

# QUARTERLY

SPRING 2008

## Collaboration & Cooperation

Planning the Capital City

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NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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# Working Together in Central Washington, D.C.

The release of an inspiring new urban plan or an important planning study often galvanizes public interest. Few people realize, however, that each new initiative culminates months or years of collaboration among the numerous agencies responsible for planning the nation's capital.

Cooperation is a crucial, though largely unheralded, aspect of day-to-day life for NCPC's planners. Without it, the best laid plans are bound to fall short of their intentions.

"Any capital city—because it serves both the local community and the nation—presents unique planning challenges," said NCPC Chairman John V. Cogbill, III.

"The overlapping jurisdictions in Washington require continued cooperation among many entities."

Collaboration begins when ideas are still making their way to the drawing board. Over the last two years, several local and federal agencies—including the DC Office of Planning, the National Park Service, the Architect of the Capitol, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and NCPC—have been developing "vision" plans for various portions of Washington's original L'Enfant city.

"Planning Together for Central Washington," a brochure released by the five agencies at the end of February, provides thumbnail sketches of the four initiatives; illustrating how they fit together conceptually and geographically.

The projects include the District Office of Planning's Center City Action Agenda 2008, the National Park Service's (NPS) National Mall Plan, the Capitol Complex Master Plan of the Architect of the Capitol, and the joint National Capital Framework Plan being developed by the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and NCPC (see sidebar for details).

"Although these are distinct planning efforts, we share many of the same goals for the future of the capital city," explained Elizabeth Miller, project officer of the Framework Plan. "We all want to create a welcoming atmosphere with distinctive

places, well-connected public spaces, a healthy and sustainable environment, and a comprehensive transit system."

The Planning Together brochure is available from any of the four partnering agencies.

To receive a copy from NCPC, please contact the public affairs office at 202-482-7200 or email [info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov).

Cooperative planning and the ongoing exchange of ideas throughout the process help shape the agencies' final products.

"The residents and businesses of the District of Columbia, as well as our visitors, will be the real beneficiaries ... of this coordinated effort," said DC Mayor Adrian Fenty.

Another recent example of important collaboration is NCPC's work with the NPS on its National Mall Plan. NCPC planners have been poring over three proposed alternatives, each emphasizing a particular use for the Mall.

"Much of the planning staff has been involved in this effort, and we've provided input on a wide range of issues," said Nancy Witherell, coordinator of the project. "The constant challenge is finding the right balance between local and national uses."

NCPC has long been a proponent of developing a new master plan for the Mall. The National Mall Plan is the first comprehensive effort to refurbish and sustain this iconic public space since a 1966 plan developed in preparation for the 1976 bicentennial celebration.

As a cooperating agency, NCPC participated in a week-long interagency workshop in late January to discuss the proposed alternatives. The Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, CFA, the Federal Reserve, the General Services Administration, and the Organization of American States also participated. In mid-March, they reconvened to weigh the thousands of public comments NPS received.

In its review, NCPC is considering the Comprehensive Plan, NCPC's recent flooding report, and its signature planning initiatives, including the Legacy Plan, CapitalSpace, and the Framework Plan.

"We're looking at the Mall through the lens of our own Framework Plan," explained Acting Executive Director Marcel Acosta. "By creating appealing public places beyond the National Mall, we can reduce the impact on this space and help the Park Service sustain and preserve it for generations to come."

The residents and businesses of the District of Columbia, as well as our visitors, will be the real beneficiaries.

DC Mayor Adrian Fenty

## Federal and Local Planning Initiatives in Central Washington, DC

In developing long-term plans for central Washington, the DC Office of Planning, the National Park Service, the Architect of the Capitol, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission are guided by a set of core objectives: Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere; Well-Connected Public Spaces; Distinctive Places; A Green and Sustainable Environment; and 21st Century Transportation.

There is still ample opportunity for public comment on the Mall's master plan as it works its way toward submission to NCPC for approval.

Concerned citizens can comment through both the environmental and historic preservation review process. They also can testify at NCPC's and CFA's monthly Commission meetings.

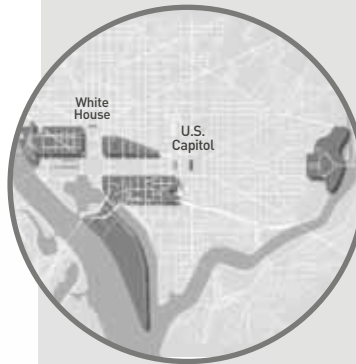
"We know that cooperation takes a lot of time and effort," said Acosta, "but without it, we wouldn't have the world-class capital we have today."



### Center City Action Agenda

District of Columbia

The Center City Action Agenda will redefine central Washington. It recommends investment in key places, corridors, and transit to ensure economic vitality, sustainability, and cultural diversity. The Action Agenda builds on DC's existing strengths to ensure that the Center City becomes an even more vibrant, walkable, and mixed-use urban core.



### National Capital Framework Plan

National Capital Planning Commission and U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

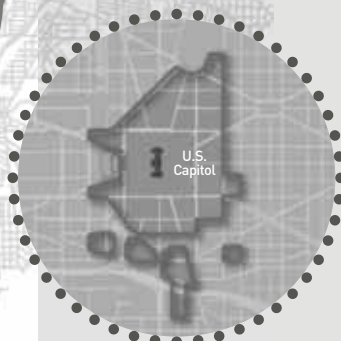
Scheduled for release in summer 2008, the Framework Plan will guide the creation of attractive public places and destinations beyond the National Mall. It encourages a dynamic mix of land uses and easy-to-use transit that will help link the downtown to the waterfront to enhance Washington's status as 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 Trust for the National Mall, the fundraising partner of the NPS, will work with the National Park Service to help implement this important plan.



### 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 20 years. 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.

## After 40 Years of Federal Service, Commissioner John Parsons Retires



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During the January 2008 Commission meeting, staff and commissioners paid tribute to John G. Parsons as he retired from the National Park Service with more than 40 years of service. His career on the National Capital Planning Commission, representing the Secretary of the Interior, spanned 30 years and included roles as the vice-chairman, executive committee member, and acting chairman.

NCPC Chairman John V. Cogbill, III emphasized Parsons' many contributions to the National Capital Region. These included assisting with the development of signature NCPC initiatives such as the 1997 *Extending the Legacy* plan and the 2001 *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*, which called for the designation of a Reserve on the National Mall. Congress gave legislative backing to the Reserve in 2003.

Parsons also played a significant role in NCPC's review of many projects including the Washington Convention Center, the Verizon Center, the Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the World War II Memorial.

"In his dual roles on the Commission and at the National Park Service, Parsons was an active participant during the Commission's deliberations, providing thoughtful and well-reasoned advice and guidance on many issues of importance to the planning and development of the national capital," said Chairman Cogbill.

Parsons' career also included serving as chairman of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission where he guided the establishment of commemorative works in the National Capital Region.

"The impact of his career is far reaching, and future generations will benefit from his legacy in the design and construction of federal buildings in the nation's capital and from his work to preserve and protect national parklands," added Chairman Cogbill. "His credibility, stewardship and diplomacy will be greatly missed."

Commissioner Robert Miller, in acknowledging Parsons' contributions to planning for the federal government and Washington, DC, added, "You have served with distinction for decades and will be sorely missed. But your legacy is all around this city, and it is a proud legacy. We are all better for it."

One of Parsons' most recent contributions to NCPC was his work on the development of the National Capital Framework Plan. In his parting words, Parsons urged the Commissioners to get involved in the plan. "What is coming out of [the Framework Plan] is something extremely special for the next 40 years surrounding the National Mall," he said. "Without the leadership and involvement of this Commission, I doubt most of it would happen."

"Your legacy is all around this city — it is a proud legacy. We are all better for it"

Commissioner Robert Miller  
Representative for the Council of the  
District of Columbia





# Capitals Alliance 2008

## Attracts Capital City Planners from Across the Globe



Senior planners and policymakers from Berlin, Brasilia, Canberra, Ottawa, Stockholm, and Vienna are among those who will gather in Washington, DC in September for *Capitals Alliance 2008: Greening the World's Capital Cities*. The week-long event, to be held September 14-18, will explore the role of national capitals in creating a greener planet.

Delegates will discuss the special responsibility that capital cities bear in achieving a sustainable urban environment. They also will explore the impact of green design on capital city architecture and open space; the importance of changing cultural and behavioral norms in order to implement successful policies; and moving beyond claims of green to tested and proven results.

The symposium will kick off with a welcome event at the House of Sweden. Sweden's mayor of Stockholm, Kristina Axén Olin, is a featured speaker for the Capitals Alliance. She will participate in the "World Mayors on Sustainability" panel that will be held in the Great Hall of the National Building Museum. The National Building Museum is collaborating with NCPC on several Capitals Alliance sessions as part of the Museum's "For the Greener Good: Conversations that will Change the World" series.

"The correlation between sustainable design and the welfare of our planet has never been more evident," said Scott Kratz, vice president for education at the National Building Museum. "But building professionals alone cannot design a sustainable future. Rather, we need to collaborate with engaged public policy experts and elected leaders to promote concrete solutions. We look forward to our collaboration with NCPC to share how mayors across the globe are building greener communities."

Also collaborating with NCPC is the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). NCPC and CFA will open the week-long symposium with a keynote address by renowned author Herbert Girardet. A series of panel discussions exploring sustainability will follow on Monday and Tuesday.

While in Washington, delegates also will tour green sites in and around Washington, DC. Among the scheduled stops is the soon-to-be completed Capitol Visitor Center. The group will hear how the office of the Architect of the Capitol worked green into the design of the new facility, which is now scheduled to open in the fall.

Delegates from more than 50 capital cities are invited to the five-day conference, which will be the sixth gathering of the Capitals Alliance, an international organization for capital city planners.

"This topic is extremely timely right now, given the widespread efforts around the globe to create a greener planet," said Lisa MacSpadden, director of Public Affairs at NCPC. "This symposium will give planners the opportunity to learn how other cities are dealing with challenges and incorporating policies that are already benefiting citizens elsewhere in the world."

### Confirmed Speakers include:

**Kristina Axén Olin**, mayor of Stockholm, Sweden, which is known as one of the most environmentally conscious cities in the world.



Kristina Axén Olin

**Diana Balmori**, member of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and a landscape architect highly regarded for innovations in green-roof design.



**Larry Beasley**, professor of planning at the University of British Columbia and retired director of planning for Vancouver.

Larry Beasley

**Marcel Beaudry**, moderator, "World Mayors on Sustainability." Former chairman of Canada's National Capital Commission.



**Frances Beinecke**, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, known for green building strategies.

**Peter Busby**, founding member of the Canada Green Building Council and a leader in green building design.

Majora Carter

**Majora Carter**, founder and executive director of Sustainable South Bronx. Launched one of the first green-collar training efforts in the country.



**Peter Droege**, chair of the World Council for Renewable Energy Asia Pacific region and author of *Renewable City*.

Herbert Girardet

**Herbert Girardet**, keynote speaker. Renowned author, filmmaker, and director of programmes for the World Future Council in London.



**Thomas Hicks**, vice president, U.S. Green Building Council. Architect of Energy Star system while at EPA.

Robert Stacey

**Daniel K. Slone**, counsel for prominent green organizations including U.S. Green Building Council and Congress for the New Urbanism.

**Robert Stacey**, executive director of 1,000 Friends of Oregon, a model public interest group advocating smart growth in land-use planning.



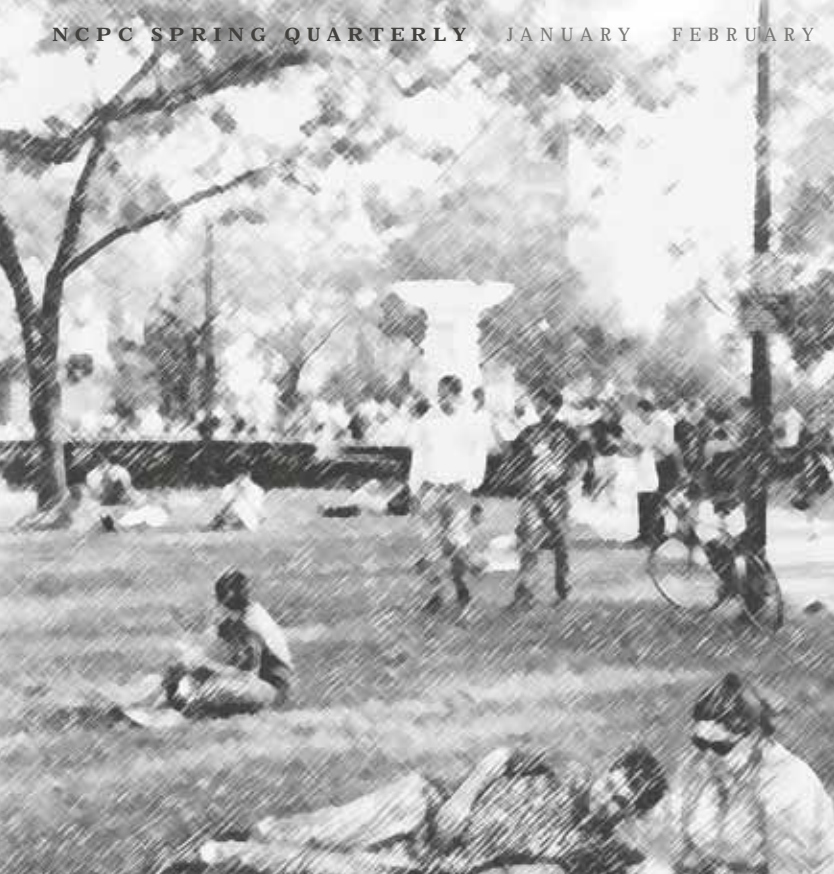
Cassio Taniguchi

**Cassio Taniguchi**, credited with creating the Curitiba Master Plan, considered a masterpiece of urban planning and environmental protection.



**Harriet Tregoning**, director, District of Columbia's Office of Planning. Former director of Maryland's Smart Growth Leadership Institute.

Harriet Tregoning



## CapitalSpace Public Meeting

When: May 20, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Where: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library



The Fort Circle Parks, a series of Civil War forts ringing the city, have long been envisioned as part of a regional park system connected by a greenway. Over the years, many plans have been developed to unite the forts and commemorate their historic Civil War features, including the National Park Service's plan that uses the Fort Circle Parks to unify the District's open spaces. Unfortunately, previous plans were not implemented nor did they address how to better integrate the parks into nearby neighborhoods.

At the May meeting, the CapitalSpace partners will share specific recommendations for connecting the Fort Circle Parks with a greenway around much of the city and helping integrate the Fort Circle Park trail into the region's network of trails and bikeways. Two key forts — Fort Stanton and Fort Mahan — will serve as models for improving the other Fort Circle parks and their surrounding neighborhoods.

The Center City Parks strategy will propose ways to enhance existing downtown parks and create new parks (north, south, and east of the National Mall). Proposals include linking groups of parks and developing partnerships between agencies that manage the parks and businesses surrounding the parks.

Participants will learn about draft plans for Lansburgh Park in Southwest Washington, which will serve as a model, demonstrating how a neighborhood park can be planned to meet differing neighborhood needs.

The CapitalSpace partners have met with members of the community and are developing three concepts for Lansburgh Park, illustrating different scenarios for the park. Proposed improvements and plans will be shared during the public meeting.

Finally, the CapitalSpace partners will share several case studies of small parks in the District of Columbia to demonstrate how the CapitalSpace plan will address numerous challenges facing the city's smaller parks and include strategies for linking small parks in networks that can help shape communities.

Please join us for this informative event and help set a course for the future of Washington's parks.



## 6 to Hold Public Meeting

The CapitalSpace partners will hold a meeting on May 20 to update the public on CapitalSpace, an effort to improve the quality of Washington's parks.

CapitalSpace is a partnership of the National Park Service, the District of Columbia government, and the National Capital Planning Commission to develop a framework for managing the city's 637 local and federal parks and foster coordination, sound strategies, and resource-sharing.

"This effort is the first of its kind," said NCPC Commissioner Harriet Tregoning, Director of the District of Columbia Office of Planning and CapitalSpace partner. "Federal and District agencies are working together, planning for parks in the city and developing a strategy and a series of creative approaches that will serve the city for years to come."

The CapitalSpace partners have developed six major goals for the initiative. The May public meeting will cover draft recommendations for two of those goals: linking the city's Fort Circle Parks and developing a Center City parks strategy. The CapitalSpace team will introduce workplans for identifying small parks and incorporating sustainability into park planning. Meeting participants will be encouraged to provide feedback to help shape the final CapitalSpace plan.

"Federal and District agencies are working together, planning for parks in the city and developing ... creative approaches that will serve the city for years to come."

Commissioner Harriet Tregoning  
Director of the DC Office of Planning

## Staff Reports Now Online Before Meetings

NCPC's staff recommendations to the Commission, known as Executive Director's Reports (EDRs), are now available online before each Commission meeting. Staff will post the EDRs as Adobe Acrobat pdfs by noon on the Monday prior to the meeting.

If you are interested in a project, please visit [www.ncpc.gov/meetings](http://www.ncpc.gov/meetings) and click on the final agenda to view the full reports.

### Consolidated Planned Unit Development, 1000 F Street, NW

At its March meeting, the National Capital Planning Commission commented on the proposed action of the D.C. Zoning Commission to approve a Consolidated Planned Unit Development at the corner of 10th and F Streets, NW.

The site for the proposed development lies across the street from the historic Ford's Theater on 10th Street. The Peterson House, where President Lincoln died after being shot at Ford's Theater, lies just to the south.

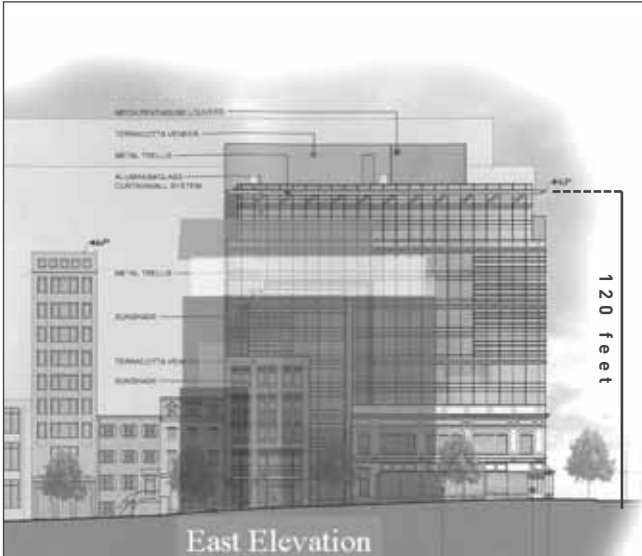
The existing building on the corner of 10th and F Streets would be renovated and incorporated into the design of a new 11-story office building with ground-floor retail.

With guidance from the Historic Preservation Review Board, the design of the proposed building is stepped back from 10th Street to keep it in context with the historic district and the surrounding buildings. The proposed exterior walls of the building consist of brick and terra cotta veneer on two sides and an aluminum glass curtain on the remaining walls with the historic two-story masonry building at the base.

The Height Act establishes the maximum height for this building at 120 feet, based on the width of F Street. The uppermost roof of the building is 120 feet high, but a parapet wall at this level rises above that height. In addition, the building has a penthouse that does not meet the Height Act's setback requirements.

The Commission advised the Zoning Commission that the proposal would be adverse to the federal interest because it does not conform to the requirements of the Height of Buildings Act and recommended that the applicant be required to modify the design to set the parapet wall and the penthouse back from the exterior walls of the building a distance equal to their height above the adjacent roof.

*Visit the NCPC website for the full staff report for each project and the final March Commission Action.*





## MARCH INFORMATION PRESENTATION

**DDOT and NCPC Report on District Streetcar Proposals**

Commissioners received a status report on the District of Columbia's pilot project to bring streetcars back to Washington, DC. NCPC first gave a brief overview of the history of streetcars in Washington and discussed the project in the context of NCPC's plans and policies. Staff reviewed the Commission's actions to date on the streetcar demonstration project, including the Commission's request that the District explore alternative streetcar technology that would avoid the use of overhead wires in the historic L'Enfant city and Georgetown, where overhead wires are prohibited by federal law.

The director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Emeka Moneme then provided updates on the city's current activities on the project, including DDOT's exploration of innovative streetcar technology in the United States and abroad that does not require overhead wires and supporting infrastructure. Moneme indicated that DDOT expects to have the demonstration line operating in Anacostia in about 18 months. Solicitation of proposals for a citywide system may begin at the end of this year and is expected to take one to two years to complete.

**Old Convention Center Redevelopment Moving Forward**

The District of Columbia Deputy Mayor's Office for Planning and Economic Development briefed the Commission on the latest plans for the Old Convention Center site. The site, bounded by New York Avenue and H Street and 9th and 11th Streets, NW, will feature six buildings with office and residential space, ground-level retail, and underground parking.

The District envisions the redeveloped site as a major shopping attraction and a pedestrian-friendly destination in the heart of downtown Washington. Environmental sustainability is a priority, and the design team plans to use low-impact development techniques to meet the standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. The site will include Northwest Park, a new public park on Federal Reservation 174. The Commission expects to review plans for Northwest Park at its April 3 meeting.

# February

February 7, 2008

**Waterfront Park to Grace The Yards**

At its February meeting, the Commission approved preliminary plans for a new waterfront park at The Yards that promises to become a signature attraction of the former Southeast Federal Center. Located next to the Washington Navy Yard and covering just over 5.5 acres, with 1,100 feet fronting the Anacostia River, the park will serve active and passive recreation. Other uses will include entertainment programming.

Plans for the park include paved and landscaped plazas, a great lawn, a signature pedestrian bridge, an overlook, a boardwalk and public piers, a marina, a river garden designed for quieter activities, and a water feature—a canal basin and waterfall—designed to draw people into the park and toward the river.

The park will connect to a bicycle network and the Anacostia Riverwalk and Trail that is planned to run from the National Arboretum to the Southwest Waterfront. One historic building, the former lumber shed, will be incorporated into the park along with new retail structures. The buildings and piers were not part of this review; the Commission will evaluate them in future project submissions.

The Commission commended the applicant, the General Services Administration; the developer, Forest City Washington; and the team's designers for the park's excellent design, the range of activities the park will support, its visual and physical connections, and for creatively adapting the design to the site's ground elevation constraints.

With its approval, the Commission recommended further development of the design of the pedestrian bridge to make it lighter in form and character; the addition of an accessible path below the lawn; and inclusion of a site for a commemorative work, in keeping with NCPC's *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* and the Southeast Federal Center Master Plan.





Planned Waterfront Park at the Yards

Walker Jones School



### District's Sursum Corda Neighborhood to Receive New School, Recreation Center, and Public Library

The National Capital Planning Commission approved preliminary and final site and building plans for construction of the Walker Jones School at 100 L Street, NW, in the Sursum Corda neighborhood of Washington, DC. The new facility, which will house a shared gymnasium/community recreation center and a branch of the public library, is the first major project to be implemented as part of the District's Northwest One Master Plan. The new school will accommodate approximately 850 students and will replace the existing Walker Jones Elementary and Terrell Junior High.

The project includes a total building area of 125,000 gross square feet as well as ball fields, a play yard, parking, and related service areas. The facility will be managed jointly by the District of Columbia Public Schools, Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Public Library.

With its approval, the Commission commended the applicant, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, and the development team on a well-planned design that respects the historic L'Enfant streets of the District of Columbia and will contribute to neighborhood growth.

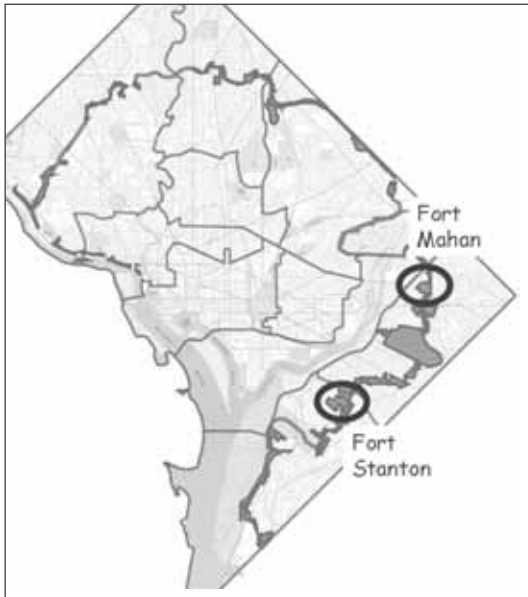
*Visit the NCPC website for the full staff report for each project and the final February Commission Actions.*

## FEBRUARY INFORMATION PRESENTATION

### Commission Briefed on District's Preliminary Floodplain Maps and National Mall Levee Improvements

On February 7, 2008, representatives from the Baltimore District of the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) briefed the Commission on recently proposed floodplain maps. The modified maps, drawn by FEMA, include much of downtown Washington—including the Federal Triangle—in the 100-year flood area. FEMA redrew the maps after the Corps failed to certify three levees in Washington, DC, including one located on the National Mall. The agency representatives provided information on the modified maps and the status of the levees. They also answered questions from the Commissioners regarding next steps, potential solutions, and estimated costs.

Commissioners requested the February briefing after staff released a report on stormwater and river flooding in the District of Columbia at the January meeting. At that time, staff notified the Commission of the proposed modified floodplain maps and recommended that NCPC ask FEMA to extend the public comment period on the maps, which was scheduled to expire on January 3. FEMA extended the deadline to March 7, 2008.



# January

January 3, 2008

## FEBRUARY INFORMATION PRESENTATION

### CapitalSpace Plans to Unite Fort Circle Parks

The Fort Circle Parks, a series of Civil War forts ringing the city, have long been envisioned as part of a regional park system, connected by a greenway. Over the years, many plans have been developed to unite the forts and memorialize their historic Civil War features, including the National Park Service's plan that positions the Fort Circle Parks as a central unifying open space element in the District. Unfortunately, no previous plan was implemented nor did the plans address how to integrate the parks into adjacent neighborhoods.

During its February meeting, the Commission heard a report from NCPC staff on efforts to work with the National Park Service and the District of Columbia government to develop a work plan to link the Fort Circle Parks. Linking the Civil War parks is one of six major goals set by CapitalSpace, which is a collaborative effort to improve the coordination and quality of all of Washington's parks, both local and federal.

The CapitalSpace partners are developing specific recommendations on how to connect the Fort Circle Parks and create a greenway around much of the city and transform the parks into destinations known for historic, cultural, and natural resources. The CapitalSpace plan also will offer recommendations for integrating the Fort Circle Park trail into the region's network of trails and bikeways. Two key forts—Fort Stanton and Fort Mahan—will serve as models for improving the other Fort Circle parks and their surrounding neighborhoods.

See page 6 for more on CapitalSpace.

### Corcoran/Randall School Consolidated PUD, 625 I Street, SW

The National Capital Planning Commission commented on the proposed action of the District of Columbia Zoning Commission to approve a planned unit development and related zoning map amendment for 625 I Street, SW (Square 643-S, Lot 801), site of the former Randall Junior High School. The District of Columbia sold the school to the Corcoran Gallery of Art in 2006.

The proposal would redevelop the site into residential units and an art school, reusing the historic southern portion of the Randall School and constructing additional square footage to the north. The Corcoran College of Art and Design would occupy 100,000 square feet of the project; the remaining 400,000 square feet would contain residential dwellings. The project, located one block west of South Capitol Street, also includes underground parking for 400 vehicles.

The Commission advised the District of Columbia Zoning Commission that the project is adverse to the federal interest because a mechanical penthouse on the roof is not properly set back from the exterior building wall, and the height of the proposed building would therefore exceed the maximum height allowed under the Height of Buildings Act of 1910.

The Commission recommended that the Zoning Commission require the applicant to modify the design to set the penthouse back from the building's exterior wall a distance that is equal to the height of the penthouse, measured from the building roof, in accordance with the Height of Buildings Act.

Visit the NCPC website for the full staff report for each project and the final January Commission Action.



# CommissionNotes

## Staff Announcements

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments invited Acting Executive Director **Marcel Acosta** to serve on its Greater Washington 2050 Coalition. Greater Washington 2050 is a broad partnership involving representatives from the public, business, and civic sectors. Over the next 18 months, the coalition will set goals for land use, economic growth, environmental quality, transportation, and affordable housing, among others. The coalition plans to develop the **Greater Washington 2050 Compact**, which will include strategies for implementation and financing agreements for the region.

Urban planner **Elizabeth Miller** served as a juror for the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) 2008 National Awards. She and her fellow jury members met over the course of a weekend in March to review nearly 500 applications for various landscape research and design projects. The awards will be presented at the 2008 ASLA National Conference in Philadelphia this October.

Community planner **Kenny Walton** recently participated in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Architecture in the Schools Program. Through this outreach program local architects visit area schools on a weekly basis and teach design and science-related courses. Mr. Walton worked with students from Leckie Elementary School in Southeast Washington, DC to design and build a memorial to their three fellow students who were killed in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

## Chinese Delegation Visits NCPC

On Friday, February 22, NCPC hosted a group of city management and planning officials from Beijing, China. Acting Executive Director Marcel Acosta provided an overview of the Commission and then highlighted the Capitals Alliance, an international organization for capital city planners. Plan and Project Implementation Director Bill Dowd then outlined the perimeter security challenges in the nation's capital and discussed how NCPC is responding to security requests. The American Planning Association sponsored the visit.



## CapitalSpace Featured at Anacostia Waterfront Community Fair

NCPC promoted the CapitalSpace initiative at the Anacostia Waterfront Community Fair held at St. Coletta of Greater Washington on Saturday, January 26. More than 1,000 attendees learned about the numerous planning efforts that are currently underway along the Anacostia Waterfront. Communications Specialist Athena Hernandez coordinated the event and Planning Research & Policy Division Director Julia Koster and Community Planner Michelle Desiderio staffed NCPC's exhibit and answered questions from many of those in attendance.

## City Vision Presents North Capitol Street Vision

NCPC community planners **Kenny Walton** and **Stefanie Brown** played important roles in the National Building Museum's City Vision program. Participants in the fall 2007 class, the third semester in which NCPC participated, examined planning and design issues for the North Capitol Street corridor. Students from Paul Public Charter School, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, and Brown Junior High School presented their solutions for improving the corridor and surrounding community at a program held at the Building Museum on December 6.

## Circulator Reaches Five Million Riders

The Circulator carried its 5 millionth rider in December. Since its introduction in July 2005, the Circulator has become an integral part of Washington's transportation system, with ridership increasing 14 percent from 2006 to 2007. NCPC first proposed the Circulator in its 1997 *Extending the Legacy* plan.



## NCPC Email List

To receive the Tentative Agenda for NCPC's monthly meetings and notice of upcoming events, send an email to [info@ncpc.gov](mailto:info@ncpc.gov).

# QUARTERLY

## Coming Soon

**May 20, 2008**

**CapitalSpace Public Update at the  
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library**

**June 5, 2008**

**NCPC to review the Federal Capital  
Improvements Program FYs 2009-2014**

**Summer 2008**

**NCPC and U.S. Commission of Fine Arts to  
Release the National Capital Framework Plan**



**National Capital Planning Commission**

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North Lobby, Suite 500  
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Fax 202.482.7272  
[www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov)

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's 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.

## Commission Members

John V. Cogbill, III, Chairman, Presidential Appointee

Herbert F. Ames, Presidential Appointee

José L. Galvez, III, Presidential Appointee

Arrington Dixon, Mayoral Appointee

Stacie S. Turner, Mayoral Appointee

The Honorable Robert M. Gates  
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Lurita Alexis Doan  
Administrator of General Services

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

Acting Executive Director  
Marcel C. Acosta

