
This is a study of the politics of planning for the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, a large-scale waterfront redevelopment project in Washington, DC. In 2004 the District government created a development corporation to focus on this downtown redevelopment plan. Later, in 2008, the District dissolved the development corporation and absorbed its functions under the Office of the Mayor. This research examines the significant challenges that the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative faced in dealing with multiple levels of bureaucratic involvement and oversight and in addressing problems created by previous eras. The paper reaches conclusions regarding conditions that made this large-scale redevelopment plan feasible and offers recommendations that may be useful to other cities.