

PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

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District Seeks Resident Input for Cultural Plan

Plan looks to strengthen arts, culture and heritage across the city

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 18, 2016) – This week, the DC Office of Planning (OP) is launching an eight-month effort to draft a Cultural Plan for Washington. The process of creating a Cultural Plan for the District will begin on Wednesday, July 20 at 5:30 PM with a citywide community event called <u>INTERMISSIONDC</u>.

INTERMISSIONDC will bring together residents, artists and planners to engage on issues related to cultural development, preservation, production, expression and consumption. The program consists of a series of structured and unstructured interactive activities that will allow participants to share their reflections, suggestions and ideas.

The launch event is the first of a series of conversations OP will host to capture community insight as the Cultural Plan is being developed. When completed in Spring 2017, the DC Cultural Plan will lay out a vision and recommendations on how the government and its partners can build upon, strengthen and invest in the people, places, communities and ideas that define culture within the nation's capital.

"I am excited to inspire Washingtonians to view the District's built environment as a stage and its residents as performers. Through the Cultural Plan, there is great potential to celebrate and foster our unique cultural resources for social and economic benefits alike," said OP Director Eric D. Shaw.

The DC Cultural Plan is being developed in collaboration with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment, through the support of the DC Council.

OP intends for the Cultural Plan process to link with other major planning efforts, such as the <u>Crossing the Street</u> creative placemaking initiative, as well as an update to the District's <u>Comprehensive Plan</u> that will run in parallel to the Cultural Plan and includes an <u>Arts and Culture Element</u>.

INTERMISSIONDC will take place this Wednesday, July 20, 5:30-8:30pm at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20001. Please RSVP <u>here</u> if you wish to attend.