



"So many people have become involved in some way in some kind of political activity... it (SNCC) has made people understand and realize that they can have an effect on their own lives."

-Betty Garman Robinson

### **Renovation Progress at the Black Workers & Wellness Center!**

We've held several site visits during the renovation to our Black Workers & Wellness Center, so that ONE DC members can witness the progress of creating a new community-controlled space. It has been exciting to see our vision of a multi-purpose community organizing space come to life!



Site visits are held regularly with ONE DC members & staff



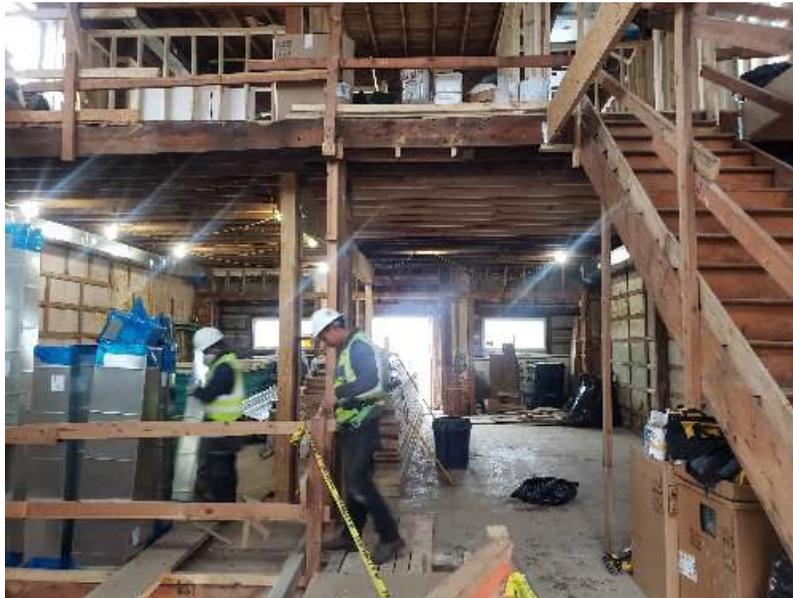
Project manager Martha and CCG superintendent Albert review plans



Concrete work has begun for the future elevator shaft



Framing has been added on the second floor



Preparation to add new HVAC ducts on the first floor



Basement has been dug down to create more meeting space

As construction has progressed, however, the team has uncovered a number of unforeseen structural issues. We have needed to make changes to our original design plan a few times, and this has led to delays. Our new projected opening date has moved back to March 2021.

**Can you help get us reach our final fundraising goals for this project?**  
[Donate to the BWWC Renovation Fundraising Campaign!](#)

---

### **Get Engaged with ONE DC**

#### **Right to Housing Committee Meeting**

Thursday, November 5 - 6:30 PM

[Click to RSVP](#)

#### **Right to Income Committee Meeting**

**We meet every other Thursday at 6:30 PM EST. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jokebed at [jmorinvil@onedconline.org](mailto:jmorinvil@onedconline.org) or Kelly at [kiradukunda@onedconline.org](mailto:kiradukunda@onedconline.org).**

Upcoming meeting dates:

November 5, 2020

November 19, 2020

December 3, 2020

December 17, 2020

#### **Post-Election Dialogue with ONE DC**

Thursday, November 12 - 6:00 PM

[Click to RSVP](#)

#### **ONE DC Member Orientation**

Tuesday, November 24 - 6:00 PM

[Click here to RSVP](#)

---

## Cancel the Rent, Cancel the Debt Organizers Speak Up

ONE DC organizer Shakeara Mingo is featured in the latest segment of [The Reality Dysfunction](#), a podcast hosted by Juan Carlos Vega dedicated to bringing critical analysis of the contemporary colonial situation and how it affects the Xicanx/Indigenous/Latinx communities in the United States. The increasingly overt militarized nature of the attacks on our Indigenous communities across the hemisphere demand an intentional and critical analysis.

Juan Carlos Vega and the crew talk with organizers Shakeara Mingo and Julian Zepeda from the Cancel the Rent DC and Cancel the Debt Phoenix and the role their respective campaigns are playing in trying to bring relief to covid weary communities.

Listen to the podcast on [PodBean](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#)

---

## Black Workers Chorus Perform at Indigenous People's Day Celebration



*L-R: Fairouz Foty, Yasmine Foty, Dr. Karen Wilson-Ama Echefu, Angie Whitehurst (on stage), Luci Murphy*

On October 17, the First Annual DC Area Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration attracted nearly 100 persons. With over fifty endorsers and several dozen speakers and performers, Saturday was a good first step toward institutionalizing Indigenous Peoples' Day as an annual event in Washington, DC.

Members of the ONE DC Black Workers Chorus performed at the event, which was organized by Chief Billy Tyac, the Piscataway Indian Nation and Tyac Territory, American Indian Movement (Mid-Atlantic Region), American Indian Support Project, National Council of Arab Americans, Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Committee of the National Capital Region, All-African People's Revolutionary Party (GC, and Pan African Roots, and endorsed by many others.

---

## First Reading of the REACH ACT Passed

On October 20, the first reading of the REACH Act passed in the council by a unanimous vote! This latest version of the REACH Act reflects a great deal of input by the DC Initiative, of which ONE DC is a member. Many of the coalition's priorities made it into the final bill thanks to tremendous turnout at hearings a year and a half ago, and multiple meetings held with the council chairman.

The community needs a larger say in how DC advances racial equity. The REACH Act would form a Race, Equity, and Social Justice Commission, with commissioners who have real, lived experience with injustice, to oversee the District's racial equity efforts.

There are more steps to the finalization of this bill and we urge the council to keep the momentum going and take important steps toward dismantling entrenched racism in the DC government and across the District!

---

## Honoring the Life & Legacy of Betty Garman Robinson

[Originally published snclegacyproject.org](http://snclegacyproject.org)



*Betty at ONE DC's 2017 Juneteenth celebration*



*Betty shared about the history of SNCC organizing*

Betty Garman Robinson was a superb organizer. It was a role she totally enjoyed, and one for which she was ideally suited. She understood, early on, the importance of building relationships, not just as a tool of organizing, but because she genuinely liked getting to know people and their stories. She was an amazingly caring human being. As one Mississippi SNCC vet, who'd known her since 1964 said, "Betty organized not just with her mind, but with her heart."

She died, suddenly, on October 11, a day after falling outside her neighbor's house. As the news spread, the many networks of people across the country, whom she had touched so deeply, responded with an outpouring of grief, respect and love. They also paid tribute to the many community organizing skills she had taught them over the years... skills and strategies she first learned while on SNCC staff: in the Atlanta National office in Mississippi in 1964; and later in SNCC's Washington, D.C. office, directed by Marion Barry and focused on home rule and a D.C. bus boycott. These early Movement experiences served as the basis for her life-long commitment to organizing.

Betty began working with SNCC after graduation from Skidmore College, where she organized support for the sit-ins. While at UC/Berkeley's Graduate School she continued her very active involvement with both the National Student Association (NSA) and then the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). However, it was while she was chair of UC/Berkeley's Friends of SNCC chapter that James Forman, SNCC's executive secretary, convinced her to leave grad school to direct SNCC's Friends of SNCC department in the Atlanta national office. She recalled that earlier, "In Nov. 1963, I was invited to go to the Howard University conference that SNCC held. At that moment, I fell in love with SNCC: the passion of the singing, the intensity of people's commitment and care and love for each other."

Throughout her life, Betty was passionate about organizing against injustice and she used whatever tactics seemed most appropriate. She also stressed that organizers should be guided by the issues the communities themselves identified as their priorities... that they should be careful listeners.

She also enjoyed learning from young activists and sharing her experiences. She often asked them to consider: "What kind of a country do you want and what kind of country are you willing to fight for?"

As Tre Murphy wrote: "To me Betty Robinson [who we always called Ms. Betty] was one of the greatest souls ever to walk the earth. She was humble enough to know that it took more than her to win freedom for Black people, gifted enough to see possibilities none of us could visualize, and fearless enough to keep fighting even when the outcomes looked grim or wasn't what we expected."

Until the end, Betty was one of the best representatives of SNCC's grassroots organizing style... and of the closeness and passion for justice that continues to exist, even today, within our "Band of brothers and sisters in a circle of trust".

**Betty G. Robinson was a longtime supporter of ONE DC and mentor to many in our community.**

**Rest in Power, Betty!**

---

[You can find past editions of the Monthly Voice here.](#)

Do you want to be a writer, editor, or designer for the ONE DC *Monthly Voice*?

Email [organizer@onedconline.org](mailto:organizer@onedconline.org)

**Become a  
ONE DC  
Member**

**Donate  
to the  
Movement**

**Become a  
Sustaining  
Donor**

**Volunteer  
Your  
Skills**



ONE DC · PO Box 26049, Washington, DC 20001, United States

This email was sent to [gg1765a@student.american.edu](mailto:gg1765a@student.american.edu). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

You can also keep up with ONE DC on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), the essential toolkit for leaders.