

# SPIRIT OF THE CAPITOL

## INTRODUCTION

The Spirit of the Capitol is a night time drone light show concept that would be located on the United States National Mall in Washington, DC. It would incorporate the area between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, encompassing the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting pool as well as the World War II Memorial. The drone lights would rise from the monuments and would soar from one end of the space to the other playing along the surface of the water. This show would be augmented by phone app where the audience would be able to listen to the show soundtrack live, and learn more about the Trust for the National Mall and its efforts to restore and preserve this US treasure.





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## PRECEDENCE AND RELEVANCE

The National Mall, nicknamed "America's Front Yard," is a space of reverence and celebration. It boasts iconic memorials and monuments and over 1000 acres of greenspace. Enormous events and historical moments have happened at the space including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" Speech in 1963. In January of this year at the Presidential Inauguration of Joe Biden, a light tribute to the 400 thousand lives lost to Covid-19 at the time was seen set on this reflecting pool. This beautiful space deserves to be recognized and utilized in a way that evokes unity and pride in the United States and gives people an easy avenue to donate back to the National Park Service.





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## SHOW ELEMENTS

The possibilities for moments in the light show are endless. Imagine lights floating and rising from the monuments as if the spirits of those memorialized themselves were coming to light the evening. The drones can form semi-circles along the reflecting pool, creating the illusion of a full circle, or tunnels. They could paint pictures of nature such as beautiful mountain scapes, or butterflies dancing across water. Symbols and evocations of stars and stripes and fireworks can be used for patriotic elements. A bald eagle shape can fly up out of the Lincoln Memorial, swoop down over the reflecting pool, and land proudly on the Washington Monument. The only limit is the imagination.

## CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Some challenges to consider in the production of the show would be the considerations that need to be made in order to protect the national landmarks. No one would want any of the monuments to be accidentally damaged in the production. Another would be the security and storage of the drones - would they stay on top of the monuments and how would they be secured. Logistics of having increased tourist foot traffic at night would also be considered.

The show should be invisible during the day. The drones could be solar powered, or stored off site and the sound elements would come from a smartphone app, eliminating the need to install speakers in the area. None of the show elements should interfere or be visible during the normal visitation of the park.









