

Alex Baca, DC Policy Director, Greater Greater Washington

Alex Baca is the D.C. policy director at Greater Greater Washington. Previously the engagement director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth and the general manager of Cuyahoga County's bikesharing system, Alex has also worked in journalism, bike advocacy, architecture, construction, and transportation in DC, San Francisco, and Cleveland. Alex has written about all of the above for CityLab, Slate, Vox, Washington City Paper, and other publications.

Online planning library document

Early Zoning Code

Ras Tafari Cannady II, AICP. PMP, Real Property Management Branch Head, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, U.S. Navel Academy

Ras skillfully oversees the execution of shore-based facility planning services, expertly leads a diverse and accomplished team, and has masterfully managed many major military construction and program objective memorandum projects, significantly enhancing the resilience of the United States Naval Academy. Ras is highly regarded for his instrumental role as a consigliere on the prestigious Sea Level Rise Advisory Council, where he collaborates closely with climate change experts to safeguard valuable naval real property assets. Ras serves as a principal agent and envoy to Annapolis, where he passionately champions creating a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable Naval Academy community while unwaveringly preserving its rich historical heritage. He has a Bachelor of Political Science and Economics from Hampton University, a Master of Urban and Regional Planning/Environmental Engineering from California State Polytechnic, as well as an ABD (All But Dissertation) in a Doctoral program in Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University, He is a Spring 2023 graduate of NAVFAC's Leadership Program and serves on the American Planning Association's National Membership Standards Committee and the National Capital Area Chapter of American Planning Association as President-Elect.

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A Policies Plan for the Year 2000: The Nation's Capital (1961)

Carlton Hart, Senior Urban Planner, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

Carlton Hart has nearly three decades of public sector experience working for local planning agencies in Massachusetts and Metro Washington, DC. He's currently a senior urban planner working with the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts which provides aesthetic guidance to federal and district government on construction projects. He spent 16 years with the National Capital Planning Commission where he focused on reviewing major development projects for the federal government, including the Center Building at the St. Elizabeths West Campus, the Foreign Missions Center, and the Kennedy Center expansion. In addition, he served as vice-chair of the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustments for nearly four years. Mr. Hart is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the American Planning Association and represents AIA on the Planning2050 Advisory Board. He has an undergraduate degree in architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's degree in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts—Amherst.

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Architectural Forum magazine (1963)

Tracy Hadden Loh, Fellow, Brookings Metro

Tracy Hadden Loh is a Fellow with the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking at Brookings Metro, where she integrates her interests in commercial real estate, infrastructure, racial justice, and governance. She serves on the boards of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and Greater Greater Washington. Her most recent writing includes two coauthored chapters in Hyperlocal: Place Governance in a Fragmented World and a series on the future of downtowns, including what to do about public safety and adaptive reuse. She also previously served two years on the city council of Mount Rainier, a small town in Prince George's County, Maryland.

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An Approach to the Mass Transportation Problem for the District of Columbia (1952)

Rebecca Miller, Executive Director, DC Preservation League

Ms. Miller is the Executive Director of the DC Preservation League (DCPL), Washington, DC's citywide nonprofit dedicated to the preservation, protection, and reuse of the irreplaceable historic resources of our nation's capital. Rebecca has worked at DCPL since 2003, leading the organization in the protection of dozens of historic landmarks and hundreds of buildings within historic districts. In addition to being responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization, she represents DCPL on reviews of federal and local preservation projects that affect historic properties, advocates for important preservation policy on a local and national level and works with DCPL's dedicated staff to implement the organization's outreach and educational efforts.

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Landmarks of the National Capital (1973)

Andrew Trueblood, Principal, Trueblood.city

Andrew runs Trueblood.city, a housing, economic development, policy, and land use firm. He is currently supporting economic development and housing efforts across the country as well as project managing DC's Downtown Action Plan. He is a nonresident fellow at the Urban Institute, a senior advisor for housing at the DC Policy Center, an adjunct curator for the National Building Museum, an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University, and a Trustee of the DC Public Library Board. Between 2018 and 2021, Andrew served as the Director of the DC Office of Planning, where he prioritized agency efforts around housing and equity, shepherded the update of DC's Comprehensive Plan, and served as a commissioner at the National Capital Planning Commission. Prior to that role, Andrew was the Chief of Staff at DC's Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, he helped start up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, worked at Treasury's Community Development Financial Institution Fund, and supported redevelopment planning for the DC Housing Authority. Andrew holds a Masters in City Planning from MIT and a B.A. from Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs.

Online planning library document 1950 Comp Plan, First Chapter

Opening remarks:

Marcel Acosta, Executive Director, National Capital Planning Commission

Marcel Acosta has more than 35 years of experience in urban and transportation planning. As executive director of the federal government's central planning agency, he oversees a team of urban planners, architects, historic preservationists, and other professionals who are committed to preserving and enhancing the extraordinary qualities of the National Capital Region. Before joining NCPC in 2001, Mr. Acosta served as senior vice president of planning and development for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), the nation's second largest public transportation system. As CTA's chief planner, he developed new capital programs and oversaw successful initiatives that increased ridership and reduced operating costs for the city's bus and rail systems. Prior to CTA, he held the position of deputy commissioner for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. Mr. Acosta received a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a 2001 Loeb Fellow of Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

Anita Cozart, Director, DC Office of Planning

Prior to her appointment as Director of the DC Office of Planning (OP), Anita Cozart served as Deputy Director of Community Planning and Design. In that role, Ms. Cozart oversaw OP's work on neighborhood planning and urban design. Her teams spearheaded the recent Comprehensive Plan update, commenced the next generation of neighborhood plans, and developed the Streets for People program to activate downtown public spaces and support economic recovery. As Director, Ms. Cozart looks forward to advancing implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, community plans, and zoning and preservation initiatives that support District goals around COVID-19 recovery, housing equity, resilience, civic resources and racial justice. She brings to her current work a decade of experience utilizing a racial equity lens with community planning, housing, transportation and infrastructure policy. Ms. Cozart holds a Master of City & Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelor of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.