



\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*

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## Thousands Expected to Attend 8th Annual Housing Expo and Home Show on June 11

Event Is Part of Mayor Bowser's June Housing Bloom Celebration

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(WASHINGTON, DC) Mayor Muriel Bowser's June Housing Bloom initiative will be in high gear on Saturday June 11, as thousands from the Washington, DC area attend the 8th Annual Housing Expo and Home Show at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

The Expo is hosted by DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in partnership with the Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL). It is one of several key events that are part of the District's first annual June Housing Bloom, which is showcasing how the public and private sectors are partnering to produce and preserve affordable housing, and revitalize neighborhoods across the District.

"Since day one, my Administration has been working hard to give every Washingtonian a fair shot, and that includes giving residents access to safe and affordable housing—no matter their background, no matter their zip code," said Mayor Muriel Bowser. "The Expo will give residents of the District of Columbia the chance to explore services we make available every day—to ensure that they can continue to call DC their home."

"The Expo will offer a unique opportunity to see the District-centered theme of "June Housing Bloom" in action, said Polly Donaldson, director of the DC Department of Housing and Community Development. "When Mayor Bowser announced the theme, she saw it as an opportunity to celebrate how the public and private sectors are partnering to both produce and preserve affordable housing and revitalize neighborhoods across the District. You see this mission throughout the halls of the Expo."

The Expo which will run from 10 am - 3 pm, is free and open to all current and potential District residents, small business owners, the development community, and anyone interested in affordable housing opportunities in the District.

It will feature over 125 exhibitors providing information on issues such as home purchase assistance, financial literacy, new affordable housing developments, energy efficient products, decoration and remodeling ideas and home improvement. Exhibitors will include federal and local government agencies, community-based organizations, utility companies, contractors, banks, lenders, realtors, developers, and other housing-related service providers.

Residents can receive free credit reports, one-on-one foreclosure and credit counseling. They also can attend workshops specifically catered to their needs—from aging in place, youth financial literacy and tenants rights. There will be homeownership and financial literacy sessions conducted in Spanish. As always, there will be special prizes and give-aways.

The Expo also will offer tips for starting and maintaining a small business, and for the first time will hold a contest where District-owned small businesses can apply for a chance to receive one of three storefront makeover prizes.

Mayor Bowser will appear to walk the halls of the Expo, meet residents—and hear an important announcement about recommendations from the DC Housing Preservation Strike Force on how the District can preserve its existing supply of affordable housing.

City and federal government leaders who be in attendance to hear the Mayor's remarks and visit the Expo include Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Brian T. Kenner, At-Large Council chairperson Anita Bonds, DC Housing Authority Executive Director Adrianne Todman, DC Housing Finance Agency Acting Director Todd Lee, and DC Field Office Director from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Marvin Turner.

For more information on the the 8th Annual Housing Expo and Home Show, visit www.dhcd.dc.gov.2016expo. For details on other June Housing Bloom events, visit: dhcd.dc.gov/2016junehousingbloom.

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The mission of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is to create and preserve opportunities for affordable housing and economic development and to revitalize underserved communities in the District of Columbia.