



# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

## Central Campus Master Plan

December 2020

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO. 20-08  
EXHIBIT NO. 15A1





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**HOWARD**  

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**UNIVERSITY**

# Central Campus Master Plan

**December 2020**

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# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Real Estate Development & Capital Asset Management

December 2020

Warmest Greetings,

Howard University is more than a place. It is the spirit of a community. Since 1867 when we first perched on hilltop high, this special community has been engaged in a Long Walk.



This journey of ours is more than the mere crossing of souls across the north-south axis of The Yard on Commencement Day. The Long Walk is at the center of Howard University's poetic identity. This path is given life and breath in our knowing that the footsteps we take on that special axis fall alongside titans. We, like those who came before us, are now a part of The Long Walk. Every step we take across that Yard binds us together in the flow of this place we call Howard.

This Long Walk has witnessed the collective experience of generations. Women and men stolen, shackled, whisked across ocean waves, and exploited for profit. It has seen them rise from this injustice with endurance and grace. It has abetted an ongoing struggle for freedom and equality.

In my own Long Walk, I am honored to join a legacy of placemaking at my alma mater which includes the likes of Albert Irwin Cassell, Hilyard Robinson, Paul Revere Williams, Harry G. Robinson III, and countless others. In the context of this legacy, the 2020 Central Campus Master Plan was prepared with great pride and sincerity as a framework to propel us ever forward on our Long Walk.

Howard University is made manifest in its bricks and mortar, yet the place itself is only realized through the vibrancy of its living spirit. The physical campus is but a vessel for this experience.

With this in mind, I proffer three basic tenets to consider when approaching the implementation of any element of this plan: **Preservation**, **Innovation**, and **Activation**.

First, we must seek the **preservation** of that which is sacred and useful to our experience. Howard University is not a haphazard assemblage - it is a longitudinal statement. If Howard is to have a vision and plan for the future, we must understand and respect the historical organization of our sacred spaces and the defining elements of place.

Second, we must pursue **innovation** in all changes to Howard University's physical form. When approaching improvements to our environment, it is not sufficient to rest on the status quo. To embody excellence, we must constantly push the boundaries of what we think is possible.

Third, we must encourage the **activation** of our spaces to realize their fullest potential as mediums of human exchange and interaction. In doing so, we enable and emphasize the most valuable part of The Long Walk: ourselves.

For those of you who are not Bison, I humbly invite you to join us on our Long Walk, to bask in the flow of our energy, and bear witness as we take this great leap to propel Howard Forward.

Yours In Truth & Service,

Derrek L. Niec-Williams  
Executive Director  
Campus Planning, Architecture & Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derrek L. Niec-Williams'. Below the signature is a circular stamp with the letters 'DLNW' inside. The date '12/10' is written at the bottom of the signature.

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## **Acknowledgments**

(to be included in post-hearing submission)

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