

# Living Boldly

News and notes brought to you by the  
DC Department of Aging and Community Living

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A Newsletter for DC Seniors

July 2022



## INTERIM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Jessica Smith,  
Interim Director  
DC Department of  
Aging and Community  
Living

Dear Seniors,

I'm Jessica Smith, DACL's new Interim Director, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve District seniors in this vital role. In my previous position as DACL's Chief Program Officer, I've been able to see the many ways that DC residents constantly build communities of support. I've learned firsthand that the best way we can provide high-quality programs and services to our seniors is by listening closely to what District residents have to say and making sure that their thoughts and concerns are taken into action.

In June, I had the pleasure of meeting and engaging with many of you — from celebrating Pride all month long with our diverse group of LGBTQ+ seniors, to learning how to Age in Style with our new Ms. Senior DC, Ms. Vené LaGon, to showing support, inspiration, and love at Mayor Bowser's 11th Annual Senior Symposium — you have all shown me how you live boldly, and I am so excited to take this journey alongside each and every one of you.

As we continue to celebrate DC being open, I am thrilled to continue to engage with you all summer long. Our agency is here to help you along the way. With a variety of new programming coming your way, and a new Senior Wellness Center coming to Ward 8, I want you to know that we're here to address your feedback. We hear you — now it's time for you to connect in the ways that you've been looking forward to.

Being the Interim Director for a little over a month, there's still A LOT of you that I need to connect with, and I'd love to hear from you. Email [director.DACL@dc.gov](mailto:director.DACL@dc.gov) and tell me a bit about what you want to see more of in your community and how DACL can best serve you.

Take care,  
Jessica

# Thanks for joining us for the Capital Pride Parade and Festival!



June was Pride Month, and at DACL, we take PRIDE in celebrating and honoring our diverse LGBTQ+ senior community. We joined Mayor Bowser and the entire city for the return of the Capital Pride Parade and Festival! We brought back our infamous Senior Pride Trolley for the parade, filled with LGBTQ+ seniors, allies, and A TON of decorations. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this fun-filled event.

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# Thank you for Attending Mayor Bowser's 11th Annual Senior Symposium!



Ms. Senior DC, Vené LaGon, center, is joined by Ms. Senior DC 1st Runner Up, Cerise Turner, left, and Ms. Senior DC 2021, Vanella Jackson-Crawford.



The King and Queen of Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center are all smiles for the 11th Annual Senior Symposium.



Mayor Muriel Bowser joins Symposium host and Host of the Senior Zone, Shawn Perry, and Ms. Senior DC 2022, Vené LaGon.



Senior photographer, Ms. Selma Dillard, dances for the camera.

## Congratulations to our New Ms. Senior DC, Vené LaGon!



This year, DACL, in partnership with Seabury Resources for Aging and the DC Seniors Cameo Club, hosted the first in-person Ms. Senior DC pageant since 2019! Eight, talented District women competed for the title of Ms. Senior DC 2022, sharing their talents and philosophy of life with the District. On Sunday, June 12, Ms. Vené LaGon was crowned DC's newest queen! Congratulations to Ms. LaGon and all of this year's contestants.

## Celebrating DC Centenarians!

Mayor Bowser and the Department of Aging and Community Living are seeking District residents, age 100 years or older, to celebrate.

Call (202) 727-8955 or email [dacl.communications@dc.gov](mailto:dacl.communications@dc.gov) if you know a DC resident who has celebrated, or will celebrate their 100th birthday by July 31, 2022.

Please send the name, date of birth, contact information, and a bio for each individual that you are registering. Registration ends August 1, 2022.



**DACL**  
LIVE BOLDLY

GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR**