

## D.C. Archives Registry of Accession Holdings

Record Group 205

Office of Budget and Planning  
Identified as: Office of Planning

Inclusive dates: 1972 - 1999

Accession number: 06-004

Volume: 13 (Standard Storage Boxes)  
13 cubic ft.

Beginning Location: 1-01-20-02-1-6

Ending Location: 2-01-07-01-6-5

The records were offered to the D.C. Archives by the agency and accepted on the authority of the Public Records Administrator. The accession was processed into standard storage boxes and the contents list prepared by Office of Planning staff, secured and transported by Archivist, Bill Branch on 2/22/2006 and accessioned into DC Archives Holdings by DC Archivist, Robert Nelson on 2/22/2006. The records are the files maintained by John Fondersmith, Director of the Office of Planning and document the agency's role in accessing, planning and monitoring city-wide governmental project activity. The records have informational and historical value that mandates *PERMANENT RETENTION*.

The accession is comprised information in memorandums, reports, studies, surveys and working papers related to special subjects of projects arranged in folders by title.

### Note

The reports, studies and surveys are not in published form and some contain the Director's personal comments or notes. The accession is classified *CONFIDENTIAL* with use restricted as prescribed by the agency for the next ten years. The reports, studies and surveys will not be listed on the OPR database.

February 9, 2006

## **SUMMARY INFORMATION ON OLD OFFICE OF PLANNING FILES**

### **OVERVIEW**

Thirteen (13) boxes of old D.C. Office of Planning files were assembled in fall 2005 from a review of various files, mostly dating from the 1980s and 1990s with a few from the 1970s. Most of these files relate to planning of Downtown. John Fondersmith, who retired from the Office of Planning in June 2005, assembled the files. This assembly was undertaken with the permission of the Office of Planning. These files will be transferred to the D.C. Archives.

Future reviewers and researchers should use these files with caution. They are staff level files that are incomplete and obviously deal with only a small percentage of the work of the D.C. Office of Planning in the years to which they relate. It may not be possible to determine if actions were completed from review of these files alone. However, they provide some indication of planning work on certain projects and perhaps, when combined with information from other sources, can provide insight into various planning and development programs and efforts.

Contents of each of the thirteen boxes are summarized below.

### **BOX ONE (1): DOWNTOWN-GENERAL**

This box includes files with the following general materials:

- ODMED Task Force (1999)
- Hubert Humphrey Plaza Task Force
- Downtown Development District Materials
- OP Comments on Retail Report (1999)
- Hotel Studies (various)
- Downtown Urban Renewal Plan
- Program for DOES Site on Pennsylvania Avenue (1989)
- Downtown Housing Summit (1998)
- Downtown Streetscape Studies
- Downtown Off-Street Parking Study (1981).

### **BOX TWO (2): DOWNTOWN-MAYOR'S DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE**

Various files relating to the work of the Mayor's Downtown Committee (1981-82) which led to the Living Downtown Plan report (1982).

### **BOX THREE (3): DOWNTOWN-INTERACTIVE TASK FORCE**

Various files related to the work of the Interactive Downtown Task Force (1996), chaired by Herb Miller.

- General information, committee reports and the final report
- Development notebook
- Arts Committee Report
- Intermodal Transportation Center
- Streetscape and Signage Resource Manual

### **BOX FOUR (4): DOWNTOWN-ARENA AND DOWNTOWN ACTION PLAN**

- Materials related to planning for the Downtown Arena (MCI Center), including later reports to NCPC on meeting requirements for approval. These materials generally are in the 1994-1998 period.
- Materials related to the Downtown Action Plan effort, generally in the 1996-1998 period, including information about the Living Downtown Action Plan Task Force.

### **BOX FIVE (5): DOWNTOWN-ARTS**

Various files related to efforts to achieve a significant concentration of arts activities in Downtown, including:

- Downtown Arts District Concept (1984-85)
- Downtown Cultural Events/Special Activities Audit (1985)
- Seventh Street Arts Area (1986)
- Downtown Arts Space Study (1987)
- Downtown Stages Study (1984-86)
- Warner Theater Study (1984?)
- Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee for the Arts and Economic Development (1988)
- Downtown Partnership Arts District Team (1990)
- Arts in a Living Downtown Program and Summit (1997-98)

### **BOX SIX (6): DOWNTOWN-RETAIL CORE (FIRST BOX)**

Major emphasis in Downtown planning was placed on the revitalization of the Retail Core (generally bounded by 9<sup>th</sup>, E, 15<sup>th</sup> and H streets, N.W.). Many of the materials in these three "Retail Core" boxes are related to specific building projects. In these cases, the square (block) number is listed, then the building project.

- Square 223 (Bond Building)
- Square 224 (Garfinckel's)
- Square 454 (National Place)

- Square 288
- Square 289 (Homer Building)
- Square 289 (efforts to obtain department store)
- Metro Center (1982)
- Materials related to Retail Core streetscape studies, 1987-88.
- Zoning Case 95-13, Downtown Retail Initiatives

**BOX SEVEN (7): DOWNTOWN- RETAIL CORE (SECOND BOX)**

- Square 290 (Warner Theater)
- Square 319
- Square 321 (555 12<sup>th</sup> Street)
- Square 345 (Washington Center)
- Square 345 (McLachlen Building)
- Square 346 (Woodward & Lothrop Building/Retail Incentives)

**BOX EIGHT (8): DOWNTOWN- RETAIL CORE (THIRD BOX)**

- Square 346 (Washington Opera Proposal in Woodward & Lothrop Building-1996)
- Square 447 (Lincoln Square)
- Square 375 (Secret Service Building)
- Square 376 (Lansburgh's Furniture Building, 901 F Street )
- Square 377 (930 F Street)
- Square 377 (901 E Street)
- Streets for People" (1979)
- Streets for People" (Library Place-1982)
- Streetscape Study (1987-1988)
- F Street Shopping Mall Proposal (1980)
- Downtown Retail Development Profile (1987)
- ZC Case 95-13 Retail Incentives (1995)

**BOX NINE (9): DOWNTOWN-GALLERY PLACE**

Materials relating to the Gallery Place Area, generally bounded by 6<sup>th</sup>, E, 9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, N.W.:

- Square 455 (Gallery Place Urban Renewal Site):
- Square 456 (Old Hecht's building)

**BOX TEN (10): DOWNTOWN-CHINATOWN**

This box contains various materials related to the “Chinatown Program” which has been carried out by the Office of Planning in some form since 1976, in coordination with the Chinatown community (primarily the Chinatown Steering Committee, formed in 1983).

- Chinatown Study for RLA (E.C.Park) (1973)
- Chinatown Team, Downtown Partnership (1980)
- Chinatown Signs (1978)
- Wah Luck House (1979)
- Chinatown Report (1982 Draft), background for Downtown Plan
- Chinatown Development Trends (1984)
- Chinatown Archway (1984-87)
- Chinatown Archway Alternative (1987)
- Chinatown Design Guidelines RFP (1987)
- Chinatown Archway Repairs (1990)
- Chinatown (Square 454-Far East Center, etc., 1983-1999)

**BOX ELEVEN (11): DOWNTOWN-FRANKLIN SQUARE/ MT VERNON SQUARE AND JUDICIARY SQUARE SUBAREAS**

- Copies of Franklin Square Association annual reports (not a full set)
- Assorted files dealing with planning for the Judiciary Square area
- Assorted materials dealing with the Mount Vernon Square area (generally north of Massachusetts Avenue)

**BOX TWELVE (12): BUZZARD POINT PLANNING**

This box includes various files related to planning for the Buzzard Point Area (1990s).

**BOX THIRTEEN (13): MONUMENTAL CORE PLAN (DISTRICT COMMENTS)**

Beginning in the early 1990s, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) began studies of the “Monumental Core”. These studies soon expanded to cover larger sections of the city outside the Monumental Core. The larger area was generally between the Potomac and Anacostia rivers and south of Florida Avenue. These studies resulted in the NCPC report, *Extending the Legacy*. The District government, primarily through the Office of Planning, commented on these plan concepts as they evolved. Materials in this box include many of these comments and related information.