



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NCPCC Announces Rogers Marvel Architects as President's Park South Design Competition Winner**

**Washington, DC** – National Capital Planning Commission (NCPCC) Chairman L. Preston Bryant, Jr. announced today that Rogers Marvel Architects of New York City won the design competition for President's Park South. Rogers Marvel's design best met the goals of beautifying the security components and improving the visitor experience at President's Park South, located between the White House Grounds and Constitution Avenue, NW.

"The Rogers Marvel design is an ingenious approach that welcomes the public while enhancing security," said NCPCC Chairman L. Preston Bryant, Jr. "The design proposals from all five competitors were inspiring, both for their innovative approaches for this important location and as a statement about our ability to ensure that public spaces across the country can be open, beautiful, and safe. Rogers Marvel's design stood out, offering the most dramatic approach for integrating security and public space design."

Rogers Marvel's design defines the edge of the Ellipse by adding a seating wall with integrated pedestrian lighting, while subtly raising the grade of the Ellipse. This establishes a security feature, reinforces the Ellipse as an event space, and minimizes the visual appearance of adjacent parking. This bold, elegant move allows for a larger, unobstructed interior public area. The design culminates in a new E Street terrace that joins the enhanced space of the Ellipse with the White House South Lawn. The terrace provides another prominent space for public gathering. Should threat conditions change in the future, this design could also accommodate re-opening E Street, NW without requiring significant changes.

"It is our distinct privilege to respond to 21st century demands on public space in the nation's capital. Our design combines the visual space of the White House with the Ellipse, reclaiming an essential place for public participation, both formal and informal. The Ellipse is subtly reinvented to address recreation, public promenading, environmental responsibility, and security. We envision a President's Park South that will physically and conceptually connect the President and the people," said Robert M. Rogers, FAIA, Principal of Rogers Marvel Architects.

The design may be viewed online at <http://www.ncpc.gov/ppdc/rma.html>.

President's Park South is one of the most visited locations in the nation's capital, and represents a unique design challenge that requires sensitive integration of security requirements into a landscape of extraordinary cultural and historic significance. The area includes Sherman Park, the First Division Monument, the Ellipse and its side panels, as well as the associated roadways in the area, including E Street, NW, which has been closed to unauthorized traffic for the past decade.

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NCPC's Interagency Security Task Force, which consists of local and federal government security and urban design professionals, juried the design competition. The Task Force evaluated five submitted design concepts based on the competition's overarching objectives:

1. Accomplish effective security for the White House and its grounds;
2. Minimize conflicts between official traffic entering and exiting the south side of the White House and visitors approaching and/or viewing the White House;
3. Create an attractive environment that is not dominated by security elements, for daily passersby and visitors approaching the southern fence of the White House;
4. Maintain and preserves the historic integrity of President's Park South; and
5. Not preclude the possibility of re-introducing traffic along the E Street corridor in the future should the threat environment change and the government elect to do so.

"We had some of the best minds in the design community offer innovative, sophisticated ideas for balancing security and public access within this historic landscape," said Alex Krieger, NCPC's design competition advisor. "NCPC's design competition is not the end, but rather the start of a thoughtful process, where ideas for this iconic location will be further tested and translated."

The National Park Service-led interagency *Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park* (2000) set the vision for this important historic public space. The results of NCPC's design competition will inform the development of alternatives for President's Park South that will be undertaken by the National Park Service and the United States Secret Service. The competition's designs, along with the results of public scoping for the project and the alternatives from the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) for the Comprehensive Design Plan, will be utilized in developing alternatives. These alternatives will be examined through a federal, local, and public review.

*The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.*

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