THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL is responsible to the United States Congress for the maintenance, operation, development, and preservation of the United States Capitol Complex, which includes the Capitol, the congressional office buildings, the Library of Congress buildings, the Supreme Court building, the U.S. Botanic Garden, the Capitol Power Plant, and other facilities. Please visit http://www.aoc.gov/projects for more information about the Architect of the Capitol’s office and on-going projects to improve the Capitol Complex.

THE U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS advises the federal and District of Columbia governments on matters of art and architecture that affect the appearance of the nation’s capital. The Commission’s primary role is to advise on proposed public building projects and to review private buildings adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance. CPA also advises on the design of coins and medals and the design of war memorials. Please visit http://www.cfa.gov for information on the Commission of Fine Arts.

THE DC OFFICE OF PLANNING is responsible for guiding long-term (20-year) planning and policy decisions for the nation’s capital city. The agency undertakes the preservation and revitalization of its distinctive neighborhoods and advances strategic goals while involving the broadest range of stakeholders. Services include development review; historic preservation, neighborhood planning, revitalization planning, geographic information systems, data services and citywide comprehensive planning. Please visit http://planning.dc.gov/planning/center city action agenda for information about the District of Columbia Office of Planning and the Center City Action Agenda.

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 construction projects, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies. Please visit http://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/national capital framework plan for more information about the National Capital Planning Commission and the National Capital Framework Plan.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. Please visit http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan for information about the National Park Service and the National Mall Plan.

The Trust for the National Mall is the authorized fund-raising partner of the National Park Service to help restore and preserve the National Mall. Please visit http://www.nationalmall.org for more information about the Trust for the National Mall.

PARTICIPANTS:
- Architect of the Capitol
- Commission of Fine Arts
- Government of the District of Columbia
- National Capital Planning Commission
- National Park Service

Common Objectives

Welcoming Atmosphere Create an atmosphere that embraces local citizens and visitors, statesmen, foreign dignitaries, and the media. Celebrate the warmth of a friendly town, the dignity of a seat of government, and the vibrancy of a progressive international city. Provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas, citizen action, enjoyment, and meaningful encounters and events. Create public spaces that are attractive year-round as well as programs and services that are accessible and easy to use.

Well-Connected Public Space Create a distinguished and accessible public realm of enduring quality shaped by beautiful civic infrastructure, architecture, streets, parks, and waterfronts. Connect destinations and overcome existing physical barriers with walkable landscaped corridors, interjective and way-finding systems, and engaging views. Meet the highest standards of design, construction, and maintenance.

Distinctive Places Create or renew neighborhoods and public places throughout central Washington to provide a mix of uses and experiences that are authentic, diverse, and reflect America’s history and culture. Devote attention and infrastructure reinvestment to ensure that the National Mall remains a destination worthy of its civic, historic, and symbolic role in serving the city and the nation. Refurbish historic government facilities and sites that serve the American people and house the three branches of government.

Green and Sustainable Achieve a livable, healthy, and sustainable environment with clean air, water, and soil by using model development and maintenance practices. Apply an integrated ecological approach to implement programs that control emissions, plant trees, preserve and connect open spaces, encourage green and sustainable building practices, reduce pollutants, conserve energy, and reuse and recycle water and materials.

21st Century Transportation Establish a comprehensive, flexible, convenient, and coordinated network of public and visitor transit options–subway, light rail, streetcar, bus, water taxi–linking central Washington destinations to support economic investment and environmental health. Upgrade public infrastructure to encourage walking and bicycling and develop comprehensive travel demand management programs to reduce congestion, improve air quality, and address parking and tour bus issues.
Planning Missions:
Federal and Local Planning Initiatives
Central Washington, DC

Center City Action Agenda
District of Columbia

The Center City Action Agenda 2008 is Mayor Fenty’s action plan to redefine central Washington. It recognizes the great opportunity to develop well-connected and distinct areas in a rapidly expanding downtown area that now has the National Mall as its centerpiece. The plan advances DC’s identity as a waterfront city. It recommends investment in key places, corridors, and transit to ensure economic vitality, sustainability, and cultural diversity. It puts DC residents first and creates new places to serve both existing and new neighborhoods. The Action Agenda identifies strategic initiatives and implementation partners to ensure that Center City becomes an even more vibrant, walkable, and mixed-use urban core.

National Capital Framework Plan
National Capital Planning Commission + U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The Framework Plan will create great public places beyond the National Mall. It promotes opportunities for new cultural attractions and vibrant destinations. The plan celebrates all of Washington as a national treasure. It encourages a dynamic mix of land uses, easy-to-use transit, and the creation of distinguished public spaces to link downtown to its waterfront, meet the needs of government, and enrich the urban experience for all Americans. The Framework Plan will guide the coordination of complex land use, transportation and public space initiatives within the monumental core. By leveraging public and private partnerships, the plan can enhance Washington’s status as a world-class capital city.

National Mall Plan
National Park Service

The National Mall Plan sets forth a vision for sustainable use, refurbishment, improvement, and maintenance of two of our nation’s most iconic historic spaces, the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park. The plan provides for uses important to all including commemoration, celebration, First Amendment demonstration and civic activities, as well as recreation, education, events, and relaxation. Acknowledging the National Mall as a complete work of civic art and as a source of national pride, the vision will protect memorials, views and other resources; improve the health and appearance of these areas; and provide quality facilities and experiences desired by the American people.

Capitol Complex Master Plan
Architect of the Capitol

The Capitol Complex Master Plan is a long-range vision, master plan, and implementation strategy for the maintenance, renovation, and improvement of the Capitol Complex over the next twenty years. The planning principles address stewardship, urban form and context, and workplace and visitor needs and issues. The intended outcome is to provide sustainable, safe, high quality facilities and grounds that meet the needs of Congress, invite the public to visit and participate, and instill national pride in the seat of government.