A Note from the President/CEO

Almost a decade ago, Crystal City stakeholders began a systematic process to revitalize the area. These seemingly simple yet decisive steps forward began a movement that no one could have expected—and to this day, the results continue to amaze and delight everyone. Crystal City is in a state of dynamic transformation, which you can see in the new art walls that have turned the area into a living gallery of color. You can taste it in the yummy new restaurants that line the retail corridor, hear it when the sounds of live music emanate from events in the area, and you can feel it in the energy and pride that the streetscape, parks, and precipitation. Parking lots have been turned into festivals and street hockey fields, a food court into a fashion night club, and a courtyard into an outdoor movie theater for more than five years now. There is no standing that Crystal City’s transformation is well underway, with more exciting changes to come!

North of 15th

Dramatic things are happening north of 15th Street. The first phase of Long Bridge Park, with its fountains, athletic fields, an astroturf, and an outdoor amphitheater opened with great fanfare. Ground was broken on the new regional corporate headquarters for Boeing. Love began redevelopment of 1600 Crystal Drive, which will bring 300,000 square feet of Class A office space with panoramic views of the Potomac and District of Columbia skyline. Construction has begun on the much-anticipated roadway conversion of Crystal Drive and S. Clark Street encasing the escalators for all users including pedestrians and cyclists.

20th to 15th

Centered on the Metro station, this section of Crystal City has exhibited strong culture offerings over the past year. Theaters, theaters... even a museum! In 2010, the theater opened its doors to the public with a unique style of theater and movement in a conference space turned full-scale performance venue. Crystal Screen brought thousands of moviegoers to the courtyard along S. Bell Street with its “By the Numbers and Rom Com Jones.” Artistic return to Crystal City bringing over 1,000 artists, hundreds of performances, and over 70,000 spectators to 1931 in celebration of its impending demolition and transformation into 1930 Crystal Drive.

Outdoor activity also abounds with the weekly FRESHFARM Market along Crystal Drive, Monday morning near this Water Park, and a Saturday each day during Bike to Work Week at the first ever in the Metro Verse. The happy hour Friday outdoors with Wine on the Water Park every Friday in June during area residents, guests, and employees for a relaxing up by the water.

20th & Bell

In Crystal City, parking lots are more than just parking lots—they offer opportunities to create transformations into places of activity and energy. The parking lot at 20th and S. Bell Street has acted as “centerpiece” for a string of events and has street hockey rinks, an event space welcoming thousands to the annual Taste of Wine & Jazz, and a recycling center for the Power Purges and Street, divesting hazardous electronics from area landlords and keeping identities secure. Taking the concept below ground, the Diamond Skyway brought humans of species to a parking garage for counterweighted news, urban art, and a pop-up art show.

Interior

The interior walkways of Crystal City are more than just a way to get from one building to another. They are your secret pathways for “Koito,” animation included in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. Creative “race routes” also meander their way through the concourses during the annual 1K Woodrow Walk. Open airways have been transformed into Artino painting parties and the former food court saw another stunning conversion into a fashion nightclub filled with designers, models, runway shows, music, and more with Crystal Couture.

23rd St West

Crystal City’s popular 23rd Street Restaurant Row received a colorful addition with the Crystal City 80s柿"driving“ down the middle of Calk Fauxroad. The object welcome guest and act as a reminder of Crystal City’s original source of soul.

Crystal Dr from 23rd to 20th

Crystal Drive continues to make up the area “Main Street,” adding new restaurant sensations Chuck&‘s and Good Stuff Salads to the established destination that already includes Kim’s Restaurant, McCormick & Schmick’s, and many more. The three block stretch also regularly transforms into host areas events such as the annual Bike to Work Festival, the Crystal City Triathlon, the Marine Corps Marathon, and the annual 23rd Street Fair.

33rd to 26th

A beautiful, landscaped gateway with an attractive geometric pattern of sidewalks and artistic LED lights curving on the southern facade of the adjacent building welcomes downtown guests along Route 1. Continuing with Crystal Drive, drivers pass the latest Art Wall, Rhythm & Balance, and The Concourse, one of the area’s newest residential buildings. These colorful enhancements communicate to all a more, vibrant, and colorful Crystal City.
The Crystal City BID acts as the responsible steward for the area, and all of the resources with which it is entrusted. Through quarterly board and committee meetings, good governance is maintained for the organization's activities. Staff members regularly attend Arlington County Board meetings, commission meetings, as well as community meetings, development meetings, and larger area consortiums in order to both be aware of trends and issues in Arlington County and the Greater Washington Region, and to ensure that Crystal City's interests and issues are represented and addressed at these meetings. The organization always meets its deliverables on time, including budgets and workplans, disbursement requests, audits, and annual reports. The Crystal City BID is diligent in conforming to all permit and license requirements for their events and programs, including ABC licenses, temporary food licenses, and Special Event Permits. The organization has been widely recognized for its efforts, winning more than 10 awards, including four from the International Downtown Association.