Introduction to Washington DC

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Filming on Location in the Nation’s Capital

Washington, DC's instantly recognizable landmarks, diverse neighborhoods, cultural amenities, and first-class accommodations are just some of the many features that make the District of Columbia a venue of choice for motion picture and television production. A film-friendly city with the resources to support any size production, the District continues to draw feature and independent films, television, documentary, commercial, and other video and multimedia projects.
Southwest Waterfront

Woodley Park, photo courtesy of Destination DC

Row Houses, photo courtesy of Washington DC Economic Partnership

National Cathedral, photo courtesy of M.V. Jantzen

Washington Harbour
DC Locations

United States Capitol

Chinatown

CityZen at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, photo courtesy of Destination DC

L’Enfant Plaza Station, photo courtesy of Metro
National Building Museum

The Shops at Georgetown Park

Lincoln Theatre and Ben's Chili Bowl

The Kennedy Center
DC Locations

Dupont Circle, photo courtesy of Destination DC

Georgetown

Nationals Park

Eastern Market

Metro Shelter, photo courtesy of M.V. Jantzen
DC Locations

Maine Ave Fish Market, photo courtesy of William Geiger

Eastern Market

The Big Chair, photo courtesy of Stephen Cummings

Frederick Douglas House

Adams Morgan
GALA Tivoli Theatre, photo courtesy of Maxwell Mackenzie
Jefferson Memorial, photo courtesy of Jake McGuire

United States Capitol, photo courtesy of M.V. Jantzen

Kogod Courtyard at Smithsonian Reynolds Center, photo courtesy of M.V. Jantzen

World War II Memorial
Introduction to Washington DC

Welcome to the District of Columbia

As the nation’s capital, Washington, D.C. is known worldwide as the seat of government and power. But it is so much more. It’s a mecca for film, television, and documentary productions. It’s got great locations, from historic sites and expansive vistas showcasing iconic American landmarks, to bustling business districts and a diversity of neighborhoods capable of fulfilling the needs of any script. The District’s diverse neighborhoods such as Adams Morgan, Foggy Bottom, Anacostia, and Georgetown are just a sampling of locations that help make the District the destination of choice for feature films, television series, music videos, commercials and documentaries. We also have a huge talent pool with the creative and technical skills to work on every type of production.

The Office of Motion Picture and Television Development will work closely with you through all phases of production and will provide the following free assistance: location services, scouting, research, technical and logistical assistance, image library, e-photo delivery, script breakdown, permit assistance, and more.

The best service our office provides is assisting you with navigating the unique and intricate process of securing approval for government services and buildings for location needs. The DC Film Office has a close working relationship with government officials and community leaders, which makes for an efficient process in getting production companies the types of services and locations they need with a minimum amount of red tape.

There is a network of industry professionals and state-of-the-art facilities in the District that are equipped to play a major role in any aspect of the production process. The government of the District of Columbia has a diverse portfolio of property and buildings available for motion picture and television productions including government buildings, schools, offices, warehouses, recreation centers, parks and even residential properties. In addition, there are a great number of companies that play supporting roles in casting, catering, lighting, and sound that are experienced in handling the needs of the film and video industry in a cost effective and expeditious manner.

We welcome you to the District of Columbia and we invite you to discover the many treasures of the nation’s capital. Please be sure to reach out to us as you consider locations for your next project and we will be sure to meet your request with top-notch service.

Sincerely,

Crystal Palmer
Director
The Office of Motion Picture
& Television Development

The Office of Motion Picture and Television Development is responsible for initiating and managing programs aimed at generating revenue and stimulating employment and business opportunities in the District of Columbia through the production of film and television, video, photography, and multimedia projects.

A ‘One-Stop-Shop’

- Permitting, Parking, and City Services
- Production Support and Logistics
- Research and Technical Assistance
- Location Scouting
- Community Relations
- Film Festivals, Screenings, and other Special Events
- Hotel, Restaurant, and Transportation Assistance

Contact Us!

Call the Office of Motion Picture and TV Development at (202) 727-6608
Visit us on the web at: film.dc.gov
Join the DC Film community on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FilmDC
Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/DCFilmOffice

Crystal Palmer, Director
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor
To get to know DC like an insider, get to know its neighborhoods. Each is walkable and easily accessible via Metro or the DC Circulator. Here’s a quick guide to help get you started. Log on to washington.org to learn more.
Transportation

Metro

Metrorail serves 86 stations and has 106 miles of track. Metrobus serves the nation's capital 24 hours a day, seven days a week with 1,500 buses. Metrorail and Metrobus serve a population of 3.4 million within a 1,500-square mile jurisdiction.


Amtrak

Union Station is located in the heart of the nation's capital, just steps from the U.S. Capitol and National Mall, and is the city's central transportation hub connecting Amtrak, Metro, and Maryland and Virginia commuter train lines.

Union Station
50 Massachusetts Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-289-1908
http://www.unionstationdc.com
Amtrak Information:
http://www.amtrak.com
Ticket Reservations 1-800-USA-RAIL

Airports

The nation's capital is served by three international airports.

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) is located in Arlington, VA just across the Potomac River from the District of Columbia. Reagan National is directly linked to the region’s Metrorail system.

Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) is located in Chantilly, VA on 12,000 acres of land 26 miles from downtown Washington, DC.

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) is located 30 miles from Washington, DC and includes connections to Amtrak and Interstate 95.

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
(703) 417-8600
http://www.metwashairports.com
Additional Resources for Filmmakers

The Department of Small and Local Business Development

The Department of Small and Local Business Development is a full-service agency charged with fostering economic growth and the development of emerging District-based business enterprises through programs and opportunities, agency and public/private contract compliance, advocacy, and supportive legislation.

The Department works to stimulate and expand the local tax base of the District of Columbia, to increase the number of viable employment opportunities for District residents, and to extend the city’s economic prosperity to local business owners, their employees, and the communities they serve.

(202) 727-3900 | http://dslbd.dc.gov

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities provides grants, programs and educational activities that encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities, so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the rich culture of our city.

(202) 724-5613 | http://dcarts.dc.gov

Destination DC

Destination DC is committed to marketing the area as a premier global convention, tourism and special events destination with a special emphasis on the arts, cultural and historic communities. Destination DC supports film crews by providing b-roll footage, hotel reservations, location and storyline recommendations and other resources.

202-789-7000 | http://www.destinationdc.com

DC Film Alliance

The DC Film Alliance (DCFA) serves and strengthens the media arts in the greater Washington DC region by bringing together filmmakers and the public to participate in diverse film, video, television, and multimedia events.

202-393-4266 | http://dcfilm.org

Women in Film and Video

Women in Film & Video (WIFV) of Washington, D.C. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the professional development and achievement for women working in all areas of film, television, video, multimedia and related disciplines.

202-429-9438 | http://wifv.org
Filmed in DC

Hundreds of major motion picture and television projects have been shot in the District of Columbia. Here is a small sampling of some of the productions that were filmed in the District in recent years.

2011
Argo
Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition
GI Joe
Homeland
J. Edgar
Safe House
The 64th Annual Horatio Alger Awards
The Firm
Too Big to Fail
Veep

2010
America’s Most Wanted
Covert Affairs
DC Cupcakes
Outlaw
The BET Honors
The Daily Show with Jon Stewart
The Real Housewives of DC
Top Chef Season 7
Transformers: The Dark of the Moon

2009
Adams Morgan: The Movie
Below the Beltway
Big Love
Extreme Makeover: Home Edition
Fair Game
How Do You Know
Lie to Me
Salt
The Biggest Loser
The Real World

2008
24
Blonde Charity Mafia
Bones
Eagle Eye
GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra
In the Loop
Jazz in the Diamond District
Night at the Museum:
   Battle of the Smithsonian
Recount
State of Play

2007
Body of Lies
Bones
Burn After Reading
Definitely Maybe
Get Smart
Lions for Lambs
National Treasure: Book of Secrets
Rendition
Shooter
Stop Loss
The Bourne Ultimatum
Transformers

2006
Breach
Evan Almighty
Live Free or Die Hard
Man of the Year
Talk to Me
The Hoax
The Kingdom
The Walker
The West Wing
Film Festivals

As the nation’s capital and a leading cultural center, it is no surprise that the Washington, DC region is home to an ever-growing number of film festivals. Over 68 unique celebrations of cinema occur each year in addition to dozens of ongoing film series and special screenings at museums, embassies and cultural centers. Learn more about the District’s film festivals at http://dcfilm.org.

48 Hour Film Project
All Roads Film Festival
Arabian Sights Film Festival
Bootleg Festival
Capital Irish Film Festival
CINE Golden Eagle Film & Video
DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival
DC Caribbean Filmfest
DC Deaf Film Festival
DC Independent Film Festival
DC Labor Film Festival
DC Shorts Film Festival
DMV International Film Festival
Ecuadorean Film Festival
Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital
Euro-Asia Shorts Film Festival
Fiesta Asia Film Festival
Film Neu German Film Festival
FilmFest DC
Georgetown Independent Film Festival
GI Film Festival
Guerrilla Film Festival
Hola Mexico Film Festival
Impact Film Festival
Korean Film Festival
New African Films Festival
Our City Film Fest
Politics on Film
Reel Affirmations One In Ten
ThrillSpy International Thriller & Spy Film Festival
Washington DC African Diaspora Film Festival
Washington Jewish Film Festival
WorlDeaf Cinema Festival

* Film festivals that take place in Washington, DC, listed alphabetically