



# Newsletter

## December 2022

Support DCPL with Year-End Gift

### 2022 Landmarks in Review



## 2022 IN REVIEW

In 2022, 10 new landmarks and one new historic district were designated in DC. Of these 11 new designations, six were sponsored or co-sponsored by DCPL! In February, the **Buzzard Point Power Plant** in Southwest, which was nominated by DCPL in 2016, was

added to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. In March, the stunning **Nixon-Mounsey House** was historically designated by HPRB. This Streamline Moderne style home in The Palisades was nominated by both DCPL and the homeowners, and it has since been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Also in March, the **National Geographic Society Headquarters**, located along M Street NW between 16th and 17th streets, was designated. At the hearing, HPRB accepted nominations from both DCPL and the National Geographic Society. DCPL's nomination focused on the remarkable Edward Durell Stone-designed building at 17th and M streets NW.

In May, the beloved **Uptown Theater** was designated. Although the theater had always been a contributing property within the Cleveland Park Historic District, it was not individually landmarked. This nomination was co-sponsored by both DCPL and the Cleveland Park Historical Society. In July, the **National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children (Merriweather Home for Children)** in Pleasant Plains was designated and, thus, saved from demolition. The building has since been added to the National Register. This nomination received an incredible amount of community support, as the site has long served residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Also in July, the **Schlitz Brewing Company Washington Branch / National Geographic Society Warehouse** in Eckington was designated.

Throughout the year, these other properties were officially added to the DC Inventory: **Seafarers Yacht Club** (February), **St. Joseph's Seminary** (May), **Founding Church of Scientology** (June), **National Training School for Women and Girls Historic District** (October, final name pending), and **Buchanan School Plaza/Peter Bug Shoe Academy** (November). Also, two amendments for existing historic sites were approved by HPRB: **Lafayette Square Historic District** (September) and **Washington City Canal Lockkeeper's House** (October).

[Click Here for More Information](#)

**Most Endangered Places Update: Library of Congress' Main Reading Room**





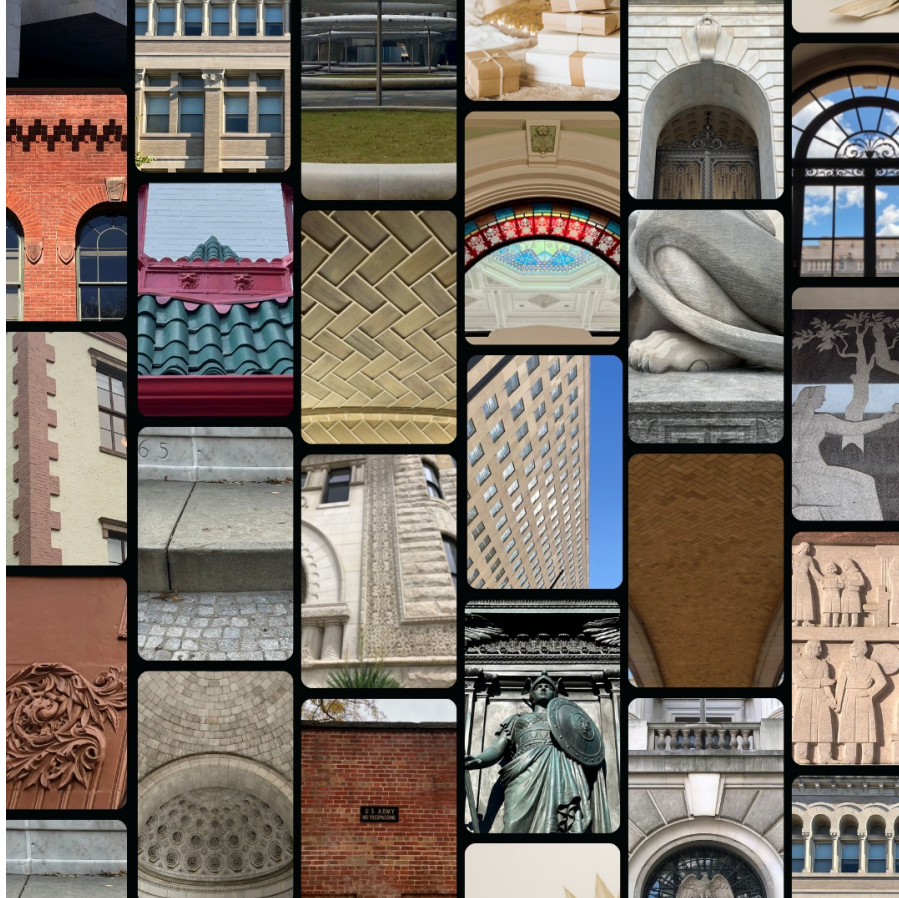
Photo courtesy of Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Amid public pressure and the grassroots advocacy of our membership, the Library of Congress (LOC) has made “design adjustments” to its 2019 “visitor experience” plan and the oculus proposal has been withdrawn. While LOC will continue to pursue the construction of an “Orientation Gallery,” the overall design will not include the misguided and unnecessary oculus feature, which would have negatively impacted the Main Reading Room’s view, function, and spatial relationships — specifically the historic integrity of the Central Circulation Desk. In announcing the decision to scrap the oculus, LOC cited concerns with cost and the length of time needed for the project. ***DCPL would like to thank its members and partners for making their voices heard, and making this significant win possible!***

Despite this win, DCPL still has grave concerns about the Orientation Gallery plan and its impact on the historic features of the space. DCPL will continue to provide updates as this project unfolds.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

**Scavenger Hunt (with prize) | Open to submissions through December 31st!**



So, you think you know the city's historic buildings? Test out your knowledge of DC's landmarks with **DCPL's 2022 Scavenger Hunt!** We've photographed details of 20 historic sites within the original L'Enfant Plan, and we want you to guess which buildings are which.

**Submissions will be accepted through 11:59 PM on December 31st.** The first three individuals who submit the correct responses will be awarded a signed copy of *Sixteenth Street NW: Washington, DC's Avenue of Ambitions* by John DeFerrari and Douglas Peter Sefton. The winners will be announced and the answers will be revealed in early January 2023.

[Can You Win? Participate Here!](#)

**2023 Application open for Preservation Initiatives Grant Program**



The [2023 grant application](#) is now open through March 1, 2023. The [Preservation Initiatives Grant Program](#) provides matching grants to individuals and nonprofit organizations for **preservation planning, research, outreach/education, and bricks and mortar** projects related to historic and cultural sites. These grants are intended to help stimulate public discussion, introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques, make technical expertise accessible, and encourage partnerships. The program is administered by DCPL. The program is supported by two separate funding sources: [Brightwood Car Barn \(Ward 4\)](#) and [Virginia Avenue Tunnel \(Area of Potential Effects in Southeast Washington\)](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [Zachary Burt, DCPL's Community Outreach and Grants Manager](#), at [zach@dcpreservation.org](mailto:zach@dcpreservation.org).

2023 Grant Information and Application

## Feedback Requested: Department of Building's Strategic Enforcement Plan for FY23 - FY25

The newly-established Department of Buildings (DOB) wants to hear from you. This can be done through an online forum, which will be live through December 31, 2022. DOB asks: **How should the Department of Buildings focus its efforts to best support its mission over the next three years? What are your ideas for strategic enforcement and priority areas?**

Click the below link and enter the following access code to respond: [894-379-113](#).

DOB Online Forum

## Congress Heights Small Area Plan Finalized and Approved

DC's newest small area plan, for the Congress Heights neighborhood, was approved last



month. The plan, developed by the [Office of Planning](#), includes six focus areas, including Historic and Cultural Preservation. The plan seeks to "amplify local history" and "support the celebration of community culture," while recommending various actions within the community, from supporting landmark efforts, historic markers, and oral history to further developing local arts. To read the plan, click the following link.

[Congress Heights Small Area Plan](#)



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