



# REPORT TO MEMBERS

*...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.*

FEBRUARY 2004

## OFFICERS

Barbara Zartman, Chair  
Laura M. Richards, Vice Chair  
Bonnie Cain, Secretary  
Francis M. Clarke, III, Treasurer

## TRUSTEES

Sally Berk  
Charles E. Cotton  
Judy Scott Feldman  
Andrea C. Ferster  
John Forrer  
Eric S. Graye  
Ann Hughes Hargrove  
Donald Hawkins  
Richard Longstreth  
Loretta Neumann  
George H.F. Oberlander  
Joseph Passonneau  
Diane A. Pecor  
Roger S. Rihm  
Matthew S. Watson  
Richard N. Wolf

## NEW COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

With the new year, the Committee's new leadership took office. Elected at the November annual meeting were new Trustees Andrea Ferster, John Forrer, Matthew Watson, and Dick Wolf. Re-elected for a second term was Sally Berk. Don Hawkins, who previously was appointed to fill a Board vacancy, was elected to his first two-year term. The new elected officers and all trustees are listed in the adjoining column. Subcommittee leadership contacts are listed on the next page.

## 2004 VISION AWARDS

***Save the date of June 4***

In the last two years, the Committee has honored projects of unusual merit with its annual Vision Awards. The awards go to individuals, plans, or projects that contribute to the betterment of the city and the quality of life we seek and enjoy. The awardees demonstrate sensitivity to neighborhoods, historic elements, design excellence, public space, and natural features.

Members are encouraged to consult with neighborhood and civic association leaders, ANC commissioners, and others to identify projects of merit for consideration by this year's nominations committee for award at the ceremony in June.

Nominations should fully describe merits of the project or person, with photographs or drawings where appropriate. Send them to the Committee's office (1317 G Street, N.W.) by April 1 at the latest. Development Chair Roger Rihm is coordinating the Vision 2004 event, and more details will be in our March newsletter.

## 2004 MEMBER MEETINGS

February 19  
March 18  
April 15  
May 20  
June 17  
September 16  
October 21  
November 18

Currently, all member meetings are planned for the third Thursday of the month, at noontime, at the Charles Sumner School and Museum, located on the northeast corner of Seventeenth and M Streets, N.W.

A lunch buffet is available for \$13 for members who call in a reservation (628-8030).

## COMING EVENTS

**2/24** Coalition for Preservation Enforcement and the Historic Preservation Office are sponsoring a presentation by Simeon Bankhoff, Executive Director of the NYC Historic District Council, at 6:45 p. m. at the Sumner School. Leave message at C100 voicemail if planning to attend.

**3/10** Day-long citywide preservation conference, cosponsored by C100, the Historic Preservation Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, D. C. Preservation League, and others. Workshops begin at 9 a.m. at the True Reformer Building, 1200 U Street, N.W. More information will be on C100's website.

**3/19** Bus tour of Anacostia historic elements and developments, from 10 a.m. to noon. Contact V. Chair Laura Richards (583-3524).

## **Policy Subcommittees**

|                           |                   |                          |              |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Historic Preservation     | Don Hawkins       | ADCHawk@aol.com          | 703-558-0111 |
| Street Trees              | Sally Boasberg    | sboasberg@aol.com        | 202-363-2147 |
| Housing and Neighborhoods | Eric Graye        | Eric.graye@mncppc-mc.org | 301-495-4632 |
| Security                  | George Oberlander | goberland@erols.com      | 301-654-4199 |
| Parks and Environment     | Loretta Neumann   | LNeumann2@aol.com        | 202-333-0411 |
| Planning                  | Dorn McGrath      | dornmcg@gwu.edu          | 202-966-9559 |
| Transportation            | Diane Pecor       | pecorda@earthlink.net    | 202-832-0522 |
| Zoning                    | *Barbara Zartman  | zartmanbj@aol.com        | 202-337-6505 |

## **Organizational Subcommittees**

|                            |                     |                          |              |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Communications             | Kateri Ellison      | kateriellison@aol.com    | 202-588-0215 |
| Finance and Administration | Buck Clarke         | FMCATRP@aol.com          | 202-610-2645 |
| Development                | Roger Rihm          | RRihm@starpower.net      | 202-244-0704 |
| Endowment                  | Con Hitchcock       | _____                    | 202-974-5111 |
| Membership                 | *Buck Clarke        | FMCARP@aol.com           | 202-610-2645 |
| Nominating                 | *Judy Scott Feldman | jfeldman@savethemall.org | 301-340-3938 |
| Program                    | Laura Richards      | richards@cftc.gov        | 202-418-5126 |

*\*interim subcommittee contact*

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## **SUCSESSES**

Over the past year, the Office of Planning has been promoting a concept called a “high-density residential retail” zoning overlay. Ostensibly intended to attract neighborhood-serving retail stores to the ground floors of existing residential buildings, the proposed rulemaking might very well have created incentives to destabilize moderate-income housing that is critical to many neighborhoods. C100 joined with neighborhood organizations at Zoning Commission hearings, and the Commission finally decided at its January meeting to drop any consideration of creating the HDRR overlays. Information about the proposal, and the C100 testimony in opposition, will be posted on the website.

The Capper-Carrollsborg project is a massive Hope VI mixed-use development between M Street, S.E. and the I-295 Freeway, presented to the Zoning Commission under PUD regulations. C100 objected to a number of elements of the project as proposed, most significantly the exclusion of the Van Ness Elementary School from the future development, despite the school being entirely surrounded by the PUDs. Many of the concerns we expressed have been addressed in amended designs, and the Van Ness school is now to be included in development, holding at least the potential for benefits to the elementary school children who would live in the new complex.

### THE “COMP” PLAN

Under the leadership of the Planning Subcommittee, C100 is conducting an analysis of the current Comprehensive Plan District Elements. Because the Office of Planning is preparing to rewrite D.C.’s plan, we are anxious that none of the positive elements and protections embodied in the 600-page Comp Plan are weakened or lost in the process. We are also analyzing each of the Plan elements to identify duplications or contradictions – or omissions – in the current plan. Our C100 policy subcommittee chairs are undertaking the review of the relevant section of the Comp Plan, which should be completed in the coming weeks.

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## **DECEMBER EVENT**

The Committee celebrated its 80th year with a holiday reception at the National Trust for Historic Preservation on December 7. Our members, their guests, council members, and others cheered the anniversary of the time when Frederick Delano asked 100 citizens to safeguard the legacy of the L’Enfant and McMillan plans for the nation’s capital. An article on the next page offers a fascinating recapitulation of the founding of the Committee.

Under the leadership of Trustee Roger Rihm, the well-attended December event raised more than ten thousand dollars for the committee’s ongoing work.

**A Committee of 100 Retrospective:  
Antecedents, Beginnings and a Crucial Role during the 20th Century**  
By Ann Hughes Hargrove

The Committee of 100 celebration on December 7th marked its 80th year. What better occasion for exploring the milieu from which it emerged in the first quarter of the 20th century and its role in shaping the evolution of Washington thereafter? Displays stationed about the gracious rooms of the National Trust where the event was held did just that. On one, for example, a remarkable 1912 letter unearthed by Dorn McGrath provided a telling glimpse into the Committee's antecedents, expressing concern that Congress might name a highway for Lincoln as a substitute for a Lincoln Memorial on the Mall – calling into question whether grand planning for the national capital had a viable future. The McMillan Plan, not fully accepted by all in Congress, was made even more tenuous by the First World War, that led to a period where desired sites and projects might well have been foregone with no mechanism other than Congress, with its competing demands, to carry it out as the Washington City filled up rapidly to the District's borders and spilled over into its growing suburbs.

Recognizing the seriousness of the situation, after the First World War, a group in Washington from the American Planning and Civic Association (now the American Planning Association) asked Frederick Delano, uncle of future President Franklin Roosevelt, to establish a Committee of 100 on the Federal City, with hard-working subcommittees. The Committee was to work cooperatively with such groups in other cities and with professional organizations to develop a constituency on behalf of the various features of the McMillan Plan and to come up with an implementation strategy, which would include a legislative campaign and support for specific congressional legislation. Mr. Delano, who had earlier worked on plans in Chicago and New York City, established the Committee in 1922 or 1923. The Committee in turn produced an implementation plan that resulted in the creation of the National Park and Planning Commission (now the National Capital Planning Commission) and lobbied for Congressional acts strengthening the capability of the NCPC to carry out the public works projects. Mr. Delano served as Chairman of the Committee for the next twenty years, some 18 of which he was also Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission while also serving for 12 years as Chairman of the American Planning Association. These were highly formative years in the history of the development of the Nation's capital and our hometown, and Mr. Delano's role during this period at the helm of these important organizations, and the work of the Committee under his leadership, were crucial in realizing the elements of the planning vision.

The displays also reminded us how the years after World War II, ushering in a period of growth beyond the District's borders highly dependent on automobile travel, lacked adherence to the cohesive and continuing vision reflected in the grand plans of this city. Maps, papers, and reports touched on efforts the Committee had made during the years following World War II as well as its mandate reflected in the Articles of Incorporation. They showed how the Committee, both before and after the long-delayed granting of home rule to the District, continued its work to have decisions about Washington's future firmly grounded in the city's planning legacy, while doing all it could to discourage projects that would have done irreparable harm to the city's integrity, including, notably, proposed freeways and related bridges and interchanges, plans for which fortunately were never fully implemented. Also highlighted was the Metro system established instead, in large part because of the Committee's advocacy and legal intervention. Displayed as well were maps related to the Comprehensive Plan, made more explicit than when first produced by the city, documents calling for continued support for the city's trees and local and national parks, various reports from our sub-committees and area plans, an alternative site plan as a substitute for a tunnel under the Mall to the Washington Monument, and materials related to the Committee's efforts to secure a District planning commission.

Displays brought home the fact that the District, under home rule, lacked, as it still does, a formal mechanism, such as a District of Columbia planning commission, to be the focus for cohesive, ongoing planning for the city, but rather was left to float in a sea of scattered responsibility, with local planning lodged with the Mayor. The conditions that were crafted to produce sweeping undertakings such as the elegant Mall and its special but limited number of memorials, the salvaging of the Rock Creek parkland all the way out to Montgomery County as well as the old Chesapeake and Ohio Canal along the Potomac and similar projects, did not exist and do not exist today.

At the December 7 celebration, wanting to share the Committee's legacy of vision and hard work, we invited Eleanor Seagraves, granddaughter of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and grandniece of Frederick Delano, to join us, and she graciously came with her husband, son and daughter in law. Her comments were very well received, for she served as a reminder of an earlier time when people of great talent were willing to dedicate much of their time and work freely for the public good. And even though the milieu that made grand planning possible in Mr. Delano's time no longer exists, that willingness continues to be the genius of the Committee of 100. Our work is cut out for us, and we can look forward to the exciting next eighty years!



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## **JANUARY MEMBER MEETING REPORT**

At the January 15 member meeting, the Committee heard from the President of the National Capital Revitalization Corporation, Theodore “Ted” Carter. The NCRC is a federally created independent corporation that, among other things, inherited the land portfolio of the Redevelopment Land Agency. This portfolio includes the Southwest Waterfront. Carter outlined the projects currently under development at NCRC, including the Wax Museum site downtown, and indicated his willingness to work cooperatively with the proposed Anacostia Development Corporation, should Council act to create this new additional development entity.

In the business meeting, the members endorsed enhancements of earlier policies, including opposition to the taking of land along the north edge of Farragut Square for the K Street busway, opposition to extensive demolition at the historic Gales School on Capitol Hill, and support for the landmark designation of the Connecticut Avenue bridge over Rock Creek Park.

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## **PIPAs**

As many members know, the Committee periodically functions as a sponsor for projects that fully conform to our established purposes, whose volunteer leadership may or may not be C100 members. Currently the class-action lawsuit challenging the basis for District real estate appraisals, coordinated by member Peter Craig, functions as a PIPA account. The board is considering PIPA reactivation for a community group which is working to balance campus development with protection of residential neighborhoods. The new Coalition to Stop Tenleytown Overdevelopment, which is challenging the basis on which the District Office of Planning has established aggressive goals for development along the Wisconsin Avenue corridor, has asked to be considered for PIPA status.

Citizens are permitted to make designated contributions to each of these PIPA accounts through the C100.