



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL BEGINS RESTORATION OF BARTHOLDI FOUNTAIN**

WASHINGTON – This week, people passing by Bartholdi Park will notice some interesting activity. The Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) has begun work to restore the historic Bartholdi Fountain.

The first phase of the multi-year project involves restoring the fountain at the center of the park. The sculpture is being disassembled and removed by crane, and will be sent to an offsite architectural metal specialist for repairs. The sculpture's restoration (Phase 1) includes repairing deteriorated metal, replacing all interior mechanical and electrical components, and replacing the lights with energy-efficient LED fixtures similar in style to the original gas sconces. The work is expected to take approximately 24 months to complete.

Once the sculpture is removed from the fountain, the second phase will begin, which will focus on the restoration and waterproofing of the concrete pedestal. Also included in Phase 2 will be the installation of energy-efficient plumbing and pumps and electrical distribution systems. The Phase 2 work will take approximately 12 months to complete. Once Phase 2 is completed, the fountain will be re-installed. The Bartholdi Fountain will not be operational until the third phase is completed. Phase 3 will involve upgrading the utility vault and other electrical and plumbing equipment.

“The Bartholdi Fountain dates back to 1876 when it was first exhibited at the International Exposition in Philadelphia. It was purchased by Congress in 1877, and was initially placed on the National Mall. It was moved to its present location in 1932. Restoring this work of art to its original glory, as well as updating it with the latest technology to make it energy efficient is a top priority for our Agency,” noted Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, Acting Architect of the Capitol.

“The Botanic Garden is thrilled to see the thorough restoration of this magnificent fountain that celebrates the triumph of the American dream of democracy,” said Holly Shimizu, Executive Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden.

Bartholdi Park will remain open to the public during the restoration work, and the construction fence will contain educational portals for the public to view the on-going work.

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