

Dear Friends -

The National Mall Design Competition, hosted by the Trust for the National Mall, is in its final concept stage and we need your input. The Trust is the official non-profit partner for the National Mall. The Design Competition, launched in September 2011, is hosted by the Trust for the National Mall, the official non-profit partner for the National Mall and Memorial Parks. Two Competition sites, Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds and Constitution Gardens are located on lands under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS). The competition also includes Union Square (the area around and including the Capitol Reflecting Pool), which was recently transferred from the NPS to the Architect of the Capitol.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT. Four designs for each location will be posted online where you can leave your comments. You can also see the designs in person at two Smithsonian locations (please see below). We encourage you to visit the designs and give us your feedback. Public comments will be provided to the Competition Jury, a group of eight expert design professionals, for their consideration as they evaluate the entries. Once winning teams are selected and the projects proceed into the design phase, an Environmental Assessment will be prepared for each NPS site, which will provide additional opportunities for you to participate and comment.

Design Competition criteria were based on the approved National Mall Plan, prepared with more than 30,000 public comments, and from comments from stake-holder groups from adjoining jurisdictions. The purpose of the Design Competition is to select a design team that will develop the most beautiful, useful and sustainable design for each of the three sites.

The Trust for the National Mall will work with each of the winning design teams with the goal of constructing at least one project by 2016, the hundredth anniversary of the National Park Service. Union Square Competition materials will be provided to Congress and the Architect of the Capitol for their use.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Starting Monday, April 9, concept designs will be available for review at www.nationalmalldesign.org and at the locations listed below. Written comments will be submitted at these locations or at www.nationalmalldesign.org. All written comments are due by Monday, April 16th.

APRIL 9 - 15 PUBLIC EXHIBITION

UNION SQUARE DESIGN CONCEPTS – Smithsonian Castle
10th and Jefferson Drive SW

WASHINGTON MONUMENT GROUNDS AT SYLVAN THEATER AND CONSTITUTION
GARDENS DESIGN CONCEPTS – National Museum of American History
Lemelson Hall – First Floor West
13th and Madison Drive, NW