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administrative function challenges the architectural and engineering functions of the office.

Projects carried out by the Architect of the Capitol in recent years include renovation and restoration of the Statue of Freedom, the Rotunda and other areas in the Capitol, and the Library of Congress; procurement and installation of television and broadcasting facilities for the House and Senate chambers and hearing rooms; improvement to building utility, energy-management, and security systems; installation of a Senate subway system; development and implementation of the Legislative Branch Telecommunications Network; plans for the complete renovation of the U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory; the design of a National Garden adjacent to the Conservatory; and plans for a new Capitol Visitor Center. The Architect also oversaw the design and construction of the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building for the U.S. courts. Ongoing conservation/renovation projects include the Brumidi corridors in the Capitol, a substantial barrier-removal program throughout the Capitol Complex, and the east monumental stairs on the Capitol's House wing.

The Architect of the Capitol also serves as a member of numerous governing or advisory bodies, including: Capitol Police Board, Capitol Guide Board, House of Representatives Page Board, District of Columbia Zoning Commission, Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, National Capital Memorial Commission, Art Advisory Committee to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and the National Institute for Conservation of Cultural Property. He is also an *ex officio* member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission and the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Capitol. In addition, he serves as the Coordinator of Civil Defense for the Capitol complex.

For further information, contact the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC 20515. Phone, 202–228–1793.

UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN

Office of Executive Director, 245 First Street SW., Washington, DC 20024
Phone, 202–225–8333

Conservatory, Maryland Avenue, First to Second Streets SW., Washington, DC 20024
Phone, 202–225–6646

Production Facility, 4700 Shepherd Parkway SW., Washington, DC 20032
Phone, 202–563–2220

Director (Architect of the Capitol)	GEORGE M. WHITE, *Acting*
Executive Director	JEFFREY P. COOPER-SMITH

The United States Botanic Garden is an educational and scientific display garden. It informs and educates visitors about the importance, and irreplaceable value, of plants to the well-being of humankind and to the fragile ecosystems that support all life.

The Botanic Garden's indoor and outdoor displays convey information on the aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological value of plants worldwide.

The Conservatory, one of the largest structures of its kind in this country,

features both indoor exhibits and two outdoor courtyard gardens. Collections in this facility attract many visitors annually, including botanists, horticulturists, ecologists, students, and garden club members. The permanent collections include: orchids, epiphytes, bromeliads, carnivorous plants, ferns, cycads, cacti, succulents, medicinal plants, rare and endangered plants, and plants valued as sources of food, beverages, fibers, and other industrial products. Specialty exhibits range from artwork inspired by plants to seasonal flower shows highlighting the beauty of chrysanthemums, poinsettias, spring flowers, and attractive summer terrace arrangements.

Outdoor plantings are showcased in Bartholdi Park. Also located in this park is Bartholdi Fountain, created by Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi (1834–1904), sculptor of the Statue of Liberty. To the west of the Conservatory, a rose garden marks the border of a 3-acre tract that is the future site of the National Garden.

The Garden offers educational facilities by making available for study to students, botanists, and floriculturists many rare and interesting botanical specimens. Every year botanical specimens are received from all over the world with requests for identification, and one of the services rendered by the Garden to the public is the identification of such specimens and the furnishing of information relating to the proper methods of growing them.

The United States Botanic Garden was founded in 1820 under the auspices of the Columbian Institute for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences, an organization that was the outgrowth of an association known as the Metropolitan Society and that received its charter from Congress on April 20, 1818. The Garden continued under the direction of this Institute until 1837, when the Institute ceased to exist as an active organization.

It remained abandoned until 1842, when it became necessary for the Government to provide accommodations for the botanical collections brought to Washington, DC, from the South Seas by the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838–42, under the leadership of Capt. Charles Wilkes. The collections were placed temporarily on exhibition at the Patent Office upon return of the expedition in June 1842. The first greenhouse for this purpose was constructed in 1842 on a lot behind the Patent Office Building under the direction and control of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library, from funds appropriated by Congress.

The act of May 15, 1850 (9 Stat. 427), provided for the relocation of the Botanic Garden under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library. The site selected was on the Mall at the west end of the Capitol Grounds, practically the same site the Botanic Garden occupied during the period it functioned under the Columbia Institute. This site was later enlarged, and the main area continued to serve as the principal Botanic Garden site from 1850 to 1933, when the Garden was relocated to its present site.

Although the Botanic Garden began functioning as a Government-owned institution in 1842, the records indicate that it was not until 1856 that the maintenance of the Garden was specifically placed under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library and a regular, annual appropriation was provided by Congress (11 Stat. 104).

At the present time the Joint Committee exercises its supervision through the Architect of the Capitol, who has been serving as Acting Director since 1934.

The Botanic Garden is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

For further information concerning the United States Botanic Garden, contact the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC 20515. Phone, 202–225–1200.