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Georgetown Heritage Selects James Corner Field Operations to Reimagine First Mile of C&O Canal National Historical Park

The firm is best known for New York City's High Line and Chicago's Navy Pier



WASHINGTON, DC (March 15, 2017) — Georgetown Heritage has selected James Corner Field Operations, the celebrated urban design and landscape architecture firm known for New York City's High Line, to develop the Georgetown Canal Plan, a comprehensive master plan for a one-mile section of the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park (C&O Canal NHP) in Georgetown. The National Park Service (NPS), Georgetown Heritage, and the D.C. Office of Planning will work with the community to restore, reimagine and revitalize this treasured historic place.

"The James Corner Field Operations team brings exceptional ingenuity, boundless energy and extensive experience partnering with cities, parks and community groups to create stunning, lively spaces that reflect each site's distinct character and maximize its potential to engage people of all ages and cultures," said Alison Greenberg, Executive Director of Georgetown Heritage.

The design team, which includes MakeDC, Robert Silman Associates, ETM Associates and Dharam Consulting, will develop the Georgetown Canal Plan, which re-envision this popular section of the canal.

Over the next year, Georgetown Heritage and the NPS will seek input and ideas from the community on how to improve the park's unique stone structures, locks, towpath, plazas and street crossings to maximize the park's immense educational, recreational and aesthetic potential. The NPS and Georgetown Heritage will provide more information in the coming months about how to get involved.

"The National Park Service is thrilled to partner with this distinguished design team—along with Georgetown Heritage, the City and the community—to realize our vision of the C&O Canal as a picturesque, safe and sustainable historical park where people come to have fun and learn about history, science, nature and art," said Superintendent Kevin Brandt, C&O Canal NHP.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for Washington, DC, and the Georgetown community to create a transformative public space that blends historic architecture with rich landscapes to create a world-class and unique destination in the heart of the neighborhood," said James Corner, founder and director of James Corner Field Operations. "The Georgetown section of the C&O Canal NHP should be a landmark park for everyone, a lively center for social gatherings, a continuous link for recreation and contemplation, a connector of neighborhoods and networks and a model for urban livability and human health and wellbeing."

The public is invited to an informal meet-and-greet reception with the design team on Wednesday, March 29 at 6 p.m. at Foley & Lardner (3000 K St NW, Suite 500). Those planning to attend should RVSP via email to info@georgetownheritage.org. (This event is an introductory meeting only and not a part of the public design and comment process.)

The Georgetown Canal Plan, along with repairs to Locks 3 and 4, and the launching of a new historic replica canal boat, is the first phase of the C&O Canal NHP's multi-year restoration. The first phase began in October 2016 and is expected to be completed in summer 2018.

Information for Media

To access photos, schedule an interview, or for other information, members of the media may contact Lauren Boston at lboston@georgetowndc.com, or 202.298.9222 x215; Margaret Jankowsky, James Corner Field Operations, at mjankowsky@fieldoperations.net, or 212.433.1450, x297; and Ben Helwig at C&O Canal NHP, ben_helwig@nps.gov, 301.714.2218.

About the Georgetown Canal Plan

The National Park Service, Georgetown Heritage and D.C. Office of Planning are partners in restoring, reimagining and revitalizing this one-mile section of the C&O Canal NHP, which begins with a comprehensive master plan. Throughout the planning, the project partners will be eager to hear the public's ideas on creating an engaging public space in Georgetown.

The plan, which is expected to be completed in summer 2018, will be developed according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), ensuring the park's natural and cultural resources are carefully considered and protected. Funding for the Georgetown Canal Plan comes from the District of Columbia Executive Office of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, the Georgetown Business Improvement District, and private philanthropy. A combination of public and private sources will fund the implementation of the master plan.

Visit www.georgetownheritage.org/master-plan/ for more information on the C&O Canal restoration in Georgetown.

About C&O Canal National Historical Park

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, one of America's 417 national parks, preserves and interprets the park's history and natural resources while inspiring adventure and outdoor recreation. Each year nearly 5 million people enjoy the opportunities for fun and learning that the 184.5-mile-long park has to offer. Visitation to the park supports more than 1,300 jobs and contributes more than \$126 million to local economies. Learn more at www.nps.gov/choh or follow the C&O Canal on Facebook at [chesapeakeandohiocanal](https://www.facebook.com/chesapeakeandohiocanal) and on Twitter [@COcanalNPS](https://twitter.com/COcanalNPS).

About Georgetown Heritage

Georgetown Heritage is the new nonprofit partner of the C&O Canal NHP in Georgetown, and was created by community leaders to partner with the National Park Service to restore, revitalize, and reimagine the first mile of the C&O Canal NHP and other National Park assets in Georgetown. The National Park Service, Georgetown Heritage, and the D.C. Office of Planning are partnering to develop the Georgetown Canal Plan. Learn more at www.georgetownheritage.org.

About DC Office of Planning

The DC Office of Planning guides the development of the District of Columbia, including the preservation & revitalization of the city's distinctive neighborhoods, by informing decisions, advancing strategic goals, encouraging the highest quality outcomes, and engaging all communities. Learn more at planning.dc.gov.

About James Corner Field Operations

James Corner Field Operations is a leading-edge landscape architecture and urban design practice based in New York City. The practice is renowned for strong contemporary design across a variety of project types and scales, from large urban districts and complex post-industrial sites, to small well-crafted, detail design projects. In all of the work, there is a special commitment to the design of a vibrant and dynamic public realm, informed by the ecology of both people and nature.

Major projects in the firm's portfolio include the design of the High Line in New York City; Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square in Santa Monica; Miami Beach's Lincoln Road; Chicago's newly redesigned Navy Pier; Cleveland's Public Square; the Master Plan and subsequent site design of Seattle's Central Waterfront; the Domino Sugar Factory Waterfront in Brooklyn; the Cornell Tech Campus in New York; Hong Kong's Tsim Tsa Tsui Waterfront; and the Presidio Master Plan and Parklands in San Francisco.

Field Operations' work has been recognized by both peer groups and those outside the field of landscape architecture, receiving multiple awards from the ASLA, the AIA, the ULI, the BALI Awards, Architizer, and the APA; as well as the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum 2010 National Design Award, the New York City Arts Commission Award for Excellence in Design, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award for Design, the D&AD Black Pencil Award (Gold Medal), the Daimler-Chrysler Award for Design Innovation; and the Architectural League of New York Design Award.

For more information, visit www.fieldoperations.net or our Twitter and Instagram profiles at [@fieldoperations](https://twitter.com/fieldoperations).