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Mentoring Our Own:

CityVision Youth Reimagine White House Precinct

For the past several years, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPD) has participated in CityVision, a biannual design education program sponsored by the National Building Museum (NBM). The program helps District of Columbia middle school students with an interest and aptitude for architecture and design, learn about the built environment. The youth participate in a semester-long session where they take part in a unique design challenge to help shape their own communities.

CityVision has changed the way I feel towards building, math, and to downtown DC. The things I learned are way beyond the levels of education taught at my school.

Jeajout Cymonisse
Student, Columbia Heights Education Campus

"NCPD is particularly proud of our involvement in CityVision," said NCPD Executive Director Marcel Acosta. "Through our partnership with the National Building Museum, members of our staff help local students learn not only about design, but how to identify needs and solutions that can help their own neighborhoods. While their plans aren't realized in brick and mortar, they work with design professionals on actual design scenarios to improve the city."

Students from selected schools come to the National Building Museum one day a week for 14 weeks during which time they are mentored by volunteers from NCPD staff, as well as other local architects, planners, and designers. They learn how design shapes the built environment and they become knowledgeable about important issues such as land use, historic preservation, environmental sustainability, and transit. They also develop valuable skills in producing technical drawings and rendering computer graphics.

"In 1993, when the program started, the museum decided to engage with middle school students because there was a general feeling that this was an overlooked audience," said Andrew Costanzo, associate outreach programs coordinator at the NBM. "Since that time over 900 members of the District's youth in underserved areas have passed through the program. Many have stayed on the architecture and design track."

Class size is restricted to 30-40 students per semester and special needs youth are an integral part of the program. The young designers are expected to keep up with their regular school work and they understand that participation in the program is voluntary.

"They told us we were going to build things," says twelve-year-old Dymond Washington, a student at Browne Education Campus. "I used to try and build robots out of cans. I've always been an experimenter."

For the fall 2009 semester, 24 students from the Browne Education Campus and Columbia Heights Education Campus participated in the program. The students were tasked to reimagine the area around the White House to make it more inviting for the millions of people who visit annually. The scenario called for creating a design for a new White House Visitors Center and addressing security concerns, environmental impacts, and transportation.





"It was a thrill working with the students as they imagined ways to improve one of the most premier sites in the capital," said NCPC architect and CityVision mentor Kenneth Walton. In recognition of their hard work, the children were provided with a tour of the White House, which enabled them to experience the grounds from the perspective of a tourist. "The students took notes on things that worked for them on the tour and elements they felt could be improved upon," said Walton. "The information they gleaned from the tour proved to be very useful when the students went to work developing drawings and three dimensional models."

"To be honest I thought this program was just a way of getting away from school. My parents even said it was a waste of time. But I can truly say without a doubt that this program has proven my parents and me wrong," said Columbia Heights student Jeajout Cymonisse. "The things I learned in this program are way beyond the levels of education taught at my school. It would be a big regret if I were to miss out."

"We're trying to make sure the students stay engaged and that they're learning from the process as well as enjoying the experience," said Scott Kratz, the Building Museum's vice president for education. "We are constantly working to find the right mentors and to make sure the curriculum is always interesting." Past projects looked at reconfiguring the I-395 overpass and restructuring the area around the 10th Street overlook in Southwest.

The job of coordinating the students' weekly journey from their local schools to the National Building Museum is the responsibility of school staff. Inga Hailstorks, the school social worker at Browne, has been working with the program for 13 years, almost since its inception. [For additional information on Ms. Hailstorks, see the Newsmaker feature on page 4.]

"It's difficult to take a classroom teacher out of the building for the entire day, but the program attracts students who are willing to try something different," explained Hailstorks. "The students are selected through a multi-stage process that includes a presentation and written application."

For NCPC's planners, the rewards of being involved with the program are great. "The kids really want to be here. Not only are they bright, but they are interested in learning about architecture and urban planning," said NCPC staff volunteer Stefanie Brown.

"CityVision is a chance to really focus on an audience that doesn't have a traditional voice in shaping our surrounding environment," said Jamee Telford, outreach programs director at the Museum. "It's very rewarding that students come back to visit the Museum after completing the program."

The semester-long process culminated on January 8, 2010 at the National Building Museum when the students made their final presentations before a public audience and a jury of design professionals.

The team tasked with designing a visitor center in Lafayette Square, as well as the team assigned to Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House, proposed an underground facility in order to preserve open space and existing views of the White House. The third team designed a center on E Street, featuring a main entrance level above ground, with several additional levels below ground. They included in their design a playground, an interactive "Meet the Presidents" exhibit, and a theater. All of the teams expressed a desire to include elements that would provide historical information about the current and past presidents.

When asked what CityVision means to them, all of the kids had something to say about their favorite part of the curriculum. "I like having a say in how our city should be," said Dymond Washington. "I like not being pressured to do something we don't like," added Washington's classmate Jermain Johnson.

"I would like to thank my mentors," said Jeajout Cymonisse. "They have not only been teachers but friends as well."

For more information on CityVision including further details on the student projects and volunteer opportunities, visit www.nbm.org.

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Kenny Walton
NCPC architect and CityVision mentor



Q&A NEWSMAKER

Making a Difference with Local Youth

Inga Hailstorks

School Social Worker
Browne Education Campus



Q. How did Browne Education Campus become involved in CityVision and what is your connection to the program?

A. Thirteen years ago, a social studies teacher heard about the program from museum outreach efforts. The school wanted to participate but it's difficult to take a classroom teacher out of the building for the entire day. My schedule tends to be a bit more flexible so I started helping with the logistics of getting the kids to the National Building Museum, as well as making sure they were prepared to work on the day's agenda.

Q. Why do you think it's important for students to learn about the built environment?

A. So students can explore where they live and understand that they can be instrumental in shaping their own neighborhoods. From enhancing a local park, or reconfiguring a street pattern, to deciding where to locate a new recreation center, CityVision enables the kids to propose ideas they think are best.

Q. What kind of students does the program seem to attract?

A. Most of the students have a strong interest in the arts but we're also looking for well-rounded individuals. Because the curriculum involves working with their hands, we also include special needs youth in the program.

Q. What makes the program so meaningful?

A. It is a different environment from the typical classroom. The students get a lot of one-on-one attention as they explore the built environment. They're given the opportunity

to see how changes can be made and how their input can be used to bring about change in the world they live in.

Q. Do you think the program has an impact on the student's ongoing education?

A. Definitely. A lot of the kids who go through CityVision decide to pursue design and architecture in high school. Many of the students move on to the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, some go on to McKinley Technical School, and others attend Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School.

Q. What is the biggest challenge to running CityVision?

A. The mornings we visit the National Building Museum are very busy. The kids first have to go to their home rooms before departing for the Museum, and then we have to make sure they get on the bus at the right time. But once we get to the Museum, everything calms down.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of the program?

A. There are a number of reasons why this program is so successful. The kids get to explore the design world, they also start to develop writing and critical thinking skills. Because the program involves several schools, they get to meet and work with kids from other neighborhoods. But perhaps most rewarding is witnessing the sheer joy of the students as they develop the skills and confidence to tackle any challenge.

CapitalSpace Closes Public Comments

Several dozen members of the public provided comments to NCPC on the draft CapitalSpace plan during a 60-day public comment period that closed on December 8, 2009. CapitalSpace is the first comprehensive analysis of Washington's parks and open space in almost 40 years. The plan was prepared jointly by NCPC, the National Park Service, and the District of Columbia government.

Many of the comments conveyed that the plan adequately identified the most important issues challenging Washington's park system. Other comments reflected the

public's desire to tie the plan's recommendations to larger community issues; improve public access to open space on the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Northeast Washington; and learn more about the implementation strategies for the recommended improvements.

A final version of the plan is scheduled to be presented to the Commission at the March commission meeting.



Monumental Core Framework Plan *Promotes a More Vibrant Capital City*

Staff members at the National Capital Planning Commission and U.S. Commission of Fine Arts are moving forward with efforts to advance the goals and objectives proposed in the joint *Monumental Core Framework Plan*, released in spring 2009. Over the last few months, ideas to transform staid federal precincts into active, lively destinations have been taking hold.

10th Street Task Force

NCPC Chairman L. Preston Bryant Jr. officially convened the 10th Street Corridor Task Force on December 15. The special committee is charged with assembling, coordinating, and advancing action steps for the transformation of the predominantly federal precinct bounded by Independence Avenue, Maine Avenue, 7th and 12th Streets, Southwest.

The Monumental Core Framework Plan imagines this critical part of the city dramatically transformed into a pedestrian-friendly workplace, a cultural hub, and an exciting and welcoming visitor destination.

The extent of the federal presence in the 10th Street, SW corridor presents the opportunity to advance sustainable development practices beyond the scale of individual buildings. In support of the new administration's Executive Order on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, the Task Force will analyze the benefits and challenges associated with redeveloping the corridor in accordance with best practices in sustainable design. Through smart planning and implementation, the 10th Street area can serve as a national model "ecodistrict" to showcase innovative ecological development and infrastructure practices.

"I am a lifelong Washingtonian," said Brian Costlow, Director of the Office of Administration at the U.S. Department of Energy, during the task force kick-off. "I have a true passion for this city and I like what I hear. Timing and synchronization are very important, and the timing [for this effort] is right."

The Task Force will develop short and long-term recommendations to improve the corridor and staff expect to produce a report that identifies the opportunities, constraints, costs, and benefits of redeveloping the 10th Street, SW corridor as a sustainable ecodistrict. The report will explore various redevelopment scenarios and outline action steps to advance implementation.

In addition to NCPC Chairman Bryant, the task force includes other members of the National Capital Planning Commission, as well as representatives from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, General Services Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Energy, Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Postal Service, and the government of the District of Columbia.

Activating Federal Places

Few American cities can rival Washington, DC's grand public spaces and iconic architecture. Each day, thousands of people are drawn to its National Mall, inspiring landmarks, and world-class museums that are located in an area of the city known as the monumental core.

While the architecture is indeed impressive, most federal buildings in this area fail to include the type of mixed-use activities that strengthen a vibrant city center. Little is offered in the way of publicly accessible ground-level restaurants, retail, services, or cultural opportunities.

A soon-to-be released report, *Activating Federal Spaces*, outlines how to integrate clusters of single-use, large-scale office buildings with the fabric of city life. It identifies current challenges, potential solutions, and examples of federal facilities across the United States that have successfully contributed to urban vitality. The report follows up on a roundtable discussion held in May at NCPC to examine ways to incorporate active uses within the ground floors of federal buildings. Look for the report in the coming weeks on our website under recent publications.

Downtown DC BID Honors NCPC and CFA for Partnership on the Framework Plan

The Downtown DC Business Improvement District (DC BID) on December 3 recognized NCPC and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) with its annual Momentum Award for Partnership. The DC BID selected NCPC and CFA for the agencies' collaborative work on the 2009 *Monumental Core Framework Plan*. The award is presented annually to partnering organizations that help make downtown Washington a more vibrant, inviting, and smart place to live and work.



NCPC and COG Move Forward with Plans to Establish Region as a Model of Cooperative Leadership

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) are continuing their work to help establish the region as a model of cooperative leadership.

At the direction of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), NCPC and COG are shaping several pilot projects as a follow-up to the Building the Region Together event, which they co-hosted in July 2009. That event brought together senior White House officials, federal and local agency representatives, and regional elected officials to discuss collaborative opportunities on issues of interest.

The proposed projects focus on fostering regional coordination around shared goals and creating a regional business plan; establishing the region as a showcase for sustainability; and linking federal investments to community, economic, and innovation development.

Staff at NCPC and COG will be reconvening meetings during the coming months with federal agency representatives and regional officials to further refine these ideas into viable, innovative strategies and solutions. The first meeting of 2010 is scheduled to take place at NCPC on January 27. The proposals are designed to be implemented collaboratively over the next 12 to 24 months.



Pictured left to right are 2009 MWCOC Chair Penny Gross, MWCOC Executive Director Dave Robertson, NCPC Chair L. Preston Bryant, Jr., NCPC Executive Director Marcel Acosta, and 2009 MWCOC President Phil Mendelson.

NCPC is Recognized with Regional Partnership Award

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments presented NCPC with its Regional Partnership Award at its annual membership meeting on December 9. COG leaders recognized NCPC for its ongoing efforts to build a strong federal/regional partnership. In particular, the metropolitan planning organization noted NCPC's role in spearheading the Building the Region Together event in July.

NCPC
SPEAKER
SERIES

EcoDistricts & Executive Order on the Environment

January 26, 2010

Rob Bennett, executive director of the Portland + Oregon Sustainability Institute and **Michelle Moore**, federal environmental executive of the White House Council on Environmental Quality will team up for the next installment of the NCPC Speaker Series at **6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 26**, at the National Capital Planning Commission.

The program, the first lecture of 2010, will address the future of ecodistricts, neighborhood-based approaches to creating resource efficient communities that can capture, manage, and reuse a majority of energy, water, and waste on site. Hear about NCPC's plans to establish the first ecodistrict in the nation's capital, and learn how federal agencies must measure, manage, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as required by a recent Executive Order.

Walk-ins are welcome, but RSVP preferred: speakerseries@ncpc.gov or 202-482-7290.

10th Street Corridor Public Scoping Meeting

February 2, 2010

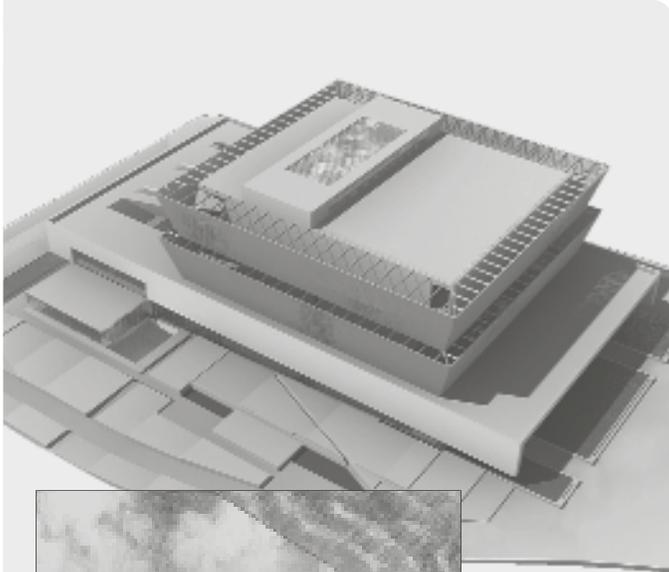
The 10th Street, SW Corridor is envisioned in the collaborative *Monumental Core Framework Plan* as an inviting, lively, mixed-use community.

Staff at NCPC invite you to hear the agency's ideas for moving this vision into action for the area bounded by Independence and Maine Avenues between 7th and 12th Streets, SW. The event will be held at the offices of the National Capital Planning Commission on **Tuesday, February 2, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

Join the conversation and help shape this important precinct into a model 21st century showcase of sustainable development capable of capturing, managing, and rescuing a majority of energy, water, and waste on site.

Walk-ins are welcome, but RSVP preferred: 10thStreet@ncpc.gov or 202-482-7200.

DECEMBER INFORMATION PRESENTATION



National Museum of African American History and Culture

(File Number 6331)

The National Capital Planning Commission received an informational presentation from the team designing the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Representatives from the Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup presented their firm's competition winning entry and discussed the museum's design relative to its site on the National Mall. The museum will be located on five acres near the Washington Monument. The site is bounded by Constitution Avenue, Madison Drive, 14th and 15th streets, NW. Construction is expected to begin in 2012 and last for three years.

Several members of the Commission urged the designers to keep in mind the context of the National Mall, surrounding buildings, and adjacent Washington Monument as they move forward with the design process. NCPC Chairman L. Preston Bryant, Jr. made note that the design portrayed in the informational presentation will inevitably evolve during the official review process in order to meet the design principles developed during the Section 106 process. Several Commission members commended the team for a design that is unique and original.

STAFF REPORTS NOW ONLINE

NCPC's staff recommendations to the Commission, known as Executive Director's Recommendations (EDRs), are now available online prior to each Commission meeting. Staff will post the EDRs as Adobe Acrobat pdfs on the Monday prior to the meeting.

If you are interested in a project, please visit www.ncpc.gov/meetings and click on the final agenda to view the full reports.

National Institute of Standards and Technology Master Plan Update

(File Number MP23)

The Commission approved a master plan update for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) campus located in Gaithersburg, Maryland. In its approval, NCPC encouraged NIST to develop a more ambitious Transportation Management Plan and commended their water conservation efforts. The 581-acre campus is located between Quince Orchard Road (MD Route 124) and Interstate 270. The existing campus has 3.44 million square feet of space in 55 buildings. The plan submitted by the Department of Commerce calls for 21 projects including several new buildings, additions to existing buildings, and infrastructure upgrades that will primarily consolidate and replace obsolete facilities. A net gain of employees is not anticipated.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing Tour Entrance Bridge

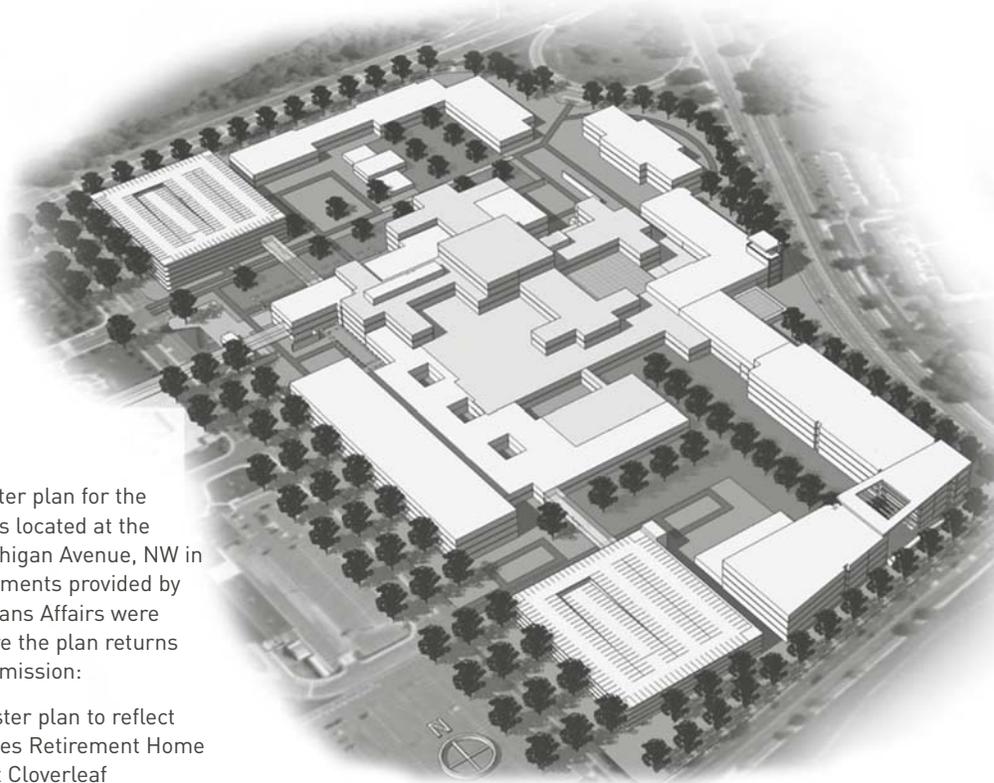
(File Number 7004)

The Commission commented favorably on concept designs submitted by the Department of the Treasury to rehabilitate the existing tour entrance at the main Bureau of Engraving and Printing located at 310 14th Street, SW in Washington, DC. In preparation for its Sesquicentennial in 2012, the Bureau wants to expand and enhance its public tour experience. The proposed project would rehabilitate the current steel truss entrance bridge that is part of the historic 1914 building.

The bridge's metal panel walls and single-pane windows would be replaced with metal-framed glass panels to highlight the historic bridge, increase natural light, and better accommodate future exhibits. The existing entrance area would be upgraded and a small theatre added.

The Commission recommended that the Treasury continue to work closely with NCPC to examine ways to improve pedestrian circulation and the streetscape along 14th and 15th streets and to work with NCPC, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the DC State Historic Preservation Office to determine whether the 14th Street public plaza could be restored to its original curvilinear design.





Veterans Affairs Medical Center Master Plan Update, 4C Wing Expansion, Operating Room, Emergency Department and Decontamination Center Expansion, and Fisher House

(File Numbers MP028/7019/7021/6918)

NCP C provided comments on the draft master plan for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VA) campus located at the intersection of North Capitol Street and Michigan Avenue, NW in Washington, DC. Among eight different comments provided by the Commission to the Department of Veterans Affairs were several requirements to be addressed before the plan returns for preliminary and final approval. The Commission:

- Required the applicant to modify the master plan to reflect recent planning work for the Armed Forces Retirement Home Master Plan and the North Capitol Street Cloverleaf Feasibility Study for active ground floor uses and build-to lines along Irving Street, NW.
- Required the applicant to explore further the design of 1st Street, NW, as a pedestrian and bicycle connection for the VA Medical Center and between the Armed Forces Retirement Home site and the McMillan Sand Filtration site.
- Required the applicant to provide more detail in the final master plan about the parking phasing to demonstrate the campus parking ratio meets the 1:4 ratio stipulated in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements* and to submit additional justification for a proposed increase in visitor parking.
- Required the applicant to explore alternatives in the final master plan to address potential visual impacts of the Domiciliary and Community Living Center on the North Capitol Street corridor and the Armed Forces Retirement Home viewshed. Alternatives for minimizing the impact include shifting these components, reducing their scale, or adding landscape screening.
- Required the applicant to refine the perimeter security proposal in the final master plan to balance security needs and future planning objectives within an urban context.

The master plan provides a framework for the next 20 years for the 35-acre site. The development would add 818,000 gross square feet of additional space to the current 900,000 gross square-foot facility. The existing surface parking lots would be replaced with two parking garages, and new landscaping would be added.

The Commission also approved preliminary and final site and building plans for the expansion of the Medical Center’s 4C Wing; and of the operating room, emergency department, and decontamination center, as well as for preliminary and final site and building plans for the Fisher House.

November

November 5, 2009

National Mall Wayfinding Pylons Color Scheme

(File Number 6910)

The National Capital Planning Commission approved the National Park Service’s proposed monochromatic (gray) color scheme for pedestrian guide wayfinding pylons for the National Mall and East Potomac Park.

The new signs are part of a comprehensive plan to better communicate information to a variety of audiences visiting the Mall and East Potomac Park. Two sizes of pylons will be installed: 9’2” pylons at major path and road intersections and 5’6” pylons at minor path intersections, in open areas near memorials, and at other locations in need of wayfinding signage.

The Commission had approved final site development plans for the fabrication and installation of the pylons and map kiosks at its July meeting, but deferred final approval of the pylon panel colors pending further study and consultation with the National Park Service and the U.S. Commission Fine Arts.

The pedestrian guide wayfinding pylons and map kiosks are one of three parts of the Park Service’s comprehensive wayfinding and sign program. In May of this year the Commission approved preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of a UniGuide sign system for NPS facility identification signs, and rules and regulation signs. A third component, monument identification signs, has not yet been submitted for review.

October

October 26, 2009

Perimeter Security at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

(File Number 5907)

During a special meeting held on October 26, the National Capital Planning Commission approved a revised perimeter security plan for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. The project will be located on the National Mall on a four-acre site near the Tidal Basin. NCPC scheduled the meeting at the request of the Secretary of the Interior.

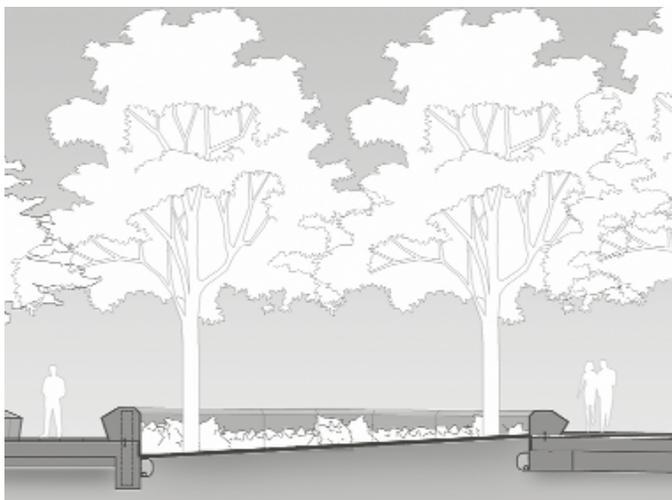
The Commission had approved preliminary and final site and building plans for the memorial in September 2008, except for a proposed donor wall and perimeter security elements. The Commission concluded at that time that the applicant's submitted threat assessment was inconclusive in supporting the need for perimeter security. The donor wall was subsequently removed from the project.

For the revised plan, the National Park Service (NPS) integrated the proposed security elements into the overall design of the memorial and provided supplemental threat assessment materials to justify its proposal.

The Park Service worked in conjunction with the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. on the new submission and developed it in accordance with NCPC's National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan Objectives and Policies.

The revised plan features a depressed planter situated at the main entrance near the intersection of Independence Avenue and West Basin Drive, SW. The planter would rise to a maximum height of 2-feet 3-inches above grade and contain low-lying plants and two American elm trees. Bollards would be located across the memorial's pedestrian entryways on either side of the planter and at the two side entrances. The memorial's existing retaining walls would provide the bulk of the perimeter security. The original design featured a line of eight bollards located in the memorial's forecourt with additional bollards located at the memorial's two side entrances.

When completed, the memorial will feature three main design elements, including the Mountain of Despair, a curved Inscription Wall, and the Stone of Hope featuring the likeness of Dr. King.



October 1, 2009

District of Columbia World War I Memorial

(File Number 6979)

The National Capital Planning Commission provided favorable comments on concept designs submitted by the National Park Service (NPS) to restore the District of Columbia World War I Memorial and rehabilitate its grounds.

Located on the National Mall at Independence Avenue, SW, the memorial honors residents of the District who fought in the First World War. Authorized by Congress in 1924, the memorial was funded by District residents, organizations, and businesses. Construction began in 1931 and President Hoover dedicated the memorial on November 11, 1931.

The NPS plans to clean and repair the 47-foot tall memorial and return the surrounding landscape to the original plan. These efforts include adding new historic bluestone paving and elm trees, replacing non-historic paving with granite, and removing non-historic trees. In addition, NPS proposes widening the walkways from eight to ten feet. When completed, the memorial could once again be used as a bandstand, as it was originally designed.



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Agency News

NCPC TRANSITIONS FROM QUARTERLY TO NEW MEDIA

For those who enjoy collecting final issues of print media, you may want to consider saving this issue of NCPC's Quarterly Newsletter. As part of the agency's transition to new methods of outreach, the Quarterly will be replaced by our monthly electronic newsletter, which we deliver directly to your inbox.

NCPC's desire to expand its electronic outreach, combined with a greater consciousness regarding the agency's environmental impact, both contributed to the decision to transition from print methods to digital media. Our new media communication channels include a redesigned website offering improved public access to planning documents, a new presence on Facebook, and a foray into video production.

If you are not receiving our digital news updates, please subscribe by sending your e-mail address to info@ncpc.gov. If you haven't become a fan yet on Facebook, we invite you to stay connected with us at [Facebook.com/ncpc.gov](https://www.facebook.com/ncpc.gov).

NCPC ABOUT TOWN

NCPC co-hosted a Smarter Growth forum on regional issues with the Coalition for Smarter Growth and the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) on the evening of November 12. Speakers included Marcel Acosta, NCPC's executive director; David Robertson, executive director of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; and Harriet Tregoning, director of the DC Office of Planning. The three discussed the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition's new Region Forward plan and NCPC's ongoing work with COG to strengthen federal and regional partnerships. About 50 members of the public attended the event.

AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT COME CALLING

On November 12 NCPC senior staff met with two members of Australia's parliament who work closely with the National Capital Authority, the federal planning agency in Canberra. Australian Representatives Paul Neville and Annette Ellis spoke with Executive Director Marcel Acosta, Public Affairs Director Lisa MacSpadden, and Urban Design & Review Director David Levy about how the federal government maintains the ambiance of the capital city's built environment. The group also discussed the agency's efforts to balance federal and local interests and NCPC's interaction with the surrounding region. The congressional members spent four months in the U.S. serving as advisers to the permanent mission of Australia to the United Nations for the fall session of the 64th U.N. General Assembly.

NCPC HOSTS CHINESE DELEGATIONS



On October 8 NCPC hosted a delegation of more than twenty public officials from Chongqing, China. Bill Dowd, Director of the Physical Planning Division, provided an overview of the agency's work in planning for the nation's capital with a focus on the *Monumental Core Framework Plan*.

On November 12 a delegation of more than twenty public officials from the Chinese city of Xiamen visited NCPC. Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Julia Koster provided an agency overview, discussed successful planning efforts in Washington, DC, and explained the process of commemoration in the nation's capital.

A third Chinese delegation hailing from the Guizhou province visited on December 9. Urban Design & Plan Review Director David Levy discussed issues including land governance and the role of NCPC and other federal agencies regarding project review and land use in the National Capital Region.

ABU DHABI AND SYRIAN DELEGATIONS



VISIT COMMISSION

On November 13 staff briefed a delegation from the national capital of Abu Dhabi. The visitors were interested in learning how NCPC is helping to make the National Capital Region more sustainable. Urban Planner Diane Sullivan talked about the agency's work with ecodistricts; how President Obama's new executive order will impact federal agencies; and how the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* incorporates sustainability into the revitalization of federal precincts surrounding the National Mall.

On November 18, Senior Urban Planner David Zaidain provided a briefing to an international delegation from Syria. The group was in the United States under the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

In November the agency welcomed three new community planners to the staff. Andrea Lytle, previously on temporary assignment in the Policy and Research Division, joined the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Joining the Physical Planning Division is Sarah Moulton, who previously worked for the DC Department of Parks and Recreation. Also new to NCPC is William Herbig, a former director of urban design with the Midtown Alliance in Atlanta, Georgia.

Urban planner Diane Sullivan moved to the Physical Planning Division where she will lead the agency's sustainability initiatives. Ms. Sullivan is currently focusing on the President's recent Executive Order on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance. In other staff moves, urban planner Jeff Hinkle moved to the Urban Design and Plan Review Division where he will support the agency's review program. Management Assistant Roszonna Whitsett is now assigned to the Office of Administration.

AGENCY PONIES UP FOR CHARITY

NCPC staff once again answered the call of the annual Combined Federal Campaign. A kick-off auction raised more than \$10,000 and the agency surpassed its goal of \$20,300 by raising more than \$22,150. Staff was recognized at the January Commission meeting with the President's Award, the highest award that federal agencies can receive for CFC participation. NCPC also received the Summit Award for increasing total donations and pledges by three percent or more from last year. Eighty percent of staff participated with a per capita giving of \$550. Congratulations go out to this year's campaign manager Amy Tarce and team members Kenny Walton, Cheryl Kelly, Andrea Lytle, and Camille Lewis.



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QUARTERLY

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Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland
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The Honorable Edolphus Towns
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and Government Reform

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

Executive Director
Marcel C. Acosta

The **National Capital Planning Commission** is the federal government's planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal construction projects, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

Save the Date for EcoDistricts & Exec Order on the Environment January 26, 2010

Rob Bennett with the Portland + Oregon Sustainability Institute and Michelle Moore with the White House Council on Environmental Quality team up for the January 26 installment of the NCPC Speaker Series at 6:00 PM at the offices of the Commission.

Learn about the pioneering ecodistrict approach to creating resource efficient communities and how federal agencies have to measure, manage, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as required by a new Executive Order. RSVP to SpeakerSeries@ncpc.gov or 202.482.7290.

Save the Date for 10th Street, SW Corridor Public Scoping Meeting February 2, 2010

The 10th Street, SW corridor is envisioned in the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* as a lively, sustainable, mixed-use community. Hear plans to move vision into action and establish the corridor as an energy efficient precinct capable of capturing, managing, and rescuing a majority of energy, water, and waste on site.

Join the conversation, from 5:30 - 7:00 PM and help shape this precinct into a model 21st century showcase of sustainable development. The event will be held at the offices of the NCPC. RSVP to 10thStreet@ncpc.gov or 202.482.7200.



THE QUARTERLY RETIRES

To better serve our constituents, we are transitioning our print Quarterly to enhanced digital news briefs. Sign up at info@ncpc.gov.



STAFF REPORTS NOW ONLINE

NCPC's staff reports to the Commission, known as Executive Director's Recommendations (EDRs), are now available online prior to each meeting. Staff post EDRs as Adobe Acrobat PDFs on the Monday prior to the meeting. To view a project, visit our website and click on the final agenda on the Commissions page to view the full reports.

