

March 2009

FINAL DRAFT



Reimagining Washington's Monumental Core

A Framework Plan for Connecting New Destinations with the National Mall

Chairmen's Messages

National Capital Planning Commission
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As Washington, DC grows and evolves in the 21st century, we have an unparalleled opportunity to enhance some of the extraordinary features that make the nation's capital a great place to live, work, and visit. We can ensure that Washington remains a world-class destination by focusing on the planning challenges that are unique to a national capital, while also guiding development that showcases best practices for cities across America.

Partnerships among federal, local, and private interests, can enable Washington to emerge as a model sustainable city—one that supports sites for future commemoration, reduces our impact on the natural environment, allows businesses and neighborhoods to thrive, and offers a premier destination for visitors the world over.

Reimagining Washington's Monumental Core: A Framework Plan for Connecting New Destinations with the National Mall identifies ways to merge the civic qualities of America's treasured National Mall with the urban vitality of the city by revitalizing federally dominated precincts in the capital's monumental core. The plan builds upon the vision of the National Capital Planning Commission's 1997 *Extending the Legacy* plan and details specific measures to support and enhance the opportunity for office and cultural space, green areas, and gathering sites for our future generations.

While the National Mall provides an inspiring setting for some of our most cherished memorials and museums today, we can and must create destinations of similar importance to support our public space and commemoration needs of the future. The *Framework Plan* illustrates where and how to create these new sites and shows how they can be connected with the National Mall, the waterfront, and the city.



John V. Cogbill, III
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The design of our national capital, Washington, DC, is the physical expression of the nation's democratic ideals. From its beginnings more than two hundred years ago as a planned city symbolizing our collective civic culture, Washington has evolved over time—and will continue to evolve as our nation changes and grows.

The heart of Washington's symbolic fabric is its monumental core. Like the city around it, this civic framework has developed and changed with each generation. Much of the monumental core—old and new—has become a cherished part of our national heritage and deserving of protection, while parts of this extraordinary civic composition are disrupted by unwelcome physical barriers that should be overcome.

Today, new opportunities exist to create settings where the values of future generations may be expressed. *Reimagining Washington's Monumental Core: A Framework Plan for Connecting New Destinations with the National Mall* is a timely proposal to project the civic qualities of the Mall into the city and to integrate the city's vitality into adjacent federal precincts.

Created in 1910 as a legacy of the visionary planning of the McMillan Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts has a long-standing role in guiding the design of the nation's capital. As the Commission reaches its centennial, we are proud to co-sponsor this plan and look forward to ensuring that the symbolic values of Washington's monumental core will adapt and endure for future generations.



Earl A. Powell III
Chairman

National Capital Planning Commission

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central 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 investment by federal agencies.

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The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts advises the federal and District of Columbia governments on matters of art and architecture that affect the appearance of the nation's capital. The presidentially-appointed Commission's primary role is to advise on proposed public building projects and to review private buildings adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance. CFA also advises on the design of coins and medals and the design of war memorials.

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