

# National Mall Coalition

[www.nationalmallcoalition.org](http://www.nationalmallcoalition.org)

## 2022 Annual Report

*“Advancing the legacy of the  
National Mall  
through public policy and  
innovative ideas”*



# Dear Friends of the National Mall,

December 31, 2022

Happily, the National Mall has been slowly coming back to life as restrictions ease from the long covid-inspired shutdowns and restrictions on public access to Mall buildings and treasures. American families, tour groups, and international visitors are starting to return to experience the inspiring monuments, museums, and vistas of our beautiful capital and the Mall at its heart.

In 2022, the National Mall Coalition continued our ardent, long-standing advocacy for the Mall and for creation of an updated comprehensive, longterm plan for the Mall – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century Mall – to advance the brilliant legacy of the historic 1791 L’Enfant Plan and 1902 McMillan Commission Plan that are the blueprints for today’s majestic Mall. We need a Presidential or Congressionally-chartered commission to do the plan.

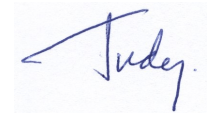
Challenges faced in 2022 were familiar ones. While Congress in 2002 declared the Mall a “substantially completed work of civic art,” the Smithsonian Institution wants to locate its two new museums, to American Latinos and to Women’s History, on the Mall. Longstanding attempts by federal agencies to come up with a solution to serious stormwater flooding were “inconclusive.” No doubt we’ll hear more about museums and flooding in 2023 as well.

The Coalition has continued our public participation role in Mall-related projects, testifying mostly via Zoom in design review by the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. While a useful tool during covid lockdown, these remote sessions have restricted public access to decision makers, both staff and Commissioners. We believe the public process has suffered and look forward to the return to in-person dialogue and discussion in the near future.

Sadly, the Coalition lost one of our preeminent thinkers and visionaries with the death in September of architect and Coalition Vice Chair Arthur Cottom Moore FAIA.

As we have in the past, we welcome your ideas and suggestions, and your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Judy", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Judy Scott Feldman, Ph.D.  
Founding Member and Chair  
[jfeldman@nationalmallcoalition.org](mailto:jfeldman@nationalmallcoalition.org)

# Public Outreach in 2022

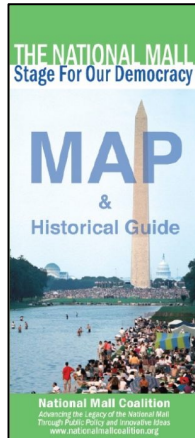


[www.nationalmallcoalition.org](http://www.nationalmallcoalition.org)



[www.facebook.com/NationalMallCoalition/](https://www.facebook.com/NationalMallCoalition/)

Our **National Mall Coalition website and Facebook page** continue to inform the public about Mall history and current events, including government review of proposed museums and monuments.



An important topic in 2022 was flooding of Mall museums and monuments, and the government's unsuccessful attempts to find solutions. Our blog provides detailed information about the public hearing at which the Coalition testified. Links to the video of the event show, lamentably, that there is no urgency on the part of Mall managing agencies.

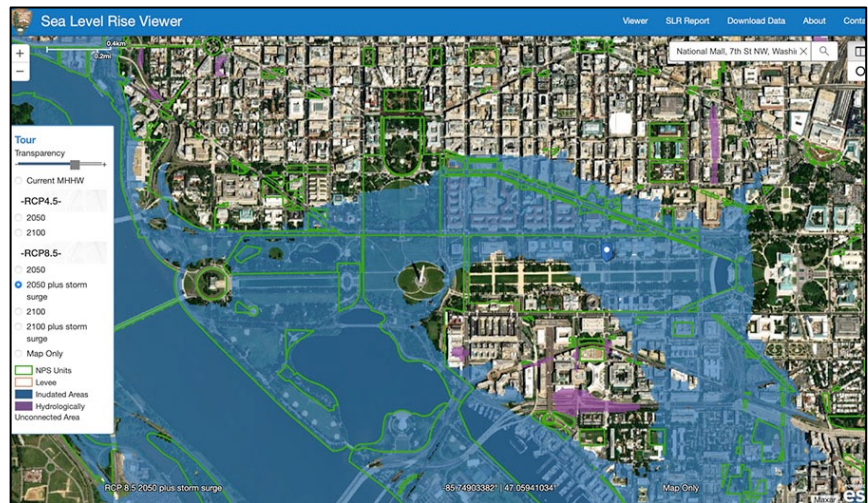
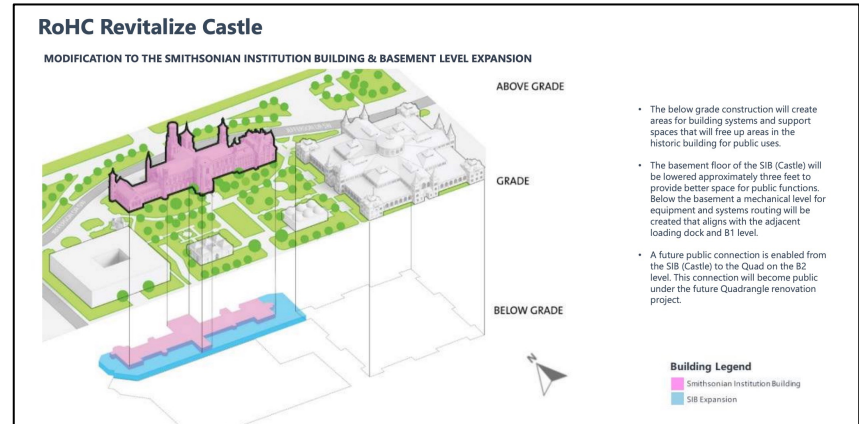
Once again in 2022 our free **National Mall: Stage for Our Democracy mini-map and historical guide** is a big hit, with over 20,000 maps distributed at local airports and hotels.

# Citizen Advocacy in 2022

## Coalition Calls for Comprehensive Solutions

In March, the Coalition testified before the National Capital Planning Commission on the Smithsonian's [Revitalization of the Historic Core](#) plan. While we support the effort to repair, upgrade, and modernize Smithsonian museum facilities, we urged the plan review agency to direct the Smithsonian to seek comprehensive solutions to flooding and clean energy on the Mall instead of building-by-building remedies that leave the rest of the Mall still under threat. We called for a new McMillan-type commission to lead a comprehensive, collaborative planning effort that takes into account the entire Mall.

Our [Flood Quiz](#) provides rarely seen flood maps and historical information to educate the public about the threat to our national treasures and public buildings and museums on the Mall.



[Click here to take our quiz about Mall area flooding](#)

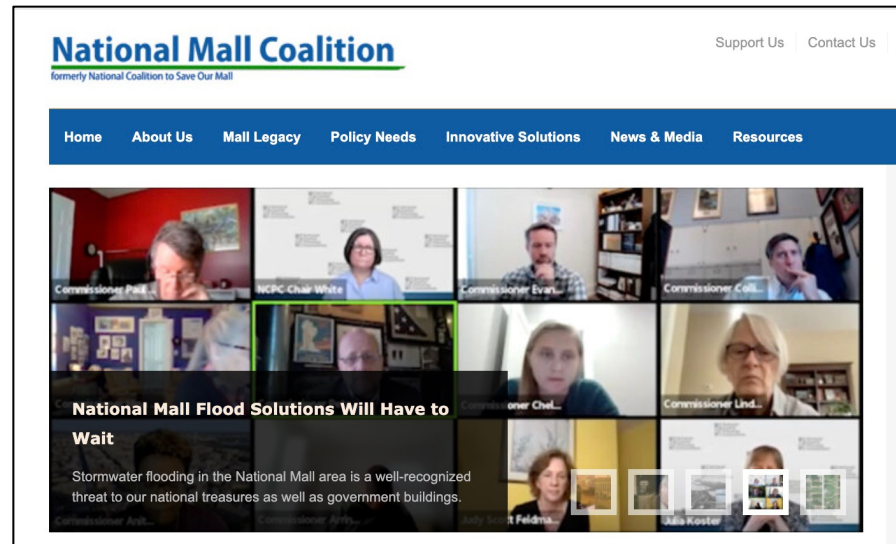


# Citizen Advocacy in 2022

## Flood Solutions Will Have to Wait: No Government Urgency

After four years of study and collaboration, the results were in. In November 2022, flooding was the focus of a special meeting of the National Capital Planning Commission at which commissioners were informed that after years of study government agencies' **attempt to solve the urgent threat are “inconclusive.”**

The Coalition will continue to advocate urgency. Given the failures to agree on solutions, it may be time for Congress to convene a special flood commission to rise above agencies' competing needs and priorities to save the Mall from flooding for the greater good of all Americans.



Read our blog and reporting on the NCPCC flood hearing at:  
<https://www.nationalmallcoalition.org/2022/12/national-mall-flood-solutions-will-have-to-wait/>

# Innovative Proposals in 2022

## Congress Hears Mall Managers' Reaction to National Mall Underground

In lieu of a public Congressional hearing (not possible during Covid restrictions), members of Congress asked various Mall managing agencies to submit in writing their opinion about the Coalition's flood control-parking-geothermal-visitors center National Mall Underground.

The National Park Service continued to oppose the Underground because the facility includes car parking, and ignored Alternative A which we proposed in 2021 without car parking.

The Underground received a more favorable nod from Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack who "commends the National Mall Coalition for leading the development of such innovative proposals" but without car parking. The US Commission of Fine Arts raised concerns but stated it believed the project deserved more study.

We're not giving up. All we're asking is that any look at flood solutions seriously consider the Underground and not dismiss it out of hand.



The Coalition presented the Underground to the US Commission of Fine Arts in July. Read more here:  
<https://www.nationalmallcoalition.org/2021/11/coalition-presents-national-mall-underground-to-commission-of-fine-arts/>

# Innovative Proposals in 2022

## Two Potential Sites “On the Mall” for Smithsonian Museums

In March, the Coalition published a letter in The Washington Post advocating a large site for the Smithsonian’s two new museums – Women’s History and Latino American – on the Mall and near the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

**The idea for the site came from renowned architect and Coalition Vice Chair Arthur Cotton Moore.** We were happy to see Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch’s [op-ed in The Post](#) supporting the site and the idea that these histories will make an important addition to our American story told on the Mall.



As Moore demonstrates with historical plans and diagrams, the site south of the Washington Monument is fully consistent with the historic concepts embedded in the 1791 L’Enfant and 1902 McMillan Plans. Read more about the site and its relationship to the historic plans at:

<https://www.nationalmallcoalition.org/2022/06/where-put-two-smithsonian-museums-mall-coalition-has-solution/>

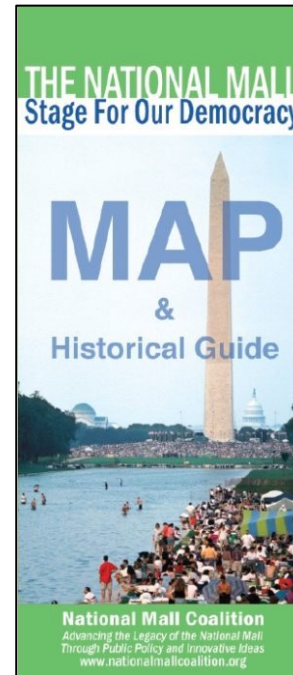
# Civics Education

## Presentations on Mall's History and Role in American Democracy

The Coalition continues, as we have for 20 years, to **present Mall history talks** to schoolchildren, Elderhostel and Road Scholar visitors to the capital, and design professional groups. We explore the design of the capital and the Mall at its heart as an architectural embodiment of the U.S. Constitution. We trace the evolution of the Mall as a grand stage for American democracy, and examine the issues and controversies that swirl around Mall development of new museums and monuments.

We offer this as our public service to support civics education and a deeper understanding of the role of the Mall as civic stage in American public life.

Visit our website to **test your knowledge of National Mall history** –  
<https://www.nationalmallcoalition.org/2020/08/take-the-ultimate-washington-monument-quiz/>



**Our National Mall: Stage for Our Democracy mini-map** goes hand-in-hand with our Mall history talks. It provides the history of the Mall as Stage for Our Democracy as well as practical information about locations of memorials, and where to grab a bite, find rest facilities, or rent a bicycle.

Pick up your free copy of this pocket-size map at the Travelers' Aid desks **at Washington Reagan National Airport and Dulles Airport.**



# In Memoriam



Arthur Cotton Moore FAIA  
Read [Our tribute letter in The Post](#)

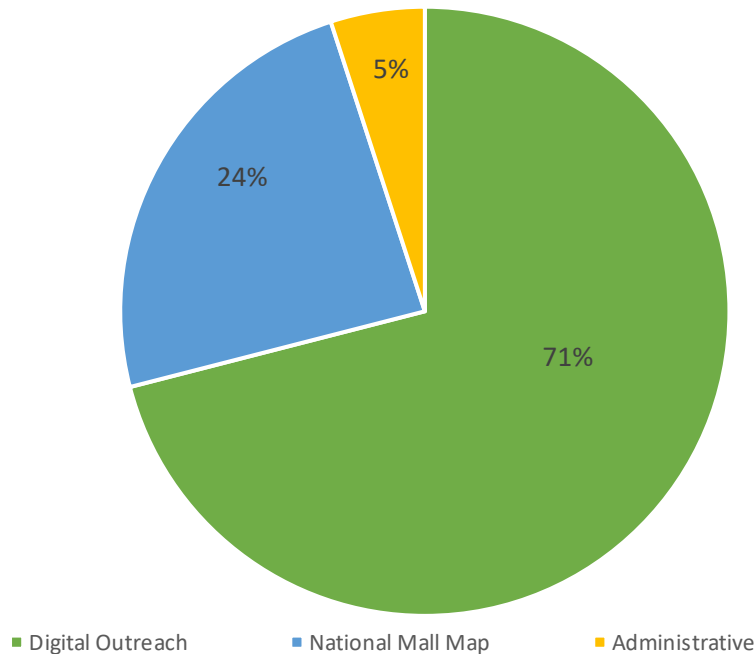
The National Mall Coalition mourns the death of **Arthur Cotton Moore FAIA**, long-time vice chair of the Coalition and design visionary for the Coalition's architectural and urban design proposals to improve the National Mall and ensure its continued vitality as the Stage for American Democracy.

Moore is renowned for his decades worth of projects for his beloved home town, including his acclaimed renovation of the magnificent Library of Congress and his playful baroque design for Washington Harbour along the Potomac River.

Moore continued until his death proposing design ideas that both respect the genius of Washington's urban design plan and create innovative solutions to seemingly intractable problems. Moore's expansion plan for the 3rd Century Mall and his design for the National Mall Underground floodwater cistern-geothermal field-bus parking facility are two examples of projects that deserve to be built.

The Coalition, the city of Washington, and the country have lost a true champion for our beautiful capital city.

# 2022 National Mall Coalition Expenses



The National Mall Coalition, an all-volunteer organization including members of the Board of Directors, is sustained financially by tax-deductible donations from individuals who support our goals and advocacy. Major expenses include our free Mall map, part-time administrative help, and management and maintenance of our website and Facebook public education and outreach.

# Board of Directors

Judy Scott Feldman, PhD  
Chair

George H.F. Oberlander, AICP  
Vice Chair

M.J. “Jay” Brodie, FAIA  
Director

Joseph D. West, Esq.  
Treasurer

Lisa Benton-Short, PhD  
Secretary

Ellen Goldstein  
Director

Stephen Hansen  
Director

Carolivia Herron, PhD  
Director

George Idelson  
Director

David H. Marlin, Esq.  
Director

Albert H. Small  
Director

Charlene Vaughn  
Director

## *Advisors*

Gordon Binder  
Senior Fellow  
World Wildlife Fund

Thomas F. King, PhD

The National Mall Coalition, an all-volunteer citizens organization, is working to protect the integrity of our nation’s premier civic space and stage for democracy and promote comprehensive, visionary planning for the Mall in its 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

The Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

## *Contact:*

National Mall Coalition  
[www.nationalmallcoalition.org](http://www.nationalmallcoalition.org)  
P.O. Box 4709  
Rockville, MD 20849  
301-335-8490  
[jfeldman@nationalmallcoalition.org](mailto:jfeldman@nationalmallcoalition.org)