

# NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2024



### Hyattsville Community Development Corporation (HCDC)

#### Our Mission:

- \_ To develop **arts and public spaces**;
- \_ To spur **economic development** and the quality of **community life**;
- \_ To encourage **widespread leadership** for community revitalization; and
- \_ To rebuild the City's **commercial corridors**.

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## Legend:



**Extra Tidbit!** Click me to head online to find something related.



**Did you know:** Provides more information and fun facts.

# Recap Trolley Trail Extension Celebration



We want to thank everyone for coming out on Saturday Jan 27th to help us celebrate the Trolley Trail Extension! Thank you to the City of Hyattsville for their support.

Thanks to all who came out, especially the Wild Anacostias for leading the party down the trail, Shortcake Bakery, Vigilante Coffee, Zekes Coffee dc, and Sangfroid Distilling for the treats, and Mayor Robert Croslin, former Senator Paul Pinsky, and Senator Alonzo Washington for sharing their appreciation for all the hard work that went into the trail's completion.



# MEET THE ARTIST CRAFTING THE SCULPTURAL BUS SHELTERS AT THE CANVAS APARTMENTS

We received ten proposals from seven artists.

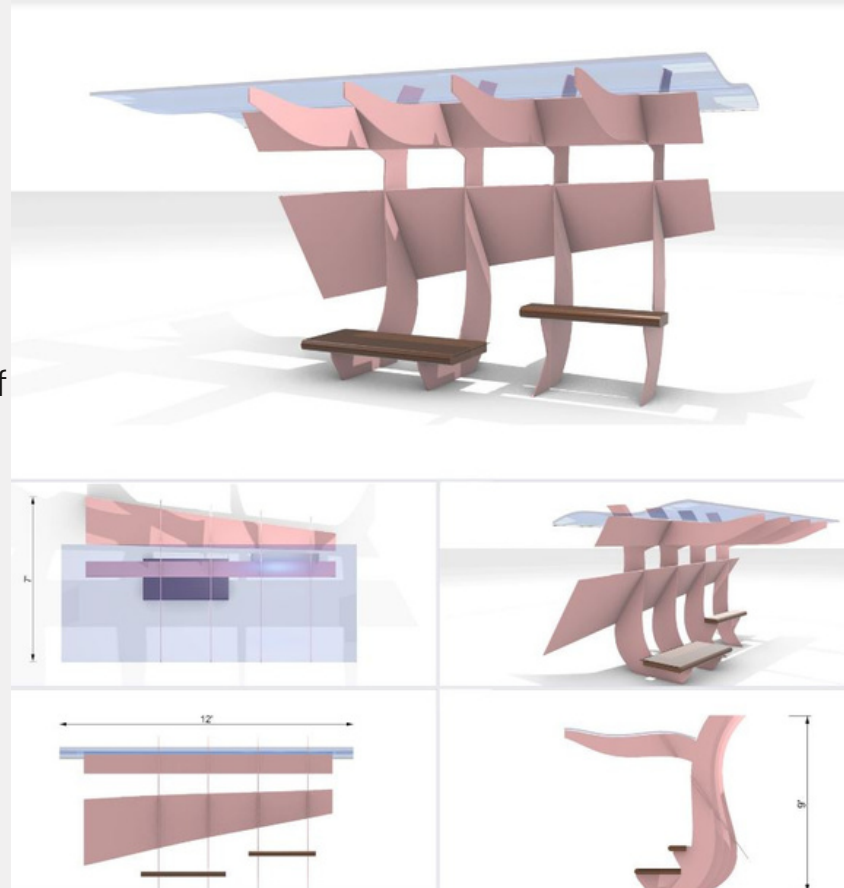
The jury reached unanimous consensus for Davide Prete's proposal to be developed into the two planned Bus Shelters for [Canvas Apartments](#) coming to Downtown Hyattsville in May 2024.

Davide was born in Treviso, Italy, where his father, Alessandro, and the sculptor Toni Benetton introduced him to the art of metalsmithing. He studied jewelry and metalsmithing at the Institute of Art in Venice, and in 2003, he obtained his degree in architecture at IUAV, Venice, Italy.

Davide has exhibited in our [Riverdale Park Sculpture Initiative](#) for several years. [Click here](#) for more about Prete and his art.



**CANVAS  
APARTMENTS  
COMING  
MAY 2024!**



# Empowering Minds, Building Futures: Hyattsville CDC's Inspiring Journey in Education, Community, and Revitalization



You might not know that Hyattsville Community Development Corporation (CDC) has a history of programming collaborations with local schools and parent-teacher organizations (PTOs). We are deeply committed to fostering local education as means to achieving our revitalization efforts. Our engagements take many forms.

Our current project portfolio includes a one-of-a-kind partnership with Cesar Chavez Spanish Immersion Elementary School's PTO and School Board Member Pamela Boozer-Strother, where we serve as a grant and project manager for the development of healthy outdoor classrooms and contemplative "Sacred Spaces" on their campus. Through a National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund Grant of \$145,000, and other donated funds, the CDC is furthering the design and development of these new outdoor learning environments, exemplifying our dedication to enhancing education, student well-being, and community connections.

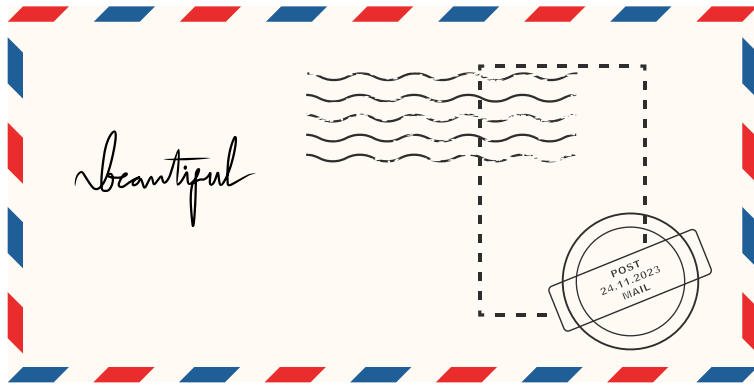


We also serve as a Gold Sponsor and sometime advisor to the Hyattsville 5K Zombie Run fund and friend raiser, and have done so since its first inception. We have recently become gold sponsors for Cesar Chavez Elementary's "Si Se Puede" PTO fundraiser as well. These types of fundraising events build community ties and can directly enhance the classroom learning environment.

Notably, one of our earliest programs, "The Immigrant's Voice in Hyattsville," (evening performances of international music and student poetry) led directly to the creation of a multiyear partnership between a University of Maryland literary program and an ESL class at Northwestern HS. Our networking and fundraising efforts launched the "Postcards from My Country," collaborative pilot program.

# Empowering Minds, Building Futures: Hyattsville CDC's Inspiring Journey in Education, Community, and Revitalization

This innovative mentorship engaged students in crafting substantive poems that evoked connections and experiences that tied their diverse homelands to their present reality. This work was facilitated by the budding literary talents enrolled at the UMD College Park's Porter-Jimenez Writer's House. These new connections supported home-sick high schoolers and presented the UMD scholars a chance to build their tutorial and teaching skills. Northwestern ESL instructor Rebecca Roberts and UMD Program Director Johnna Schmidt, both long-time Hyattsville locals, developed the "Postcards from My Country" collaborative program.



The CDC played a pivotal role in securing funding to cover transportation for UMD and Northwestern students, and expenses for a culminating event featuring Sekou Sundiata's performance, and publishing high-quality chapbooks showcasing Northwestern ESL students' imagistic poetry.

We also engage many high school students through our other programming. We provide unique volunteer and learning opportunities through having students help to stage our Downtown Hyattsville Arts Festival and throughout the year in our other program endeavors. We have recruited and trained local high school and community college students to employ them in the City's COVID vaccine clinic and in outreach programs that promoted household relief and assistance to Hyattsville residents. We provide school-credit bearing internship opportunities to UMD and other area college students which give them real world, hands-on research and program development experiences.

By immersing area students in our activities, we provide a forum where students can see just how they and their neighbors can directly drive revitalization and community well-being.

# REVITALIZING THE HYATTSVILLE JUSTICE CENTER UNVEILING CONCEPTS FOR ADAPTIVE REUSE

At Hyattsville CDC we work to develop art and public spaces to spur economic development and improve the quality of community life by direct or indirect involvement in planning and providing practical solutions for community revitalization.

Episodically, Hyattsville CDC has lobbied to see adaptive reuse of the long vacant County Services Building. In 2022 the Revenue Authority included the facility, along with portions of the Justice Center in a RFP seeking partial redevelopment. At the request of Planning Board Chair Peter Shapiro, a UMD architectural studio class addressed re-visioning the uses at this important Art District asset.



Left, Stuart Eisenberg, Executive Director Hyattsville CDC  
Right, Peter Shapiro, Chairman of the Prince George's County Planning Board



Front row, PALS students from UMD presenting the adaptive reuse of the Hyattsville Justice center  
Left, Kenneth Carter, the owner of Maryland Meadworks  
Next, Jeff Ulysse, City of Hyattsville City Planner



Recently, our **Executive Director Stuart Eisenberg, Peter Shapiro, Chairman of the Prince George's County Planning Board, and Jeff Ulysse, City of Hyattsville City Planner,** participated in a presentation and discussion held by the University of [Maryland students - the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability Program \(PALS\)](#) hosted at Maryland Meadworks.



City of Hyattsville Justice Center, located at 500 Rhode Island Ave, Hyattsville.

The PALS program is administered by MAPP's National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG). It assist local Maryland jurisdictions using students and faculty. The presentation tackles the adaptive reuse of the County Services Building. Students in the MAPP studio course developed ideas to repurpose the empty building by turning it into an Arts Center. The students produced ideas for the building and the property and how to connect them to the surrounding area.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CREATIVE THINKING WORKSHOP FOR HOMEOWNERS

**May 4, 2024**

Saturday, 10:00am -1:00pm

**Waterfront Studio & Pavilion**

Bladensburg Waterfront Park  
4601 Annapolis Rd  
Bladensburg, MD 20710

**Workshop: \$15**

**Mini-Expo: FREE**

**How to “green” your old**

**house.** Grant writing, electrification, and stormwater **workshops** organized by Triple Line Studio for homeowners in historic districts in Prince George’s County. **FREE Mini-Expo** with building products and **kids activities!**

For more information visit:

[www.triplelinestudio.com/creative-thinking](http://www.triplelinestudio.com/creative-thinking)

Learn how to green your old house! Browse the FREE mini-expo with green building products and talk to the experts about your next home renovations projects.

Register for the workshops and chose from one of three topics: historic preservation, electrification, or storm water. Get grant writing tips, learn about tax incentives, and see what’s out there for your home.

Organized by Triple Line Studio for homeowners in the historic district of Prince George’s County through partnership with Hyattsville CDC.

### [Register in advance for the Workshop - MAY 4, 2024](#)

Kid’s welcome at the outdoor Mini-Expo with fun “green” activities and free coffee for the grown-ups (no registration required for the min-expo).



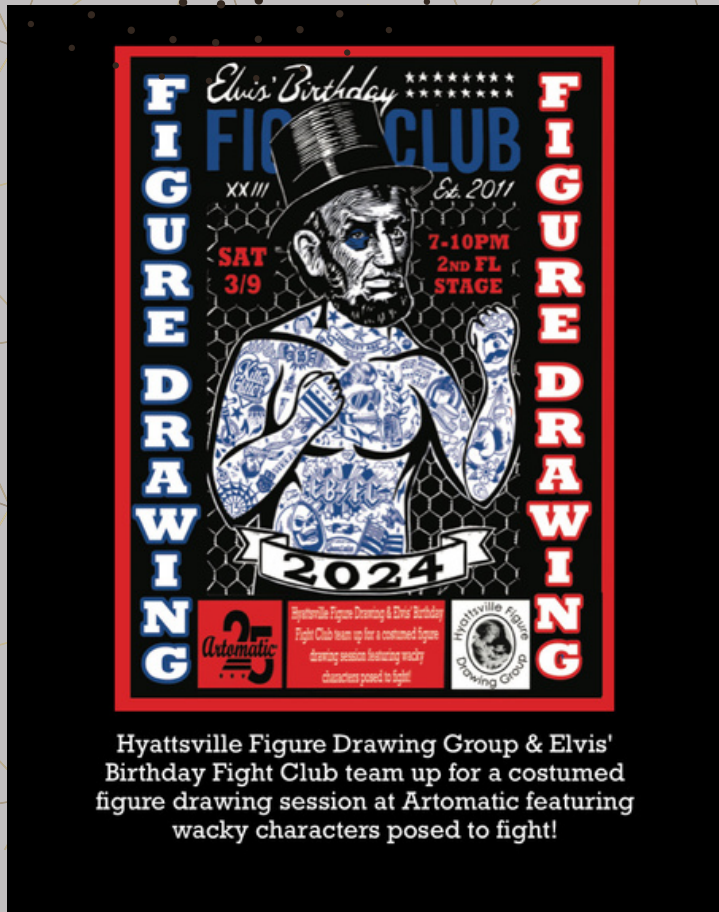


# UPCOMING EVENTS



[Artomatic](#) returns to DC this year in celebration of 25 years! Artists and performers from all over will convene at 2100 M Street NW in downtown DC to showcase their talents. From dance and spoken word to visual art installations and live music, Artomatic has something for everyone! Look for local Gateway artists during your visit.

The visual and performance exhibition space opens **Friday, March 8th** with events celebrating International Women's Day. Check out the events calendar [here](#).



[The Hyattsville Figure Drawing Group](#) is teaming up with Kate Taylor Davis/Elvis' Birthday Fight Club this **Saturday, March 9, from 7-10pm at Artomatic on the 2nd floor stage for Fight Club Figure Drawing!**

It'll feature Astropop's signature awesomeness, wit and aesthetic, over the top characters, plus figure drawing! it's free!

Hyattsville Figure Drawing Group & Elvis' Birthday Fight Club team up for a costumed figure drawing session at Artomatic featuring wacky characters posed to fight!