

Foreword

The U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) Capital Program presents a uniquely powerful set of opportunities and responsibilities. The Capital Program helps to shape our nation's federal legacy by creating venues for effective public service and by forging the physical symbols of our federal government in communities nationwide.

Our public buildings symbolize the enduring form of American government. Structures as diverse as new courthouses, IRS district offices, and frontier border stations are monuments to the vision, leadership, and commitment of the nation. In turn, these public buildings contribute to the shape and definition of their communities. The Program shapes this legacy through the critical decisions that we make at the very beginning of every project.

Certainly, this legacy becomes obvious during the construction process—as sites are prepared and as steel rises from the ground—and during the occupancy process—as employees move into their new offices. Of course, it remains visible every time the public arrives at the door and enters a place where national government meets local community. The brick, the stone, the glass and steel, the hustle and bustle to and from these buildings—all of these are clear messages about the federal government's role in everyday life.

It is equally clear that our planning studies, decisions, and strategies during project development shape these buildings and this legacy as much as the physical materials. With so much at stake and with such tremendous opportunities in our Capital Program, it is my hope that this Guide will assist each of us as we continue to strive for excellence in every federal project.



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