



For Immediate Release
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PRESIDENT BUSH NAMES LOCAL ARCHITECT TO NATIONAL COMMISSION

José Galvez III, a senior vice president at Baltimore-based Cochran, Stephenson, and Donkervoet, becomes the newest member of the National Capital Planning Commission.

Baltimore, Maryland – President George W. Bush appointed local architect José Galvez III to a six-year term on the National Capital Planning Commission, the federal agency responsible for preserving Washington, D.C.'s historical and natural resources and “ensuring its position as a great world capital.”

Galvez was tapped to fill a vacancy on the 12-member Commission after a vigorous screening process that spanned more than two months and included phone and written interviews as well as a background check for security clearance. Galvez, who attended his first NCPC meeting just six days after the White House announced his appointment, says of the honor, “Right now, I’m learning so much. It’s fascinating to see what goes on in Washington [D.C.] in terms of long-range planning, and to work on things that you know won’t happen for 20 years or more.”

The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the National Capital Region, which includes portions of Maryland and Virginia in addition to the District of Columbia. The NCPC tackles issues as diverse as monument planning, urban security, and long-term planning for the District of Columbia. For instance, its new South Capitol Street Study developed a plan to transform a one-mile stretch of abandoned lots and vacant buildings into a great new business, cultural, and residential address for the Nation’s Capital.

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Galvez boasts an architectural career that spans nearly 30 years. Currently Galvez is a senior vice president at CSD, a 105-person architecture and interior design firm headquartered in Baltimore, with offices in Dallas, Texas, where he is director of the firm’s Healthcare Studio. Some of his more notable design experience includes the Sheraton Hotel in Towson, Maryland, the Baltimore Convention Center, and various medical projects for Baltimore-area hospitals. Galvez is the sole architect on the NCPC.

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One of Galvez's first assignments will be to work with Hillary Altman, the Commission's new Director of Urban Design and Plan Review, to establish requirements for developers' submissions to the NCPC.

According to Galvez, "From the point of view of a private sector architect, one of the things I really appreciate about the Commission is that there is a visionary quality to its work, but also a focus on day-to-day issues such as zoning." Galvez will be attending regular monthly meetings at its office on 9th Street in the District, as well as special meetings as needed.

NCPC meetings are open to the public; interested citizens can contact the Commission's Office of the Secretariat at 202-482-7200 to request a monthly agenda and information about submitting written and oral testimony.

For additional information on José Galvez or Cochran, Stephenson & Donkervoet architects, contact CSD vice president and marketing director Timothy Elliott at 410.539.2080.

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