



National Environmental Museum and Education Center Signage (1.)



Armed Forces Retirement Home Mechanical Yard (2.)



One White Flint North Antenna Modifications (5.)



Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Building (6.)



Report of the Executive Director

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. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the National Environmental Museum and Education Center Signage, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. (8476)
2. Preliminary and final building plans for the Armed Forces Retirement Home Mechanical Yard Expansion, 3700 North Capitol Street, NW. (8478)
3. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for the Land Dedication for Street Purposes at Square 621, Lot 251 - S.O. 23-04108, 100 L Street, NW. (8484)
4. Preliminary site and building plans for the Alice Deal Middle School Classroom Addition, 3815 Fort Drive, NW. (8485)
5. Preliminary and final building plans for the One White Flint North Antenna Modifications, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. (8477)
6. Final site and building plans for the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Building 002 Modernization, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, Maryland. (8277)
7. Preliminary and final building plans for the Naval Support Activity - Bethesda Building 27 and 61 Antennas, 102 Wood Road, Bethesda, Maryland. (8480)
8. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for the Map Amendment from NC-16 to NC-17 at Square 890, Lot 69, 721 H Street, NE. (ZC 23-05)

During the past month, NCPD staff determined that the following project is exempt from Commission review, based on certain criteria. It is in Washington, DC.

1. Highway plan amendment for the Highway Plan Amendment at Square 5048-W, Lots 825-828 - S.O. 23-03182, 3759 Minnesota Avenue, NE. (8483)

Planning Updates

Beyond Granite: Pulling Together

Pulling Together, the pilot exhibition of *Beyond Granite*, opened to the public on Friday, August 18 and runs through Monday, September 18. On opening weekend several artist events were held including a Play Day (**Derrick Adams**), bell giveaway and song re-writing workshop (**Paul Ramirez Jonas**), and a Blue Walk processional (**vanessa german**). A convening was held at the United States Institute of Peace on August 25 which included artist and partner panels, and a conversation on indigenous legacies with **Wendy Red Star**. Policy & Research Division Director **Michael Sherman** participated in the closing keynote conversation. NCPD staff provided tours of the exhibition to the Urban Land Institute Pathways to Inclusion program (August 22) as well as for staff from the DC Office of Planning (August 30). Upcoming artist events include a mapping workshop (**Tiffany Chung**) and an evening concert (**Ashon Crawley**) on Saturday, September 9. Staff have several tours planned in September, including one for the Commissioners, and an All Staff outing.



Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

Pennsylvania Avenue is in the news! In August, the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative was the subject of two Washington Post articles – a report about the partnership behind the effort, and an editorial supporting the effort and highlighting the opportunity it presents for downtown and the nation. The Executive Director spoke with a Monocle Magazine reporter for a story on its Urbanist Podcast. Physical Planning Division Director **Elizabeth Miller** was on Fox5 to talk about next steps. NCPC will release the first of two Request for Proposals for consultant services in the coming weeks. For more information and to stay updated, visit the Pennsylvania Avenue Project website: <https://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/pennave/>. In September, Amal, A Little Girl on a BIG Journey is visiting Washington as she travels the world. Amal will be stopping by Freedom Plaza on September 19 at 4:00 pm and walking along the Avenue. As a 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee, her journeys are festivals of art and hope for children. Interactive, engaging, and meaningful art and cultural programming aligns with the aspirations of the Avenue as a Venue. Join the walk on September 19!



Monumental Core Streetscape Guide

In August, the Interagency Working Group (IWG) met to review responses to public and Commission comments on the Draft Small-Scale Streetscape Guidelines. Staff anticipates presenting the final guidelines to the Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts in early 2024. Staff is finalizing the packages for trees, vegetation, and pavements for inclusion in the Construction Manual. Additionally, the IWG is initiating work to finalize the federal LED streetlight technical specifications to coordinate with the District of Columbia's smart lighting program.



Independence Avenue

NCPC, the Smithsonian Institution, the District Department of Transportation, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments collaborated on a high-level traffic study focused on Independence Avenue between 3rd and 15th Streets, SW. Led by Kittelson and Associates, the study assessed existing conditions and traffic volumes and developed potential use and demand projections. Initial findings revealed that there is adequate capacity to reallocate use of the right-of-way to improve pedestrian, micro-mobility, and transit circulation and experience. NCPC and the Smithsonian partnered to continue this work in 2024.



Foggy Bottom/Kennedy Center Area Study

NCPC staff, in partnership with the District of Columbia Office of Planning and a consultant team led by Perkins Eastman, is working to re-imagine the tangle of highways that include portions of I-66 and the E Street Expressway in the Foggy Bottom area. The team is exploring the potential of reconnecting the street grid for infill development, improved accessibility, and connecting the park spaces of the National Mall and Rock Creek. The study area is generally from Constitution Avenue and the National Mall, along the Kennedy Center, up to near K Street, NW. The current highway infrastructure severs the waterfront from Foggy Bottom and creates a series of disjointed and unusable spaces. The work builds upon previous NCPC planning efforts, such as the *Monumental Core Framework Plan*. A number of important stakeholders are part of the consultation effort, including the National Park Service, Kennedy Center and District agencies. Later in the fall, the Urban Land Institute will host a Technical Assistance Panel to help identify potential next steps for addressing the complex challenges created by the current highway network.



Equity Action Plan 2023

On July 20, NCPC submitted its draft 2023 Equity Action Plan to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The plan responds to President Biden's [Executive Order 13985](#), which calls on federal agencies to pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all. Building upon the agency's first Equity Action Plan, submitted in April 2022, the plan offers a message from the Executive Director; high-impact equity achievements over the past year; and strategies to ensure that the agency's guidance for the long-term development of the region, review of federal master plans and significant projects, and public engagement considers the diverse needs of impacted communities and advances equity. Following OMB's review, NCPC will submit the final plan.



Public Engagement

Pennsylvania Avenue Walking Tour

NCPC staff conducted a walking tour of the Avenue with the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association on July 13. Urban Planners **Karin Schierhold**, **Jeff Jamawat**, and **Ben Turpin** joined Physical Planning Director Elizabeth Miller, ZGF Architects LLP's **Otto Condon**, and the General Services Administration's **Eliza Voigt** in conversation with tour participants on what physical changes could bring to the Avenue's corridor and public spaces.



Interagency Security Committee Annual Meeting

On August 31, the Executive Director and NCPC staff met with representatives from the Interagency Security Committee (ISC) as part of the ISC's annual outreach to member organizations. The discussion focused on NCPC security-specific initiatives and ISC updates. NCPC staff also provided comments on the ISC's Design-Basis Threat Report, 2023 Edition. NCPC supports the language around updating the report annually and language around climate change as a threat to federal facilities.



Georgetown University

On July 20, Urban Planner **Karin Schierhold** participated in a mock community charrette with Georgetown University urban planning students exploring the future of the Downtown East neighborhood. The students, led by Professor **Uwe Brandes**, presented an analysis of the existing conditions, and engaged participants for input on potential community development scenarios.



Integrated Bezos Learning Center

NCPC staff is in the early stages of coordinating with the Smithsonian Institution on an outline of the project schedule, to include future NEPA and Section 106 milestones, and anticipates the Commission will review concept plans for the Integrated Bezos Learning Center in the first half of 2024. The Smithsonian held its first Section 106 consulting parties meeting for the project on August 9, which was the first public meeting following the selection of the architecture team who will design the facility.



NCPC's 2024 Centennial

In 2024, NCPC will celebrate its 100-year milestone. The centennial is a unique opportunity to reflect on the agency's history, as well as examine the evolution of planning in Washington, DC and the region; acknowledge inequities created by past planning practices; and consider lessons learned to inform planning today and into the future. Staff are preparing an array of products, including a digital collection of influential plans and maps; oral histories of former Chairs, Commissioners, and staff members; and digital and physical exhibits that explore the debates over transportation, urban renewal, and civic engagement, primarily from 1952 to Home Rule. Over the past few months, staff interviewed **L. Preston Bryant Jr., Thomas Gallas, Robert Gresham, Mary Fitch, Denise Leibowitz, Beth White**, and others. Staff are also actively working with the Washington-based firm Prologue DC to conduct research, as well as beginning work to design the exhibits. Throughout the year, there will be speaker events that feature differing viewpoints and engage diverse audiences to help the region's residents, visitors, and history and planning enthusiasts better understand why our communities look the way they do.



Futuring Workshop

On July 13, the Executive Director participated in the Federal City Council's DC Downtown Futuring Workshop with roughly 100 visionaries, representing a variety of industry sectors and cities, and worked together to generate and share big ideas for the future of downtown. On July 27, a webinar was held to debrief the ideas generated and captured in a [Workshop Summary Report](#).

Personnel

NCPC Welcomes New Intern

Paul Medvetsky joined the Physical Planning Division as a fall intern. He will support multiple projects in both the Physical Planning and Policy and Research Divisions to advance his deep interest in planning and urban design. Paul is in his senior year at Georgetown University working toward a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and Urban Studies. He anticipates graduating in December 2023.



Paul Medvetsky