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ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

Margaret C. Dunlap | M.Arch 2 Candidate | Washington Alexandria Architectural Center | Virginia Polytechnic Institute | Spring 2021
June 26, 2020 marked the passing of H.R.51 through the House of Representatives, a historic moment in the long fight for DC’s statehood. This fight is not merely anchored by an argument about taxation without representation; it is centered on returning voting rights removed from the nation’s capital nearly 230 years ago. Statehood is an argument about the reparations of equality being given to a city built on the institution of slavery, embracing parts of a city divided by borders visible and hidden, and revealing cultural contexts hidden in plain sight behind the federal city. Given this complex background, there were numerous essential elements that were paramount to a critical study of what a 51st state capitol building should include.

Though this self-designed brief raised a number of questions, none was more central than the relationship between aesthetics and representation within the typology of the American state capitol. The architecture of politics is often the built manifestation of ideals, policies, and values. In times of discord and unrest, we are reminded that architecture can represent the core systems of a society, exhibiting underlying truths that may have been ignored or intentionally concealed. There can be an architecture of slavery as much as an architecture of freedom. There can be architectures of oppression as well as architectures of democracies. The natural starting point for the project began with a comprehensive survey of U.S. state capitols, which share a lineage of classical architectural elements and styles inextricably linked to the Founding Father’s desire to embed the United States with an origin story descending from the aesthetic, political, and social ideals of ancient Western civilizations. This thesis asks, for a (new) state that has been denied representation for over 200 years, should these same architectural ideals be embedded in its state building, or should a different symbology, aesthetics, materiality, or origin story be reoriented and introduced?

However, it also became clear that site selection would be of critical importance to this project. The result of months of research led me to believe that although the building’s aesthetic decisions might challenge normative architectural forms, the appropriate site for a Washington, Douglass Commonwealth State Capitol would also be one that honored and found its place within the context of Washington’s symbolic plan. The site of RFK Stadium was ultimately selected because of its accessibility, its planned demolition, and its alignment with the United States Capitol. Through its placement as the epilogue to L’Enfant’s unfinished plan for Washington, this site not only recognizes the importance of history and lineage, but also reorients the new state government’s political nucleus, ultimately presenting ideas about freedom and democracy through a contemporary interpretation of the classic state capitol’s form and planning.

Overall, this thesis seeks not to be a final answer, but an investigation of some of the critical issues involved in this topic, a proposal of dissent from the expectations of systematic oppression, and an invitation to start a dialogue about a complex, multifaceted, and prescient design prompt.
June 26, 2020 marked the passing of H.R.51 through the House of Representatives, a historic moment in the long fight for DC’s statehood. Over 200 years of history led to June 26, but events such as the reduced funding of COVID-19 care, tear gassing of protesters at Lafayette Square, and the subsequent groundbreaking of Black Lives Matter Plaza exacerbated the urgency of Statehood for both DC residents and outside observers alike. This was also the moment I realized what this thesis could be about.

It seemed somehow wrong to spend a year tackling a project that did not relate to politics, equality, or social justice; the core passions that drive my pursuit of architecture. During our recent lockdown, I read a number of books that inspired this project, but one in particular came to haunt me. In Isabel Wilkerson’s *Caste*, she writes about an infamous photo taken of a 1930s Hamburg shipyard, a crowd of men raising their arms to salute Hitler. All but one man, who exhibited dissent by not raising his arm. Wilkerson asks, what will we do to be that one man in the crowd? What does it take to not be complicit in the face of genocide and oppression? Watching current events, in relation to the world, the nation, and our profession, made me consider our complicity as architects in systems of racism and oppression, and what we, as designers, can do to raise our voices now instead of later.

This project seeks to examine not only the issues that brought Washington, D.C.’s fight for statehood to a boiling point, but also the underlying systemic problems that have framed the argument for it. I’ve come to respect and support statehood after reading, researching, and listening to the incredible resources (especially *Chocolate City*), supporting HR51’s ratification. This is not merely an argument about taxation without representation; it is about returning voting rights removed from the nation’s capital nearly 230 years ago. It is about giving equality, harmony, and belonging to a city built on the institution of slavery. It is about embracing and including the parts of this city divided by borders visible and hidden. It is about honoring a city of vibrant cultures and stories, known for their ability to triumph in the face of adversity.

This research has raised a number of questions. Architecturally, what would a capitol building for the 51st state look like? What are the inherent values that would be expressed in its design? The architecture of politics is often the built manifestation of ideals, policies, and values. In times of discord and unrest, we are reminded that architecture can represent the core systems of a society, exhibiting underlying truths that may have been ignored or intentionally concealed. There can be an architecture of slavery as much as an architecture of freedom. There can be architectures of oppression as well as architectures of democracies. The natural starting point for this research is to look at the history of U.S. state capitols, a lineage of classically-inspired buildings based on the philosophical and architectural ideals of Ancient civilizations. Do these architectural symbols signify the things we think they do? The aim of this research is to ask this question: For a (new) state that has been denied representation for over 200 years, should these same architectural ideals be embedded in its state building?

I hope that this project can offer an opportunity to start a meaningful dialogue on how the ideals of freedom and democracy can be expressed through architecture, and how to design a building for a new chapter of history. What can we do to be that one (designer) in the crowd? How can a building dissent from a history or system of oppression, and how can we raise our voices for the people and architectures that can’t necessarily raise their own?
"The life of a nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous." **Frederick Douglass**
This chapter takes summarizes D.C.’s 250-year fight for statehood. Part of this section also summarizes some of the cultural histories often excluded from the traditional narrative of Washington, D.C. history. The importance of researching these alternative narratives is to understand the factors influencing the argument for statehood, and to understand the voices that must be represented within a new state and its architectural representative, the state capitol.
STATEHOOD: DETAILS

“Since 1801, residents of Washington, DC, abiding by all obligations of United States citizenship, have desired to be equal to all other citizens of the United States of America.” Source: https://statehood.dc.gov/page/about-dc-statehood

DC STATEHOOD FACTS

- The U.S. is the only democratic nation that does not give national voting representation to citizens of its capital city. Congress approves all local DC legislation.
- DC residents fulfill all the obligations of US citizenship and yet are denied representation.
- DC residents pay the highest per-capita federal income taxes in the US.
- DC has 712,000 residents, more than Vermont and Wyoming.
- DC residents have served in every war, without full access to the freedom they defend.
- DC elects a Delegate to the US House of Representatives who can draft legislation but cannot vote. The current Delegate for DC is Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.
- Statehood is the only solution providing full representation in Congress to Washington, DC residents.
- Brought again into the spotlight by lack of Coronavirus aid and George Floyd protests in Summer 2020, HR51 (Washington, D.C. Admission Act) was presented to, and passed by, the House on June 26 2020, a significant moment in the DC Statehood movement. But, HR51 still has to be passed by the Senate and the White House.
- If HR51 becomes a law, then DC will become a state (the Douglass Commonwealth), and will grant its citizens the same rights as those in the other 50 states. This would mark a new start for DC, a new chapter as the 51st state.
- Impacts to the electoral college as well as impacts to the balance of the Senate. Republicans fear that given D.C.’s history of voting for the Democrats that they could lose a chance at a voting majority.

Fig 1. The 51st state campaign logo.

Fig 2. The 51st state information sheet as currently used by the DC Government to explain the campaign.

Fig 3. H.R. 51, passed by the House of Representative on 4/22/21.

Fig 4. White House Statement of Administration Policy in support of D.C. Statehood 4/20/21
The New Columbia Statehood Commission was created in 2014 to support the D.C. Congressional Delegation. The Commission drafted the constitution which established state boundaries and wrote a referendum for the 2016 ballot. These efforts were then present to the D.C. Council. The Council then issued a statement in support of statehood and that it was the only way to ensure that the rights of its citizens could be protected and represented within the United States. The full D.C. COUNCIL STATEMENT can be viewed at: https://statehood.dc.gov/page/new-columbia-statehood-commission THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION can be viewed at: https://statehood.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/statehood/publication/attachments/Constitution-of-the-State-of-Washington-DC.pdf A Constitutional Convention is called for within 2 years of admission into the Union

**NAME:** STATE OF WASHINGTON, DOUGLASS COMMONWEALTH

Also written as State of Washington, D.C.

**PHYSICAL:** BOUNDARIES


**FORM OF GOVERNMENT:** COMMONWEALTH

**LEGISLATIVE POWER:** LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - UNICAMERAL

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 21 MEMBERS**

- 1 SPEAKER ELECTED AT LARGE - full time position
- 4 MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED AT LARGE
- 16 MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES (2) Representatives elected for each of 8 Districts
- (NA) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES: STRUCTURE to be established by Resolution
- (NA) NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS and COMMISSIONS ELECTED - advisory position
- 1. OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

**EXECUTIVE POWER:** GOVERNOR

- 1 GOVERNOR ELECTED - full time position, Commander in Chief of State National Guard, Primary Planning Authority, Administrative Affairs, Financial Affairs, Appoints all judges
- 1 GOVERNOR ADMINISTRATOR and Chief Operating Officer
- 1 ATTORNEY GENERAL - Independent Executive Function
- 1 DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL - Independent Executive Function
- 1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
- 1 DEPUTY FINANCIAL OFFICER
- STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
- STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
- BOARDS COMMISSIONS AND AGENCIES TO BE DETERMINED
- NATIONAL GUARD PLANNING

**JUDICIAL POWER:** STATE OF WASHINGTON, D.C. COURTS

- DC COURT OF APPEALS
- SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.
**ISSUE: “TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION”**

In May of 2000, a resident of the District of Columbia, Kathryn Shapiro advocated for the phrase, "**Taxation without Representation**" to be added to every D.C. license plate to bring awareness to the fact that D.C. residents have no representation in Congress. The phrase is connected to the Revolutionary War phrase “taxation without representation is tyranny,” at the founding of the nation. English colonists felt they were being unfairly taxed by Great Britain without representation in Parliament. The representation and voting rights issue is at the heart of D.C. statehood and the subject has been at issue since the creation of the Constitution. As early as 1801, lawyer Augustus Woodward, argued that the lack of representation was not in keeping with the “spirit of the Constitution.” By 1812, D.C. had been granted some elected controls but still had no representation in Congress and was still subject to taxation by the federal government. However, in 1820 the Supreme Court case of Loughborough vs. Blake ruled that “it is the duty of all citizens to pay taxes to their government.” The statehood debates continued and various Presidents and Congressional bodies placed their own forms of rule upon the city’s residents. Staged tea parties and protests have continued over 200 years, gaining some elements of success resulting in home rule and the right to vote in Presidential elections in 1964. In 1973 DC gained the right to have a locally elected mayor and city council but still under Congressional control.

**ISSUE: POLITICS + CONTROL**

Political control of the House, Senate and the Electoral College is another issue that deeply impacts the ability of D.C.’s citizens to achieve statehood. Even with House passage of HR51 and growing support in the Senate, there is concern that a Republican filibuster will stop the bill from achieving the necessary votes for Senate passage. President Biden has expressed support for D.C. Statehood and has stated that he will sign the bill when it comes before him.

Prior to the Home Rule Act, Congress made all of the laws for D.C. After Home Rule was instituted, D.C. government was permitted to approve its own laws after a 30–60 day Congressional review. Congress continues to be able to block laws using budgetary restrictions and they can also block testimony. Social problems of the District such as the ability to address needle exchange programs, marijuana legalization, abortion rights, and even Covid vaccine funding, access and response have been affected by national political agendas rather than by the District residents themselves.

Given the recent voting history of D.C. residents in Presidential elections, political control of the U.S. Senate is at stake. Republicans fear that D.C.’s 2 new Senate seats would likely be elected as Democrats. D.C. Statehood proponents however argue that this is about democracy and civil rights over political control.

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**ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL**

*For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America*
In D.C.’s fight for statehood, taxation and political control are not the only issues at hand. Created originally from slave holding states, Maryland and Virginia, slavery and racism have impacted D.C. throughout its history. In the 19th century, slavery was both an economic and social institution. Because of D.C.’s unique status as a Federal district, however, slavery was considered a federal issue. Large slave markets existed on the U.S. Capitol grounds and abolitionists were quick to point out the ironies existing in the new country professing to celebrate freedom and democracy. It was as clear to visitors of the time as it is to us now, that “freedom and justice for all” did not apply to all.

-By 1800, largely enslaved African-Americans represented 25% of the District’s population. The enslaved population not only worked on area farms and plantations but also on building the U.S. Capitol and the White House. Those that were paid for their work were also able to purchase their freedom. From 1808-1821 Black Codes were instituted to restrict freedom and rights to “Negroes.” These codes and the question of race related to the Constitution were contested by William Costin. According to the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit, this case represented an early civil rights victory in a D.C. Court brought by a free black man.

- On April 16, 1862 President Lincoln signed a bill ending slavery in D.C. which compensated slave owners for their freed slaves in D.C. These newly freed 3,100 men and women were given were also give $100 if they agreed to emigrate to another country. January 1, 1863 The Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln abolishing slavery throughout the U.S.. The slaves located in MD, DE, MO, and KY were not immediately freed as those border states required liberation by the Union Army. More than 25,000 African-Americans sought refuge in D.C. by the end of the Civil War, with more than 3,000 fighting in the Union Army.

- By 1869 D.C. appeared to be headed in a more progressive direction with an anti-discrimination bill and an interracial government. However, white conservatives feared growing Black influence and power. Working with Congress, they devised a plan to remove voting rights from all eligible D.C. voters. In 1874, a territorial government was established in D.C. White conservatives felt this action would prevent public elections from impacting power or business interests, resulting in a loss of voting rights for over 100 years. In 1961, the 23rd Amendment was ratified, giving 3 Electoral Votes to D.C. to allow voters to participate in Presidential elections but still denying representation in Congress.

In 1965, both Houses approved Home Rule as did President Johnson but the House District Committee refused to bring the bill to a vote because racism was a dominant issue. Though it was finally enacted in 1973, with Walter Washington as D.C.’s first Home Rule mayor, Congressional oversight remained in place. D.C. finances were taken over by Congress in 1995 and in 1997, Congress took control over prisons, debt, courts, and other entitlement programs. Congress retained the right to review, approve and overturn D.C. legislation. Segregationist planning policies, red-lining, gentrification, taxation, affordable housing restrictions, poverty, and healthcare have all been an ongoing battle.

Finally, progress has been made in many areas with D.C.’s black and female Mayors and Representatives, but the recent 2020 Black Lives Matter protests, followed by the violent U.S. Capitol insurrection, (which included racist slogans), has demonstrated that racism still persists and that full representation is still needed. For D.C., true democracy and representation can begin only with statehood.

Resources:
- DC History: “Chocolate City: A History Of Race And Democracy In The Nation’s Capital” by Chris Myers Asch , George Derek Musgrove
The Residence Act establishes the District of Columbia as the Nation’s Capital. In 1862, DC becomes the first part of the U.S. to grant emancipation. After the Civil War, emancipated African Americans like Solomon Brown (below) are elected to local government. DC governed by largely racist House committees, who cut welfare and education. For the first time in history, DC is no longer a black majority city (at 40.9%), due in part to rising living costs and gentrification.

Congress abolishes the territorial government and replaces it with a presidentially appointed government. District is only territory not allowed to write its own constitution. DC is called the “Chocolate City” after a hit Parliament album. H.R. 51 passes through the House, but still needs to be ratified by the Senate and President.

Black Codes instituted
Washington, DC is notorious for its public slave auctions, jails like the Blue Jug and strict “black codes”. But, it also is home to a large community of free blacks and abolitionists who fight for freedom.
ISSUE: REPRESENTATION of NATIVE AMERICANS

Nacotchtank or Anacostans, were part of the Algonquins and lived in the D.C. area before the arrival of the colonists. They were known for their extensive trading routes, even trading fur with the Iroquois of New York. They had villages throughout today’s District boundary, at the important confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia. These were farming peoples, who lived in domed shelters, and grew squash, corn, and beans on the present sites of the Library of Congress and Capitol.

1590

Meanwhile, the Anacostia River, which was completely navigable and known for its plentiful fish and wildlife, develops mudflats by the 1850s due to deforestation and agricultural runoff from plantations upstream.

1850

Today, the Nacotchtank tribe is believed to be completely extinct. However, some DC residents (like Jason Anderson, interviewed by WAMU), believe they are descendants of the original residents of the Anacostia and DC. Roughly 4,163 American Indians live in present-day Washington, part of communities like the Rappahannock tribe.

1930


1608

John Smith explores the Chesapeake Bay tributaries finding more than 200 tribes of native peoples.

1861

After the establishment of Washington, DC., the Nacotchtanks were removed from Anacostia to Roosevelt Island (Above, 1865), until supposedly being absorbed into other tribes like the Pamunkey and Powhatan. After only 40 years of contact with the Europeans, the indigenous peoples were reduced to 25% of their pre-1608 population.

1800

DC Population reaches over 14,000 Including Native Americans

2020

Above: Map of 17th century native villages in DC, LOC 1930
ABIGAL ADAMS - First Lady to John Adams and Second Lady to her son President John Adams, advocated for women's rights in the creation of the Constitution and for equal education opportunity for girls. First Lady to reside in the White House in 1800.

1820–1906

SUSAN B. ANTHONY – Leader of Woman's Rights Movement in the U.S. and organizer of the Seneca Falls Convention for Women's Rights. Frederick Douglass is the only African American to attend and speaks on behalf of women's suffrage. Honored by President McKinley and first female citizen on U.S. Coin.

1848

ELIZABETH Cady Stanton – Leader of Woman's Rights Movement in the U.S. and organizer of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention for Women's Rights. Frederick Douglass is the only African American to attend and speaks on behalf of women's suffrage. Supported abolition and started Equal Rights Association.

1879–1966

LUCY BURNS – Leader of the Women's Suffrage Movement and organizer of the Suffrage Procession in D.C., after protesting at the White House sent to the Occoquan Workhouse. Her efforts helped to achieve women's right to vote. Member NWP.

1913

Woman Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C., a large political rally organized by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns to march before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. 5–10,000 took part with floats, and bands.

1916

ALICE PAUL – Leader of Women’s Suffrage Movement – Masters & PhD degrees from University of Pennsylvania and Law degrees from Washington College and American University is jailed fro protesting in front of the White House on behalf of women’s rights. Member of NAWSA, NWP. Organized the Suffrage Procession in D.C. and lifelong career advocating for civil rights.

1920

The 19th AMENDMENT PASSES giving women the right to vote.

1990–Current

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON born in D.C. founded the first legal periodical to focus on women's rights. Also a signer to the Black Woman's Manifesto. First female chair of the EEOC, 1990 elected as Democratic delegate to the House of Representatives in 2012 she was blocked from testifying in her own District's behalf on an anti-abortion bill. She has been a vocal proponent and activist to grant DC Statehood.

1991–1995

Sharyn Pratt Kelly became DC's 3rd Mayor and first female Mayor. First woman and first African American to be named the VP of Community Relations at PEPCO. NAACP Presidential Award recipient Following Marion Barry as Mayor she experienced challenges in reforming City government. She championed statehood but due to Republican opposition in the House the effort did not receive the support needed. JK Cooke took the Redskins out of DC to MD when Kelly refused to build a new stadium.

2015–Current

Muriel Bowser became the 8th mayor of D.C. An advocate for civil rights and economic development, she navigated Trump era National protests, the US Capitol insurrection, created BLM Plaza, and administered the pandemic response and advocated for statehood.

2021

H.R. 51 passes through the House, but still needs to be ratified by the Senate and President. FULL VOTING RIGHTS FOR WOMEN CITIZENS OF D.C. IS STILL PENDING.
STATE OF WASHINGTON, DOUGLASS COMMONWEALTH

NAMESAKES: GEORGE WASHINGTON + FREDERICK DOUGLASS

**Fig. 1.** George Washington

**Fig. 2.** Frederick Douglass

**GEORGE WASHINGTON**
Washington was born in 1732 and died in 1799. First President of the United States from 1789-1787, he was also a surveyor, military general, a political leader and a “Founding Father” and presided over the Constitutional Convention of 1797 where the Constitution of the United States was created. Washington with L’Enfant, Ellicott, Banneker, and others located, surveyed and designed the Federal District. Considered to be the “Father of the Nation” he was also a slaveholder at his Virginia plantation of Mount Vernon. His slaves were freed upon his death but not before.

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS**
Douglass was born in 1879 and died in 1891. He was an abolitionist, suffragist, author, editor, and a diplomat. He was also born a slave in Maryland and separated from his mother at an early age. 1877, Named U.S. Marshall for D.C. by President Hayes. He purchased a home in Anacostia where he lives for the rest of his life. In 1888, at the Republican National Convention he receives the first vote for President of the United States. He gave speeches across the nation and authored several books. In 1892, he constructed Douglass Place, which offered rental housing to African Americans.
This chapter summarizes supplementary research projects completed during the course of the thesis, as well as a preliminary design for a public perception survey. This survey looks at representation in state capitols through aesthetics, politics, and symbology in order to reveal how constituents view seats of government, and how alternative design proposals might encourage transparency and communication rather than fear or oppression.
RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY

Focused background research for this thesis resulted in several papers which were submitted for coursework during the course of the fall and spring of 2020-2021. This research informed the design concepts proposed in the Design Proposal section of this thesis. Representative page thumbnails of the research papers are illustrated to the right.

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS

A key element of every American state capitol is the portrayal of its state and national origin story. Historically, this narrative is told from a Eurocentric, colonial, and often racist perspective which either excludes entirely, or makes inferior, the narratives of other cultural groups, especially Native American and African American groups. Studying representation of both of these groups in two separate surveys, revealed the impact of racist representation and the new calls for replacement of offensive public art on state capitol grounds in the wake of the events of Summer 2020. It further informs and highlights the importance of a new set of symbology as well as equitable and inclusive representation within public art. This paper reviewed publicly available resources for all 50 states.

CAPITOL PLACE MAKING

The Representation of American Indian and Alaskan native Peoples in the Public Art of United States Capitols.

DATE: Fall 2020
COURSE: UAP Creative Placemaking
PROFESSOR: Elizabeth Morton
AUTHOR: Margaret C. Dunlap
PROJECT: Representation of Native Americans in the Public Art of State Capitols
FOCUS: Representation in Public Art, American Narrative, American Origin Story, Cultural Narratives in Public Buildings
PAGES: 76 pgs
IMAGES: 3 Thumbnail pages from submitted paper.

Note: Representations of Native Americans could not be found in the following states: West Virginia*, Idaho, Indiana*, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Vermont however Kansas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma stand as examples of state capitols that have made concerted efforts to commission works by indigenous artists, thus bringing new symbolism and perspectives to the traditional state narratives.

ART OF THE STATE

Public Art on State Capitol Grounds Monuments Removed Since the George Floyd Protests

DATE: Fall 2020
COURSE: UAP Creative Placemaking
PROFESSOR: Elizabeth Morton
PROJECT: Monuments removed during George Floyd Protests on State Capitol Grounds
FOCUS: Representation in Public Art, American Narrative, Equal Representation, Politics of Aesthetics
PAGES: 22
IMAGES: 3 Thumbnail pages from submitted paper.

Note: At the time of this survey in 2020, 12 statues had been removed that had been deemed offensive or racist. Many other statues or pieces of public art are currently under review.
RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY

REPRESENTING POWER:
THE IMPLICATIONS OF AESTHETICS AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION IN THE DESIGN OF AMERICAN STATE CAPITOLS

COURSE: GIA/UIAP 5004 Power and US Policy
PROFESSOR: Chad Levinson
FOCUS: The role of representation and powers in influencing public perception of public and state capitol architecture in the United States
PAGES: 17 pages
IMAGES: 2 thumbnail page from submitted paper.

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS
As much as we can read the presence of power through architecture, it is my belief that this apparatus can be adapted beyond the paradigm of coercion. The outcome of the survey in question, of course, would reveal how constituents read these buildings. Most importantly to this research, I believe that any design decisions for a new state capitol model should be based not only on context, but most heavily on the opinion and personal experiences of constituents and individual users of new state capitols. As we look towards the possibility of statehood not only for the District of Columbia but also for United States territories such as Puerto Rico, it is critical that any future design process takes into account the lasting legacies of systemic racism, slavery, and colonialism in proposals, and honors the indigenous history and context of non-European groups through use of a ‘new’ set of symbols and aesthetic decisions. It is through this process that I think social equality and equity can be communicated through architecture, and that a healing process can begin to be established in the relationship between public architecture and the constituents it is tasked with representing. As I’ve argued in this paper, the Founding Fathers embedded certain flawed ideals, almost irreparably, into the physical and ideological architecture of the nation. Perhaps the only way forward, then, is to acknowledge those failings, and to embed a new set of ideology into our public and state architecture, an ideology of equality, acceptance, absolute freedom, and true democracy for all.

CAPITAL GATEWAYS
Comparing the Urban Form of Washington D.C.’s East West Alignment from the Arlington Bridge to the Whitney Young Memorial Bridge

COURSE: Theory of Urban Form
PROFESSOR: David Lever
PROJECT: Comparing the Gateways of Washington
FOCUS: Comparing Memorial Bridge to Whitney Young Bridge, investigating symbolism and planning history of the alignment
PAGES: 16 pages
IMAGES: 2 thumbnail pages from submitted paper.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION
This paper analyzed the aesthetic and political forms of Washington’s primary East-West gateways: the Arlington Memorial Bridge and the Whitney Young Memorial Bridge. While the former represents the triumphant grandeur introduced by the McMillan plan, its East twin is undecorated and uncelebrated as a latent appendage to L’Enfant’s unfinished plan for the East side of the city. I contend in this study that this dichotomy is representative of the physical and ideological segregation inherent within Washington DC’s plan and history.
INTRODUCTION

THE PITCH:

June 26, 2020 marked the passing of H.R.51 through the House of Representatives, and though the battle is far from over, it was a historic moment in the long fight for DC's statehood. This thesis project seeks to examine not only the issues that brought DC's fight for statehood to a boiling point, but also the underlying systemic problems that have framed the argument for it. DC's statehood is not merely an argument about taxation without representation; it is about returning voting rights removed from the nation's capital nearly 230 years ago. It is about giving equality, harmony, and belonging to a city built on the institution of slavery. It is about embracing and including the parts of this city divided by borders visible and hidden. It is about honoring a city of vibrant cultures and stories, known for their ability to triumph in the face of adversity. The result of months of research leads me to believe that the appropriate site for a new State Capitol for the Douglass Commonwealth is one aligned with L'Enfant's plan for Washington, recognizing the importance of history and lineage, while reorienting the state government's political nucleus, and expressing ideas about freedom and democracy through a contemporary interpretation of the classic State Capitol's form.

THE QUESTIONS:

Architecturally, what would a Capitol building for the 51st state look like? What are the inherent values that would be expressed in its design?

For a (new) state that has been denied representation for over 200 years, should these same architectural ideals be embedded in its state building?

Please answer the following questions, as part of an effort to document and understand feelings about the various interpretations of state capitol buildings based on your personal and individual experience. I hope that this project can offer an opportunity to start a meaningful dialogue on how the ideals of freedom and democracy can be expressed through architecture, and how to design a building for a new chapter of history.
How do you feel about the US Capitol? “Knowing the amount of history as a Black person is overwhelming”
What does DC represent to you? “DC is all federal, everything represents law and government: it is the home of government”

Does it feel accessible to you as a citizen? “It feels accessible, but feels less accessible than pre 9/11. I grew up going to Easter egg hunts on the White House Lawn.”

Do you feel represented as a citizen in the US Capitol building? “I feel that it represents the government and that the government system is inaccessible, law making is inaccessible. I don’t know how I feel about the design of the building itself”

Do you frequently visit the US Capitol? “I grew up going to all of the museums in the 1980s. School trips focused on the National Mall, so now I don’t feel the need to see the museums or Capitol again”

Are there any buildings in DC that you feel represent you or your background? “I have a kinship w MLK library- it was the first place to have representation of women and POC in the 80s instead of the ‘Ben Franklin’ statues in other buildings. It also represented MLK, a free man not born into slavery”

How do you feel about DC’s city hall? “I didn’t know DC had one, but I’ve been to the Wilson building”

How do you feel about the Wilson Building? “It feels more old school, but updated. But I feel like important history isn’t associated with this building like the other buildings (ie US Capitol) are”

How do you feel about DC Statehood? “I feel that Statehood will never happen. We will continue to be a colony and that the Master will not give us our own name”
This chapter surveys the symbology of freedom, democracy, geometry, astronomy, and of cultural groups traditionally excluded from the narratives within the American state capitol. Many symbols that we accept as representing liberty, freedom, and democracy, do not always represent these principles to all people. The perception of certain symbols can change over time while the context of the symbol itself may impact the perception of the space it is housed in. Most importantly, symbology takes many different forms, from spatial organization or decorative elements, to cultural landmarks and forms of protest.
SEARCHING FOR SYMBOLS

When a Google Search is made for “symbols of American democracy”, the most frequent image that appears is the US Capitol in Washington, D.C., often including the US flag or Thomas Crawford’s ‘Statue of Freedom’, which stands atop the Capitol Dome. Additional symbols include the Supreme Court, the Lincoln Memorial, the Great Seal of the United States and the Statue of Liberty in New York. Particularly, this statue has come to represent Freedom and as a symbol of welcome arrival to new immigrants. If a similar search is made for “democracy”, the Parthenon is a ubiquitous result, representing the origins of Greek democracy, (even though this building was built as a Temple to the Greek God Athena). However, in these searches, the symbology of Native Americans and African Americans, are missing, even though these are cultural groups that were critical to the formation of many of our democratic ideas and symbols.
**FIG 1**
Title: Statue of Liberty
Location: US Capitol Dome
Date: 1886
Sculptor: Laboulaye
Material: Bronze
Description: Gift from France as a symbol of abolition of slavery, but becomes a symbol of immigration after opening of Ellis Island

**FIG 2**
Title: Statue of Freedom
Location: US Capitol Dome
Date: 1863
Sculptor: Thomas Crawford
Material: Bronze
Size: 19.5' Tall Pedestal Height 18.5'
Description: Commissioned by US government. Originally designed w/ a Phrygian cap to represent freedom but due to slavery it was changed to a headdress.

**FIG 3**
Title: Miss Freedom
Location: GA State Capitol Dome
Date: 1888
Sculptor: Thomas Crawford
Material: Bronze
Size: 26' Tall
Description: Hollow copper, painted Female statue wears a robe and a Phrygian cap adorned with a star with torch of enlightenment and sword of enforced liberty/justice

**FIG 4**
Title: Goddess of Liberty
Location: TX State Capitol Dome
Date: 1888– replica 1966
Sculptor: Elijah Meyers
Material: Iron and Zinc painted white
Size: 16' Tall
Description: Female goddess (Athena) statue wears a robe with an upheld star and sword of enforced liberty/justice

**FIG 5**
Title: “America” in Progress of Civilization pediment
Location: Senate Entrance US Capitol
Date: 1863
Sculptor: Thomas Crawford
Material: Marble
Size: 16' Tall
Description: Female goddess statue wears a robe with a Phrygian cap with stars

**FIG 6**
Title: Puck Magazine
Location: Library of Congress
Date: 1908
Material: Paper
Description: Written to illustrate that the broken shackles and symbology of freedom for African Americans was not true

**FIG 7**
Title: Declaration of Independence
Location: The National Archives
Date: 1776
Material: Parchment
Description: Written and signed by Founders and 13 Colonies created on the principle taxation without representation is not a representative government and that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is a natural right.

**FIG 8**
Title: US Constitution + Bill of Rights
Location: The National Archives
Date: 1789
Material: Parchment
Description: Written and signed but did not guarantee all rights and voting rights to all. Many additional amendments are required to continually protect perceived freedoms and rights

**FIG 9**
Title: Liberty Bell
Location: Philadelphia State House aka Independence Hall
Date: 1752
Sculptor: Recast -Pass and Stowe
Material: Copper
Description: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants" (lettering on the bell). Adopted by abolitionists and named as the Liberty Bell in 1830. Replicas of the Bell are at a number of State Capitals NOTE: the crack and its symbology is not often discussed

**FIG 10**
Title: “America” in Progress of Civilization pediment
Location: Senate Entrance US Capitol
Date: 1863
Sculptor: Thomas Crawford
Material: Marble
Size: 16' Tall
Description: Crawford apparently struggled with representation of American Indians in his work.
SLAVERY AND THE GREEK TEMPLE

What are we saying with our “classical architecture”? Most American state capitols are based on design principles rooted in the aesthetic and political ideals of Ancient Rome and Athens. It is important to take a look at some of these key aesthetic and symbolic elements in order to understand the lineage of state capitol architecture. Thomas Jefferson based the proportions, materiality, and spatial layout of the Virginia State Capitol upon the Parthenon in Athens as well as the Maison Carrée in Nîmes, seeking to create a model for the state capitol that not only followed the example of the past, but would become the basis for all future colonial capitols.

As America’s founding architects sought to connect the architecture of our young nation to the ancient world, they also used this link as a justification for the most horrific system of oppression of their time: slavery. Because slavery existed in Ancient Athens, early leaders such as Jefferson, felt that this was a social system that could be continued within the new nation, and, by extension, within our public architecture.

However, as convenient as this linkage may have been for the founders, it was based a flawed interpretation of Ancient political systems. Where enslaved people lacked any rights in the American colonies, Roman slaves in fact had certain rights under Roman law. As our founders ultimately failed to address these flaws, they not only embedded a flawed ideology into the architecture of state capitols, in turn perpetuating the continued systemic racism that we are still grappling with today.
The square symbolizes earth, as well as an emblem of truth and justice. The ancient Greek word for square was Gnomon, meaning knowledge.

In both the Bible and other cultures of the ancient Near East, the world was thought of as a building, a habitable space for humans and other creatures to live in. The temple was viewed as a representation of God’s world, and therefore the temple’s role as center of the nation was echoed in the architecture of early US governmental buildings.

The circle symbolizes the planets and suggests celestial harmony as a “cosmic canopy”. In Ancient Rome, the dome came to represent absolute power.

Renaissance architects favored the Dome, as seen in St. Peter’s Basilica (above), and its use in cathedrals was associated with the power of religion, universal power, and Christianity. Later, with its use in the United States Capitol, the dome has become associated with symbols of democracy, representative government, and of America. The dome is also significant to some Native American and African cultures as a representation of the heavens above earth.

The circle within the square symbolizes a union between the cosmic and terrestrial, and is represented in architecture as the Cosmic Temple.

The Temple of Jerusalem is also symbolic of this cosmic union, in which the ‘prophetic spirit’ will restore world order. In Soufflot’s design for the Paris Pantheon (above), the Greek temple meets the dome as the ‘Temple of the Nation’.
THE DESIGN AND INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Based upon the aesthetic ideals of Ancient Rome and Athens, the United States Capitol Dome is a symbol not only of American government, but of democracy and representative government.

First proposed by William Thornton in 1793, who drew inspiration from the Paris Pantheon, the Capitol was designed successively by Charles Bulfinch, Benjamin Latrobe, and Thomas U. Walter. Bulfinch Looking to St. Peter’s Basilica and St. Paul’s Cathedral for design symbolism, the Capitol influenced new state capitols of the 19th and 20th centuries. Bulfinch, in fact, went on to design the Maine and Massachusetts State Houses (Fig 3 and 4), while Walter’s completion of the Capitol Dome influenced state capitols such as Wisconsin (Fig 5).

The US Capitol, and state capitols created in its image, not only evoke the imagery of their ancient inspirations, but also symbolize power, wealth, and authority of government.
MOST RECOGNIZED DC SITES | NATIONAL

1. Washington Monument
2. White House
3. Lincoln Memorial
4. Smithsonian Institution
5. Jefferson Memorial
6. National Cathedral
7. National Museum of Natural History
8. Washington Metro Station

MOST SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL SITES | LOCAL

9. MLK Library
10. Howard Theatre
11. NMAAHC
12. Ben's Chili Bowl
13. 18th Street NW
14. Minnesota Ave
15. Pennsylvania Ave
16. Historic Anacostia

ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

THEORY + SYMBOLISM
The right to peacefully protest is fundamental to the rights of citizens guaranteed by the Constitution. Because of the role of the Federal Government within the boundaries of the proposed 51st State, protests concerning Federal policies will continue to affect the City and the proposed Commonwealth. The places permitted for protest and the ways these protests are represented becomes a part of how democracy is perceived by those who cannot participate because of exclusion or inaccessibility. Architecture, public spaces, flags, and monuments that represent the government all become symbols of freedom or oppression.
SYMBOLOLOGY | AFRICAN ADINKRA

After analyzing the essential symbology within the Eurocentric narrative and architecture of the American state capitol, it is crucial to look at new sources of symbology and ideology, drawing from major cultural groups that have been excluded from the traditional state capitol. How we record and tell stories is part of understanding how to reorient and re-assess symbols in public architecture. Though there are many potential origin stories and sets of symbols to draw inspiration from, one essential set of sources are the Adinkra symbols of Ghana’s Akan people. Historically these symbols were integrated into intricate patterns and printed fabrics that were use for special occasions. Today, however, the symbols have been used in contemporary fabric as well as in the music of Bob Marley and NAS, tattoo art, and films such as “Black Panther”.

See Figure Credits at the back of the document

Fig. 1. OWIA A REPUE
Rising Sun: Symbol of progress, renewal, development, warmth, vitality, and energy
Meant to inspire progress and energy

Fig. 2. ADINKRAHENE
“Chief of the adinkra symbols”
Symbol of greatness and leadership

Fig. 3. KURONTI NE AKWAMU
Kuronti and Akwamu
A symbol of democracy, sharing ideas, taking council

Fig. 4. FAWOHODIE
“Independence”
Symbol of Independence, Freedom, Emancipation

Fig. 5. MPATAPU
“Knot of Pacification/Reconciliation”
Mpapu represents the bond or knot bringing reconciliation to arguing parties.

Fig. 6. FUNTUNFUNEFUFU-DENKYEMFUNEFU
“Siamese crocodiles”
Symbol of Democracy and Unity

Fig. 7. NEA ONNIM NO SUA A, OHU
“He who does not know can know from learning”
Curiosity and knowledge

Fig. 8. ABODE SANTANN
All seeing eye, eye of providence, and the Creator

Fig. 9. WISDOM
A symbol revered by the Akan, representing knowledge, experience, and learning.

Fig. 10. MORTALITY
A reminder of the transitory nature of life as well as the connection to death.

Fig. 11. EPA
“Handcuffs”
Discourages slavery, and also represents the nature of the law. A symbol introduced by Europeans

Fig. 12. MATE MASIE
The phrase “mate masie” means “I understand”. This represents considering what another person is saying.

Fig. 13. NKONSONKONSON
“Chain link”
This is a symbol of unity and strength through acting as a community

Fig. 14. MMERE DANE
“Time changes”
Symbol of change, life’s dynamics

Fig. 15. NYAME BIRIBI WO SORO
“God is in the heavens”
A symbol of hope and that God dwells in the heavens
Native American cultures originally communicated through oral history and pictographs, instead of the writing introduced by European explorers. The use of Pictographs was developed as early as 3000 BC, and were used around the world to record maps, symbols, plans, and other ideas by painting on rock surfaces with colored pigments. Most often, these pictographs are found in caves or in other protected locations.

See Figure Credits at the back of the document

**Fig. 1. CIRCLE**
Tribes across North America collectively had various forms of the circle. The meanings varied slightly, but overall the symbol represented the four elements (air, fire, water, & earth), the changing of the seasons, death & rebirth, and the first four tribes of mankind.

**Fig. 2. GREAT SPIRIT**
The Great Spirit is a conception of universal spiritual force, or supreme being prevalent among most Native American tribes.

**Fig. 3. FIRE**
Fire is a common symbol in Native American decoration. Fire represents purification, cleansing, and renewal. The symbol is used commonly in traditional ceremonies that celebrate the changing of seasons.

**Fig. 4. BROTHERHOOD**
Brotherhood is a strong belief in Native American culture both literally and metaphorically. Literally, it represents the loyalty between two people or tribes. Metaphorically, it is a meaning of duality and balance.

**Fig. 5. FEATHER**
Present in virtually every Native American tribe, the feather symbol is universally recognized as a representation of trust, strength, wisdom, freedom, and honor. Incorporated into many sacred pieces of Native American wear, the feather is easily one of the most respected symbols.

**Fig. 6. SUN**
A widely-seen symbol, the Sun image often means “Earth’s Guardian” or something similar. It represents healing, energy, and in some cultures is considered to be the giver of life.

**Fig. 7. TURTLE**
The turtle represents Earth and a long and healthy life. Because of the turtle’s natural long life, it is no surprise that the image of the animal is widely used by those who value health and longevity.

**Fig. 8. SNAKE**
The snake is a positive symbol that represents healing (due to shedding of the skin), re-birth, and is a physical sign of good luck.

**Fig. 9. EAGLE**
The eagle is a powerful symbol that represents victory, conquest, and personal power. The eagle symbol is believed to help with one’s drive for victory.

**Fig. 10. RAVEN**
The raven is the representation of medicine and healing and it symbolizes the changing of one’s self. It is believed to bring messages from the spirit world to help healers treat the injured and sick.
This chapter analyzes precedents from state capitols, United States embassies, and international assembly buildings with unicameral legislatures. As the new state government will be organized as a unicameral legislature, there was a focus on studying buildings with a similar organization, in order to compare the spatial implications of bicameral and unicameral governments. Interpretation of this research ultimately helped inform the initial program and concept diagrams leading into development of the concept.
# State Capitols Comparison

## State House Comparison for States of Similar Population to the Douglass Commonwealth

The following states have populations of approximately one million residents. The proposed Douglass Commonwealth has approximately 750,000.

(*New 2020 Census is underway*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Capitol</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Style</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Juneau</td>
<td>96,000 SF</td>
<td>Rectangular - Non Purpose Built</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Dover</td>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>Tower - No Dome</td>
<td>Colonial Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Helena</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td>Dome on Rectangle</td>
<td>Neoclassical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Dakota</td>
<td>Bismark</td>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>Tower - No Dome</td>
<td>Art Deco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Dakota</td>
<td>Pierre</td>
<td>144,000</td>
<td>Dome on Rectangle</td>
<td>Renaissance Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Montpelier</td>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>Dome W * Temple</td>
<td>Greek Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Cheyenne</td>
<td>229,000</td>
<td>Dome on Rectangle</td>
<td>Renaissance Revival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1: U.S. State Capitol Style Comparison**

Reference: Facts obtained from NCSL.org and state government websites.

*Information not available*
## State Capitol Dome Facts

- 40 of 50 state capitol buildings have domes.
- Domes with Tholos: Delaware and Nevada.

## Domes by Material

- **Gold:** 10
- **Copper:** 9
- **Stone:** 7
- **Terra Cotta:** 2
- **Wood:** 1
- **Zinc:** 1

## State Capitol Dome Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Capitol</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Style</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Montpelier</td>
<td>135’</td>
<td>Copper on wood frame</td>
<td>Dome w / Temple</td>
<td>Greek Revival (based on Temple of Hephaestus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Cheyenne</td>
<td>146’ (Diam. 50’)</td>
<td>Copper gilded w/ Gold Leaf</td>
<td>Dome on Rectangle</td>
<td>Renaissance Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>Pierre</td>
<td>161’</td>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>Dome on Rectangle</td>
<td>Renaissance Revival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Helena</td>
<td>165’</td>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>Dome on Rectangle</td>
<td>Neoclassical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: U.S. State Capitol Dome Comparison

Reference: Facts obtained from NCSL.org and state government websites.
TABLE 3: U.S. STATE CAPITOL COMPARISON
**TABLE 4: INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS COMPARISON**

**Fig 1.** Contemporary US Embassies

**Fig 2.** New Zealand

**Fig 3.** Burkina Faso

**Fig 4.** Malta

**Fig 5.** Ethiopia

**Fig 6.** Norway

**Fig 7.** Israel

**Fig 8.** Taiwan

**Fig 9.** Algeria
This chapter contains a brief overview of D.C.’s planning history, demographics, and of the alternative site locations considered for the project. The project considered five alternative site locations, and were each analyzed at a preliminary level. Respect for existing planning guidelines were considered as well as the site’s relationship to underrepresented demographic groups in the city, as well as the opportunity to encourage connection the natural environment. Preference was also given to site locations that did not significantly contribute to gentrification through disruption of existing neighborhoods.
Fig. 1. L’Enfant, P. C. & United States Commissioner Of Public Buildings. (1791) Plan of the city intended for the permanent seat of the government of the United States
Fig. 1. Ellicott, A. & Thackara & Vallance. (1792) Plan of the city of Washington in the territory of Columbia

Note: Ellicott’s Earliest plans do not include Wards 7 and 8 on the opposite side of the Anacostia River or areas across the river in Virginia.
Fig. 1. Ellicott, A. (1792) Plan of the city of Washington in the territory of Columbia (color lithograph)

Note: Ellicott’s Earliest plans do not include Wards 7 and 8 on the opposite side of the Anacostia River or areas across the river in Virginia.
RETROCESSION
After originally ceding part of its land to the Federal Government in 1790, a portion of Virginia was returned from the District of Columbia in 1847. Though originally 100 SQ miles, the District is now roughly 68 SQ miles due to the portion of land returned to Virginia.

Fig. 1. Woodward, F. E. (1906) Chart showing the original boundary milestones of the District of Columbia.

MAP OF DC BOUNDARY MARKERS
Defined the area of 100 Square Miles and marked the symbology of 2 equilateral triangles in 2 directions at the Potomac River.

Fig. 2. Bradford, T. G. (1835) District of Columbia.

D.C. RETROCESSION MAP
The National Capitol Planning Commission released the Legacy Plan in 1997. The plan proposed to build on the L’Enfant Plan and the McMillan Plan and place the focus and center on the US Capitol as the City Center. This plan served as a visionary document with a goal of preventing over-development in the D.C. core. This vision is still guiding development in 2021. A Circulator Bus to provide better transportation circulation and access was initiated. New federal buildings have been used at key anchor locations to extend the core, and now the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative is underway with plans to connect various waterfront developments. Gateway projects at the 11th Street Bridge and others are also ongoing. Note: If a new State of Washington, D.C. Capitol is to be built, locating it along one of the identified core extensions could assist in achieving other Legacy Plan objectives.

"PRINCIPAL THEMES OF THE LEGACY PLAN" INCLUDE:

"BUILD ON THE HISTORIC L’ENFANT + MCMILLAN PLANS AS A FOUNDATION FOR MODERN WASHINGTON"

"UNIFY THE CITY AND MONUMENTAL CORE, WITH THE U.S. CAPITOL AT THE CENTER"

"USE NEW MEMORIALS AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

"INTEGRATE THE POTOMAC AND ANACOSTIA RIVERS INTO THE CITY'S PUBLIC LIFE AND PROTECT THE MALL, EAST AND WEST POTOMAC PARKS AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS FROM FUTURE DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF OPEN SPACE, NATURAL AREAS, AND HISTORIC RESOURCES"

"DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE, FLEXIBLE AND CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT ELIMINATES BARRIERS AND IMPROVES MOVEMENT WITHIN THE CITY"

SOURCE: https://www.ncpc.gov/plans/legacy/
5 Potential Capitol Sites were preliminarily reviewed for this proposal. The existing DC Mayor's Office and offices are located in the Wilson Building in Ward 2. It is unknown if the City and State government will be able to co-occupy this building.

Selected Analysis Sites:
- Meridian Hill: Ward 1
- Wilson Building: Ward 2
- Judiciary Square: Ward 3
- Reservation 13: Ward 6
- RFK: Ward 7

NOTE: Many other candidate sites should be considered when a final building & operation program is established.

Legend:
- #3 WARD NUMBER
- — WARD BOUNDARY
- —— QUADRANT BOUNDARY
- ★ Preferred CAPITAL SITE
- ★★★ Possible CAPITAL SITE


0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

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For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

LEGEND

- **Ward - 2012**

Demographic Group Layers

- Census Block Groups - 2010
- State of Washington DC - 2016
- L Enfant Plan Street Boundaries

1. **US CAPITOL**
2. **LINCOLN MEMORIAL**
3. **WHITE HOUSE** North - South axis + North of East West Quadrant line
4. **JEFFERSON MEMORIAL** North - South axis
5. **WASHINGTON MONUMENT** North - South axis * shifted to east
6. **LINCOLN MEMORIAL** East- WEST axis + South of East West Quadrant line
7. **RFK PROPOSED SITE** East West axis + South of East West Quadrant line


SITE SELECTION 40
CANDIDATE SITES + L'ENFANT PLAN + NCPC COMPARISON

Image: NCPC LEGACY PLAN
https://www.ncpc.gov/plans/legacy


ANALYSIS:
Proposed State Capitol Sites to be researched relative to representation and physical and location factors
SITES 1, 2, 3, 4, agree with the NCPC Legacy Plan Vision

LEGEND
★ Possible Capitol Sites
● Monuments
● Parks, National Mall

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SITE SELECTION
SITE 1: MERIDIAN HILL

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MAP ANALYSIS

LEGEND
- - -
1/2 mile radius

Site

ANALYSIS NOTES:
- MERIDIAN HILL IS A HISTORIC PARK 12 AC SITE LOCATED on the original DC longitudinal meridian established by Benjamin Banneker in 1791
- STATE CAPITOL ON THIS SITE WOULD UTILIZE THE APT. BUILDING AT THE NORTH PARK BOUNDARY
- VIEW-SHED IS BLOCKED BY OLDER APARTMENT BLDGS. AT SOUTH BOUNDARY
- METRO Available Columbia Heights Green and Yellow Line
- Parking and Topography issues High Point at EL 187” – 150’ above the Mall
- Neighborhood has a historic connection to Drum Circles, Duke Ellington, and more
- The existing park is owned by the National Park Service and is beautiful but a new state Capitol would require the probable demolition of existing buildings and or construction at top of the park. The grades and steps also limit accessibility
SITE 1: MERIDIAN HILL National Park

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OVERVIEW
According to the National Park Service the site is 12 acres and part of the 1754 acre Rock Creek Park. In 1819 John Porter built a mansion on Meridian Hill. The site was called Meridian Hill because it was located on the exact longitude of the original DC milestone marker, placed on April 15, 1791. In 1829, the mansion was inhabited by John Q. Adams after leaving office. Union troops also used the park during the Civil War. In 1910 The U.S. government purchased the grounds. Landscape architects George Burnap and Horace Peaslee planned an Italian style garden. The walls, fountains, walkways, and features made use of a concrete aggregate as a building material which remains in excellent condition today. The 13 basin fountain is the longest in America. Also located within the park is a Joan of Arc statue. It is identical to the statue at Reims Cathedral in France. Today the park is the site of an active drum circle performance group on the weekends.

LOCATION PROS:
16th St NW &, W St NW, Washington, DC 20009
A DC Capitol located on this high point and original N/S Meridian line of the District. Located north of and above the White House, could provide a commanding view of the White House and Washington Monument. This location could provide the added symbology of looking down over the Federal Government, giving recognition to the years of restricted representation. Metro access via Columbia Heights via Green and Yellow Lines exists but parking is already limited and additional demand would likely cause further congestion. The Columbia Heights metro is one of the busiest metro sites outside of the city core. A new building at this location would be required that could address appropriate symbology and representation issues during design.

LOCATION CONCERNS
Meridian Hill site is in Ward 1 and .7 miles to Columbia Heights Metro
This location must consider the existing use of this historic NPS park. This location is relatively confined and would require repurposing the existing buildings to the north or demolition of existing buildings above the park to create the probable program space but also preserve the park as designed. Additionally the residential buildings to the south which currently blocks the N/S meridian axis view should be removed. The site area is already congested with largely mid-rise apartment residential and light commercial uses. A new state capitol in this location would present access issues as well due to slopes and steps required to access the site. This could be a special location, but brings issues of construction & relocation.

Fig. 1. Blocked View looking South  Fig. 2. Meridian Hill
Fig. 3. Joan of Arc Statue  Fig. 4. Surrounding Residential Buildings
Fig. 5. Surrounding Residential Buildings, 16th St. NW
Fig. 6. Ward Map. 2016.  Fig. 7. Metro Map. 2020.
SITE 2: WILSON BUILDING

White House

WASHINGTON MONUMENT

NMAAHC

NMAH

NMNH

National Mall

15TH ST

14TH ST

12TH ST

EXISTING JOHN A WILSON BUILDING

VIEWS TO PERCHING PARK AND WHITE HOUSE

VIEWS TO FREEDOM PLAZA

PENNSYLVANIA AVE

MAP ANALYSIS

LEGEND

1/2 mile radius

Site

CONTEXT NOTES:
- EXISTING HISTORIC BUILDING HOUSING DC CITY HALL, MAYOR’S OFFICE AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SINCE 1908
- PENNSYLVANIA AVE ADDRESS
- PUBLIC ACCESS FOR PARKING AVAILABLE
- CENTRALLY LOCATED FOR CBD+FEDERAL TRIANGLE+CONGRESS+MONUMENT CORE
- BOUNDED BY FEDERAL TRIANGLE OFFICE BUILDINGS
- METRO ACCESS AVAILABLE at Federal Triangle 1/8th MI
- LOCATION ON PENNSYLVANIA AVE, FREEDOM PLAZA and ADJACENT TO THE MONUMENTAL CORE
- LOCATION 1/4 MI to SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS + NATIONAL MALL
- SHARED USE WITH CITY GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED – NEW EXPANSION OPTIONS LIMITED

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For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

SITE SELECTION
SITE 2: WILSON BUILDING

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OVERVIEW
The building was designed in the Beaux Arts classical revival style. It is located across from Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue. It was built from 1904-1908 and designed by the firm of Cope and Stewardson. The most recent renovation was designed by Shalom Baranes. The site is part of the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic District. Any changes to any building must conform to historic building guidelines.

LOCATION PROS: 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW | WARD 1

- Existing Historically Significant Building worthy of a State Capitol or City Hall assumes only slight alterations
- Important Pennsylvania Ave Address and alignment
- Metro within 1/8 mile accessing Orange, Silver and Green lines and walking or metro access to Metro Center
- Functions currently as a modernized public office and assembly space: the D.C. City Hall
- Proximate to DC City Business Center and to Federal Agencies
- The unknown programmatic requirements for D.C. statehood make the shared use of this building a question to be evaluated regarding a combined City and State House
- Combined location could save money if space is available

LOCATION CONS

- Federal District Location - issues of representation + access
- Limited Area for Expansion - Shared Use Assumed rather than adaptive reuse or relocation of some or all City offices
- Building Surrounded by Federal Triangle - separation image
- Reuse of Building assumes minor modifications in order to preserve existing historic structure and recent successful additions
- Existing Classical Symbology remains that should be explored as to symbology and representation for all D.C. residents

EXISTING SIZE

The Wilson Building is 278,000sf with 44,000sf of infill.

Fig. 1. WILSON BUILDING

Fig. 2. WILSON BUILDING

Fig. 3. Ward Map. 2016.

Fig. 4. Metro Map. 2020.

SITE SELECTION
PROPOSED SITE 3: JUDICIARY SQUARE

CONTEXT NOTES:
- SITE OF ORIGINAL 1822 DC CITY HALL
- JUDICIARY SQUARE SITE OF THE ‘BLUE JUG’ CITY JAIL IN EARLY 19TH CENTURY
- JAIL PRIMARILY HOUSED RUNAWAY SLAVES CAPTURED UNDER BLACK CODE LAWS
- CITY HALL FROM 1822-1908, THEN A SERIES OF LOCAL AND FEDERAL COURTS
- STATE CAPITOL SITE WOULD REUSE EXISTING BUILDINGS IF PROGRAM IS SMALL OR EXAND BUILDINGS VERTICALLY OR REQUIRE RELOCATION OF SOME COURT OFFICES OR LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM ELSEWHERE

MAP ANALYSIS

LEGEND

H.R. 51 PROPOSED BOUNDARY MAP

SITE SELECTION

ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America
PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION:
Judiciary Square is a collection of government buildings connected by squares and gardens located at Judiciary Square. Located in Ward 2, which is home to the CBD and Federal Triangle as well as the National Mall. It also includes the former Pension Building, now known as The Building Museum which is located on the site of the Blue Jug City Jail, which was infamous for holding enslaved people captured using the Black Code Laws. In addition to 4 court house buildings, One Judiciary Square is also located here which houses as many as 20 District government agencies and includes 875,000 SF.
A visual axis exists between the city hall and the National Mall. The Old City Hall was built between 1818-1849.

LOCATION PROS: Judicial Square: WARD 2
- The Judiciary Square Historic area contains DC’s first City Hall and is proximate to the CBD and the National Mall. It currently contains many City agencies which may be incorporated into the new State Government. A full analysis of existing uses versus needed state government space could better determine if existing buildings could be shared or repurposed.
- DC Courts exist in this location and would be adjacent and easily accessible to new state offices. The current functionality of this relationship of offices was not available for review for this limited overview analysis.
- Metro Access via Judiciary Square station on the red line with ease of access to all other lines
- 800 parking spaces between Reeves Center, One Judiciary and 1st and ES t.

LOCATION CONS
- Although a historic area with existing city offices and court buildings and metro access, the site has a history of slavery and oppression. This site as a new State Capitol to that includes everyone, should survey residents as to their perceptions of the place, its history, its classical architecture
- Historic District designation may exclude any new structures or constrain certain building modifications.
- Existing court and city and federal government uses do not include a mixture of uses and as a result this area can feel empty in off hours and does not encourage citizens to spend time here separating them from government. Museums have helped activate this area in off hours somewhat.
PROPOSED SITE 4: RESERVATION 13

CONTEXT NOTES:
- SITE OF Hospital slated for Demolition
- CURRENT PROPOSALS INCLUDE mixed Use development
- ACCESS to METRO AT RFK ARMORY STATION
- Possible frontage on Independence Ave and Massachusetts Ave *
- SUBSTANTIAL SITE WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE AUTOMOBILES AND PEDESTRIANS AND BIKES
- WARD & LOCATION WITH EXISTING BRIDGE CONNECTION TO FREEWAY SYSTEM
- MASS AVE requires a Road terminus roundabout or bridge
- TOPOGRAPHY is an issue as site falls toward the river and must address the adjacent floodplain and riverfront
- ACCESS to adjacent planned Anacostia Riverfront park

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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION

Located along the Massachusetts Avenue corridor extension Reservation 13 is a possible Statehouse site location. According to DCOP “The land area comprising Federal Reservation 13 was un-zoned, but it was recently transferred to the ownership of the District of Columbia, and is now subject to zoning. The HE District has been specially crafted to be mapped over what was Reservation 13 in order to create a reasonable, integrated zoning scheme for the area based on the concept of a form-based code." The plan below shows the proposed zoning subdistricts with proposed retail storefront locations shown .5 million gross sf of building area exists.

LOCATION PROS

- A mixed use residential and retail use with the addition of a new statehouse complex combined with existing metro station and surrounding residential makes this a possible statehouse location along the Massachusetts Avenue extension as proposed.
- Metro access at RFK Armory
- Site development area is flexible to the north of Massachusetts but should front water street or Independence Ave
- An Independence Ave Address location would be very appropriate.
- Proximity to the Riverfront would encourage access and restoration
- In agreement with the historic Ellicott Plan of 1792 Terminus of Georgia Ave SE + Massachusetts Avenues SE

LOCATION CONS

- There is no bridge currently at this location across the Anacostia. This requires use of the E Capitol Street bridge or a site location that takes advantage of both access points.
- The existing jail facility located if it is to remain here must not be opposite the statehouse entrance or alignment.
- Any statehouse should not front Massachusetts Avenue opposite the existing jail facility.
- An entrance adjacent to the private school on Independence Avenue would need to be setback or to address the residential scale of the existing school.
- Any Capitol Complex should incorporate underground parking to protect the environment and any displacement of existing residential should be replaced.
- Closest Metro is RFK Judiciary

Fig. 1. 1792 Ellicott Plan.

Fig. 2. Proposed Zoning Plan for Reservation 13 Base Map Source: District of Columbia Office of Planning. 2016.

Fig. 3. Metro Map. 2020.

Fig. 4. Ward Map. 2016.
PROPOSED SITE 5: E. CAPITOL ST/ RFK

For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

CONTEXT NOTES:
- Site of existing RFK Stadium will be demolished in 2021
- Current proposals include sports fields & buildings
- Access to Metro at RFK Armory Station
- Alignment on the L’Enfant / Ellicot / Banneker DC Latitudinal Meridian to US Capitol, completing the L’Enfant Plan Axis
- Substantial site which can accommodate automobiles and pedestrians and bikes
- Ward & location with existing bridge connection to freeways system
PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION
This site location is located in Ward 7 on the East West axis line of the US Capitol as well as the District of Columbia making it an especially significant location. Originally L’Enfant saw this axis as remaining open wilderness from where the new democratic republic could arise. However, as land was valuable, residential neighborhoods sprung up surrounding the new Capitol. People of color were separated on the eastern side of the River, inconsistent with the ideals discussed in the Founding documents. With time, an intentional desire to further repress these neighborhoods via additional barriers of freeways and RFK Stadium were placed directly in the path of the view to the East from the Capitol and also to block the view to the west from Anacostia residents.

LOCATION PROS
- DC Capitol in this location could act as the Eastern Gateway to the City rather than a barrier to entry
- East West Axis Design could Reinforce axis to US Capitol,+ the significance of statehood and voter rights
- Opening views could create a new opportunity to engage Ward’s 7 & 8 residents
- Large Site in need of improvement
- Demolition of Stadium scheduled for 2021
- Connection to adjacent Anacostia Park proposals
- Accessible to residents previously disenfranchised and still located with ease of access to freeways, metro, bridges, and federal district
- Approximately 2 miles from US Capitol and Union Station
- Bridge could be improved as a gateway to City from both sides

LOCATION CONS
- Current Master Plan proposals call for a Sports complex to be located on this site as per the lease of DC EVENTS
- Ownership of Land would require negotiation or transfer from NPS/ to the New Douglass Commonwealth
- The elevation of the development of the property should be held considered to avoid flood surge and floodplain issues
- New building construction cost

Fig. 1. Aerial view looking East.
Fig. 2. Entry to Whitney Young Bridge
Fig. 3. View looking West from Whitney Young Bridge
Fig. 4. Metro Map.
2020.
Fig. 5. Ward Map.
2016.

ONE for ALL I A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America
## CONTEXT SITE SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITES</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>AERIAL</th>
<th>SITE ENTRY VIEW</th>
<th>STREET VIEW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meridian Hill</td>
<td>2601 16th St</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Aerial View" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Site Entry View" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Street View" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson Bldg</td>
<td>1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Aerial View" /></td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Site Entry View" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Street View" /></td>
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<td>Judiciary Square</td>
<td>E St &amp; 5th</td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Aerial View" /></td>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Site Entry View" /></td>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Street View" /></td>
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<td>RFK</td>
<td>East Capitol St</td>
<td><img src="image10.png" alt="Aerial View" /></td>
<td><img src="image11.png" alt="Site Entry View" /></td>
<td><img src="image12.png" alt="Street View" /></td>
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<td>Massachusetts Ave SE</td>
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<td><img src="image14.png" alt="Site Entry View" /></td>
<td><img src="image15.png" alt="Street View" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Capitol View Plaza</td>
<td>East Capitol St</td>
<td><img src="image16.png" alt="Aerial View" /></td>
<td><img src="image17.png" alt="Site Entry View" /></td>
<td><img src="image18.png" alt="Street View" /></td>
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</table>


**TABLE 3: SITE SELECTION VISUAL COMPARISON**
### SITE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITES</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Diagram</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Site Area</th>
<th>Metro Station</th>
<th>Site Condition</th>
<th>Existing Use</th>
<th>Proximity to Residential Population</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meridian Hill</td>
<td>2601 16th St</td>
<td>WARD 1</td>
<td>1.31 Ac</td>
<td>Columbia Heights + U Street Green and Yellow Lines</td>
<td>Apt. Bldg overlooking Existing Park</td>
<td>Apartment Building</td>
<td>Residential Ward 1 + 3</td>
<td>NPS*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Bldg</td>
<td>1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW</td>
<td>WARD 2*</td>
<td>1.62 Ac</td>
<td>Federal Triangle Blue Orange, Silver</td>
<td>Existing Building requires modification or demolition</td>
<td>Existing Mayor’s Office, Legislative Chambers</td>
<td>DC Mayor + Council, CBD + Fed Gov</td>
<td>Federal District ownership -</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Judiciary Square</td>
<td>E St &amp; 5th</td>
<td>WARD 2</td>
<td>7.18 Ac</td>
<td>Judiciary Square Blue Orange, Silver</td>
<td>Existing Building requires modification</td>
<td>DC Court of Appeals</td>
<td>DC Offices, Courts, CBD + Fed Gov</td>
<td>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFK</td>
<td>East Capitol St</td>
<td>WARD 7</td>
<td>25.1 Ac*</td>
<td>Stadium–Armory Blue Orange Silver</td>
<td>Existing Stadium to be demolished in 2022</td>
<td>Stadium</td>
<td>Residential Ward 6, 7, 8 + Anacastia</td>
<td>NPS* and EVENTS DC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservation 13</td>
<td>Massachusetts Ave SE</td>
<td>WARD 6</td>
<td>7.48 ** / 60 total acres</td>
<td>Stadium–Armory Blue Orange Silver Lines</td>
<td>Existing Buildings to be Demolished</td>
<td>DC Jail, DC General Shelter</td>
<td>Residential Ward 6, 7, 8 + Anacastia</td>
<td>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol View Plaza</td>
<td>East Capitol St</td>
<td>WARD 7</td>
<td>7.56 Ac</td>
<td>Capitol Heights Blue Line</td>
<td>Empty Lot</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Residential Ward 7, 8</td>
<td>NPS*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| UNSPECIFIED | WARD 8 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |

**TABLE 4: SITE SELECTION FACTOR COMPARISON**

* Approx. measurement does not include surrounding park system

** Approx. measurement assumes terminus of Mass. Ave SE as the building site within the larger Res. 13 area
EAST WEST AXIS TO LINCOLN & CAPITOL

Fig 1.

ARLINGTON CEMETERY GATEWAY

Fig 2.

MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Fig 3.

Lincoln Memorial Gateway
from VA, MD and Arlington Cemetery
Memorial commemorates the consequences of war
and the importance of Liberty and Peace

Fig 4.

Fig 5.

Fig 6.

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SITE SELECTION
COMPARATIVE EASTERN GATEWAY ANALYSIS: WHITNEY YOUNG BRIDGE

WHITNEY YOUNG BRIDGE in 2019

Linking the Eastern Ward 7 & 8 to the Federal District in line with the E. Capitol Street and the US Capitol. The view of the Capitol is blocked from the East by RFK Stadium – now scheduled for removal in 2021 and subsequent redevelopment by Events DC.

NOTES: The Whitney Young of E. Capitol Street Bridge is the Gateway into the Federal District at the opposite end of the Mall and Lincoln Memorial. After the construction of the stadium L’Enfant’s vision of the City view to Nature was lost. Due to the stadium’s location the Anacostia River was also blocked as was the view to and from the people of Anacostia.
CAPITOL SIGHT LINES FROM EAST ON E. CAPITOL STREET

Some Capitol Heights Neighborhoods to the East of the Anacostia River have views of the U.S. Capitol Dome. The existing stadium and the I295 Freeway however block these views along the riverfront. This sightline blockage become total on E Capitol Street at the underpass and on the bridge as shown to the left. Opening this view would increase the perception of inclusion into the city and state.
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For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

Office of Planning ~ September 27, 2016
Government of the District of Columbia
This map was created for planning purposes from a variety of sources. It is neither a survey nor a legal document. Information provided by other agencies should be verified with them where appropriate.

MAP of
NCPC | CAPITOL HILL EAST | Planning District


SITE SELECTION

57
The RFK site fronts the Anacostia River and riverfront parks managed by the National Park Service with various agreements with DC Government. The existing site is occupied by a stadium scheduled for demolition and empty parking lots. The Metro station and line alignments as shown intersect the site. Residential zoning of RF1 occurs to the East and North of the site.

**RFK SITE - MU11**
National Park Service property. Stadium and fields leased and managed by DC Events.

**ANACOSTIA RIVERFRONT PARK** Adjacent property owned by Federal Government - National Park Service.

**RESERVATION 13**
Adjacent site 4.

---

RFK Zoning Map with Metro Alignment

Retrieved from: planning.dc.gov
**Fig. 1.** View looking West toward bridge and US Capitol

The view of the U.S. Capitol appears and disappears along the eastern axis, aligned with East Capitol Street due to changing elevations and bridge and stadium obstructions. Views of the Capitol can be seen at the intersecting street elevations at 41St SE, and 51St SE, 52nd St SE The Capitol cannot be seen from the eastern most point of the DC boundary. View perspective causes the Washington Monument to appear shifted south of the Capitol Dome.
**Fig. 1.** View looking West from bridge.

NOTES: W. YOUNG BRIDGE EL 26’ : NO VIEW OF US CAPITOL DOME BUT RFK SITE IS CENTERED ON BRIDGE VIEW to WEST
SITE 5 RFK VIEW ANALYSIS

Fig. 1. View looking North
SITE 5 RFK VIEW ANALYS

VIEW TO WEST

EAST

SOUTH

NORTH

IMAGE CREDITS: MC DUNLAP, 2020

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For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

SITE SELECTION 62
SITE FLOODPLAIN ANALYSIS

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

FLOOD PLAIN

Floodplain Management and Flooding protection from climate change and storm surge are a serious issue for the entirety of D.C. Factors not only include topography, proximity to riverfront, storm surge, fill, underground stream and water table, and storm sewer capacity to contend with excessive rainfall events.

SITE 5 The entrance to Site 5 is EL 55 which places it above and outside the floodplain. The lower north and south parking lots outside of the existing stadium are within the 100 year floodplain. Building in these zones would require topographic mitigation. The stadium itself as presently graded is protected by a dike created by the existing roads surrounding it. The present field elevation of approximately 10 feet could make this site vulnerable if roads and bridge grading were changed. Building above the 500' flood plain elevation or using dredge and fill to address the River sedimentation build up and resultant flooding impacts or compensating construction measures must be evaluated for any new building. Further analysis information was not available at the time of this review but is required.

LEGEND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>EL</th>
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<tr>
<td>SITE 1</td>
<td>MERIDIAN HILL</td>
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<tr>
<td>SITE 2</td>
<td>WILSON BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE 3</td>
<td>JUDICIARY SQUARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE 4</td>
<td>RESERVATION 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE 5</td>
<td>RFK/ E. CAPITOL ST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At a 12-13’ Flood Surge event the Anacostia River at its current depth would flood its banks and inundate the lower parking lots located at elevation 10-20’. The bottom of the stadium site is EL 10’ but does not show flooding. East Capitol Street at the west entrance is at an elevation of 50-60’.

**Fig. 1.** National Flood Hazard Layer (2020). FEMA. District of Columbia 110001.
The 2003 Anacostia Framework Plan shows the importance of the RFK Site as a connection between the Maine Avenue and M Street corridors linking to the National Arboretum. The plan called for a natural riparian edge including a gravel pedestrian path and a multipurpose paved trail within and a 20’ park road and an 8’ wide parking lane set outside the buffer. Without any additional topographic adjustment it is expected these areas would occur within the 100’ floodplain. To reduce the possible intrusion by cars and environmental impact of surface parking, a parking area should be located at RFK with street access above.

Fig. 1. Anacostia Framework Plan. 2003. DCOP.

A Riparian edge and Pedestrian + Bike path along the waterfront is illustrated which could bring residents to and from the proposed D.C. Capitol site.

Fig. 4. Anacostia Framework Plan. 2003. DCOP.

A Riparian edge and Pedestrian + Bike path along the waterfront could be separated from car traffic if parking were designed into the RFK redevelopment in public garages. Rock Creek Parkway is an example of an excess of cars along the waterfront which makes pedestrian and recreation use undesirable.
This chapter summarizes program information and diagrams developed by analyzing existing D.C. government buildings, state capitols, and international government assemblies. Because detailed program information was not available for use from the D.C. government, final program decisions were based on comparable precedents drawn from states with similar characteristics such as population.
OLD DC CITY HALL JUDICIARY SQUARE

BUILT: 1820
DESIGNED BY: GEORGE HADFIELD AND ROBERT MILLS
STYLE: GREEK REVIVAL
OLD DC CITY HALL JUDICIARY SQUARE

PRIMARY SPACES/USES: OLD CITY HALL (UNTIL 1908), D.C. COURT OF APPEALS, SUPREME COURT OF DC, LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM

YEAR BUILT: 1820 (RENOVATED 1999 BY BEYER BLINDER BELLE)

STYLE: GREEK REVIVAL

TOTAL SF: UNKNOWN

CURRENT USE: COURTHOUSE FOR DC COURT OF APPEALS
EXISTING CITY HALL  JOHN A WILSON BUILDING

PRIMARY SPACES/USES: MAYOR’S OFFICE, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, COMMISSIONER’S OFFICES

YEAR BUILT: 1908

RENOVATION: 2003. SHALOM BARANES ARCHITECTS.

TOTAL SF: 278,000 SF (44,000 SF ADDITION)

OWNED BY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LOCATION: WARD 1
PRIMARY SPACES/USES: MUNICIPAL BUILDING, DC CENTER, POST OFFICE, FARMER’S MKT, and GO GO CLUB
YEAR BUILT: 1986  ARCHITECT: PAUL DEVROUAX
TOTAL SF: 260,000 SF
OPERATED BY: DGS
NOTE: SLATED FOR DEMOLITION or REDEVELOPMENT
OWNED BY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC HENRY DALY BUILDING

LOCATION: JUDICIARY SQUARE
PRIMARY SPACES/USES: ORIGINAL MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY OFFICES, POLICE DEPARTMENT. CURRENTLY CSOSA AND DEP OF CORRECTIONS
YEAR BUILT: 1936  ARCHITECT: NATHAN WYETH
TOTAL SF: 600,000 SF
OPERATED BY: DGS
NOTE: SLATED FOR REDEVELOPMENT IN 2020
OWNED BY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
The DCOP shows the location of DC Government office space. It was not possible to determine at the time of this project which locations were in owned space versus leased space or the square footage of space in each location or if the spaces identified were sufficient to perform current functions. Information could not be obtained as to the potential of dual purpose functions of the existing agencies versus the needs for new state agencies. This program research and assignment may be underway but was not readily available for analysis or incorporation into this document.

DIAGRAM: Footprint comparison of existing buildings shown inside RFK footprint
## PROGRAM RESEARCH

### EXISTING MAYORAL AGENCIES IN THE WILSON BUILDING (23)

**AGENCIES CURRENTLY LOCATED IN THE WILSON BUILDING: 23**  
**NUMBER OF MAYORAL AGENCIES: 21**  
**NUMBER OF NON MAYORAL AGENCIES: 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Name</th>
<th>Branch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of Federal and Regional Affairs</td>
<td>Mayoral Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs</td>
<td>Mayoral Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Religious Affairs</td>
<td>Mayoral Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Secretary</td>
<td>Mayoral Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Senior Advisor</td>
<td>Mayoral Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office on Women’s Policy and Initiatives</td>
<td>Mayoral Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statehood Initiatives Agency</td>
<td>Non-Mayoral Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor’s Office of Legal Counsel</td>
<td>Mayoral Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor’s Office on Fathers, Men, and Boys</td>
<td>Mayoral Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments</td>
<td>Mayoral Agency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Office of the Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infra
tructure | Mayoral Agency              |
| Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services | Mayoral Agency              |
| Mayor's Office on African American Affairs          | Mayoral Agency              |
| Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture             | Mayoral Agency              |
| Mayor’s Office of the Clean City                    | Mayoral Agency              |
| Council of the District of Columbia                 | Non-Mayoral Agency          |
| Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education            | Mayoral Agency              |
| Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services | Mayoral Agency       |
| Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development | Mayoral Agency |
| Office of Community Affairs                         | Mayoral Agency              |
| Office of the City Administrator                    | Mayoral Agency              |
| Office of the Chief Financial Officer               | Mayoral Agency              |

**NOTES:** This is a list of existing agencies found on DC OPEN DATA in 2020. Due to current events it is not possible to confirm if this list is complete. It was also not possible to confirm the size of these agencies or what agencies would be migrated to state level offices.
### PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OF USES | STATE GOVERNMENT

- Based on existing uses from Wilson Building
- Interpolated uses based on Wyoming State Capitol (comparable population and # of representatives)
- **Based on 1/2 avg square footages for comparable bicameral legislatures
- Possible allowable SF for new building: 1.25 million SF (@ width of 555' w/ 100' void)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USE</th>
<th>BASELINE SF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNOR</td>
<td>3095</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATTORNEY GENERAL</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUDITOR</td>
<td>7623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECRETARY OF STATE</td>
<td>8316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREASURER</td>
<td>4061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMON SPACE</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICAMERAL ASSEMBLY*</td>
<td>12500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSEMBLY SUPPORT SPACE</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITTEE CHAIR OFFICES</td>
<td>2816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITTEE SUPPORT</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAFF OFFICE</td>
<td>1013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORAGE AND BATHROOMS</td>
<td>658**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGISLATURE CHAMBER</td>
<td>6500 (MIN. 6' SF x 21 SEATS = 126 SF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE</td>
<td>1786</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION</td>
<td>3499</td>
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<td>BUDGET AND FISCAL SECTION</td>
<td>1094</td>
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<td>SCHOOL FINANCE SECTION</td>
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Number of representatives in Douglass Commonwealth House of Delegates = 21
Wyoming Legislature = 30

86,837 Min. Office and Support Space
DISTRIBUTION OF USES: WYOMING STATE CAPITOL
TOTAL SF: 229,000
ASSIGNABLE NET SF: 173,000

DISTRIBUTION OF USES: VERMONT STATE CAPITOL
TOTAL SF: ABOUT 100,000

- > 15,000 SF: legislative chambers and support offices
- > 10,000 SF: governor
- > 5,000 SF: elected officials
- > 2,000 SF: common space
- > 1,000 SF: mechanical + storage

HOUSE

SENATE

SENATE

HOUSE

For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM USE DIAGRAMS COMPARE BY STATE

CLASSIC STATE CAPITOL ADJACENCIES:

- WYOMING
  - SENATE
  - HOUSE

- VERMONT
  - HOUSE
  - SENATE

PROPOSED SPATIAL DIAGRAM DOUGLASS COMMONWEALTH:

- UNICAMERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
  - COMMON SPACE AND EDUCATIONAL USE
  - PUBLIC (COMMON) LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
  - GOVERNOR AND ELECTED OFFICIALS COMBINED SPACE
  - AGENCIES
  - LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT
  - MECHANICAL

ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT 77
PROGRAM CONCEPT:
What should a new state house be? What features and focuses should it have?

A mixture of uses within a new state capitol could increase use of the building, it could increase access by the citizens and residents, it could provide additional services at a central location and it could encourage dialog and visibility between government leaders, representatives, business leaders and the people they serve and represent.

**PROGRAM PROPOSED ELEMENTS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**
A new state house should be a model of sustainability and educate residents about sustainability, resiliency, environmental protection and climate change.

**HEALTH**
Encourage public health by providing access and connectivity to parks, trails, local businesses, and farm to table food via a centrally located farmer’s market.

**ADVOCACY + EDUCATION**
This is the people’s house, not just for lawmakers. There is a focus on public education, encouraging all to come and learn about civil rights, laws, decision making, the role of government.

**EQUALITY**
Through design provide a transparent building of mixed uses that represents all cultures equally and provides equal access to all.

**SCIENCE**
Teach and inspire about science and technology and innovation. A planetarium and observatory with a museum can provide education on astronomy and DC planning related to the stars and the history of navigation.

**FOOD + ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**
The people’s house is a place where all can gather, interact, enjoy and use spaces that inspire and spark creativity.

**CULTURE + EDUCATION**
The state house can help to preserve cultural heritage through a new city museum, as well as providing public art icons that reflect diverse backgrounds and authentic origin stories of all.
PROGRAM PLANNING: Proposed Land Use Concept

Create a U.S. Capitol and State Capitol Garden District with the focus on a new Statehouse and Gateway Park encompassing underground parking with public access to a mixture of uses and the Anacostia Waterfront and Park. A new bridge design could provide public transportation access directly to the capitol grounds.
This chapter encompasses concept diagrams and iterations that develop a new set of symbols for the proposed state capitol, tying traditional symbology together with symbols essential to D.C. culture. Alignments and geometry of the L’Enfant plan were also analyzed in relationship to the RFK/East Capitol Street site, linking the symbology within the building form to the symbology within the urban fabric.
Symbology
FORM in THEORY

The Government of the People
The Laws and Justice
Cycle of Time

Eye of Providence watches over the People and its Government within the Universe
Eye forms the Equilateral Triangle

Sunrise
Of Hope, Rebirth, People of Light, of Innovation, Industry and Possibility

North
Guiding compass, direction freedom pole star and cosmos

West

THE NATION

Eye

THE STATE

East

THE PEOPLE

Versus

Versus

Versus

ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT
Symbology
FORM in THEORY

ABODE SANTANN
Eye of Providence

MEDICINE WHEEL
4 Directions, Healing, Wayfinding

CONGA DRUM
Music, gathering, community

RAISED ARMS AND
Voices demand to be heard, lifting each other up

SHIP
Journeys, migration, the link between past and future

ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT
Eye of Providence
Historic symbol for many cultures
For thousands of years

Vesica Piscis
Two circles of equal diameter constructed so that the center of one is the perimeter of the other. The almond-shaped vesica piscis represents the union of the two and forms an equilateral triangle within. Also used as a Venn diagram to symbolize the intersection of two subjects to assess the common elements between the two.

Assembly Diagram
Circle divided into 8 sections to represent number of DC wards.

DESIGN CONCEPT METAPHOR:
UNITY & EQUALITY

Ark, Boat, Compass
Needle, Eye, Shield,
Fish, Female, Birth,
Rebirth

Drum, Drum
Circle
Assembly, Discussion,
Celebration, Unity

Wheel, Time,
Astrology, Cycle

Four Directions,
Compass

Circumpunct, Unity,
Universe, Man, Fire
Circle

Sun, Moon,
Universe, Earth

ONE for ALL A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington. Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT
Plan Geometry - showing the axis and eye in plan, with east alignment.

The geometry of 2 EQUAL Circles overlapping at the RFK SITE forms 2 equilateral triangles and the eye symbol. When aligned on the axis of the Capitol and the Mall on the historic L’Enfant + Ellicott + Banneker Plans, the alignment places the equal triangles to the north and south of the East West DC altitudinal meridian.

Circle centers on the 2 triangles formed illustrating awareness
One circle is formed by encircling the “Eye” and the 2 balanced triangles
The one circle represents unification of opposites and the metaphor for the Unicameral Assembly
Unity of north and south, east and west, past and present, the heavens with the earth, into one “As above so as below”
Opening to the East symbolizes the Hope and Rebirth of Freedom and Equality
FORM in REPRESENTATION

BOAT

DC HISTORY
The Pearl was a schooner that in 1848 attempted to transport 63 adult slaves and their children from DC to freedom in New Jersey. Although the attempt was unsuccessful it contributed to eliminating slavery in D.C.

NATIVE AMERICAN
The canoe were the most common type of traditional boat used in North America but there were many different types. Reed boats were used in South America as well as reed sail boats. Skin boats were called Kayaks.

ANCIENT EGYPT + GREECE
The boat symbolized a vehicle that enabled the sun's journey across the sky into darkness but returned with each sunrise. Greek mythology portrays Prometheus as an ark builder.

CHRISTIANITY
The boat has symbolized the church on a mission to rescue souls and transport them to salvation. It is also tied to the Biblical Noah’s ark story. The ark has been portrayed both as a boat and as a pyramid, and is often symbolized in ancient mosaics and drawings with the Sea of Galilee boat.

MIDDLE EAST
In the ancient story of Gilgamesh, Utnapishtim also uses an ark to survive a great flood. Like Noah, he saves mankind and all species of creatures. In another form, the ‘dhow’ was a ship of trade used by the Swahili and written about in the 1001 Arabian Nights. The dhow transported giraffes and pearls to China, and are still in use today.
FORM in REPRESENTATION

MEDICINE WHEEL

MEDICINE WHEEL
Many Native American tribes use the medicine wheel for healing. The wheel represents the cycles of life, illustrating the Four Directions, including Father Sky, Mother Earth, and Spirit Tree. The Medicine Wheel can be represented in artwork or can be physically constructed. Tribes have created thousands of Medicine Wheels through time. Movement within the wheel is typically in a clockwise direction, symbolizing the rising and setting of the sun.

MEDICINE WHEEL CIRCLE
The enclosing circle around the medicine wheel symbolized the boundary of Earth and is also called the Sacred Hoop. The circle represents life and death, the form of the community home, the shape of sun and moon, and the form of the drum. The circle is therefore an essential Native American symbol.

INTERSECTING LINES
The bisecting lines through the medicine wheel symbolize the sacred path of sun and man, while the intersection of the line marks Earth’s center.

THE FEATHER
The eagle feather, within the circle, is a sign of the power of Wakhan Thanka—the Great Spirit. If someone is given a Medicine Wheel with an eagle feather, this represents an important accomplishment.
THE NORTH STAR AND SLAVERY
In the oral tradition of African Americans, the North Star was a beacon of freedom and key tool for navigation. Enslaved peoples escaping North could count on finding the North star by first finding the Big Dipper. The Big Dipper portrays a drinking gourd, and the North Star can be located by making a line five times the length from the Dipper’s farthest star.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
This is not only an important part of American history but it is also a part of DC history. This map shows locations within the DC area where events of the Underground Railroad took place.

NORTH STAR IN AFRICAN SYMBOLIC
The Akan proverb “Kyekte pe aware” meaning the Moon and the Star represents the belief that the North Star (female) is married to the Moon. The North Star also signifies love, faithfulness, and harmony.
ORIGIN OF THE DRUM
Drums originated as early as 6000BC in Mesopotamia. Wall marking and excavations have uncovered drums in Peru and North America, and ancient cultures all of the world have used drums made from gourds and wood in ceremonies and celebrations.

DRUM CIRCLE
According to Google Definitions, “The drum circle offers equality because there is no head or tail. It includes people of all ages. The main objective is to share rhythm and get in tune with each other and themselves. To form a group consciousness. “

DRUM CIRCLE IN DC
According to Uncommon DC, Meridian Hill Drum Circle started in the 1960’s as a symbol of black liberation and African heritage. When Malcom X was assassinated a group of drummers gathered at Meridian Park and has become known as the Malcolm X Drum Circle. Many types of drums and types of music can be listened to at the park on Sundays.

DRUMMING + RHYTHM
Drumming connects the rhythm of man with the flow of life through touch with the drum and hearing the beat. ‘Rhythm’, is originally a Greek word meaning “to flow”. This is a process that has been linked to psychological benefits, and is a physical process of gathering together as a community.

TYPES OF DRUMS: THE CONGA DRUM
Drums like these migrated from Africa to Cuba to New Orleans and their rhythms fused with immigrant populations from Spain, France and Africa and were popularized at Congo Square in New Orleans. In the 1990s, the conga drum, as the primary instrument in GoGo music, was banned by the DC government because of links between GoGo performances and rising crime. However, the conga drum was allowed to be played again in the 2000s, and GoGo is now the official music genre of the District of Columbia as of 2019.
Go Go music is Afro Cuban music that brings together the French, Spanish, African, and American rhythms, notes, lyrics, instruments and dance. The conga drum is the primary instrument within GoGo music, with the percussion creating a rhythmic center for the music. Symbolically, drums call throughout time for human to come together in assembly, to celebrate, to make decisions, and to unify. Therefore, the drum is an essential element to be included within a design proposal for the State Capitol.

**FORM: INTERSECTING DRUMS AS ‘VESICA PISCIS’**

Two circles of the same radius intersect so that the center of each lies on the circumference of the other forms the *vesica piscis*. The width of the *vesica piscis* is the radius of the circle of each and forms 2 equilateral triangles. This is a metaphor for 2 separate groups coming together to make the pocket of equality. The drums in the drum circle call everyone to come together and the rhythm creates the pocket for the creation of coming together to form new solutions.

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*Fig. 1. (Base image): D.C. GoGo musicians by Thomas Seyers Ellis. Smithsonian Institution.*

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"I am old and need to remember you are young and need to learn if I forget the words will you remember the music i hear a drum speaking of a stream the path is crossing the stream the stream is crossing the path which came first the drums ask the music is with the river if we meet does it matter that i took the step toward you the words ask are you fertile the music says let’s dance i am old and need to remember you are young and want to learn let’s dance together let’s dance together let’s dance together"

*Swaziland, Nikki Giovanni*
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT
The existing Whitney Young Bridge (Fig 1), though a prominent gateway along the East-West axis of Washington, is not given the same triumphant and important design language as other bridges, such as the Arlington Memorial Bridge (Fig 2). A new concept would seek to unify both sides of the Anacostia River, and honor an important gateway to the new State Capitol site, utilizing symbology and design elements from cultural groups that have been historically erased or segregated within the urban fabric.

"The American people have this to learn: that where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob, and degrade them, neither person nor property is safe." - Frederick Douglass
A NEW SET OF SYMBOLS:
A new concept for the design of Whitney Young Memorial Bridge would not only strengthen the connection across the Anacostia River, but provide a celebrating gateway to the new State Capitol. Part of this design includes a new set of symbols, celebrating and honoring groups that have been historically oppressed within the District of Columbia. The Anacostia River is especially symbolic within the city’s Native American and African American cultures. In contrast to the city’s western gateways, this concept would include symbology significant to these particular groups.

Concept Collage: Whitney Young “Bridge of Humanity”

- Ladder
- DNA
- Basket
- Slave Ship

IMAGE CREDITS: All images used as symbols or collage elements on this page are in the Public Domain. Base Map: ArcGIS Pro
CONCEPT GOALS:
Align proposed DC State Capitol with the United States Capitol along the East West axis while opening view to U.S. Capitol dome from the Whitney Young Bridge and Anacostia.

This opening will provide a symbolic and visual message that the 51st state is a capital for all.

NOTE:
Capitol Dome is 288' tall and 96' Diameter
The U.S. Capitol is 10,186' away from the present entrance to RFK at EL 50
The base elevation of the US Capitol is 80' - Source USGS

- 555'
  WASHINGTON MONUMENT
  55' WIDTH
  Base EL 30'

- 376'
  ABOVE THE POTOMAC
  TOP OF CAPITOL
  DOME INCLUDING THE STATUE OF FREEDOM
  DOME IS 199' from dome skirt to statue

- EL 180'
  130' - Max bldg height above E Cap St * tbc

- EL 130' (80' Building Height above E Capitol)

- EL 80' Base EL *
  88' of US Capitol

- EL 50' E Cap St
  EL 30' Base of W MON
  EL 25' BRIDGE
  EL 10' FIELD
  EL 0' WL
ALTERNATE CONCEPTS
The images shown are sketches, diagrams and plans for various concept alternatives for the RFK, East Capitol Street site exploring symbology within existing site parameters and zoning requirements.
This chapter provides completed diagrams, drawings, and renderings. After selecting the RFK Stadium/East Capitol Street site as the preferred project location, city history, planning history, site context, and symbology of underrepresented groups informed the final design solution, diverging from the precedent architecture found throughout the architecture of existing state capitol. Precedent research also informed a mixed-use program that encourages assembly, engagement, and collaboration within the state capitol.
SITE CONTEXT: ZONING PLAN

The existing RFK site is un-zoned, according to the DCOZ 2020 Summary Zoning Map for Ward 7. The current RFK stadium site is in decline and scheduled for demolition in 2022. It has been defined by the DCOP as a Capitol Hill Policy Focus Area. The RFK site is on the edge of western edge of Ward 7 but also on the eastern edge of Ward 6. As can be seen below the site is bounded by the Anacostia River and property controlled by the National Park Service but leased by DC Events for recreational uses. The areas immediately surrounded by the stadium are within the Anacostia floodplain. Immediately to the south of the stadium site is the National Guard Armory. Given the history of DC, if a state capitol were to be located on the previous stadium site then it would be recommended that the armory be either screened or, ideally, relocated.

The RFK Stadium site located on E. Capitol Street, approximately 2 miles East of the U.S. Capitol is aligned with L'Enfant's and Ellicott's Plans for Washington, D.C. This is the alignment of the "Grand Avenue" or the mall in L'Enfant’s description. It is also seen as the path of the ecliptic. The 10 mile square of the City (or future state), however is centered on Constitution Avenue as the “sacred road of the ecliptic.”
**SUN PATH: ORIENTATION DIAGRAM**

RFK LOCATION: 38.8899° N, 76.9719° W

**DESCRIPTION**

At June 21st AM the Sun will hit the Assembly Floor.

The sun will then rise up the building to arrive at the Plaza level at 8 am.

- **June 21**: Summer Solstice
- **May 21 + July 21**: Spring Equinox
- **April + August 21**: Spring Equinox
- **March 21 + September 21**: Summer Solstice
- **Feb + October 21**: Summer Solstice
- **Jan + November 21**: Winter Solstice
- **Dec 21**: Winter Solstice

The Project Azimuth = 90 degrees Due East

The Project Altitude: Altitude of the Anacostia River is +0 Degrees, however the Eastern bank rises quickly to +10 = 50 to +100 and more along E Capitol Street to the East. The RFK site at ELE 35+ and above clears the sightline on the bridge and allows for 2000’ of unobstructed views along the bridge alignment of clear horizon until the topography begins to rise dramatically. The sightline is more predictable the higher in elevation that the viewer is positioned. The Altitude of the Plaza EL 65 + eye = +70. The lower +35 elevation is the proposed Assembly chamber and the water garden will be protected from the noise of the bridge and distant freeway but given the proposed water wall would still receive the sun at Elevation +65 along the ecliptic.
SITE SUSTAINABILITY: ADAPTIVE SITE REUSE
USING DEVELOPMENT FOR RIVER RESTORATION

In the 18th century, The Anacostia River was a navigable river as far as Bladensburg, Maryland. Through the years, erosion, illegal sanctioned dumping of raw sewage, and runoff of other waste products has resulted in loss of wildlife and water quality as well as increased flooding due to a reduction of water storage capacity and increased hard surfaces that flow, or are channeled, into the river. If feasible, this site could provide a repository for dredge material from the river which would improve storage capacity, reducing flooding, increase navigation opportunities, improve wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation opportunities. The dredged material would need to be tested for contaminants, dried, evaporated, and removed before it could be layered in lifts to raise the overall site elevation. The recreation area and building footprint could be raised substantially by 10-20 feet in order to account for flooding and storm surge levels.
SITE: PROPOSED ADAPTIVE REUSE USING DEVELOPMENT FOR RIVER RESTORATION

Commensurate with planning recommendations by DCOP, NCPC, Anacostia Waterfront Plan, a new Capitol at the former RFK site could further support the goals of restoring the Anacostia River’s ecosystem. The existing building site within the Whitney Young Bridge and adding ring road formed by Independence Avenue to the South and C Street to the north form a protective barrier to the stadium site but the lower elevations are vulnerable to a bathtub effect and an opportunity for possible river dredging activities prior to development.

• FLOOD MITIGATION
According to the Flood Surge maps the lower existing parking lots and areas below 20 feet in elevation fall within the 100 year flood plain. The surrounding roads around the stadium acts as a flood dike today. A new capitol building could use pile construction as well as topographic manipulation to raise the base finished floor well above the 500 year floodplain.

• LIVING SHORELINE
A living riparian wetland edge could be used for some or all of the riverfront edge of the proposed Capitol site. A limited use of hard edge as needed to accommodate boating activities, or recreation should be considered.

• GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
Rainwater capture and storage opportunities are envisioned for the proposed statehouse at this location. Sufficient space exists to be able to easily attain this goal along with the addition of street trees, meadow grass, naturalized plantings and

• URBAN FOREST
Restoration of an “urban forest” surrounding the RFK Capitol could reduce flooding, improve the river ecosystem, decrease runoff, and improve water quality as well as greatly improve access to a natural woodland and riverfront with exercise and relaxation rather than building more sports fields.

• GREEN ROOFS
A green roof is proposed for the new state house, parking garages and utility tunnel. This green roof is envisioned to use a thin build up system that would use native plants and minimal maintenance. This area could not only reduce heat island impacts but also improve insulation and but provide a natural area for recreation meditation, discussion and perspective on the environment and neighborhood.

• ECO FRIENDLY RECREATION
Kayaks and canoe rentals with docks and training can improve water quality and reduce trash and other pollutants. (Mayor Muriel Bowser announced a new “Anacostia Green Boats” program was announced in April of 2021) New recreation trails on the RFK property and connections to pedestrian bridges Kingman and Heritage Islands can be connected to a statehouse in this location with access to proposed underground public parking. The Anacostia Riverkeepers Program has already been established and should be consulted along with the many agencies as the best solutions for development to improve the existing river quality and environmental habitat that has already improved due to current policies.

Fig. 1. Flood plain map at RFK Stadium.

Fig. 2. Anacostia River wildlife.

Fig. 3. Anacostia River trail system.

Fig. 4. Anacostia River.
STATEHOUSE: MODEL of SUSTAINABILITY

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As the District of Columbia is home to many U.S. Federal agencies and experts that have established guidelines and policies to address sustainability for public and private buildings, systems, appliances, the environment, and given the new 2030 carbon reduction goals of the United States, a new statehouse for DC should be a model of sustainability for the new state, the city, and the country.

DESIGN GOAL: LEED PLATINUM

Building Development Strategies Proposed
- Reuse of Existing Building site slated for demolition
- Building Orientation and shape to minimize heat gain
- Underground Parking
- Heating & Cooling - Building envisions Geothermal + Radiant Heat + heat pump
- Double Curtain wall system for insulation, energy efficiency, and passive ventilation
- Green Roof on Building + Parking Garages
- Solar cell / PV integrated glass
- 30’ high water wall energy generator for fountain + exterior garden lighting
- Separate buildings and monitoring controls to reduce electrical use
- Digital Wifi and systems throughout to minimize waste
- No plastics use in restaurants, bars and minimal paper for takeout service
- Recycling program serviced by tunnel: on site trash compaction+compost
- Proximity to existing metro station and public transportation modes
- Design accommodation for future transportation evolution
- Electrical vehicle priority + stations in Parking garages
- Rainwater recapture and reuse + Grey water system
- Mixed use and shared use spaces to increase community use and flexibility
- Pier construction
- Reduction of heat island effect with new green roof + underground parking

A Green Roof is proposed for the new state capitol. In addition, the utility tunnel and parking garages will also have green roofs, in effect extending the riverfront’s natural ecosystem to the building.

Fig. 1. ZinCo Urban Climate Roof
This product is capable of only annual plant maintenance, has limited buildup, can be used for retention + evaporative cooling. Image Source: https://zinco-greenroof.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/ZinCo_Green_Roof_40.pdf

Fig. 2. Live Roof
This paver system has different thicknesses of build-out options, improving insulation, reducing noise, rainwater runoff, improving water quality, restores habitat, reduces heat islands, saves energy use. Image Source: https://liveroof.com/projects/?displayItem=7555
The site plan orients the proposed building, with the D.C. Capitol Assembly at its center, to follow the east-west alignment of the Federal City. Though accessible from all directions, the building’s primary entrance is from the West, consistent with the original design of the U.S. Capitol, which it is in dialogue with. As the sun rises, it will illuminate the east-facing side of the building, symbolizing the arrival of people previously excluded from representation. When the Nacotchtank people originally lived along the Anacostia river, they would have first looked East to the sunrise for guidance on planting and seasonal change, as many cultures similarly saw the sunrise as representative of rebirth and hope. Crucially, the east-west alignment of the city is kept open to allow the path of the sun to mark continuity, revitalization, and the hope of statehood.
ONE for ALL | A CAPITAL PROPOSAL

For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

DOUGLASS COMMONWEALTH

ONE for ALL | A CAPITAL PROPOSAL

PROPOSED DESIGN

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**Descriptions**

On the Roof garden level, the Banneker Planetarium is stacked over the Museum, and the Cosmos event space is stacked over the Library. The structural egress drums open onto the roof, and are connected to elevated boardwalks with views to the city and the river.

Level 5 varies from the uses below to include private offices for the four main elected officials, including the Governor, Lt. Governor, Auditor, and Attorney General. Each office is stacked above the drum circles below, with a circular waiting bench, personal archive, and private security access. Each office is connected to the core drums by secure overlook bridges.

Additionally “fish basket” meeting areas are placed outside of the perimeter offices, creating unique group meeting spaces for employees and representatives. The same language is repeated in the basket-weave skin that wraps two main MEP cores containing gender-neutral bathroom pods and primary elevator banks as well as private nursing rooms.

On each level, “drum circles” are linked by bridges around the core drums. These drum circles are not only waiting areas placed near the elevator and egress cores, but are also observation and seating areas that give the opportunity for visitors and representatives to engage and communicate. Drums are available to be played, encouraging all users of the building to experience an important part of D.C. culture while starting a dialogue with one another.

Levels 2-5 contain agency and other state offices along the perimeter of the double-skin curtain wall facade, allowing literal and metaphorical transparency between representatives and their constituents. Each office looks through glass walls to views of either the city or the Anacostia River. Meanwhile, the egress, library, and museum drums puncture the floor plate as they reach to support the structure.

Visitors enter the building through the security cue on the ground level, arriving through the west to look towards the Anacostia River. Structural “drums”, containing the Frederick Douglass Civil Rights Library and the Douglass Commonwealth Museum support the building, while smaller drums holding Grounded Cafe and Club GoGo punctuate the eastern facade.

The mezzanine level forms the second level of the Assembly, with additional elected-official and council-member offices arranged around the central legislative room. Legislative committee and Speaker offices line the exterior curtain wall, overlooking the garden below. Additional auditorium halls are found within the core drums.

The building is encircled by a ring road with underground parking lots and a multi-function use tunnel below that can accommodate service access, utilities, additional emergency parking, emergency shelter, and indoor running and bike tracks. This tunnel also accommodates flexibility and a change of uses over time. The central Assembly, elected-official offices, and lecture halls are also accessed from this level, and opening onto the exterior Meditation Drum + Water Garden, which acts as a noise mitigation barrier while promoting reflection for employees and representatives as well as visitors.
### DESCRIPTION

**PARKING GARAGE and TUNNEL**
This subterranean garage can be increased in size, number of levels, and arrangement to accommodate future program requirements, electric cars, or other vehicles. This garage is constructed in a void area created by the RFK stadium’s removal and does not require additional extensive excavation. This garage could additionally be designed to accommodate future buildings above, using pre-designed building columns during garage construction. The tunnel could serve not only as additional parking, but also as an emergency shelter, service tunnel, or indoor recreational running track.

### PG 1 & PG2 + TUNNEL
**KEY & PROGRAM SUMMARY**

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<th>Notes</th>
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</tbody>
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ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

PROPOSED DESIGN

FLOOR PLAN: ASSEMBLY LEVEL + GARAGE

LEGEND

KEY | USE
--- | ---
1 | SERVICE CORRIDOR
2 | "DISTRICT" OFFICES
3 | SECURE ENTRANCE
4 | SECURE RESTROOMS + LOCKERS
5 | N DOWNSPIT SEATING AREA
6 | TALKING DRUM CONFERENCE
7 | ELEVATOR + EGRESS TALKING DRUM
8 | CIVIL RIGHTS THEATER CONGA DRUM
9 | MARTIN THEATER CONGA DRUM
10 | BASKET ELEVATOR + EGRESS CORE
11 | ASSEMBLY Stages Seating + Devises
12 | ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE
13 | GROUNDED CAFE
14 | SECURE ASSEMBLY PARKING GARAGE
15 | TUNNEL
16 | ASSEMBLY DRUM GARDEN
17 | SECURITY ELEVATOR
18 | SE FISH BASKET CONFERENCE ROOM
19 | BASKET CONFERENCE
20 | S DOWNSPIT SEATING AREA

One Douglass Commonwealth Circle

Ring Road rising from East to West EL 33 to EL 60
ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America
FLOOR PLAN: LEVEL 3

LEGEND

KEY
1  NW OFFICES
2  NE OFFICES
3  SE OFFICES
4  SW OFFICES
5  N ROW/SUBMIT SEATING AREA
6  NE FISH BASKET CONFERENCE
7  ELEVATOR + GORDIS TALKING DRUM
8  CIVIL RIGHTS LIBRARY CONGA DRUM
9  DC MUSEUM CONGA DRUM
10 BASKET - ELEVATOR + SQUARES CORE
11 NW Medicine Wheel Open Meeting + Work Area
12 NE Medicine Wheel Open Meeting + Work Area
13 OVERLOOK WORK AREA
14 SE Medicine Wheel Open Meeting + Work Area
15 NW Medicine Wheel Open Meeting + Work Area
16 OVERLOOK WORK AREA
17 OVERLOOK WORK AREA
18 SE FISH BASKET CONFERENCE ROOM
19 BASKET CONFERENCE
20 S ROW/SUBMIT SEATING AREA

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For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

PROPOSED DESIGN
DESCRIPTION

Pisces, the Latin word for fish, is the 12th sign of the Zodiac. In Ancient Greek mythology, Pisces is represented by the story of Aphrodite and Eros, who escape from the 7 headed dragon. Zeus saves them by turning them into 2 fish, tying them together, and throwing them into the sea, so that they can remain together forever.

Pisces is the last sign in the zodiac as it is closest to the ecliptic, and marks the time that the building, city, country and state were founded. (The ecliptic is a 25,860 year cycle known as the Precession of the Equinoxes.) Earth’s movements against the background stars are always within the band of the zodiac. The moon is 5 degrees above the ecliptic, so it also remains in the band.

The roof garden provides a platform where these topics can be viewed and discussed outside of the proposed North Star planetarium, along with the science, oral histories and ancient myths connected to the zodiac and constellations.

Fig. 1. Pisces constellation

Fig. 2. Pisces symbol
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For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

CONCEPT

SQUARE GRID + RADIAL GRID = SQUARE + RADIAL GEOMETRIC GRID

“FLYING FISH” ROOF SCREEN

CONCRETE ON METAL DECK ROOF SYSTEM

HORNED BOWSPRIT STRUCTURAL SUPPORTS

EGRESS CORES:
STAIR AND ELEVATOR CORES CONCEALED WITHIN GEOMETRIC BOWSPRIT NETS

STRUCTURAL DRUMS

STEEL BEAM GRID SYSTEM, 25’ SPACING

PILE FOUNDATION

PERIMETER CONCRETE STRUCTURAL COLUMN SYSTEM
(12” DIAMETER, TYP.)
The proposed Douglass Commonwealth State Capitol points like a compass to the north and south on the grid first established by Washington, L’Enfant, Ellicott, and Banneker. The building therefore acts as a way-finding compass, representing the direction to freedom. The points of the building are marked by a sweeping bowsprit which symbolizes a ship, animal horns, and the rising arms of people demanding freedom. The Djembe Drum and the Conga Drum emerge from the glass ‘eye’ form of the building, representing both the Native American and African-American cultures who helped establish the new state. The building sits within a Native American ‘medicine wheel’ of water, signifying the cleansing of past oppression and trauma. Finally, the structural glass curtain wall assures transparency in the new government and is a promise to listen to all voices and ideas.
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The materiality of the glass building represents the desire for transparency in government. The curved form represents the compassion necessary in legislation and justice. The building rises from a pool of water with 8 fountain jets symbolizing the new 8 equal legislative “Districts” no longer “wards” a federal city but equal voting participants in their own representative state government. Eight columns around the assembly reinforce this message and the idea of the infinite guiding and watching over the people and their representatives. The vesica piscis (or eye point, or fish tail or the the ship bow) roof tail /spirt points toward on the north and south out from the building but returning to the circle of water below. The conga drums and the Pow Wow drums rise through the roof and plaza symbolizing allowing the rising voices and ideas and music transitioning from below upward to be heard. The Talking Drum transportation cores in the building move people up from level to level represented outwardly as a a drum but also a tree shape connecting us with nature and the earth. The entry pool of water on the western entrance assembly plaza carries around in a cycle and like the medicine wheel acts as a compass as well as a continuity of cleansing. The pool of water however becomes only a channel as it comes around the eastern side of the building and falls as a 30 foot water wall which adds a meditation sound which also masks the sound of bridge and roadway traffic beyond. The water in the channel falls down the wall and then returns to its journey around to the pool again representing the birth of new ideas and the date of past injustices, coming together of heaven and earth.
DESCRIPTION

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SECTION N/S : EXTERIOR : LOOKING WEST

DESCRIPTION

The transparent glass building reaches up to the sky, representing a ship as well as people raising up their arms in hope, celebration and greeting. The interior spaces feature a collection of various drums representing assembly and many cultures through time. The curved facade wraps a circular assembly space which steps down to the Drum Water Garden and is entered, like many cultural traditions, from the west. The east of the building opens to the sunrise and the solar path alignment of the National Mall and the U.S. Capitol. The building restores this pathway and connection to the heavens by remaining open, allowing views to the Capitol in the distance. The Assembly below allows the decisions of the people and their new state to rise up to the Federal Government. The building is supported by a series of other cultural drums including the Djembe, Conga and Talking Drums, symbolizing the traditions previously excluded within the typical state capitol narrative. Views from offices and seating areas are to Capitol Hill and the Anacostia River.
The rendering of the Proposed Douglass Commonwealth State Capitol building is aligned with the U.S. Capitol and the original L’Enfant and Ellicott Plans for DC along the East West axis. This view illustrates the open view to the East at sunrise. The reflecting pool at the building entrance has 8 fountain meets to symbolize the 8 Districts represented by the new Unicameral Assembly. And Commonwealth... The roof rises up in the north and south direction as a compass needle pointing north and south but also like arms outstretched to greet the new sunrise with hope for an ever more inclusive and representative Community and world. The points of the roof are symbolic of an arriving ship but also of all the boats that have navigated the Anacostia River through time and across cultures. The glass facade illustrates that this State government will be transparent and inclusive and that democracy is indeed fragile and can change. The glass and position of the building also focuses on the environment. It restores the site and removes surface parking lots and proposes a mixed use place that citizens can enjoy inside and out. It focuses on the environment as a mission of sustainability restoring native plants and educating the public on the importance of conservation.
DESCRIPTION

The rendering of the Proposed Douglass Commonwealth State Capitol building is aligned with the U.S. Capitol and the original L’Enfant and Ellicott Plans for DC along the East West axis. This view illustrates the open view to the East at the reflecting pool beyond the building. It is framed by Cherry Trees, the state tree and roses, the City/ State flower. The Assembly fountain and skylight can be seen between the buildings which symbolizes the Pow Wow drum of Assembly symbolic of the Native Americans who reside and resided in this area before any colonists arrived. The two domed skylights on top of the building represent two different but equal drums calling all to assemble to direct the State in its decisions. The drum on the right is the Civil Rights Library and the Drum to the left represents the Douglass Commonwealth museum that will focus on a truthful and representative origin story. This drum opens to the roof with a planetarium which teaches everyone in the new state the science of astronomy and navigation and the importance and history of that navigation method to native peoples and to enslaved people and their path to freedom in D.C. The building is largely glass with solar fins and is surrounded by green meadow and native plants restoring the Anacostia waterfront and placing public garages underground.
DESCRIPTION

The rendering of the Proposed Douglass Commonwealth State Capitol building is aligned with the U.S. Capitol and the original L'Enfant and Ellicott Plans for DC along the East West axis. This view shows the view to the West toward the Monumental Core. The building arrives like a ship and rises up to lift the independent unique culturally informed unified voices to their representatives in Congress. The pathway with the opening in the building is open which symbolizes a two way path of communication just as the sun rises to the East over the Anacostia River and addresses the Commonwealth’s residents and sets over the Federal City and the State to begin again. The pool of water and its fountains recirculate to a water wall that returns and recycles the water and cleanses the spirit. The building is surrounded by green native plants and meadow making it at home with the environment from which the people it now seeks to represent were born.
ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

PROPOSED DESIGN

View Looking North
Douglass Commonwealth Capitol Library

CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

Frederick Douglass
"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

A public civil rights focused library is envisioned in the north tower which could be accessed by the public as well as by statehouse officials and staff. The library would focus as a research space as well as an education space on laws affecting statehood and civil rights. Public wifi and computer access is envisioned throughout the library with seating, discussion and work areas. The shape of the library is a conga drum. The Conga Drum is a symbol of the official Go-Go music of D.C. It is also a symbol of civil rights in that it calls all to assemble for dialogue and decision making around the world. The Conga drum and other drumming traditions were outlawed in colonial times and Go Go music was even outlawed for a time in D.C. The library rooms are envisioned to be organized via a monitored app or web site utilizing digital and on site collections accessed on internet access stations, or mobile devices. Wood library shelves house the collections around the perimeter with a work desk that overlooks the center of the drum with views to the floor map below and the dome above.

3D SECTION

Library Form: Conga Drum

The drum symbolizes cultural history that will not be silenced and is protected by knowledge. It is separated from the floors but supports the roof and each level. The drum is lit up from floor to ceiling symbolizing the light of knowledge.

L-M LECTURE HALL PLAN -
Public or Assembly use for meetings, presentations, education lectures, 51 seats. Controlled evening access

L-A LECTURE HALL PLAN -
Public or Assembly use for meetings, presentations, education lectures, 51 seats. Controlled evening access

L - 6 CLUB COSMOS SPECIAL EVENT SPACE BAR PLAN

Ceiling will be skylight dome over center of opening. Changing floor visible through opening to below. Access to Roof Garden

L - 5 LIBRARY PLAN

Ceiling is open to dome above. Center of floor is open to changing floor map view below. SUBJECTS: Statehood + Government of City + State

L - 4 LIBRARY PLAN

Ceiling is open to dome above. Center of floor is open to changing floor map view below. SUBJECTS: Civil Rights, Amendments + Leaders Policies, Voting Rights

L - 3 LIBRARY PLAN

Ceiling is open to dome above. Center of floor is open to changing floor map view below. SUBJECTS: Founding Peoples and Documents, Constitution, Bill of Rights + Plans + Slavery + Native American Treaties

L - 2 LIBRARY PLAN

Ceiling is open to dome above. Center of floor is open to floor map view below -Digital access round research desk, book collections on outer wall + exhibits of documents  SUBJECTS: Founding Peoples and Documents, Constitution, Bill of Rights + Plans + Slavery + Native American Treaties

L - 1 ENTRANCE PLAN

Entrance + Information Desk Frederick Douglass History Changing Floor Map of DC Civil Rights History Digital Reading Desk surrounds the room with seating, Free Wifi + Music + history on audio headphones

PROPOSED DESIGN
**CONCEPT DESCRIPTION**

Frederick Douglass published his own newspaper called the *North Star*. On the masthead this paper displayed the motto, “Right is of no sex - Truth is of no color - God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren.” Located in the South building, the museum exhibit vision for this museum is to commemorate the struggle for statehood and the key figures and events of the history of this new state including Native peoples and history. The museum is located in the interior of a conga drum symbolizing the drum circle of early people as well as the Conga drum that was outlawed but became a part of the expression of jazz music which evolved and continues to evolve to GoGo Music the official music of DC. The museum culminates at a planetarium on Level 5 which rises through the roof recognizing not only the *North Star* publication but the role of the stars in the navigating the path to freedom and knowledge. According to *The Disordered Chaos* by Chandra Prescod-Weinstein the “ability to know and understand the night sky is a right that has not been easily accessible to Black and indigenous children.”

Circulation: 2 way Ramp with Reader Rail Exhibit Cases at Landings 1 Feature exhibit area per level inside the drum.
**CONCEPT DESCRIPTION**

The form for the Grounded Cafe is inspired by the Djembe Drum. The cafe is intended to be casual and circular providing a unique non-office-like environment promoting conversation and discussion. It functions as a cafe and cafeteria for the Assembly, offices, and visitors. It has multiple levels which can be secured from the other levels or operated separately as needed. Its circular plan form looks outward to the south towards the Anacostia River and to the east towards the River and the Drum Garden. The lowest Level is on the Assembly Level, L2 is the Mezzanine Assembly + Office level, L3 is the Plaza and Public Entrance level serving the Museum, Library, and visitor entrances. L2 is a larger dining room with views to the River. Materials include raised wood floor, wood ceiling. Custom woven copper and wood drum wall. Wood and copper casework and furniture.

"Grounded" Cafe 3D SECTION A-A’

Exterior seating with interior + exterior views to the Drum Wall Garden + River

"Grounded" CAFE PLAN LA EL +35

BUILDING PLAN LA EL +35
Douglass Commonwealth
Capitol Bar: Club Go Go

CONCEPT DESCRIPTION
The form of this club is a Bongo drum. The concept is to bring Go Go the official music of DC into the building as well as to recognize DC’s history of jazz music. It is a music and performance bar venue that can function as a bar during afternoon and early evening hours and then as a club or performance venue later in the evening. It has a central bar and a stage on level one opposite the entrance. It is located the north building and accessible to the Assembly and Mezzanine Levels as well as the Public Plaza. It can be accessed via elevator from lower floors but with security access only. The elevator, restrooms, and egress stairs are exterior to the drum space. Materials include wood floors, wood case work, Hammered copper and glass exterior finish with wood accent detailing. A fitted smooth wood finished acoustic wall system. Warm golden colored lighting. Leather seating with wood and metal drum tables. Bronze bar counter. Seating interior to the bar and to the exterior to the River and also seating outside the bar area with views to the interior of the building and Plaza and garden.
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For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

PERSPECTIVE SECTIONS : EXTERIOR

DAY VIEW LOOKING EAST

NIGHT VIEW LOOKING EAST

PROPOSED DESIGN
135
DETAIL PLAN + SECTION: ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY SECTION - Looking West

SKYLIGHT ROOF PLAN DIAGRAM
"Path of Venus"

ASSEMBLY FLOOR PLAN with CONSTELLATION PATTERN:
STAR ALIGNMENT FOR DATE OF STATEHOOD

ASSEMBLY BUILDING + DRUM WATER GARDEN FLOOR PLAN

ONE for ALL | A CAPITOL PROPOSAL
For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America
DESCRIPTION
This preliminary rendering of the Assembly Room illustrates a space framed by 8 columns and sections stepped downward to a central digital presentation table that can be used for meetings or as a projection screen for presentations. Support offices for each District are located at the top of the Assembly space. Secure private access is provided beyond from the entrance. Access to the cafe, museum and library as well as offices, group meeting spaces and offices above encourage representatives to be connected to the community. In the Assembly the space is covered by a domed skylight intended to let the sun and the east west alignment path cross over the assembly. The columns are shaped to represent African Talking Drums and the space is intended to represent a pow wow drum in form encouraging communication.
VIEW LOOKING EAST TO DRUM WATER GARDEN
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For the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, the 51st State of the United States of America

PROPOSED DESIGN

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RENDERING: ENTRY PLAZA

West Facing View Looking East
DESCRIPTION

The Whitney Young Memorial Bridge is a significant gateway along the East-West axis of the city, aligning with the United States Capitol. This bridge also serves as a connection to I-295 and the east bank of the Anacostia River. The current state of the bridge is utilitarian but presents an important design opportunity. The rendering below illustrates a proposal for the re-design of the bridge, inspired both by the double-helix form of DNA as well as the bowsprits of a schooner. The flanking platforms allow views to the River, as well as encouraging pedestrian and bicycle access. An alternative future for the bridge envisions that a raised pedestrian bridge and tram would replace the current vehicular roadway.
I began this project with the goal of embracing the historically segregated and oppressed parts of Washington, D.C., in order to create a state capitol that would celebrate all voices within a city that continues to fight for the right to be heard equally. If a building is to represent equality and the ideals of democracy, it is necessary to look at what these concepts mean, and the history of how they have been expressed in architecture.

The history of Washington, D.C. itself is complicated. Some of the icons of democratic architecture, freedom, and democracy, such as the United States Capitol and the White House, were constructed by enslaved peoples. Slave markets stood in front of these edifices into the 19th century, appalling foreign visitors who saw the horrific irony of the display. The complex dichotomy between the idea of equality and actual equality exists not only in law, but in architecture itself. The concept of a model state capitol was first drafted by Thomas Jefferson, who sought to create a temple in a new American Rome when he designed the Virginia State Capitol in the image of the Maison Carrée. Jefferson's idea of the American state capitol emerged concurrently with his ideas on the justification of slavery, and with it, a history of architecture that not only employed slavery in its construction, but continued to uphold its system of oppression.

As the history of the state capitol evolved in the 19th century, and individual states built capitols in the image of the U.S. capitol dome, more ornamentation appeared, with murals, frescoes, tympanums, and sculptures illustrating important figures, and, most critically, the origin story of a state's history. Problematically, this origin story is often told from a racist perspective, and there are many severe impacts of this paradigm. Contemporary studies have revealed that racist imagery has significant negative health impacts not only upon individuals, but across generations.

As I looked at the state capitol through this perspective, I realized that a new set of symbols was critical within a new design proposal, in order to give representation to groups that had historically been excluded from the origin stories and narratives told within state capitols and other pieces of public architecture. I also realized that symbology extended beyond literal motifs and imagery to encompass materiality, adjacencies, scale, and site context, which all contribute subliminal messages to both employees and visitors.

Because of these conclusions, I also felt that it was important to propose a site that would reorient the center of the state. The RFK Stadium site allows a new state capitol to not only honor the past in its alignment with L'Enfant's original plan for the city, but also reunite the disenfranchised parts of D.C.'s boundaries across the Anacostia River. Though it was a difficult decision to place a proposal in dialogue with the United States Capitol, the placement at the center of the RFK site provided a symbolic center not only from East to West, but from North to South. Finally, the site itself is the most critical new symbol to be included in a state capitol; by allowing the 10-acre site to become restored wetlands and a network of trails, overlooks, and amphitheaters that connect to the proposed necklace along the Anacostia River, the proposed building provides accessibility to the natural environment while raising awareness of climate change and sustainability, following the strategy already pioneered in the city.

This design proposal is, at the end of this investigation, only a proposal. It is meant to initiate a dialogue on what elements should be included in a new state capitol, and to provoke a thoughtful investigation of what we say with our public architecture. Given our knowledge of the past, how can we communicate equal representation and democratic ideals while also encouraging the building of consensus, engagement, and transparency between representatives and the voices they are supposed to represent. Washington, Douglass Commonwealth has the unique opportunity to express the best possibility of what civil rights, democracy, and equality can achieve. What better state to lead in this new proposal, than one that is home to the nation's capital district?
“It is not light that we need, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to the people of Washington, D.C., who continue to advocate for the statehood of a diverse, complex, and brilliant place. I am in awe of your persistence and passion.

Thank you to my thesis committee, who supported the idea of this project and encouraged the “big lift” through its completion, offering the freedom to pursue what I feel most passionate about.

Thank you to my family, who have supported every step of this journey with humor, pragmatism, excitement, and critical feedback.

Above all, thank you to all of the incredible activists, writers, storytellers, historians, designers, architects, software creators, open-source warriors, artists, podcasters, and musicians who have tirelessly created the incredible resources that this project is inspired and informed by.


BIBLIOGRAPHY: Print and Web Sources (J-R)


FRONTISPIECE

FIG. 1. The image on the cover page was created by the author as a collage representing some of the places and people influencing D.C. history and statehood. The original images used can be obtained as listed. All are in the public Domain.

1.1 Declaration of Independence. Retrieved from: National Archives (1419123)
1.3 Frederick Douglass. Retrieved from: National Archives (558770)
1.4 Manteo, Algonquin Chief Watercolor portrait in the village of Secotan, N.C. painted by John White in 1585. Retrieved from: British Museum ([PD-US])
1.7 Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor in 1763, Lithograph by Sarcony and Major. Retrieved from: Courtesy of The National Archives (532582)
2.0 Plan of the City of Washington, 1792 Retrieved from:
2.1 The Blue Marble by the crew of Apollo 17 (1972) Retrieved from: NASA.gov
2.3 ERA button. Retrieved from: amazon.com

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FIG 3. The Navy Yard Bridge, looking towards the center of Washington, D.C. John Wilkes Booth used this bridge to escape by horseback after he assassinated Abraham Lincoln on April 15, 1865. (Photo ca. 1862) https://ashevilleoralhistoryproject.com/civil-war-letters/

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- Fig. 1.1 Nebraska State Capitol Source: Wikimedia Commons : File:USA ne lincoln capitol.jpg
- Fig. 1.2. Nebraska State Capitol Dome Source: Wikimedia Commons: File:Nebraska State Capitol dome from NE 1.JPG
- Fig. 1.3 Nebraska State Capitol Dome, Detail Source: Nebraska State Capitol | Interior | Lincoln, Nebraska | 2010 | Photo by Jen-Kuang Chang
- Fig. 1.4. Nebraska State Capitol Footprint Source: Wikipedia Commons File:Nebraska State Capitol's Comparison.png
- Fig. 2. North Dakota State Capitol
- Fig. 2.3. Author not specified. (n.d.) https://www.theminutemanblog.com/2021/01/11/nd-legislature-to-hear-bill-proposing-ban-on-faithless-presidential-electors/
- Fig. 3. Montana State Capitol
- Fig. 4. Alaska State Capitol
- Fig. 4.2. Alaska State Capitol Dome Source: Wikimedia Commons image close up of above
- Fig. 4.3 Alaska State Capitol Interior Photo by Nestie N., 2008 Source https://www.yelp.com/biz_photos/alaska-state-capitol-juneau?select=8-itJND1rzF2du8K3dqZlw
- Fig. 4.4 Alaska State Capitol Source: Wikimedia Commons : File:Senate Chamber, Alaska.jpg
- Fig. 5. South Dakota
- Fig. 5.3. Degroot, Jake. 2013. Creative Commons. Retrieved from:[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:South_Dakota_Senate_Chamber.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:South_Dakota_Senate_Chamber.jpg)
- Fig. 6. Vermont State Capitol
- Fig. 6.2. Arminius, Niranjjan. 2015. Creative Commons. Retrieved from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermont_State_House#/media/File:Honest_Abe_was_here...._(17513238616).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermont_State_House#/media/File:Honest_Abe_was_here...._(17513238616).jpg)
- Fig. 7. Delaware State Capitol
- Fig. 7.1. Delaware Legislative Hall Source: Wikimedia Commons : File:Delaware State Capitol.jpg
- Fig. 7.2. Delaware State Capitol Source: Wikimedia Commons: File:Hall Senate chamber DSC 3442 ad.JPG
- Fig. 7.3. Old State Capitol Source: Wikimedia Commons File:Old State House, Dover, March 2013.jpg
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