

# The BIG CHAIR

Everyone is familiar with the big chair on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and V Street, S.E. The big chair was built for Curtis Brothers Furniture Company, which was established in 1926. Bassett Furniture Industries of Virginia constructed it, based on a Duncan Fife design. The chair was built from original plans by Leo A. Jiranek. At the time, it was



said to be the largest chair in the world. The original chair, built in Bassett, Virginia, was made from African mahogany and weighed 4,600 pounds, and has been in Anacostia since 1959. In August 1960, Lynn Arnold lived on top of the big chair, inside of a glass house, for forty-seven days to help promote Curtis Brothers Furniture. Today, we install an exact replica of the original chair crafted from 2500 pounds of aluminum and reaching more than 19 1/2 feet high to join the renovated buildings on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue – current home to the DC Lottery Board and the Anacostia Professional Building.



The Curtis family of businesses have been part of Washington's Southeast landscape for more than 80 years. Steadily building a foundation of commercial, residential and retail property investments – even at a time when it was not fashionable. Today, their passion for excellence and longstanding commitment to the community are testimony of hard work, integrity and a belief in the the area of Southeast Washington, D.C. For more information about the Curtis Company in Anacostia call Lou Rizzo, President, Curtis Property Management Corporation, at 301.702.3200.



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