



Washington Area Community Investment Fund





Driving Racial Equity, Economic Opportunity, and Community Wealth in Underinvested Communities, Since 1987



Who We Are

Founded in 1987, Wacif's mission is to increase equity and economic opportunity in low-to-moderate (LMI) communities in the Washington, D.C. region by investing knowledge, social, and financial capital in underinvested entrepreneurs.

What We Do

Capital Deployment

- Lines of Credit
- Term Loans
- Grants

Advisory Services

- 1:1 Assistance
- Business Coaching
- Workshops & Trainings
- Cohort-Based Accelerators

Innovative Solutions

- Enterprising Women of Color Business Center
- Creators Academy
- Arts x Entrepreneurship

Ecosystem Connections

- Peer-to-Peer Learning
- Network Building Events
- Connection to Business Opportunity
- Small Business Expos



Signature Centers and Initiatives

Ascend Capital Accelerator

An intensive 8-10 week cohort program that positions entrepreneurs with the knowledge, relationships, and access to capital opportunities.

Enterprising Women of Color (EWOC) Business Center

Launched in 2020, this program fosters and supports women of color entrepreneurs in the National Capital Region.

Anacostia Arts Center

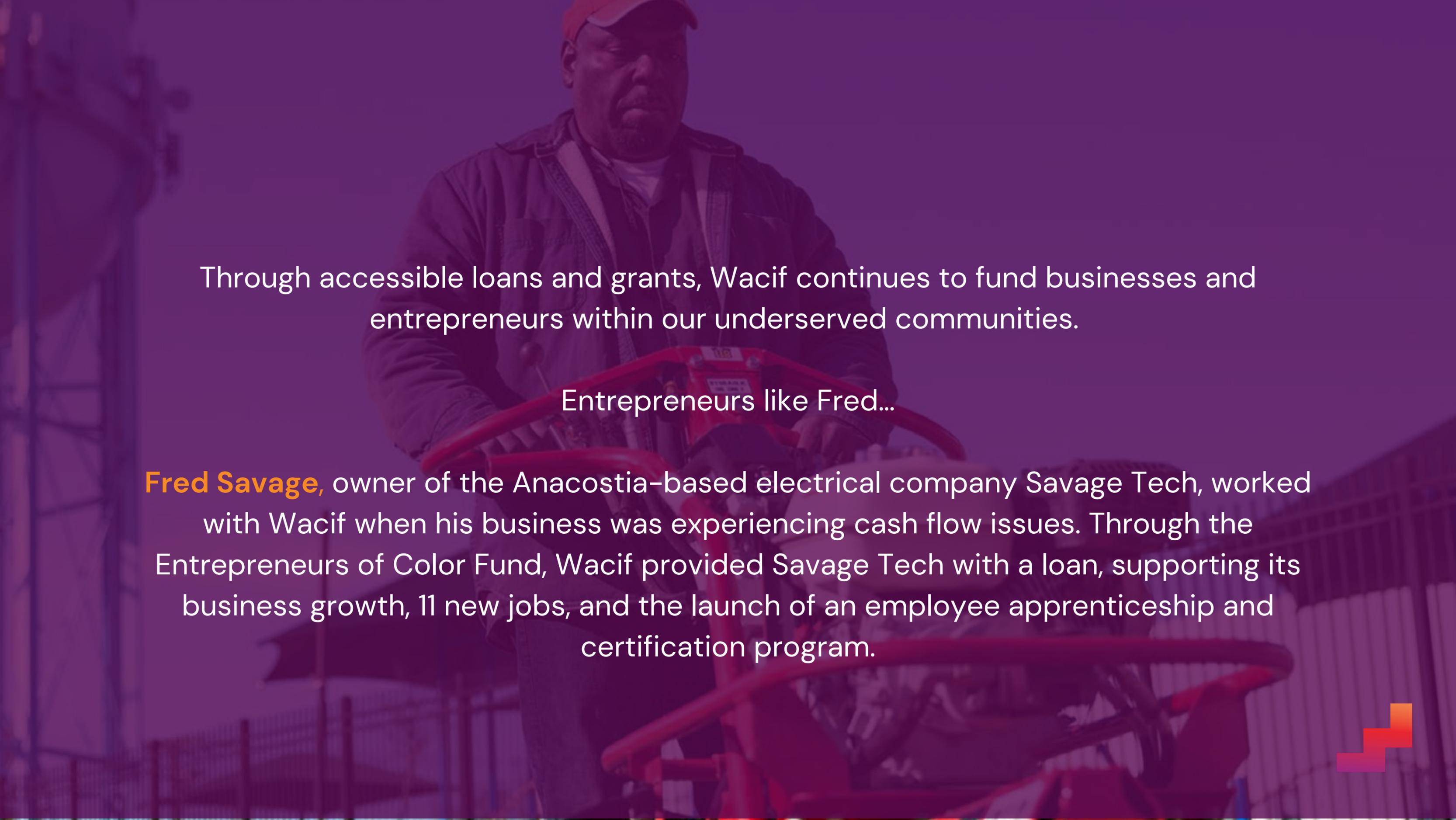
Acquired in 2021, the Anacostia Arts Center, located in DC's Ward 8, is a home for the arts, culture, and small businesses.

Capital Region Women's Business Center

In 2024, Wacif was selected by the SBA to operate its Capital Region Women's Business Center.

Sustainable DC Demonstration Project

Launched in 2024, this project helps BIPOC and women-owned small businesses implement sustainable practices and pivoting to greenhouse gas-reducing projects.

A man wearing a red cap and a dark work jacket is operating a red power tool, likely a circular saw, on a construction site. The background shows a building under construction with a metal frame. The entire image has a semi-transparent purple overlay.

Through accessible loans and grants, Wacif continues to fund businesses and entrepreneurs within our underserved communities.

Entrepreneurs like Fred...

Fred Savage, owner of the Anacostia-based electrical company Savage Tech, worked with Wacif when his business was experiencing cash flow issues. Through the Entrepreneurs of Color Fund, Wacif provided Savage Tech with a loan, supporting its business growth, 11 new jobs, and the launch of an employee apprenticeship and certification program.



Our Impact



Since 1987, Wacif's local expertise, products, and services have created meaningful change for underinvested individuals and neighborhoods in and around Washington, D.C., launching and growing businesses, creating jobs, and building community wealth.

4,530

Entrepreneurs Served

9,705

Technical Assistance Hours

44,500+

Jobs Created Or Retained

100,000,000

Grants & Loans disbursed

Help Us Continue to Drive Community Wealth for Entrepreneurs Like...

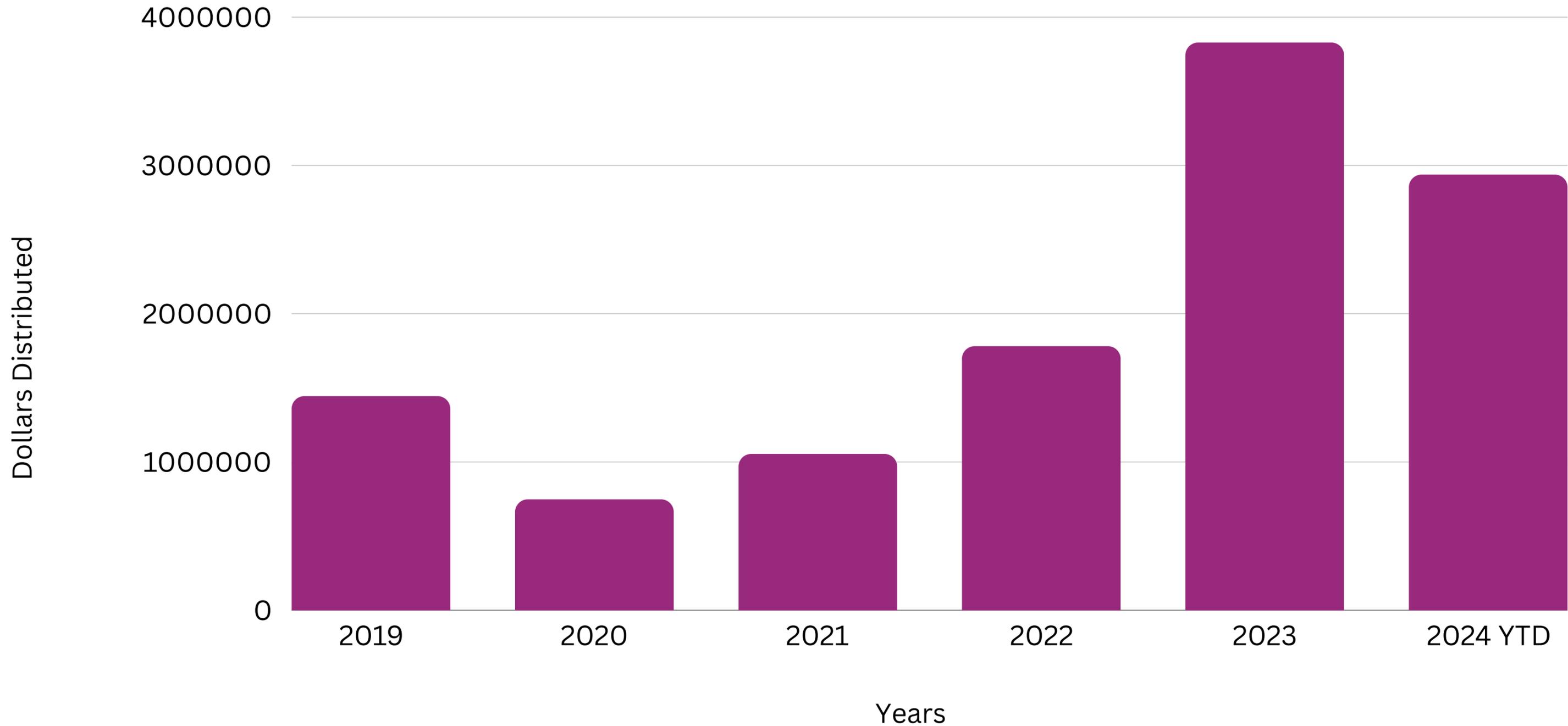
Inspired by her bricklayer father, Boubert-Rumble founded Usource with the belief that transparency, expertise, and quality craftsmanship will lead to the successful execution of projects. Wacif has been instrumental in supporting Usource since 2018, providing an equipment loan to enhance project execution. With continued funding for a work truck and a line of credit, Usource has built its credit profile and met bonding requirements for construction projects. Despite pandemic-related delays, Usource has resumed stalled projects and expanded its workforce to meet growing demand.

“Wacif understood the value we bring to the local market and extended a hand when no one else would. This meant the world to us,” said Boubert-Rumble. “We consider Wacif [to be] a true partner.”

Shirley Boubert-Rumble
Founder of Usource
Wacif Loan Recipient



Year-Over-Year Loan Growth



Scaling Impact In Recent Years:

On track to hit another record deployment year of **over \$5.6M in 2024**

2023 had the highest deployment in the organization's history at **\$3.8M**

Increased staffing allows Wacif to drop loan disbursement time **65 to 25** business days

In August 2023, Wacif launched LoanWell lending platform to **increase access and efficiency.**

Wacif embarked on an end-to-end lending process redesign to drive **increased productivity** while maintaining an **equitable and fair process.**

We Help Entrepreneurs Make A Difference In Communities like...



Amanda Stephenson, an Ascend Accelerator graduate, was inspired by her family's experience with healthy food to address food inequity in Ward 8. Noticing the lack of healthy food options and high rates of food-related diseases, she founded Fresh Food Factory, a local and ethnic food grocer and incubator for food entrepreneurs. Originally housed in the Anacostia Arts Center, with Wacif's support through grants and loans, Amanda purchased her own food incubation space in Ward 8, allowing her to expand fresh food access East of the River.

“The Anacostia Art Center has been an amazing tool, an entity, a support, advocate, a friend, a safe place for the fresh food factories market.”

Amanda Stephenson
Fresh Food Factory, CEO
Ascend Graduate, Wacif Grant and Loan Recipient





Anacostia Arts Center

The Anacostia Arts Center (AAC) is a mixed-use building acquired in 2021. Through strategic redevelopment, Wacif seeks to transform the AAC into a regional hub for arts, culture, and inclusive entrepreneurship.

Critical Community Asset

One of D.C.'s most underserved and predominantly Black areas. Vital to community development east of the Anacostia River (Ward 8).

Multi-Use Anchor Institution

Community engagement, cultural convenings, art and entertainment, business incubation, education, and coworking.

Benefits to Historic Anacostia

Economic stimulation, increased foot traffic, job creation, income stabilization, community wealth building, and community pride.

Redeveloping the Anacostia Arts Center:

The Present:

Black Box Theater

Exhibition Gallery Space

Retail Space

The HIVE Coworking space serving 70+ businesses

Future:

Small Business Training Center

Expanded Initiatives Attracting
10,000 Annually

Additional Coworking Space, Serving 200

Increased Capacity for Assistance to Coworking
Members

Creating Community for Entrepreneurs

Locating Wacif Small Business Advisors and Loan
Officers

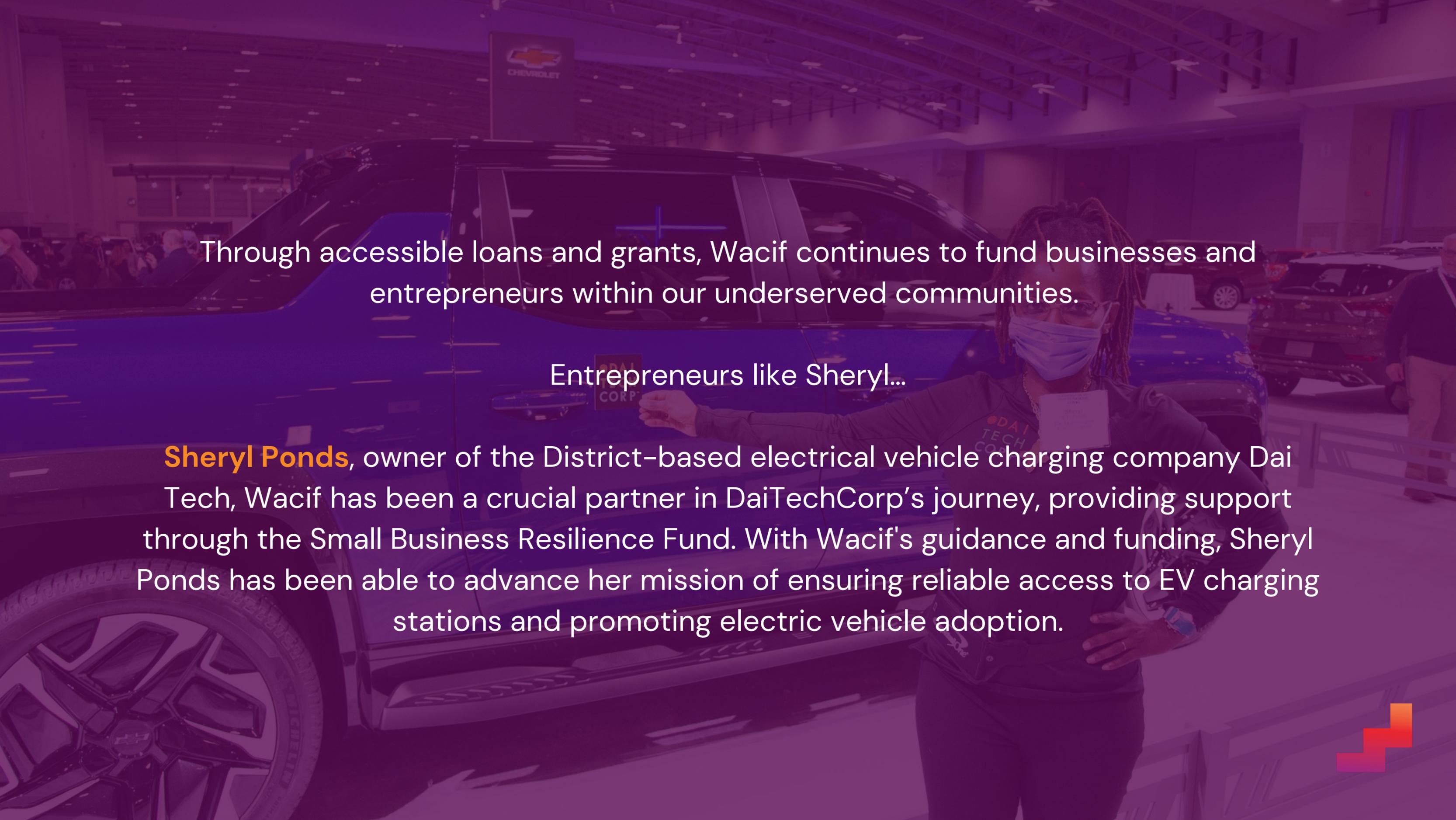
Event Space and Retail Space

Expanded Support for Retail to
eCommerce and Training

New Exhibition Space and
Redesigned Black Box Theatre

Improved Technology and
Amenities





Through accessible loans and grants, Wacif continues to fund businesses and entrepreneurs within our underserved communities.

Entrepreneurs like Sheryl...

Sheryl Ponds, owner of the District-based electrical vehicle charging company Dai Tech, Wacif has been a crucial partner in DaiTechCorp's journey, providing support through the Small Business Resilience Fund. With Wacif's guidance and funding, Sheryl Ponds has been able to advance her mission of ensuring reliable access to EV charging stations and promoting electric vehicle adoption.



Join Us in Empowering Underinvested Entrepreneurs and Driving Community Wealth

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Enterprising
Women
of Color



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