

## Report of the Executive Director



500 Penn Street, NE (2)

During the past month, the Executive Director took the following actions under the Commission's delegation authority. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia about a Text Amendment to Subtitle B, Section 307.6 – Measuring Height in Non-Residential Zones, and Subtitle U, Section 502.1 – Adding Art Gallery and Museum. (ZC 18-09)
2. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia about a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 3594, UM 500 Penn Street, NE, LLC and UDR, Inc. – Ward 5. (ZC 17-14)

During the past month, NCPC staff determined that the following projects are exempt from Commission review, based on certain criteria. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for a temporary mobile art gallery installation on Reservation 74 in Milian Park, Massachusetts Avenue between 5th and I Streets, NW. (8015)
2. Approval of comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the dedication of land for public streets and alleys in Squares 5862, 5865, 5866, and 5867. (8010)
3. Approval of comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the closing of public streets, public alleys closed, and building restrictions lines removed in Squares 5862, 5865, 5866, and 5867. (8011)

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### PLANNING UPDATES

#### **Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative**

The initiative's Executive Committee continues to coordinate on near-term operations and maintenance improvements along the Avenue. The committee is gearing up to conduct a visioning and conceptual planning framework in 2019 based on the findings and actions summarized in the Executive Committee's Findings and Strategies Summary.

#### **Parks & Open Space Element Update**

Staff is revising the draft Parks & Open Space Element based on the public comments received. Staff anticipates bringing the final element to the Commission in December 2018 for adoption.

#### **Small Cell Infrastructure**

The District Department of Transportation released draft small cell guidelines on August 24 and held an Advisory Neighborhood Commission public meeting on September 6. NCPC staff is reviewing and preparing initial comments on the draft guidelines to the DC Public Space Committee. The committee will hold a special public meeting on the small cell guidelines on October 15. NCPC staff anticipates presenting them to the Commission for formal comments at the November meeting, prior to the conclusion of the draft guidelines public comment period.





### **Federal Capital Improvements Program**

On September 14, 2018, NCPC released the Funded Federal Capital Improvements Program (FCIP) for the National Capital Region, Fiscal Years 2018-2023. The document is available on NCPC's website at <https://www.ncpc.gov/plans/fcip/>. NCPC annually submits a six-year program of federal capital improvement projects with planning and funding recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget for use in its preparation of the President's annual budget. Once Congress passes the budget, NCPC releases a list of funded FCIP project for public dissemination. This report summarizes the projects funded for Fiscal Year 2018.

### **DC Federal Triangle Area Flood Workshop**

On September 6, NCPC staff participated in the DC Federal Triangle Area Flood Workshop at the University of the District of Columbia, the second of two workshops convened by the DC Silver Jackets, an interagency flood risk management team. The workshops brought together facility managers, area planners, government agencies, and other stakeholders to learn about the interior flooding problem. September's workshop featured presentations and discussion on potential solutions to reduce the risk of flooding in the Federal Triangle area. The DC Silver Jackets will share the results from both workshops in an upcoming report.



## **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

### **British Artist to Discuss Impact of Large-Scale Events**

On Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30 pm NCPC will host London-based Artichoke Director **Helen Marriage** who will share details about the large-scale projects her firm organizes that "aim to give people a fresh perspective of a place." Artichoke's most recent event was Processions, a tribute to the women's suffrage movement staged in Great Britain's four capital cities this past summer. DCOP Deputy Director **Sakina Khan** will discuss Washington's evolving approach to public art.



### **NCPC Hosts Australian Counterpart**

National Capital Authority Chief Executive **Sally Barnes** visited Washington, DC October 3-5. She met with Chairman **Preston Bryant**, the Executive Director, and staff to exchange ideas about capital city planning. She attended the Commission's October 4 meeting to see how the Commission operates. Staff also set-up meetings for her with representatives from the Smithsonian Institution, National Archives, National Park Service, and District Department of Transportation.



### **NCPC and Department of Defense Staff Meet**

On October 3 Chairman **Preston Bryant**, the Executive Director, and Plan Review Division Director **Diane Sullivan** met with Commissioner **Michael Rhodes** and other Department of Defense staff, including several base commanders. They talked about the NCPC and its work, and discussed the Commission's review of master plans, and upcoming Department of Defense projects in the region.

### **Staff Learns about Richmond Monument Study**

On August 30, **Dr. Gregg Kimball**, member of Richmond, Virginia's Monument Avenue Commission and one of the lead authors of the commission's report, discussed the group's findings with NCPC staff via a conference call. In 2017, Richmond Mayor **Levar Stoney** created the commission to advise him on best approaches to deal with the confederate memorials along the city's Monument Avenue. The report is available online: <https://www.monumentavenuecommission.org/>.





### **NCPC's Latest Blog: Construction Watch: the REACH at the Kennedy Center**

NCPC's most recent blog looked back at the Commission's review of the Kennedy Center's expansion project, now known as the REACH. Currently under construction, the 70,000 square foot project features interactive and informal performance and rehearsal spaces, meeting rooms, an event space, and a public garden area center. It also provides a connection to the Potomac River. All blogs are available at [www.ncpc.gov/news/](http://www.ncpc.gov/news/).

### **NCPC Hosts Chinese Delegation**

On Friday, September 14, NCPC hosted a 10-person delegation from the Tianjin Municipal Engineering Design and Research in China. **Kate Roetzer**, Federal Relations Officer, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, discussed the agency's role in transportation planning for the region. **Julia Koster**, Director, Office of Public Engagement discussed the federal government's role in transportation and NCPC's work.



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## **PERSONNEL**

### **Urban Planner Relocates to Miami**

NCPC said farewell to Urban Planner **Mike Bello** who recently left the agency to move back to his hometown of Miami, Florida. He worked in the Physical Planning Division on small cell infrastructure guidelines, commemorative works, and the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative. We appreciate Mike's contribution to NCPC and wish him well in his new endeavors.



### **NCPC Welcomes New Intern**

**Lynda Ramirez-Blust** recently joined the Physical Planning Division as an intern, where she will focus on the Monumental Core Streetscape Project. Lynda is a graduate student at Virginia Tech's Washington Area Alexandria Campus. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

