District of Columbia Office of Planning

The DC Office of Planning (OP) plans for our residents through the lens of our neighborhoods and ensures the long-term growth of the District of Columbia advances our values of an inclusive and vibrant city. We plan for a positive future in which all District residents can thrive, regardless of income, race, age, or background.

OP guides development in the District of Columbia’s distinctive neighborhoods by engaging stakeholders and residents, performing research and analysis, and publishing planning documents, including the Comprehensive Plan.

OP is structured into three divisions (more on back): Citywide Strategy & Analysis, Community Planning & Design, and Development Review & Historic Preservation.
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Citywide Strategy & Analysis (CS&A)
The Citywide Strategy and Analysis division is responsible for leading cross system research, data and spatial analysis to develop integrated policies and plans that guide dynamic and inclusive urban change. The work of this division supports the Comprehensive Plan and other citywide initiatives, and includes a focus on interagency partnerships, data analytics and sharing, systems planning, emerging trends and policy development.

The division is organized into the following teams—the State Data Center; Geographic Information Systems; and sector-based expertise related to housing, transportation, sustainability, food systems, economic development and capital facilities/infrastructure.

Community Planning & Design (CPD)
The Community Planning and Design division is responsible for place-based, context-sensitive land use planning and design of our unique DC neighborhoods. The division creates plans, studies, and other tools to guide mid to long-range development in areas throughout the city. Its primary goal is to enrich the quality of life for the people of DC through the improvement of the built environment.

CPD is organized into three core teams—Neighborhood Planning, Urban Design, and Strategic Partnerships. These three teams work collaboratively to champion inclusive and diverse housing choices, a healthy and sociable public realm, and strong civic infrastructure. They also serve as the “organizational hub” for the agency’s community engagement practice, which seeks meaningful and innovative stakeholder participation in planning projects and beyond.

Development Review & Historic Preservation (DevRev & HPO)
The Development Review division provides analyses, reports, and recommendations on all cases before the Zoning Commission (ZC) and the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA), to ensure that new discretionary development furthers the District’s Comprehensive Plan, addresses neighborhood character, and is consistent with the intent of the zoning regulations.

The Historic Preservation Office (HPO) is responsible for administering the city’s preservation program through its team of preservation and design specialists, architects, planners, building inspectors and an archeologist. As the State Historic Preservation Office for the District of Columbia, HPO is responsible for administering national historic preservation programs within the District and carries out federal duties including historic preservation planning, survey and identification of historic properties, public education, preservation review of government projects, and promotion of rehabilitation tax credits.

OP’s divisions operate at the scales of city/systems, community/neighborhood, and site/project. Design and Engagement practices cut across all divisions and scales.