

Wellington Reiter

Dean, College of Design

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I am pleased to present the results of a collaboration between the School of Planning and the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture in the College of Design on an important investigation into the future of the Arizona State Capitol Mall.

Beginning with the work of the Community Design Studio, formerly the Joint Urban Design Program, in the early 1990s, the College of Design has been a partner in raising awareness of the immense opportunities and challenges for the Capitol Mall District. As the fortunes of the downtown core of Phoenix are raised to new heights by important projects like the ASU Downtown Campus, TGen, the new joint ASU/U of A medical school, and new housing and mixed-used developments, we need to make sure that the Capitol Mall is not left behind. It is an amenity for the state of Arizona that must be brought up in stature equal to the lofty tasks that take place within the walls of its buildings.

The transdisciplinary nature of this project integrates urban design, planning, architecture, and landscape architecture, which is a hallmark of our best research. Students exchanged ideas in the classroom with their architecture or planning colleagues and outside the classroom with community members and government leaders. Students met with and interviewed Capitol Mall area residents and neighborhood groups, village and senior planning staff, and social services leaders, which was an invaluable part of the research contained in this document. The quality of this research has been acknowledged by the Arizona chapter of the American Planning Association, who recently gave this project the 2005 Best Student Planning award.

I would like to acknowledge the encouragement and support of Martin L. Shultz of Pinnacle West Capitol Corp. for his time and involvement with our faculty and students. Without Marty's passion for the Capitol Mall area, this project would never have been initiated. The Phoenix Community Alliance and Don Keuth were also an important partner in making this studio project possible.

The College of Design is honored to be able to contribute to projects that look forward to Arizona's Centennial in 2012 and hope that this is the first of many efforts by the college focused on improving the quality of Arizona's built and natural environment for its 100-year anniversary. We have enough time to implement a new vision for the Capitol Mall and to polish, revive, or improve many other of the Valley's points of pride in time for its next 100 years. We look forward to helping shape the future of Arizona.

