

PRESS RELEASE



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Worthy of the Nation **Exhibit Opens Today at Union Station**

Washington, DC – The National Capital Planning Commission today will cut a ribbon to officially open *Worthy of the Nation*, a new exhibit at Union Station.

“The exhibit’s extensive collection of rare maps and photographs offers visitors an opportunity to trace major milestones in the capital’s development, from its earliest days to the post 9/11 era,” said John V. Cogbill, III, Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission.

Mr. Cogbill will cut the ribbon at 1:30 p.m., April 10, opening the exhibit for a three week run in the West Hall of Union Station. The exhibit draws extensively from the recently released book, **Worthy of the Nation: Washington, DC, from L’Enfant to the National Capital Planning Commission**.

“The modern capital is much in keeping with the early vision of Pierre L’Enfant,” said 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 in the exhibit with illustrations, photos, and maps arranged on panels and divided into six areas of interest: Landmarks in Design, Redevelopment and Revitalization, Evolving Patterns of Urban Settlement, Parks and Waterways, America’s Front Yard, and Inspired Visions. The exhibit also features a 12 foot model of Washington’s monumental core as envisioned in NCPC’s 1997 *Extending the Legacy* plan.

“There is nothing staid or dull about Washington’s development,” said Cogbill. “Every step of the city’s dynamic growth through the past 216 years has required planners and designers to overcome significant obstacles along the way.”

NCPC first published **Worthy of the Nation** in 1977. Dr. Antoinette Lee, historian for the National Park Service and respected authority on the history of the capital, served as a research assistant on the first edition. Lee revised existing material and wrote new chapters covering contemporary Washington for the 2006 edition. First Lady Laura Bush provided the foreword and Peter Penczer served as the photo archivist. The manuscript was published by Johns Hopkins University Press and is available in many bookstores throughout the National Capital Region.

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