

...to safeguard and advance the fundamental planning, environmental and aesthetic values inherited from the L'Enfant Plan and the McMillan Commission that give Washington its historic distinction, natural beauty and overall livability.

## National Mall Advocates Release 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report

### Warn against overbuilding on the National Mall and destructive impact of rushed security measures

The National Coalition to Save Our Mall, in its first annual "State of the Mall" report, declared that the National Mall is under physical assault and in danger of having its historic character "chipped away."

Released on October 14 during a lecture tour of the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans on the Mall, the report has received extensive television and print attention. Coalition chair and art historian Judy Scott Feldman explained that the Mall was planned, first by Pierre L'Enfant and then the McMillan Commission, to provide broad vistas and open public spaces symbolic of American constitutional democracy. With the construction cranes for the controversial World

War II memorial as backdrop, Feldman warned of overbuilding, the constant demand for new memorials and poorly conceived security measures.

Feldman and Coalition vice chair Charles Cassell (both Committee of 100 trustees) presented the coalition's recommendations for protecting the Mall and announced plans to "Take the Mall on the Road" around the country and to educate the Congress, government agencies, and the public about the Mall's unique place in American culture.

"We've initiated the annual State of the Mall Report," Feldman said, "because Congress, the National

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*Mall, cont'd on page 3.*

## Recommendations for the Future of the National Mall

"Changing the Mall should be as difficult as changing the Constitution."

To the President and Congress — ensure that Mall is preserved as a monument for democracy

- Comply with the Commemorative Works, the National Historic Preservation and the National Environment Policy Acts
- Require a full environmental impact study for any Mall "improvement"
- Educate the public about the Mall's significance

To Congress and the National Park Service

- Create a National Mall Interpretive Center on the Mall
- Place a moratorium on new memorials or museums on the Mall pending compliance with existing laws
- Establish a National Military Museum or Defense Museum elsewhere in the city to present the Nation's military history
- Design security as furniture and water elements, not as fortifications of open space
- Develop a Renewed Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> century to ensure a unified planning vision consistent with the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans



**Committee of 100  
Holiday Party  
December 15 in  
Belmont Mansion**

**Annual Meeting  
November 21  
in Sumner School**

See Page 4 for details

### October 18th Membership Meeting Planning Subcommittee tackles District's planning structure

Dorn McGrath, urban scholar, former Committee chairman and current chair of the Planning Subcommittee, announced at the October membership meeting that his subcommittee will focus on improvement of the District's

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*Meeting, cont'd on page 3.*

## Positions taken by the Committee of 100

The letters and testimony summarized below are on the Committee's website at <http://www.committeeof100.net>.

· On September 18, in testimony before the City Council Committee on Public Works and the Environment, Chair Ann Hughes Hargrove spoke against Bill 14-652, **The Street Furniture Act of 2002**. The bill would authorize an advertising franchise to construct "automatic public toilets, information kiosks, newspaper vending boxes, news stands, public benches, bicycle racks and the like" on public space, and to place advertising on 90% of it for a fee. She said this would permit highly intrusive outdoor advertising signs and would carve out a huge exception to the District's longstanding law on outdoor advertising, which bans billboards, signs and advertising structures in public space as well as commercial signs in residential areas.

· In a September 20th letter, the Committee urged the National Capital Planning Commission, to revise the **National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan**. The Committee underscored the importance of security-oriented streetscapes that are both aesthetically appealing and people-friendly. However, it noted the plan failed to provide for the least intrusive options to achieve security at the least expense to the historical and symbolic significance of the city and to the environment. Finalized without benefit of traffic studies, the plan could not ensure that the perimeter security would "not impede the city's commerce and vitality, pedestrian or vehicular mobility, nor operational use of sidewalks within the monumental core or downtown."

## Sponsor a new member

The Committee of 100 is always open to new members. Below are the characteristics the Committee is looking for in candidates:

- Knowledgeable and active in one of the Committee's major areas of interest: planning, zoning, parks and the environment, transportation, historic preservation, housing, economic development, or natural resources.
- Sustained activity in a civic or citizens group, especially activity dealing with land use issues.
- A record of accomplishment, i.e., the candidate must have actually done something substantive, including testifying before the DC Council, or federal, regional, and local planning, legislative, and regulatory bodies.
- Knowledge and awareness about the legal, regulatory, political, and organizational environment that exists in Washington, DC and the metropolitan region.
- Knowledge about the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans and their importance and application in Washington, DC.

To sponsor a candidate, pick up or have mailed a membership application package from the Committee's office at 1319 G Street NW (202-628-8030). The application package includes sponsorship forms (two sponsors are required), the new member application form and check list.

Sponsors coordinate the new member materials and sponsorship forms and forward them to the office for the Membership Subcommittee's review and processing.

Reach the Membership Subcommittee through its chair, Diane Pecor, at 202-832-0522, or by e-mail at [pecorda@earthlink.net](mailto:pecorda@earthlink.net).

· In an October 16th letter to Mayor Anthony A. Williams **regarding the contemplated baseball stadium**, the Committee recommended that the Mt. Vernon Triangle site be eliminated from consideration, noting that longstanding policy for this area calls for its redevelopment as a mixed-use, heavily residential neighborhood. "Every analysis of other impacts conducted to date shows that the residential, mixed-use option is far superior to the stadium alternative, especially as to land cost in relation to benefits received for the city economically and in terms of its long-range plans for the area."

· At an October 17th public hearing **regarding regulation of anten-**

**nas, antenna towers, and monopoles**, Trustee Diane Pecor testified on behalf of the Committee in accordance with its long-standing position on antennas and towers. She stated that the proposed new regulations "go a long way toward cleaning up the visual clutter towers present, particularly important in historic districts, toward protecting the public health, and eliminating the dangers to safety that exist under current arrangements." She recommended that the Commission require an applicant to submit a maintenance plan and a complete description of the tower or pole with any present and proposed mountings and that antenna permits carry a time limit of between 5-10 years.

*Mall, cont'd from page 1.*

Park Service, and other government agencies have so far abdicated their role as stewards of this unique cultural resource. This is an attempt to lay out the problems and open public discussion on possible solutions.”

The 22-page report, which includes a handy “Who’s Who, What’s What” on the Mall identifying the steps in the memorial-building process, laws governing changes, and agencies with Mall oversight, can be downloaded at: <http://www.savethemall.org>.

*Meeting, cont'd from page 1.*

planning structure. His comments were made during his presentation on the status of the District’s planning processes. In the absence of an overarching planning mechanism for developing and approving plans and a lax commitment to follow them, he said that the District has become a “city of deals, not a city of planning – a place where it is hard to get a good conversation about real planning started.”

McGrath reported that his subcommittee has decided “to stop chasing all the ‘fires’ around the city and to focus on a hard project with a longer trajectory: “advocacy of a new planning process.”

McGrath said that the District’s ineffective planning process is evidenced when “even as the National Capital Planning Commission—one of many planning agencies at work in the District—is debating a plan, developers are drilling holes in the ground to build the project in question.” Part of the problem, he noted, is that the planning function within the District government does not assume the lead role but is subordinate to the economic development function.

## Subcommittees and Chairs for 2002

Call the Committee office, (202) 628-8030, for details.

### SUBCOMMITTEES for 2002

Policy Subcommittees	Chair	Vice chair
Historic Preservation	Don Hawkins	Sally Berk
Housing and Neighborhoods	Charles Cotten	Anita Morrison, Buck Clarke
Parks and Environment	Loretta Neumann	
— Street Tree management	— Sally Boasberg	
Transportation	Ellen Jones	Ik Pyo Hong
Zoning	Barbara Zartman	Laura Richards, Anne Loikow
Planning	Dorn McGrath	Kent Cooper
—Infrastructure	—Marilyn Groves	

### Organizational Subcommittees

Communications	Charles Cassell	Bonnie Cain
Development	Mary Parham Wolfe	
Finance and Administration	Ik Pyo Hong	Kateri Ellison
Membership	Diane Pecor	Kateri Ellison
Program	Dick Wolf	
Nominating	As necessary	

### Ad Hoc Subcommittees

Governance	Ann Hughes Hargrove	Dick Wol
Strategic Planning	Judy Scott Feldman	
Legislative	Jim Nathanson	

### Policy Taskforces\*

Mt. Vernon Triangle/ NOMA taskforce	Joe Bender	
Security and Civic Life	Arthur Cotton Moore	Jeff Lee
Tivoli Theatre	Bonnie Cain	Eric Graye
WWII memorial	Judy Scott Feldman	
DC General	(to be appointed by Planning and Zoning chairs)	
Memorials and Monuments	Judy Scott Feldman	Kent Cooper

\*taskforces operate within a defined timeframe and coordinate with standing policy committees.

McGrath said that the planning subcommittee will review alternative planning mechanisms and experience in other cities and make recommendations about what is a realistic, desirable, and possible in the District. He said that change will require the support of other District groups and decision-makers, including Congress. McGrath suggested the possibility of a planning commission, which could be established under the Mayor’s planning authority or by amendment of the Home Rule Charter.

### Actions of the business meeting:

- Approval of the September membership meeting minutes;
- Announcement from the chair that at the November annual meeting members would take action on by-laws changes, budget, and election of officers;
- Trustee Judy Scott Feldman reported that the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the National Coalition to Save Our Mall’s case against the location of the World War II Memorial.

Visit <http://www.committeeof100.net>

The Committee of 100 is now located at : 1317 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. New phone numbers are: phone: 202-628-8030 fax: 202-628-8031



The Committee of 100 on the Federal City  
P.O. Box 57106  
Washington, DC 20017



**You are invited to the  
Committee of 100 Holiday Party**

**The Belmont Mansion  
1618 New Hampshire Ave., NW.**

**December 15, 2002**

**From 4 to 7 pm**

**\$50 donations suggested**



The Belmont mansion, built in 1909 by Perry Belmont, who had served as American ambassador to Spain, is one of the finest Beaux Arts houses in Washington. Designed with spacial sophistication by French architect Eugene Samson, its interior richness makes it a treasure of that era when "the social season" lasted for six weeks. All of the fittings and many original furnishings survive, thanks to the careful 67-year stewardship of its owners, the Order of the Eastern Star.



## *Annual Membership Meeting*

**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2002

**Time:** 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Charles Sumner School  
1201 17th Street, NW

**Speaker:** Judy Scott Feldman, Chair, National  
Coalition to Save Our Mall

**"Planning the National Mall in the  
21st Century"**

**Followed by a business meeting to elect trustees and  
officers and approve a 2003 budget**

**Call 202-628-8030 for lunch reservations (\$13).**