



MAYOR'S OFFICE ON WOMEN'S POLICY AND INITIATIVES FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 | MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

2 | MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

3 | LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

4 | FY 2020 COMMISSIONERS

5-11 | ACCOMPLISHMENTS

12 | LOOKING AHEAD

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



More than ever as our communities have been challenged socially and economically it is more important now than ever to empower women. Women as community leaders, mothers and sisters play a central role in our community. As such I am proud to have led my administration in prioritizing resources for women. As we empower women economically we know that generations of our community are transformed. We know that the maternal health outcomes of women impact the lifetimes of their children. We know that when women are civically engaged and have a seat at the table, we bring with us all of the facets of representation that we embody; mothers, neighbors, sisters, leaders-- Women.

The work that the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy & Initiatives is doing has been critical. From programming to train women to negotiate higher salaries, to awareness campaigns for the critical investments I have made for women including our pink tax repeal, as well as the collaborative work to improve the health and wellness of women in all 8 wards truly embodies our DC values. The work that my Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives does under the leadership of Director Jennifer Porter is impossible without the support and advisement of the District of Columbia Commission for Women. For decades this commission consisting of community leaders and women's advocates has been our eyes and ears to the most critical issues and the resources needed for women to succeed. This report highlights the great work that we have done together and continue to champion for women in our community.

Sincerely,

MURIEL BOWSER
Mayor, District of Columbia

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The work of the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives has always been critical to the success of our city. Quite simply put, empowering and equipping women with what they need empowers our entire community. Mayor Bowser has prioritized efforts to improve the status of women by coordination of resources for women through our office. Our efforts to assist women who are busy caring for families, leading careers, working toward equitable employment and improving their health need to be engaged, informed and inspired. Mayor Bowser's Office on Women continues to strive towards this important task in new ways and with strategic partnerships to reach women. Women deserve a government that hears them, includes them and values their contributions to society. The DC Commission for Women assures that our work is informed, equitable and that we center women and their needs in all that we do. Championing them, supporting them and continuing to elevate opportunities for them to thrive. Women in our city often lie at the intersection of being one opportunity away from great success and one tragedy away from poverty. Government resources and initiatives that work collaboratively with private and nonprofit partners, that centers women's voices and that value them are only achieved with women at the table. The DC Commission for Women truly is the heart of our work, helping to inform and inspire all that we do. I am proud of our work and continue to look to our women leaders who continue to show our DC Values every day.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER L. PORTER, MPH, MCHES

Executive Director,

Mayor's Office for Women's Policy and Initiatives

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The DC Commission for women serves as the key public body that advocates for and supports women's affairs in the Nation's Capital. At a critical time, such as this, we are celebrating a historic number of women in leadership in our city as well as historic celebrations in our history of women's equality. These celebrations are contrasted by women facing economic impacts that our generation has never seen and health challenges that continue to impact women in disproportionate rates particularly for women of color. The Commission continues to play a critical role to ensure that women of all walks of life have an opportunity to thrive in our city. Generations of DC native women have been at the forefront of major economic and social impact for our city and at this time women will continue to lead. I am proud to serve alongside the women who inform the critical work of our city to educate and empower women. Our collective efforts have connected women to critical resources, mentored our girls and have celebrated amazing women making impact across our city. We are proud to share our work for this year and look forward to continuing our efforts to empower DC women.

PRINCESS MCDUFFIE

Chairwoman

DC Commission for Women

FY2020 COMMISSIONERS

This is the third report submitted by this Commission under the Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser. The purpose and mission of the Commission remains the same as stated in the Executive Order in 1967 and authorized as a permanent unit of government within the Executive Office of the Mayor by DC Law 2-109 on September 22, 1978.



Officers: Per the Bylaws of the Commission, officers are elected annually from among the membership, with the exception of the Chair, who is appointed by the Mayor. The officers for 2019-2020 are as follows:

CHAIR	Commissioner Princess McDuffie (Ward 5)
Vice Chair	Commissioner Donella Brockington (Ward 5)
Secretary	Commissioner Courtney Christian (Ward 6)
Treasurer	Commissioner Veronica Nelson (Ward 8)
Parliamentarian	Commissioner Jacqueline Glover (Ward 4)

This year the commission added two additional members who have added to the diversity of our Commission as well as our reach to various sectors of the community. Commissioners are listed below:

Gabrielle Alfonso	Camelia Mazard
Nia Hope Bess	Princess McDuffie
Donella Brockington	Veronica Nelson
Aryn Bussey	Susan Sarfati
Courtney Christian	Shelley Tomkin
Abby Fenton	Abigail Truhart
Jacquelyn Glover	Jessica Tunon
Tiffini Greene	La Tonya Clark
Angie Lundy	Athena Cross
Jennifer Luray	Jessica Stamp

The Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives (MOWPI) dedicated staff support to the Commission and this partnership is critical to the success of both entities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Commission continued to address, update and align its strategic plan with that of the MOWPI office, which is reflective of the Mayor's initiatives and goals to improve the lives of women and girls across all eight wards of the District of Columbia. Specifically, the Commission accomplished the following during the reporting period:

Supported the MOWPI programs and activities to include, but not limited to: Empowered Women Series, Breast Cancer Awareness, Women's History Month events, and Work Smart Salary Negotiation workshops.

Spearheaded MOWPI's signature annual events including, Washington Women of Excellence Awards, Women's Equality Day Celebration, and Conversations with Women Who Lead.

Critiqued and provided input and outreach on legislative issues as appropriate.

Prioritized supporting DC Girls as well as supporting survivors of violence for commission efforts.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health and access to healthcare remains one of the most critical issues for women in Washington, DC. The DC Commission has worked tirelessly to bring awareness to key health risks as well as sharing opportunities and investments that District Government has to improve the health and wellbeing of women and their families.

Below are highlights of those efforts.

WELL WOMEN WEDNESDAYS

The commission supported MOWPI's newest initiative, the Well Women Wednesday series, a monthly session in partnership with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation's #FitDC campaign to amplify opportunities for women to learn about resources provided by their local recreation centers and parks and to connect with local women fitness leaders across the city including instructors, nutritionist and health educators on varied topics. Commissioners attended sessions scheduled at locations across all eight wards to engage women in wellness efforts. Topics ranged from nutrition, mommy and me yoga to kettlebell fitness. Each 3rd Wednesday of the month the classes were attended by women of all ages.



MOWPI ANNUAL REPORT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Domestic violence remains a critical issue for women and the Commission remains steadfast in promoting awareness and sharing resources to support survivors in our city. Each year MOWPI, in partnership with the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, works to amplify resources to women in the community. The Commission has had a great partnership with Sephora Cosmetics for the past two years to provide a day of pampering and self-care to women in need. This year we provided glam over's for survivors residing at the House of Ruth and had a fun and informative day. Commissioners donated toiletries, cleaning supplies and a meal for the occasion. MOWPI worked to invite partner agency, the DC Department of Employment Services, to share interviewing tips, resume examples and an inspirational message from a survivor. This year MOPWI hosted 25 participants and looks forward to supporting their healing in other ways.

Every October, MOWPI supports Purple Thursday, in partnership with the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This awareness effort encourages DC Government officials, employees and Commissioners to participate to bring awareness to Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Domestic Violence survivors by wearing purple and participating in prevention and awareness efforts. This year, DC Commission for Women Chairwoman Princess McDuffie, a domestic violence advocate and violence intervention expert trainer, presented at a special panel discussion on the Batterer's Intervention Program educating community and intervention staff on best practices from the field.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH SUMMIT

In 2019, Mayor Bowser hosted the second Annual Maternal and Infant Health Summit. MOWPI was excited to work with host Thrive by Five to engage and promote the summit where we mobilized women to seek resources, learn best practices and share ideas on maternal health outcomes. Commissioners supported the outreach to engage mothers and families across all eight wards and to promote opportunities for speakers and panelists from various sectors across the city to present and share resources.



MOWPI ANNUAL REPORT

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Each year the DC Commission for Women work to bring awareness to the cancer crisis among women in our city. Breast Cancer disproportionately affects DC women and in particular women of color. This year the DC Commission for Women worked together in partnership with the Washington Hospital Center’s Mammogram Day to share fun activities, music and entertainment to energize and excite women in the community who signed up for mammograms. Mammography appointments can be intimidating and anxiety inducing but the Commissioners were glad to be onsite to provide encouragement and support to women in need.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Empowering women economically has a drastic effect on uplifting and empowering entire communities for generations. The efforts of the Commission in partnership with MOWPI to provide programing to foster and encourage women’s economic empowering has never been more critical. These programs are all in partnership with agencies that have key investments from Mayor Bowser to empower the middle class and elevate the economic state of women across all eight Wards.

WORK SMART

The DC Commission for women continued to host the “Work Smart” salary negotiation workshops in collaboration with the American Association of University Women. This partnership is an effort to support economic equality for women and teaches negotiation techniques that are critical for women reaching the middle class. All sessions for 2019 were at capacity and continue to be an important effort for women in the city.

MOWPI ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The DC Commission for Women and MOWPI hosted the 6th Annual Washington Women of Excellence Awards in March 2020, with a corresponding reception for the awardees and community members. This program highlights the successes, achievements, and accomplishments of women in the District of Columbia during women's history month, honoring some amazing female leaders and community servants in the District. Commissioners worked to search all eight wards to identify women leaders who are often unrecognized to honor their commitment to making our city great and furthering our DC Values.



PROMOTING WOMEN AS CIVIC LEADERS

As we entered a historic time for women's representation in government it is more critical for us to be intentional about engaging women across all eight Wards of our city to have their voice inform key decision making and critical programming. MOWPI and the DC Commission for Women continued and enhanced efforts of Mayor Bowser to engage women and encourage their active participation in civic life. Below is a highlight of these efforts implemented in partnership with key community serving agencies.

#BETHEMOVEMENT WOMEN'S POLICY BOOTCAMP

In 2019, Mayor Bowser hosted the second Annual Maternal and Infant Health Summit. MOWPI was excited to work with host Thrive by Five to engage and promote the summit where we mobilized women to seek resources, learn best practices and share ideas on maternal health outcomes. Commissioners supported the outreach to engage mothers and families across all eight wards and to promote opportunities for speakers and panelists from various sectors across the city to present and share resources.

PINK TAX TOUR

MOWPI partnered with the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) to inform the public about the important repeal of sales tax for menstrual hygiene products in DC. DSLBD identified small businesses for MOWPI to tour, where we provided updates on the “Pink Tax”. MOWPI continued this work in October 2019 to inform the community about the repeal of sales tax for diapers. We are proud of Mayor Bowser’s important investment to put money back in the pockets of DC women and families. As Mayor Bowser says, hygiene is a necessity – not a luxury.



WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY

In August 2019, MOWPI hosted its Fifth Annual Women’s Equality Day Mixer, which provided an opportunity for District women to access District government resources and engage with Mayor Bowser. In collaboration with over twenty community partners, MOWPI attracted over 400 attendees to the event. We also hosted a #WomenOnBoard Resume Riser where we encouraged women to bring their resumes and promoted opportunities for women professionals to learn about opportunities to serve on DC Boards and Commissions to make sure that women are represented. We also partnered with Serve DC, to share opportunities for attendees to learn about female led and female focused non-profits and organizations looking for volunteers to serve women and families in our community.



MOWPI ANNUAL REPORT

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2019 (SAVRAA)

MOWPI and the DC Commission for Women partnered with the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants and the survivor community to share Mayor Bowser's commitment to passing the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019 through our campaign #PASSSAVRAA. Commissioners shared the message to women to sign the petition that the rights of survivors should be prioritized in our city.



Across the city at events like Denim Day, a sexual assault awareness program as well as Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities. On November 26, 2019 Mayor Bowser signed SAVRAA into law surrounded by survivors and advocates. We remain proud to share and champion the Mayor's commitment to elevating the voices of sexual assault survivors in the District. We are grateful for her leadership, and for the partnership of the Council, to strengthen resources for and lift the voices of survivors.

GIRL'S ENGAGEMENT

This year the commission expressed interest in continuing efforts of mentoring and engaging girls. The commission has spent years sharing resources, information and supporting organizations that work with girls. The DC Commission for Women partnered with Excel Academy, DC's first all-girls public school to mentor students on an ongoing basis. This and other efforts to engage girls will continue to be a focus for the commission.

DOEE'S GREEN ZONE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM WORKSHOPS

Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives partners with the Department of Energy and Environment Summer Youth Employment Program to host Personal and Professional Development workshops during the summer. The workshops include presentations, questionnaire activities, and District government resources.

EXCEL ACADEMY VISION BOARDS

Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives partners with the Department of Energy and Environment Summer Youth Employment Program to host Personal and Professional Development workshops during the summer. The workshops include presentations, questionnaire activities, and District government resources.

EXCEL ACADEMY BACK TO SCHOOL BARBECUE

Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives attends Excel Academy's Back to School Barbecue in Ward 8. The girls of Excel Academy receive words of empowerment to start the school year from Director Porter.

MOWPI ANNUAL REPORT

EXCEL ACADEMY-INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives and the DC Commission for Women attends Excel Academy on International Day of the Girl. Excel Academy leads an invigorating pep rally for the girls as Chairwoman, Princess McDuffie shares remarks on girl's leadership and empowerment.



HOLIDAY READING WITH STANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mayor's Office of Community Affairs and the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives visits Stanton Elementary School in Ward 8 to read holiday stories and engage in activities with the students.

MUFFINS FOR MOMS TALENT SHOW AT CENTER CITY PCS-TRINIDAD CAMPUS

Mayor's Office of Community Affairs and the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives visits Stanton Elementary School in Ward 8 to read holiday stories and engage in activities with the students.



MOMMY & ME YOGA (WELL WOMEN WEDNESDAYS WITH YOGI DOULA)

Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives hosts a "Mommy & Me" Yoga for Well Women Wednesdays. This yoga session is led by Yogi Doula who specializes in Zen and Intention for moms and children.

WE THE GIRLS YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (DCPS)

Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives attends the We the Girls Women's Leadership Conference with Commissioners annually where District of Columbia Public School girls across the city join for day of empowerment learning and sisterhood.

LOOKING AHEAD

Each Commissioner has been tasked with supporting at least one cause, or initiative specific to their reach in the community, or lending substantial support to pending legislation that directly affects women of the District. We look forward to working to make sure the commission and office is visible and accessible during the public health emergency. The Commission for Women remains the most critical way MOWPI amplifies important and lifesaving resources for women to the community. We continue to explore ways to make greater impact and further strengthen our reach to women to enhance their welfare.

Respectfully submitted,

PRINCESS MCDUFFIE
Commission Chair
DC Commission for Women

JENNIFER L. PORTER
Executive Director,
Mayor's Office On Women's Policy And Initiatives



MAYOR'S OFFICE ON WOMEN'S POLICY AND INITIATIVES

CONNECT WITH US!

MOWPI@DC.GOV

@DCMOWPI