



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING**  
**1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20004**

**Charles Allen**  
Councilmember, Ward 6  
Chairperson  
Committee on Transportation and the Environment

**Committee Member**  
Business and Economic Development  
Health  
The Judiciary & Public Safety

May 28, 2024

Nyasha Smith, Secretary  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Secretary Smith:

Today, I am introducing the ***“Zelda Fichandler Way Designation Act of 2024”***. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation.

Arena Stage has been a pioneer in the regional theatre movement, in addition to providing invaluable contributions to the arts in the District. It was one of the first non-for-profit theaters in the United States and the first racially integrated theater in the District. Arena Stage was also the first regional theater to transfer a production to Broadway and the first to receive the Regional Theatre Tony Award.

Much of Arena Stage’s accomplishments can be attributed to Zelda Fichandler, who led the theater for 41 years. She was born in Boston, MA, but grew up in the District, and later graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. She was finishing her master’s degree in theater at George Washington University when alongside her husband, Thomas Fichandler, and Edward Magnum, she founded Arena Stage in 1950. She implemented groundbreaking policies and programs while promoting diversity in all aspects of theater, from the audience to production itself. When she stepped down from Arena Stage in 1990, she had produced more than 400 shows and directed more than 50 shows during her tenure. She would have celebrated her 100th birthday on September 18, 2024.

This bill would symbolically designate 6th Street, SW, between M Street, SW and the northern boundary of Square 472, Lot 129, as ***“Zelda Fichandler Way”***. On May 13, 2024, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D voted unanimously in support of symbolically renaming the 1100 block of 6th Street, SW as Zelda Fichandler Way to honor the legacy and impact that she had in the District and in the regional theater movement.

Please feel free to reach out to me or my Legislative Director, Antonio Nunes, with any questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and the last name "Allen" clearly distinguishable.

Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6  
Chairperson, Committee on Transportation & the Environment



Councilmember Charles Allen

A BILL

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To symbolically designate 6th Street, SW, between M Street, SW and the northern boundary of Square 472, Lot 129, as Zelda Fichandler Way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Zelda Fichandler Way Designation Act of 2024”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council designates 6th Street, SW, between M Street, SW, and the northern boundary of Square 472, Lot 129, as “Zelda Fichandler Way”.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December

33 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
34 Columbia Register.