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LEADERSHIP GREATER WASHINGTON NAMES MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER LEADER OF THE YEARS, AS THE REGION HONORS MORE THAN A DECADE OF IMPACT

Washington, D.C. — *February 11, 2026* — Celebrating 40 years of regional impact, Leadership Greater Washington names Mayor Muriel Bowser Leader of the Years for the organization’s annual **Celebration of Leadership** on **Wednesday, October 28, 2026**, at the Grand Hyatt Washington. This recognition reflects the collective voice of cross-sector leaders from business, government, nonprofit, and civic institutions across the Greater Washington region who have witnessed the breadth of Mayor Bowser’s leadership across the entire metropolitan region.

For more than a decade, Mayor Bowser’s tenure has been defined by steady leadership and bold disruption; confident investment in the future of the city; and results that have shaped not only Washington, D.C., but the broader economic, cultural, and civic life of the region.

During her three terms as mayor, Bowser advanced unprecedented real estate production, increased affordable housing opportunities, catalyzed major economic investments, elevated the District’s standing as a national hub for sports and entertainment, and brought transformative vision and resources to every corner of the city.

Tangible Impact Across the Region

- **Housing and Affordability:** Under her leadership, the District exceeded ambitious housing goals, delivering tens of thousands of new housing units and scaling investments in affordable housing at levels that led the nation per capita.
- **Sports Capital Investments:** Washington has emerged as a recognized sports capital, with strategic investments in arenas and stadiums, including CareFirst Arena—home of the WNBA’s Mystics—and Audi Field, home to DC United, the Washington Spirit, and the DC Defenders.

- **Commanders Return and RFK Redevelopment:** A historic agreement secured the return of the Washington Commanders to the District and laid the foundation for a \$3.7 billion stadium and mixed-use development at the historic RFK site, promising jobs, housing, green space, and economic growth for decades.
- **Economic and Civic Leadership:** From advancing equitable economic growth strategies to positioning DC as a regional hub for innovation, health care, small business growth, and workforce opportunity, Bowser’s stewarding of the capital’s competitiveness continues to ripple across adjacent jurisdictions.

Mayor Bowser on the Honor

“It has been the honor of my life to serve the people of Washington, D.C.,” said Mayor Muriel Bowser. “To be recognized by Leadership Greater Washington and the broader region is deeply meaningful to me. This honor reflects not just my work as mayor, but the collective commitment of so many, from every part of our metropolitan community, to build a more resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking region.”

A Regional Expression of Gratitude

“As we mark four decades of Leadership Greater Washington, there is no more fitting moment than now to recognize a leader whose decisions and resolve helped shape this entire metropolitan region,” said **Kathy Hollinger, Chair, Leadership Greater Washington Board of Directors**. *“This recognition is not about politics; it is about the sustained impact of leadership that has strengthened neighborhoods, expanded opportunity, and invested in the future of all who live, work, and build here.”*

Doug Duncan, CEO of Leadership Greater Washington, added: *“Mayor Bowser’s leadership came at a time of extraordinary disruption and change—from a global pandemic to seismic shifts in housing markets and urban economies. What she leaves behind is not just projects or deals, but a more resilient and interconnected region. This honor reflects the deep respect and gratitude shared by leaders across sectors.”*

About the Celebration of Leadership

The **Celebration of Leadership** is Leadership Greater Washington’s premier annual event, bringing together more than 700 leaders from business, government, nonprofit, and civic sectors to honor changemakers whose work strengthens the Greater Washington region. This year’s event on **Wednesday, October 28, 2026**, will also commemorate LGW’s 40th

anniversary of cultivating leadership that embraces complexity, fosters collaboration, and advances the common good across jurisdictions.

About Leadership Greater Washington

Founded in 1986, Leadership Greater Washington (LGW) is celebrating 40 years of developing leaders who collaborate across sectors to strengthen the Greater Washington region. Through its Signature Program, Rising Leaders, and Youth Leadership Greater Washington, LGW has supported more than 3,400 leaders, young professionals, and students across DC, Maryland, and Virginia. For four decades, LGW has connected leaders, inspired collaboration, and advanced positive change throughout the region.

For additional information about Leadership Greater Washington, please visit lgwdc.org.