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National Ideas Competition for the Washington Monument Grounds

www.wamocompetition.org

WAMO Ideas Competition Extends Registration to November 30th

Washington, October 19, 2010 — The registration deadline for the National Ideas Competition for the Washington Monument Grounds has been extended to November 30, 2010, from the original deadline of October 31st. The deadline for submissions will remain December 18th. Register and submit an idea at the WAMO website, www.wamocompetition.org.

“We heard from many educators who have made the Competition project an option for fall semester classes that students need more time to develop their ideas and decide if they want to register,” said Competition chairman James Clark. The new deadline falls after the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

The WAMO Ideas Competition was announced in June and is open to anyone 12 and older. This competition gives Americans of all ages an opportunity to help shape a national discussion of creative and innovative ideas for the Monument grounds. What are your ideas for the Washington Monument Grounds? Do you have a creative idea for how this 60-acre public open space can be revamped? Or do you think it is perfect the way it is?

Some have questioned whether it’s possible to come up with a truly good idea in the 18 days between the registration and submission deadlines. To that, Kenneth Bowling, a member of the Competition Steering Committee and adjunct professor at George Washington University, responds with a bit of history about the man President Washington entrusted to design the City of Washington. “It took Peter L’Enfant fourteen days from the time of his arrival in Georgetown to complete the draft of his idea for the entire 6000 acre federal city,” said Bowling. “This was a draft, not the final detailed plan that was engraved--but it was the idea and it only took him two weeks.”

The Competition, organized in spring 2010, is led by an independent Steering Committee of university professors, architects and designers, and civic leaders in partnership with The George Washington University. Sponsors include Learning Times, Albert H. Small, George Washington University, the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects, Catholic University, American University, the University of Maryland, Virginia Tech, the University of Delaware, the University of Texas, and other educational and professional organizations. The jury is composed of distinguished individuals who are creative and forward thinkers and span a variety of careers and perspectives: architecture, community planning, design, academia (geography, history, American studies), civics, and theater arts. Competition leaders are waiting for confirmation from a prominent landscape architect who has tentatively agreed to be on the jury.

Check the [WAMO website](http://www.wamocompetition.org) for more information about the history of the Monument and the National Mall – including images of rare maps, documents, and other historical background – and background about the Competition Steering Committee, jurors, and sponsors from across America. And start thinking about how you think this important public space might be enhanced for use by future generations of Americans and visitors to the Nation’s Capital.

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