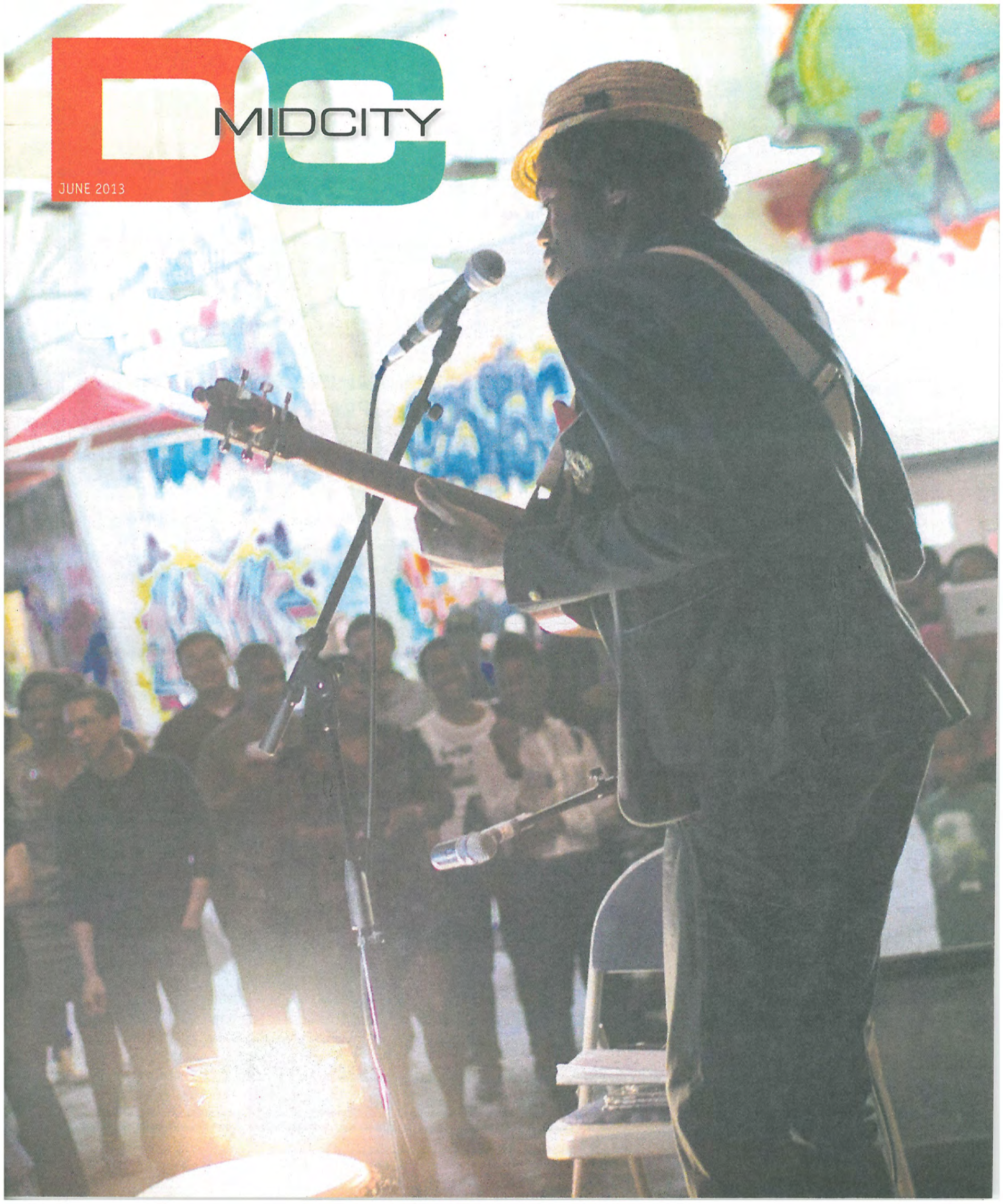


# DC MIDCITY

JUNE 2013





# RETAIL THERAPY

BY MARIESSA TERRELL



Poolside is the best revenge at Vida Fitness. Photo by Marcus Bennett



Sparkle and shine for less at Meeps Vintage Fashionette. Photo by Kristopher Johnson



Peruvian butterfly sightings at Toro Mata. Photo by Kristopher Johnson



Indoor flowers to inspire re-creations at Lee's Flower and Card Shop. Photo by James Terrell

## VIDA FITNESS 1612 U St, NW

**FASHIONETTE QUERY:** The clutch on my Pathfinder officially went out on the Thursday before Memorial Day. I am now faced with a serious dilemma. Should I pay the \$905 to repair the Green Hornet? Or should I keep my holiday travel plans and join my girls in Miami Beach for the weekend?

**SIMONE:** While it may seem cool to ditch the truck and rely solely on public transportation or bike shares like your new neighbors, we caution you to think twice before abandoning your ride. Recall that your nieces live in Upper Marlboro, eight miles from the nearest train; your mother lives on top of one of the highest hills in the District; and the red line rarely works on the weekends. Why not get the truck fixed and spend the remainder of the weekend lounging by Vida's luxe rooftop pool? The water is perfect and the bar is divine. Sand is over rated, darling. Astro turf is the future!

## MEEPS VINTAGE FASHIONETTE 2104 18th St, NW, Ste. 1

**FASHIONETTE QUERY:** I spent all Friday and Saturday at the VIDA Fitness pool chatting it up with my super cool new friends. They just invited me to lounge with them at the Brixton tonight. But because my truck is still at the shop, there is no time to dash home to change. Where can I find some bling in the vicinity for \$30 or less?

**SIMONE:** The MidCity area of Washington, DC boasts the best vintage shopping options in the area. If you love Treasury, you will also adore Meeps, a sister boutique located in Adams Morgan, a few blocks from VIDA fitness. Recently rated one of the best vintage stores in the US by Elle Magazine, Meeps always has a reasonably priced option. For \$24 you too can cop a multi layered silver chain necklace with glass red, white and blue beads. Who says sparkle and shine has to break the bank?

## TORO MATA 2410 18th St, NW

**FASHIONETTE QUERY:** All weekend my girlfriends have been texting me pics of their fabu-

lous weekend in Miami. Despite taking your advice, I am starting to feel a bit left out. Surely there is an exotic destination I can visit that won't require me to leave northwest.

**SIMONE:** Absolutely, darling! Never mind all of the embassies lining Massachusetts Avenue. Northwest DC, which includes the Hillwood estates is exactly "Where Fabulous Lives!" As far as exotic destinations go, there is no other boutique as eclectic and reasonably priced as Toro Mata. Where else can you find a butterfly plucked from the top layer of the Peruvian Amazon forest neatly pressed into .950 nickel free sterling silver jewelry? I prefer to admire my Yolanda Mitos b-fly charms while re-enacting the battle between the Spanish Conquistadors and the Incan Empire. Who needs Miami? We've got Peru!

## LEE'S FLOWER & CARD SHOP 1026 U St, NW

**FASHIONETTE QUERY:** My weekend is coming to a close. Yet, I feel obligated to complete some kind of home project before Tuesday. I really need to clean my refrigerator. But, I don't think I can stand being cooped up in a galley kitchen when the sun and all the new summer blossoms beckon. Any recommendations to help me power through my chores?

**SIMONE:** Who wants to clean a refrigerator on a sunny day? The only way I could get through that type of project would be to start early and to add a decoupage element to the mix. Why not clean and decorate the fridge between 8 am and 12 noon? Simply cut out your favorite phrases, photos and headlines from the most worn Elle, V, Vogue, Suede, Honey and W magazines lying around your flat. Then snag some Modge Podge and get to work. We recommend wearing a fantastical fuchsia arm corsage from Lee's Flower and Card Shop for a bit of flower to power you through the project and beyond. Burn calories, de-clutter, and re-cycle all before noon!

*Mariessa Terrell, aka Simone Butterfly, Fashion Investigator, does her sleuthing at [www.yoohoodarling.com](http://www.yoohoodarling.com) and @SimoneBtrffy. ♦*