

The AOC at a Glance—For Fiscal Year 2009

AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC)

Branch of Government: Legislative

Established: The AOC originated in 1793 and was formally established by congressional legislation in 1876.

Mission: Provide Congress and the public a wide range of professional expertise and services to preserve and enhance the Capitol complex and related facilities.

Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs): Over 2,500 actual FTEs as of September 30, 2009.

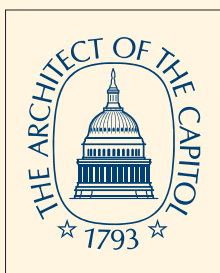
Leadership: Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, LEED AP, Acting Architect of the Capitol.

Budget Authority: The annual budget authority for the AOC in Fiscal Year 2009 was \$540 million.

Overview: The AOC is a nonpartisan, professional services office with oversight of 16.5 million square feet of facilities and 450 acres of grounds on the Capitol complex. The AOC is comprised of ten jurisdictions and several central administrative offices.

History

- President George Washington laid the cornerstone for the United States Capitol in 1793.
- Dr. William Thornton, whose design was selected by President Washington, is honored as the first Architect of the Capitol.
- The December 2008 opening of the 580,000 square foot Capitol Visitor Center marked the largest expansion of the U.S. Capitol in its history.



Did You Know?

- The Architect of the Capitol is appointed by the President following the recommendation of a bipartisan, bicameral, Congressional panel, with confirmation by the Senate for a ten-year term.
- The AOC is responsible for developing the Capitol Complex Master Plan, which provides a comprehensive framework for long-term planning initiatives within the Capitol complex.
- The AOC provides curatorial services for the works of art located throughout the Capitol complex. These heritage assets range from bronze and marble statues to oil portraits and fresco murals.
- Through its commitment to energy efficiency and conservation, the AOC reduces energy consumption across the Capitol complex, saving taxpayer dollars while protecting the environment.



On Tuesday, January 20, 2009, the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama took the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts, Jr. on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol.

How Are We Doing? Key AOC Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2009

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 was an historic year for the AOC that witnessed opening the Capitol Visitor Center, welcoming of the 111th Congress, and hosting the 56th Presidential Inaugural Ceremony. The AOC's numerous projects and achievements, highlighted in Table 1, supported the organization's goals in the areas of Congressional and Supreme Court operations support and heritage asset stewardship.

TABLE 1: Key FY 2009 Accomplishments

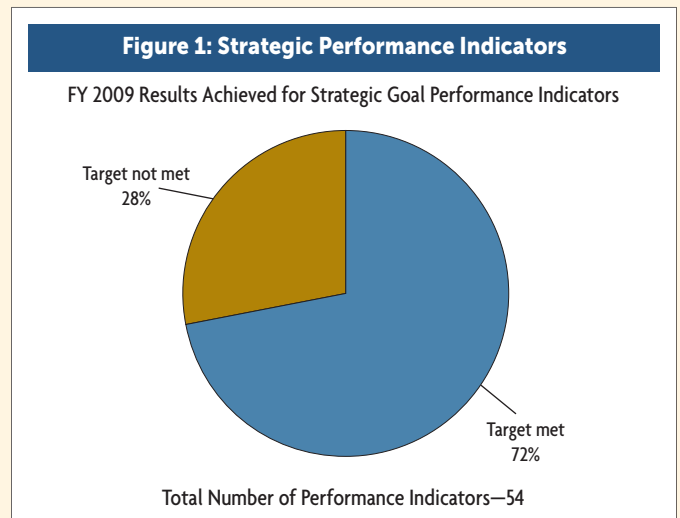
FY 2009 Accomplishments
Initiated and completed over 80% of the second phase of the restoration project for the Botanic Garden's historic Bartholdi Fountain.
Effectively supported the 56th Presidential Inaugural Ceremony, including the construction of the Inaugural stands, and support facilities.
Transformed the West Grounds for the Inaugural Ceremony to accommodate the 28,000 seated guests and the standing public and restored the landscaping around the newly opened Capitol Visitor Center.
Began the solicitation for construction of a primary and mirror site data center to support the U.S. Capitol Police program to upgrade its radio system to a modernized digital system.
Improved the Capitol Power Plant's utility tunnel conditions to put the AOC on track for resolving all tunnel safety conditions by 2012 and converted to natural gas as the primary fuel source at the Capitol Power Plant.
Opened the Capitol Visitor Center to the public and managed visitor service operations for over two million Capitol visitors since the December 2008 opening.
Coordinated 184 House of Representatives' Member office moves and the related infrastructure adjustments as part of the 111th Congressional transition.
Completed off-site Ft. Meade Book Storage Modules 3 and 4 to help preserve the Library of Congress' collections.
Coordinated the office moves and space reassignments for 13 new Senator-elects and managed the related office changes for sitting Senators.
Completed the construction of the underground annex on the Maryland Avenue side of the Supreme Court building to support the Supreme Court Modernization Program.

Strategic Plan Highlights

The AOC *Strategic and Performance Plan* focuses on three goals:

- **Goal 1:** Congressional and Supreme Court Operations Support
- **Goal 2:** Heritage Asset Stewardship
- **Goal 3:** Leadership and Administrative Support

The *Strategic Plan* emphasizes the organization's mission areas and enabling services and contains several performance indicators. The AOC met or exceeded its targets for 72 percent of its FY 2009 key performance measures, as shown in Figure 1. Plans are in place to address the performance results not achieved.



Implementation of GAO General Management Review Recommendations

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative and audit arm of Congress, provided suggestions for improving AOC operations in the areas of: strategic management, human capital management, financial management, information technology management, project management, facilities management, worker safety, power plant operations, and recycling. AOC fully implemented an additional five recommendations during FY 2009—bringing the total number closed to 56 out of 67, or 84 percent. The remaining open proposals involve long-term efforts on which the AOC continues to make progress—such as enterprise architecture and internal controls.

Independent Audit Results

An independent audit of the annual Financial Statements of the Architect of the Capitol is an integral part of meeting its financial management obligations. The AOC received an unqualified (clean) audit opinion by its independent auditors for the fifth consecutive year.

The FY 2009 audit saw the AOC resolve one material weakness, while zero new material weaknesses and significant deficiencies were added. Table 2 summarizes the internal control audit findings. The AOC is committed to fiscal accountability and will continue to work diligently to establish the policies, procedures, and systems to resolve the remaining material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

Financial Statement Highlights

As of September 30, 2009, AOC’s total assets amounted to \$2.41 billion, which was an approximate 1 percent increase from the previous FY. At the end of FY 2009, the AOC’s total liabilities summed to \$330 million, which was approximately 17 percent lower than the previous fiscal year. Figures 2 and 3 show the distribution of the AOC’s total assets and liabilities, respectively.

Figure 4 depicts the net cost of AOC’s operations for FY 2005 through FY 2009. Net cost includes total costs less all revenues attributed to a program and permitted to be offset against those program costs.

TABLE 2: Summary of Independent Auditor’s Internal Control Findings

Audit Finding	FY 2008	FY 2009
Material Weaknesses	1. Internal Control Assessments (Repeat Condition)	1. Internal Control Assessments (Repeat Condition)
	2. Risk Assessment Updates (Repeat)	2. National Finance Center SAS 70 Payroll Reconciliation (Renamed, Repeat Condition)
	3. Financial Information System and Financial Reporting Internal Control Design and Operation (New)	Cleared
Significant Deficiencies	1. Information System General Controls (Repeat)	1. Information System General Controls (Repeat)
	2. Information Systems Financial Management and Time and Attendance Application Controls (New)	2. Information Systems Financial Management and Time and Attendance Application Controls (Repeat)
	3. Time Recordation, Processing, and Approval Procedures (Repeat)	3. Time Recordation, Processing, and Approval Procedures (Repeat)

Figure 2: Summary of Total Assets

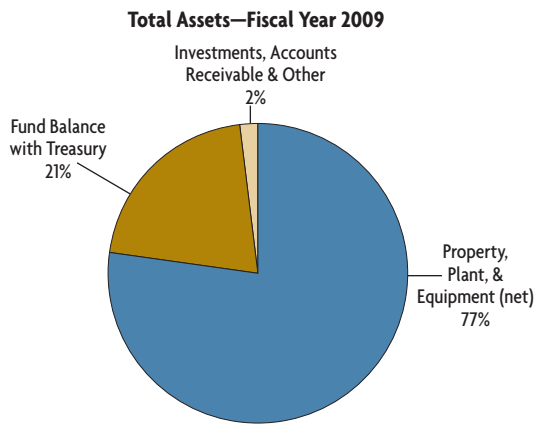


Figure 3: Summary of Total Liabilities

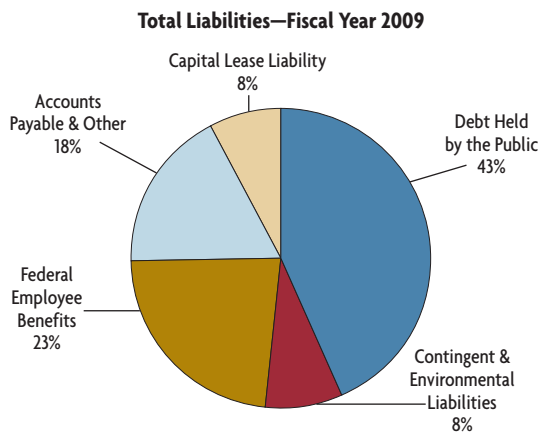
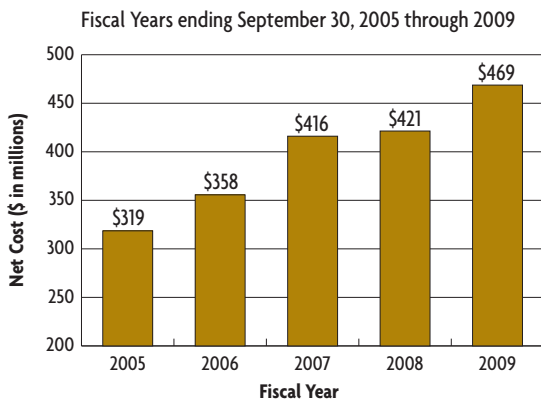


Figure 4: Comparison of Net Cost



What's Next? Management Challenges and Looking Ahead

The most pressing long-term challenge facing the AOC is to continue meeting its stewardship responsibilities in an era of competing demands for limited financial resources. Many of the AOC's historic buildings and infrastructure are over 50 years old and have accrued sizable deferred maintenance and capital renewal requirements that will require significant funding over the next two decades to remain safe and viable.

Energy reduction and sustainability are other areas on which the AOC is focusing. The AOC recognizes the significance of making the Capitol complex more energy efficient. A number of key projects have been implemented throughout the campus in an effort to decrease energy consumption and the AOC is analyzing the most cost-efficient and effective options to fulfill its energy reduction mandates.

Congress has supported many key AOC program initiatives and the AOC will continue to work with Congress to identify and execute solutions to meet these challenges and best serve the citizens of the United States.



The AOC begins its work in the early morning and continues long after the end of the regular work day, operating behind-the-scenes to minimize disruption to the work of Congress and the Supreme Court.

For the full Fiscal Year 2009 Performance and Accountability Report from The Architect of the Capitol, visit our website at: <http://www.aoc.gov/>.