

PRESS RELEASE



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April 10 Opening Set for *Worthy of the Nation* Exhibit at Union Station

Washington, DC – The National Capital Planning Commission will cut a ribbon April 10 to 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.

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 & Waterfront, America’s Front Yard, and Inspired Visions.

“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 physical and political obstacles.”

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 1977 edition and is responsible for revising existing material and writing new chapters covering contemporary Washington for the 2006 edition. Peter Penczer served as the photo archivist. **Worthy of the Nation** was published by Johns Hopkins University Press and is available in many bookstores throughout the National Capital Region.

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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.