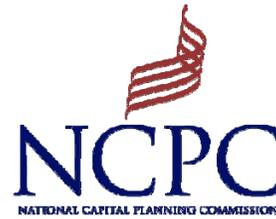


PRESS RELEASE



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Worthy of the Nation Exhibit Opens October 11 at Smithsonian's Ripley Center

Washington, DC – Worthy of the Nation, an exhibit chronicling the history of planning in the nation's capital, will be on view October 11 through February 14, 2008 at the Smithsonian Institution's S. Dillon Ripley Center.

The exhibit, sponsored by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), draws extensively from the agency's recently released book, *Worthy of the Nation: Washington, DC, from L'Enfant to the National Capital Planning Commission*.

“Through a display of 85 rare images and maps, visitors will have an opportunity to trace major milestones in the capital's development, from its earliest days to the contemporary period,” said John V. Cogbill, III, chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission.

A center pedestal will display a 3-D model of Washington, based on NCPC's visionary 1997 *Extending the Legacy* plan.

“The modern capital is much in keeping with the early vision of Pierre L'Enfant,” said Chairman Cogbill. “L'Enfant laid out the streets in a series of orderly grids and circles that would accommodate significant growth while keeping the focus on the seat of government.”

Washington's history is told through illustrations, photos, and maps arranged on panels divided into six areas of interest: Landmarks in Design, Redevelopment and Revitalization, Evolving Patterns of Urban Settlement, Parks and Waterfront, America's Front Yard, and Inspired Visions.

“There is nothing staid or dull about Washington's development,” said NCPC's Acting Executive Director Marcel Acosta. “Every step of the city's dynamic growth through the past 200 years has required planners and designers to overcome significant physical and political obstacles.”

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NCPC first published *Worthy of the Nation* in 1977. Antoinette Lee, historian for the National Park Service and respected authority on the history of the capital, served as a research assistant on the 1977 edition. She is responsible for revising the book and writing new chapters covering contemporary Washington for the latest edition. Peter Penczer served as the photo archivist. *Worthy of the Nation* was published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, in partnership with NCPC, and is available in many bookstores throughout the National Capital Region.

The National Capital Planning Commission has a longstanding relationship with the Smithsonian Institution to ensure that the Smithsonian's largest collection, its buildings, continue to grace the city as befits our nation's capital. NCPC has approved the design of major Smithsonian buildings such as the National Museum of the American Indian and the new glass canopy for the courtyard at the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, which houses the Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery. Presently, NCPC is working closely with the Smithsonian on the early stages of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The Ripley Center is located on the National Mall at 1100 Jefferson Drive S.W. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Dec. 25, and admission is free.

As a complement to the exhibit, NCPC today is also launching the Worthy of the Nation photo gallery on its website. The gallery illustrates the city's rich history, enduring vision of Pierre L'Enfant, and the prolific growth of the nation's capital. The online pictorial gallery is a compilation of more than 30 images that include historic photos dating back to the early 1900s. They can be viewed at www.ncpc.gov.

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 projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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