



Exhibits Envision the “3RD CENTURY MALL” and Washington Monument Grounds

Contact:

Judy Scott Feldman, PhD
National Coalition to Save Our Mall
301-335-8490

James P. Clark, FAIA
National Ideas Competition for the Washington Monument Grounds
703-524-6616

For Immediate Release:

Washington, DC (August 8, 2012) – A two-part exhibition highlighting the historic plans for Washington, D.C. and visionary ideas for the National Mall and Washington Monument is now on display at the District Architecture Center’s SIGAL Gallery. The exhibition invites the public to explore the history and help shape the future of the National Mall as the great symbolic public space it was intended to be.

One part of the exhibition, THE 3RD CENTURY MALL: REINVENTING L’ENFANT’S LEGACY, illustrates the historic 1791 L’Enfant Plan and 1901 McMillan Plan that are the “Planning Constitution” for the nation’s capital. The exhibit explores ways to restore, expand, and reinvent the historic, visionary plans for Washington, D.C.

Another segment of the exhibition features the winners of THE NATIONAL IDEAS COMPETITION FOR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT GROUNDS. This competition was sponsored by George Washington University and headed by an independent group of architects, historians, and professors. The competition invited the public to propose concepts to make the 60-plus acres more welcoming, inspiring, and connected to the rest of the National Mall. The idea for the competition came out of a realization that while the Washington Monument continues to be the defining feature of the Washington D.C. skyline, at ground level its vast open space remains unfinished.

According to the competition’s Executive Director, Ellen Goldstein, “This exhibition shows well how a transparent and engaging dialogue with the public can provide a fantastic spark in the process of designing the historic centerpiece.”

The free opening reception is scheduled for August 15, 2012 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the District of Columbia Architecture Center, located at 421 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC. The exhibition is open until September 15th during the DAC’s operating hours of Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, go to www.savethemall.org and www.wamocompetition.org.

About the District Architecture Center

The District Architecture Center is home to the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Washington Architectural Foundation, two organizations that advocate for architecture and the built environment, educate both professional architects and the public, and inspire design excellence through workshops, tours, exhibits, lectures, and special events.

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