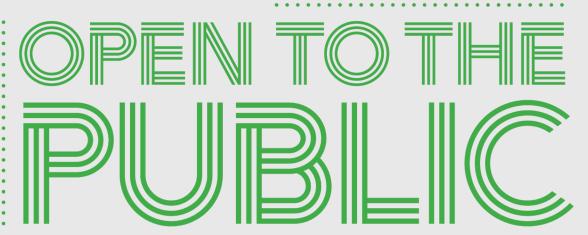
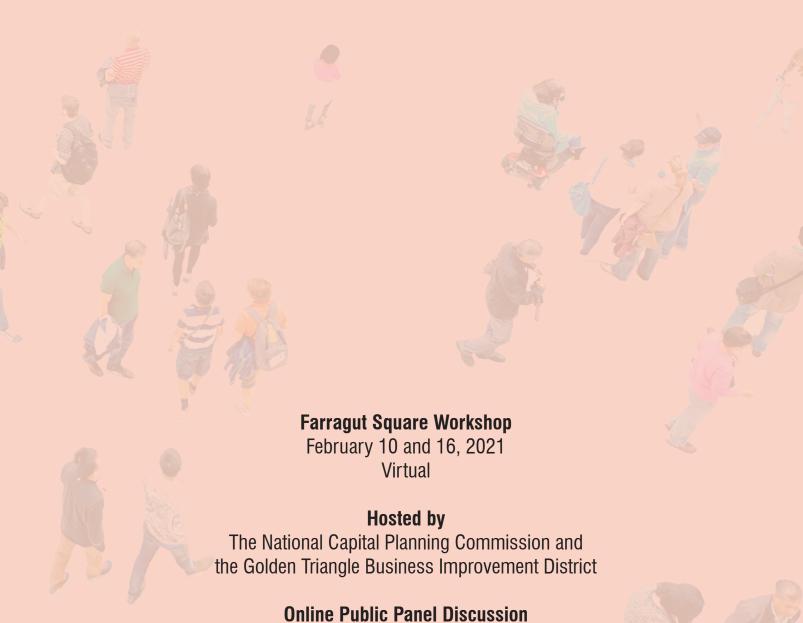
Addendum to the Proceedings Report 2021



Rethinking Security & Access in Public Space





Online Public Panel Discussion

Open to the Public: What's the Big Deal with a Little Security?

May 25, 2021

Virtual

Hosted by

The National Capital Planning Commission and the DC Office of Planning

ADDENDUM TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ADDENDUM 1: Criteria for Evaluating Security Measures and Public Space in the Urban Park Prototype
- 6 ADDENDUM 2: Open to the Public: What's the Big Deal with a Little Security?

ADDENDUM 1:

Criteria for Evaluating Security Measures and Public Space in the Urban Park Prototype

On February 10 and 16, 2021 a workshop was held where stakeholders reviewed Farragut Square by examining potential threats and listing interventions that answered a guiding question (How can Farragut Square be a more secure, accessible, and inviting public space for all?). This addendum is a follow up to the Open to the Public: Rethinking Security and Public Access in Public Space Proceedings Report from the two-part colloquium—an expert panel public session and symposium—hosted by the National Capital Planning Commission in partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) on September 24-25, 2019.

As part of NCPC's ongoing security and public space initiative, a series of virtual workshops will be conducted to examine different types of urban public spaces to understand their associated security needs. The goal of this effort is to develop a criteria toolkit to assist in the evaluation of security interventions, with application to a variety of public space types in Washington and beyond.

The first workshop, held on February 10 and 16, 2021, examined Farragut Square as an urban park typology. Stakeholders included the local Business Improvement District (Golden Triangle), the National Park Service, United States Park Police, DC Office of Planning, DC Department of Transportation, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Metropolitan Police Department, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, New York Department of Transportation, and New York City Public Design Commission.

During the workshop, stakeholders reviewed Farragut Square by examining potential threats and listing interventions that answered a guiding question (How can Farragut Square be a more secure, accessible, and inviting public space for all?). Once possible interventions were listed, participants grouped together to categorize them, and identify seven overarching principles. Groups then assessed the principles and determined criteria for each that would ensure a principle was met within the urban park.

Following the workshop, staff reviewed the interventions, principles, and criteria against the previously identified "10 Big Ideas" and found the alignment with them. Redundancies were eliminated and other criteria combined due to similarities and based on topic, the criteria list at right was created.

The criteria is intended to be used as a checklist or sliding scale assessment within an urban park space. However, the current criteria list is general in nature and could be applied across many types of public spaces. If applying this criteria list to a space, understand:

- a risk assessment was already completed for the space (as laid out in the "10 Big Ideas"),
- an applicable master plan should allow for flexibility and varied types of programming.
- the access and movement though the space,
- the connection of the space to the surrounding streets and businesses, and
- possible threat interventions as an added layer.

CRITERIA for Evaluating Security Measures and Public Space in the Urban Park Prototype:

Security elements placed in a public space should take into account existing context of streetscape standards, historic preservation guidelines, and master plan as well as avoid/minimize impacts to the cultural landscape and historic character-defining features in the park.
Security elements should meet the safety requirements needed based on a thorough risk assessment.
Security elements should be planned holistically/well-integrated so that physical and non-physical/operational measures are integrated without excessive overlaps or impediments to the circulation of all users and a porous boundary between public space and the ROW is maintained.
Best practices ensure accessibility and safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists extend beyond just the public space and into right of ways. Traffic calming measures (slow lanes, chicanes, buffers) in the vehicular travel lanes can be used to complement internal security measures and should be coordinated among jurisdictions.
Design elements should not impede other security elements requirements or measures (accessibility for first responders, sight lines, etc.)
Urban design and physical security elements should accommodate all types of users, ages, and abilities, and allow equal access to amenities.
Urban design and physical security elements should anticipate changes in security requirements and be able to adapt to unanticipated future needs.
Visible physical security elements should serve multiple needs within a public space (hardened elements such as benches, news kiosks, bus stops, light posts, trash cans, etc.).
Establish a management partnership of the public space with clearly defined responsibilities for each partner (communication, fundraising, implementation, ownership, maintenance, etc.). Any partnership should meet the mission and goals of each agency.
Evaluate the element for ease of installment, cost-effectiveness, feasibility, and maintenance. Post-installation, continue to evaluate the element for overall effectiveness.
Urban design and physical security elements should have a maintenance and operation plan in place before installation.

FARRAGUT PARK (Urban Park Prototype)



ADDENDUM 2:

Open to the Public: What's the Big Deal with a Little Security?

On May 25, 2021, NCPC and the District Office of Planning co-hosted What's the Big Deal with a Little Security?, an online panel discussion on the impacts of security on public life and public access. This addendum is an additional follow up to the Open to the Public: Rethinking Security and Public Access in Public Space Proceedings Report from the two-part colloquium—an expert panel public session and symposium—hosted by the National Capital Planning Commission in partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) on September 24-25, 2019.



ONLINE PUBLIC PANEL DISCUSSION

Providing safety for buildings and people often takes priority over public access and design.

But at what cost to access to our most significant public spaces?

How can we keep people and places safe without making public spaces feel unwelcoming?

How can we uphold democratic values while also ensuring safety and security?

On May 25, 2021, NCPC and the District Office of Planning co-hosted *Open to the Public: What's the Big Deal with a Little Security?*, panel discussion on the impacts of security on public life and public access. Moderated by **Jess Zimbabwe**, Executive Director of the Environmental Works Community Design Center, the panel included Commander **Robert Glover** from the Metropolitan Police Department, **Juliette Kayyem** from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and **Susan Piedmont-Palladino** from Virginia Tech University's Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center. Opening remarks were given by **Marcel Acosta**, NCPC's Executive Director and **Andrew Trueblood**, District of Columbia Planning Director.

NCPC has a long history of working with federal agencies to thoughtfully balance security and access to our public spaces. The public realm in the nation's capital is symbolic because people can see it, experience it, and most importantly, are open and accessible. It is a place to celebrate culture as well as give space for protest. There is a continuing need to find the right balance for security in public spaces that achieve multiple goals, while maintaining a safe, equitable, and accessible national capital.

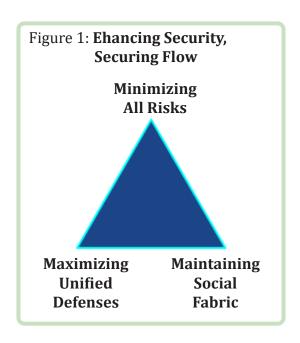
Finding Balance

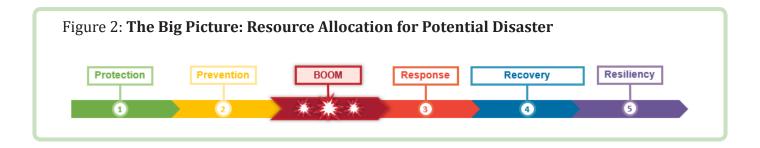
Washington was founded as a city with many open and accessible places. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of open spaces and their benefits to public health. However, these spaces, as well as federal facilities, are becoming increasingly cut off from their surroundings as security-hardening counter measures, checkpoints, and barriers have made it more difficult for people to access them.

NCPC has sought to address this balance since the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing instigated a wave of security implementation at federal buildings and a subsequent

creep of these elements into public space. Threats to people and buildings have evolved, and Washington faces new challenges in balancing security needs with civil disturbances such as January 6 events at the U.S. Capitol. Reactive, yet well-intended, security measures often result in public space erosion and new restrictions on access. Finding the right balance is critical to maintaining a safe and accessible national capital.

The panelists' discussed the recent events and impacts they had on public spaces versus how security needs might be approached and designed to better balance safety and accessibility in the future. **Commander Robert Glover** spoke to the experiences over the last year that have placed a lot of pressure on public safety and highlighted the importance of security during the pandemic and civil unrest. He emphasized the need for interdisciplinary collaboration, especially in planning stage, to make intentional designed spaces that manage and balance all risks.





Juliette Kayyem brought forward her ideas to think about security beyond a binary freedom or security approach and more of three points to a triangle (see Figure 1). The triangle shows where you are trying to enhance security while securing flow, and the need to be compatible. First is to minimize all risk, not just one specific risk. Second is to think about maximizing all unified defenses, engaging all. Third is maintaining the social fabric and think about tactical security. She also highlighted that cities come with risks, and it is how we best minimize those risks and how we invest in response, recovery, and resiliency for the future (see Figure 2).

Susan Piedmont-Palladino spoke about how unique Washington is, two cities on top of each other that are stitched together with squares and circles in public spaces. She expressed that we have gotten beautiful improvements to the city because of fear and that is something to wrestle with. Also the intention and interpretation of public spaces is where the discussion should take place. The notion of temporary solutions provide reassurance that there will not be a permanent fear. However, when fences are moving into permanent solutions, the impact of that is worrisome.

Overall, there is a need to have sunsets (an end date) on security measures to allow for time to **reflect**, **learn**, **and pivot** to make sure policies and measures are accomplishing the intention of the space and its design.

Key Takeaways

The panelists noted the importance of advocating for and maintaining safety and equity that result in well-designed public spaces, regardless of potential threats.

- **Public Engagement:** The process should start with involving the public at the community level, as well as ensuring wide-ranging government commitment to meet varied constituent and policy needs.
- Scope of Planning: There should be a balance between long-term policies and those that are adaptable or which have security measures with defined end dates. There is a strong need to be flexible based upon changing circumstances and lessons learned.
- Design: Design can support, or hinder, the flow of people and other security priorities. For example, the height of built elements such as planters can direct the movement of people through spaces.

Watch the video of the panel discussion: www.ncpc.gov/videos/581

Thank You

NCPC thanks DCOP, the speakers, and interested parties who participated in the online event and provided valuable insight to this discussion.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jess Zimbabwe (moderator)

Jess Zimbabwe is the Executive Director of Environmental Works Community Design Center in Seattle. Previously, she founded a consulting practice, Plot Strategies, and served for ten years as the founding Director of the Daniel Rose Center for Public Leadership—a partnership of the National League of Cities and the Urban Land Institute. Before that, Jess led the Mayors' Institute on City Design, and was Community Design Director at Urban Ecology in Oakland. She serves on the boards of Next City, the National Main Street Center, and Colloqate. She is a licensed architect, certified city planner, LEED-Accredited Professional, and a member of the urban planning faculties at Georgetown University and the University of Washington.

Commander Robert Glover

Commander Robert Glover, was appointed by Acting Chief Robert Contee III to the rank of Commander in January 2021 and currently heads the Special Operations Division (SOD) where he manages all special operations units. Commander Glover graduated from Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA, with a BS in Administration of Justice. He has numerous certifications and trainings, from notable agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the U.S. Secret Service; The Anti-Defamation League and the Department of Homeland Security.

Juliette Kayyem

Juliette Kayyem has spent over 20 years managing complex policy initiatives and organizing government responses to major crises in both state and federal government. A national leader in homeland security, resiliency and safety, she is currently the Senior Belfer Lecturer in International Security at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, where she is faculty chair of the Homeland Security and Security and Global Health Projects. Kayyem is the author and editor of numerous books including "Beyond 9/11: Homeland Security for the 21st Century," and "Security Mom," a memoir that explores the intersection, and commonalities, of her life in homeland security and her life as a mother. She is also the founder of Kayyem Solutions, LLC, providing strategic advice in resiliency planning, risk management, mega-event security, infrastructure protection and cybersecurity. Kayyem appears frequently on CNN as their on-air national security analyst and hosts a weekly show on Boston's NPR affiliate WGBH. Juliette is a board member of Mass Inc. and the Red Cross of MA. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Global Cyber Alliance, and the Trilateral Commission. She is the recipient of many government honors, including the Distinguished Public Service Award, the Coast Guard's highest medal awarded to a civilian.

Susan Piedmont-Palladino

Susan Piedmont-Palladino is an architect, educator, and the Director of Virginia Tech's Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center. She is also a consulting curator at the National Building Museum and the author of several books, including companion books for exhibitions and initiatives she curated. Her most recent book, How Drawings Work: A User-Friendly Theory, published in January 2019 takes a fresh look at graphic communications and rhetoric. A graduate of Virginia Tech and the College of William and Mary, she lectures and writes on American urbanism, political space, sustainability, and current issues in design, to public, professional, and academic audiences. She has been on several architect selection committees and numerous design awards juries. She was awarded the inaugural Vision in Design Award from the Branch Museum of Architecture, and the Washington Architecture Foundation's John Wiebenson Award for work dedicated to the public interest.