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Blue Ribbon Panel Releases Assessment of the National Mall Plan *NCPC Executive Director Marcel Acosta Issues Statement Supporting Key Conclusions*

“We are pleased the panel assembled by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) values the close coordination that the National Capital Planning Commission has had with the National Park Service in planning for Washington’s monumental core and America’s premiere civic space. Through our collaboration, we seek to protect and enhance the National Mall by creating vibrant new cultural locations and visitor amenities that extend beyond this essential landmark.

We strongly agree with the panel’s conclusion that the Park Service is leading a heroic effort to improve the iconic landscape of the National Mall, albeit with very limited resources. We believe it is critical that efforts to protect this national asset move forward without delay.

Nearly 30,000 Americans have already weighed in on the *National Mall Plan*, and the Park Service has been quick to develop steps to respond to the public’s calls for improved conditions and better visitor services. They have correctly set their sights on improving the appearance and dignity of the Mall and the resources that all Americans expect and deserve. We support them in this important and timely endeavor.

We are committed to continuing our close collaboration with the Park Service to ensure that their *National Mall Plan*, and our *Monumental Core Framework Plan* work together to benefit the Mall and surrounding areas. While the Park Service is focused on improving the condition of the Mall, accommodating places for first amendment expression, enhancing the visitor experience, and adding restrooms and other amenities and services, NCPC is working on a broader initiative to create lively destinations in the federal precincts adjacent to the Mall.

The Framework Plan advances NCPC’s vision outlined in our 1997 plan, *Extending the Legacy*, by identifying ways to integrate the special civic qualities of the Mall and the dynamic vibrancy of the downtown into the adjacent federal precincts. *The Framework Plan* establishes symbolically important sites for future memorials and museums as well as distinguished settings for mixed-use opportunities that are easily accessible by foot or public transit.

As a cooperating agency on the *National Mall Plan*, NCPC encourages continued public feedback. We will continue to monitor the public’s input, as well as the analysis of alternatives, prior to the Park Service submitting the plan to NCPC for formal review. We hope the ASLA-led panel will stay involved and we urge all agencies and stakeholders with an interest in the National Mall to work together during the development of this important plan.”

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