed that the long form was not appropriate for an organization of our size. We continued to keep administrative costs to a minimum. In 2017, administrative and fundraising expenses were \$1,579.17 which is 5.4% of total spending.

FUND RAISING

In 2017, FOS raised \$31,815.30 through our spring and fall fund-raising campaigns. The campaigns included ads in The Southwester, mailings to previous donors, and distribution of brochures. Contributions in the spring were matched three-for-one, up to \$10,000, and contributions in the fall were matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$2,000, thanks to two very generous donors.

Donations are welcome throughout the year. Tax-deductible contributions by check should be made out to “Friends of Southwest DC” and mailed to 389 O St. SW,

Washington, DC 20024. Donations by credit card may be made via Razoo at Friendsofswdc.org/donate.

GRANTS

The following grants, totaling \$27,604.50, were awarded in 2017:

AMIDON-BOWEN PTA

A grant to the PTA of Southwest's Amidon-Bowen Elementary School provided iPads for four preschool classrooms. Members of the FOS Board of Directors visited the classrooms and saw the young techies in action with these new learning tools.

ARENA STAGE'S CAMP ARENA STAGE

Two participants in Arena Stage's 13th summer arts camp were on scholarships provided by FOS. The camp, for young people ages 8-15, is held at Georgetown Visitation Prep and gives attendees the opportunity to learn from Arena's professional artist-educators, choosing from a wide variety of classes on dance, music, theater and the visual arts.

ARENA STAGE'S VOICES OF NOW

Voices of Now is a yearlong after-school program, combining creative writing, improvisation, and movement, to devise an autobiographical theater piece. The FOS grant helped support the program at Jefferson Academy, Southwest's middle school. An enthusiastic audience of community members attends a performance of the Jefferson ensemble each May in Arena's Kogod Cradle.

DC STORM (Students Taught Organization and Respect Through Mentoring)

An FOS grant provided funding for a three-day educational-cultural trip to Philadelphia for 15 SW youth to teach them the importance of culture and US history and expose them to some of the most prestigious universities in the country. The itinerary included the Franklin Institute, and visits to Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, Drexel, and Villanova.

EmmaUS LEARNING CENTER

Two grants supported educational trips for Southwest youth. Since 2002, an FOS grant has provided trips to Philadelphia's National Constitution Center and, more recently, the National Archives. The 2017 second grant funded a trip to Columbia, PA for the Turkey Hill Experience, which allowed the young visitors to learn about dairy culture.

OMICRON ETA LAMBDA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Our first grant to this organization helped support a community day in Southwest on September 16 in Lansburgh Park. This event featured health screenings, children's activities, a school supplies giveaway, educational resources, and a live DJ.

SOUTHWEST COMM-UNITY FORUM

The Forum's annual Summer in Lansburgh Park was held August 26. A grant from FOS helped support entertainment for children. This was the Forum's 11th annual summer community event.

SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY: EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP TASK FORCE

Three SWNA scholarships were funded by FOS grants in 2017. Samantha Anderson attends Carleton College in Northfield, MN; Danielle Crutchfield is a freshman at Allegany College in Leadville, PA; Caitlin Whitter is a senior at George Washington University.

SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY: *The Southwester*

FOS advertisements in *The Southwester* support this important community resource. The ads also increase visibility for FOS in the Southwest neighborhood, as well as that of the grantees; and we use the opportunity to also solicit donations and grant applications.

WATERFRONT VILLAGE

FOS provided a matching grant to help the new Waterfront Village launch its Wellness Outreach Series, designed to help Southwest Waterfront Seniors to age safely and happily in their homes rather than in a retirement community or nursing facility. The one hour and fifteen minute classes, talks, demonstrations, and discussions are free for Waterfront Village members and just \$5 per session to others who are interested.

DONORS 2017

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CONTRIBUTORS

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SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS

We thank the Westminster Presbyterian Church and River Park Mutual Homes, Inc. for the use of facilities for our meetings.
We also acknowledge the many and important contributions of Perry Klein in support of our efforts.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Calendar Year 2017

ASSETS

Account balance (December 31, 2016)	\$ 18,815.91
Income (January-December 2017)	31,815.30
	\$ 50,631.21

GRANTS

Amidon-Bowen PTA	4,980.00
Arena Stage: Camp Arena Stage, Voices of Now	5,000.00
DC STORM	4,125.00
EmmaUS	2,159.50
Omicron Eta Lambda	\$ 1,500.00
Southwest Comm-Unity Forum	940.00
SWNA <u>The Southwester</u>	400.00
SWNA Scholarships	4,500.00
Waterfront Village	4,000.00
	\$27,604.50

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Supplies, printing, etc.	\$	372.15
Association Dues		200.00
DCRA		80.00
Doyle Printing		100.00
APG Media (brochures)		790.00
Miscellaneous		37.02
		\$ 1,579.17

TOTAL OUTLAY \$ 29,183.67

ACCOUNT BALANCE (December 31, 2017) \$ 21,447.54