



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Fairgrounds Celebrates Opening Day at Akridge's Half Street

### Pop-Up Shipping Container Marketplace and Event Venue to Make Development Site a Destination

(Washington, DC) Akridge welcomed a new urban market and event venue to the site of its planned mixed-use development adjacent to Nationals Park today, coinciding with the opening home game of Washington's baseball season. Named Half Street Fairgrounds, the project is made up of recycled and repainted shipping containers housing The Bullpen bar and a live performance stage along with vendors selling goods ranging from art to sunglasses. Within the area surrounded by stacks of the 20- and 40-foot crates, baseball fans and area workers enjoyed food trucks, game areas, and plentiful covered seating. Revelers filled a viewing deck built atop several containers across from the Metro entrance to watch the music and the crowd.

Beyond opening day, Fairgrounds is expected to provide a dynamic shopping, dining, and entertainment destination to the Capitol Riverfront Neighborhood throughout the summer and into fall. Bo Blair, owner of Georgetown Events and the Bullpen bar, will manage day-to-day activities at Fairgrounds which will include operating food trucks from his Bayou and Surfside restaurants alongside a constantly-changing collection of vendors selling eclectic goods and fresh foods from the eco-friendly salvaged shipping containers. Blair's restaurants and other food trucks will operate on the site seven days a week beginning at 11:30am. Live music performances will take place before and after every home baseball game, with a wide range of other concerts, festivals, art exhibits, and specialty markets planned for non-game days. The venue will also be available for private events of all kinds and sizes.

"This is such a perfect use for Akridge's Half Street site," said Michael Stevens, Executive Director of the Capitol Riverfront BID. "The permanent development they have planned for this property will be a tremendous addition to the submarket, but activating the space in the meantime with a marketplace that not only serves the neighborhood but is unique and exciting enough to draw in visitors from around the region is just simply brilliant. We love this idea. And go Nationals!"

Akridge's Half Street property consists of the block between Half and Van Streets and from N to M Streets, SE, directly across the street from the Navy Yard Metro station to the east and Nationals Park to the south. The company's development plans call for construction of a 277-unit residential building and two office buildings totalling more than 350,000 square feet. The project's ground floor will accommodate up to 56,000 square feet of retail. Designed by Christy Schlesinger of Schlesinger Architects, the shipping container marketplace represents a temporary use for the site that will be open from April until October and can be easily reconfigured or removed entirely in a matter of days to allow for construction or varied interim uses to take place on the block.

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### About Akridge

Akridge is a comprehensive commercial real estate services company that provides acquisition, development, construction management, asset management, property management, leasing, and consulting services. Since 1999, Akridge has won 11 national “best in the industry” awards for Client satisfaction from the industry’s foremost benchmarking firm, CEL & Associates. Akridge is committed to sustainable development and practices, and has been recognized as an Energy Star Top Performer and Partner of the Year. The company has also been honored with the National Capital Business Ethics Award, awarded by the Society of Financial Service Professionals, and named a number one best place to work in the greater Washington area by the Washington Business Journal. For more information, please visit [www.akridge.com](http://www.akridge.com).

### About Georgetown Events

Georgetown Events is a restaurant firm catering to upscale, young professionals, with an established portfolio of restaurants, bars, catering, and entertainment venues in Washington, DC including The Bullpen, Bayou, Surfside, Jetties, Smith Point, Something Sweet, and Millies. For more information, please visit [www.georgetownevents.com](http://www.georgetownevents.com) and [www.fairgroundsdcc.com](http://www.fairgroundsdcc.com).

### About Schlesinger Associates Architects

Schlesinger Associates Architects has been producing award winning architecture for over 50 years – work that has consistently aspired to be timeless rather than au courant. The firm has done a wide range of work in terms of both scale and building type and promises direct principle/client relationships in all their projects regardless of scope or complexity. The quality of this architectural practice is attested to by the number of design awards the firm has received at local, state, and national levels, its recognition over the years in professional journals such as Architectural Record and Progressive Architecture, and the number of repeat clients for whom the firm has provided services. For more information, please visit [www.schlesingerarchitects.com](http://www.schlesingerarchitects.com).

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