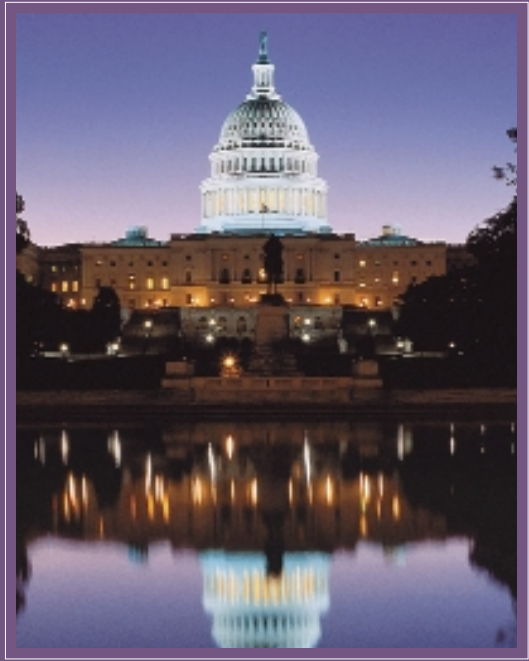


EXTENDING THE LEGACY



PLANNING AMERICA'S CAPITAL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY





“WASHINGTON, AMERICA’S CAPITAL, IS A WORLD CAPITAL —  
A CITY OF REMARKABLE STRENGTHS. ITS PROUD FACE REFLECTS  
MANY OF OUR NATION’S GREATEST MEMORIES, ACHIEVEMENTS  
AND ASPIRATIONS. ON THE EVE OF A NEW MILLENNIUM, IT  
IS APPROPRIATE FOR US TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO  
MAKING OUR CAPITAL CITY THE FINEST PLACE TO LEARN,  
TO WORK AND TO LIVE. ”

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON





*21<sup>st</sup>*  
PLANNING AMERICA'S CAPITAL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



EXTENDING THE LEGACY

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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*Council of the District of Columbia*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reginald W. Griffith, AICP, AIA



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Over the past 200 years Washington's Monumental Core has become one of the world's finest examples of civic art. Its memorials, museums and grand public spaces make Americans proud of their rich national heritage.

At the same time, the demands of a growing and vital capital cannot be met solely by the historic plans of previous generations. Great cities, like great nations, must continually reinvent themselves. Now is the time for a bold, new vision for our capital that promotes social and economic equity, restores the urban environment and anticipates 21ST-century technologies.

*Extending the Legacy* is a framework for change. We use the term "framework" literally, to mean outline or armature. *Legacy* is not a comprehensive master plan, as that term is used by planners and lawyers. It does not impose land-use and development controls. Rather, it is a basic guide for long-term growth.

The vision presented here protects the capital for those who follow us, yet also embraces the future with confidence and optimism. As a preeminent world city and the seat of a great democracy, Washington demands a vision of beauty, nobility and power. *Extending the Legacy* is such a vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harvey B. Gantt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Harvey B. Gantt, FAIA  
Chairman

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



*Extending the Legacy* is a dramatic departure from past federal plans that directed facilities and investment to the Mall and adjacent ceremonial corridors. *Legacy* recenters monumental Washington on the Capitol, creating opportunities for new museums, memorials and offices in all quadrants of the city. It expands the reach of public transit and eliminates obsolete freeways, bridges and railroad tracks that fragment the city. It reclaims the capital's historic waterfront and reverses decades of environmental neglect. Using federal resources to generate local investment, *Legacy* will spur community revitalization and infrastructure rebuilding well into the 21ST century.

Although for reasons of clarity and convenience we use the term "plan" throughout the document, *Legacy* is primarily a framework that guides, rather than dictates, future planning. It will be followed by detailed plans that determine the feasibility, location and cost of specific projects. Many of these will take decades to complete and require innovative funding and implementation strategies. Implementation itself will take many forms, from citywide economic development corporations to neighborhood alliances. It must always respect local planning prerogatives and community wishes.

Historically, planning within the District of Columbia was a federal prerogative. But with the adoption of Home Rule in 1973, the District took over many local planning functions, including zoning, housing and social services. Consequently, *Extending the Legacy* relies to an extraordinary degree on creative partnerships among federal and District governments, private businesses and community groups. It is a shared vision of the capital's future. Since *Legacy* was unveiled in draft form in March 1996, thousands of planners, government leaders and citizens have rallied behind it.

The Commissioners, consultants, staff and community representatives who have shaped *Legacy* have preserved the vision. Despite budget cuts, government contraction and shifting political priorities, they have worked to create a capital worthy of a great nation. *Legacy* is a tribute not only to their talent and energy, but also to their courage and optimism.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reginald W. Griffith".

Reginald W. Griffith, AICP, AIA  
Executive Director