South Side Community Council’s Renovation ofEsser’s Plaza
Art Commission Application Form

You must submit the following along with this form as a single PDF:

- Individual or organizational statement (250 words max)
- Letter of intent that includes history of project and its impact on the community (600 words max)
- Visual materials (See Art Commission Guidelines for requirements)
- Budget describing cost of materials, artist fees, maintenance, installation, etc.
- Two letters of support from project partners or neighborhood organizations
- One letter of support from the Department of Public Works or Department of Mobility & Infrastructure

Notes:

- You may be required to hold a Development Activities Meeting with the applicable Registered Community Organization prior to Hearing. For more information, visit pittsburghparks.gov/organizations.
- After receiving Art Commission approval, any necessary permits, certificates of occupancy, legal agreements, or other city approvals are still required. These must be applied for separately at the appropriate City departments and are the responsibility of the applicant.
- Application format is a digital copy of full application form, required documents, and the presentation to be projected at the Hearing as one single PDF. Send all documents to paad@pittsburghparks.gov.

Project Information:

Type of Project: [ ] Conceptual Review  [ ] Conceptual/Initial Review  [X] Final Review  [ ] Courtesy Review

Has this project been come before Art Commission before?  [ ] No  [X] Yes; when August 25, 2021

Duration of project: From 9/15/21 to 12/31/23

Permanent?  [ ] No  [X] Yes
Project Location
Address: 1200 East Carson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Cross Streets or other relevant Information: South 12th Street and Roland Way

Neighborhood: South Side Flats

Applicant Information
Name: South Side Community Council (SSCC)
Mailing Address: 2005 Sarah Street
City: Pittsburgh
State: PA
Zip: 15203
Phone: (412) 467-6785
Email: info@southsidecommunitycouncil.org

Relationship or Role in Project: Project Manager and Applicant

Co-Applicant (optional)
Name:
Mailing Address:
City: State: Zip:
Phone: Email:

Relationship or Role in Project:

Presenter at Hearing if different than applicant: Mike Clark - SSCC Board Member
August 31, 2021

Mr. Andrew Moss
Vice Chair and Secretary
City of Pittsburgh Art Commission
c/o Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Moss,

South Side Community Council is seeking final approval for the renovation of 1200 East Carson Street, known as Esser’s Plaza. Pro bono professionals – Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and the landscape architectural firm, LaQuatra Bonci – have helped to create a new concept for the area.

Planned improvements are:

1. Remove present pavers and work on subsurface drainage
2. Re-use 51 and relocate 8 – 10 canal stones to two other South Side sites
3. Remove decaying trees (approved by Lisa Coofie from City Forestry)
4. Install concrete sidewalks, pavers, 4" planter curb, handicap ramp (at Roland Way) (PennDOT will work on the East Carson ramp)
5. Install lighting
6. Install benches, trash cans, low planter rail
7. Install precast concrete lawn bench
8. Add a tree along South 12th Street, plant and mulch two garden areas and plant a lawn inside the precast concrete lawn bench. City Forestry has approved our plans.

The first hearing generated comments concerning the paver placement which made the plaza look too transitional. We have adapted the placement and given a nod to the DOMI concern by having an uninterrupted line of exposed aggregate concrete lead from the northeast corner to the southwest corner by Roland and 12th.

We did check with the Unlock representative who indicated that the brushed texture is just that, texture. It does not create a conflict with ADA or strollers. The brushed surface still allows for a wheel to roll continuously over the surface.

There was also a comment about the stage. Now that the large triangle under the mural is not broken up, the stage can sit anywhere inside that triangle.

One more comment suggested that we consider a thicker planting along Carson Street to block some of the noise from the street. This comment was met with much consternation by the group of Stakeholders given that one of the driving factors in the renovation of the plaza was public safety. A green screen is exactly what is to be avoided given the security issues in the area.

Thank you,

Barbara Rudnick
President
August 31, 2021

Mr. Andrew Moss
Vice Chair and Secretary
City of Pittsburgh Art Commission
c/o Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Moss:

The City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works is in full support of the South Side Community Council application for the renovation of 1200 East Carson Street, known as Lower’s Plaza. We hope that you will agree that this is a remarkable project and worthy of your support.

Thank you,

Andrea Kerzel
Senior Project Landscape Architect
Department of Public Works
August 30, 2021

Mr. Andrew Moss
Vice Chair and Secretary
City of Pittsburgh Art Commission
In case of Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

SUBJECT: Renovation of Essex’s Park;
Corner of S. 12th and East Carson Streets
South Side Pittsburgh

Dear Mr. Moss:

The South Side Chamber of Commerce is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Essex’s Park renovation project of the South Side Community Council. The Chamber deeply values the renovation plan of this park that is an important asset to the Historic South Side business district, our residents, and our visitors.

The Chamber acknowledges that the ground cover pattern submitted in the original renovation plan has been modified in accordance with the guidance received at the initial hearing for this project before the Art Commission. The Chamber recommends that the Art Commission approve the Essex’s Park renovation plan as modified.

I trust that this letter is self-explanatory. However, you are welcome to contact me at info@southsidechamber.org or (412) 331-3360 with any questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Carloina K. Petrovich
Executive Director

[Address and Contact Information]
DOMI has been studying the PennDot plans for the corner of 12th & Carson and Plaza updated plans and will be submitting an updated approval letter by the end of the week (Sept. 3). Please allow us to add that letter separately.
August 30, 2021

Mr. Andrew Moss
Vice Chair and Secretary
City of Pittsburgh Art Commission
c/o Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Moss,

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association is in full support of the South Side Community Council application for the renovation of 1200 East Carson Street, known as Esser’s Plaza. We note that they have changed the paver layout to comply with comments from the initial hearing and we hope that you will find this remarkable project worthy of your support.

Thank you,

[Signature]

Blake M. McLaren
President of the Board of Directors
South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association
New paver pattern
Plant List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>BOTANICAL NAME</th>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>Cond</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SHRUBS</strong></td>
<td><strong>SHRUBS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Rhus aromatica 'gro-low'</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Fothergilla gardenii Blue Shadow</td>
<td>Blue Shadow (Dwarf Fothergilla)</td>
<td>#3 Cont.</td>
<td>CLUMP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>GRASSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>GRASSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low'</td>
<td>Walker's Low Catmint</td>
<td>#2 Cont.</td>
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<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Sporobolus heterolepis</td>
<td>Prairie Dropseed</td>
<td>#3 Cont.</td>
<td>CLUMP</td>
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</table>
Bavarian paver from Unilock

Copthorne paver in three shades

Copthorne pavers in a Montreal park
Description of Design process – Renovation of Esser’s Plaza

South Side Community Council (SSCC) began the conversation around the renovation of Esser’s Plaza almost a decade ago. That is when the South Side Local Development Corporation turned over some funds earmarked for the plaza and another park to the SSCC. The SSCC worked on the other project first leaving the larger plaza for later attention.

The volunteers behind the project have been working for several years with multiple public events to gain community input. Comments were taken at an initial event at the local Carnegie Library in 2016. At that point, Engineers Without Borders was brought into the project. La Quatra Bonci Associates was added to the mix in 2018.

A group of 25 stakeholders were convened to further the development of a conceptual design. There were five events in 2019 to engage residents and businesses to explore the issues and weigh in on possible solutions. It was displayed at the candidate’s debate at City Theatre on March 25th, 140 persons saw it at the Spring Social on April 6th and it was presented to the Chamber of Commerce on May 16th. It was showcased at the September 14th Street Party with 300 residents and later seen at a September 20th Chamber of Commerce event. It was presented to the South Side Planning Forum on September 10th. The drawing has been continually on display at the flower shop across from the plaza. An online questionnaire seeking feedback on the design was sent to over 400 South Side residents and businesses with 125 responses.

Residents have pitched in by removing dead and scraggly shrubbery, trimming unkempt trees, picking up persistent litter and trash and working with pro bono professionals – Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and the landscape architectural firm, LaQuatra Bonci - to create a new concept for the area.

The project was submitted to a Development Activities Meeting held on March 25, 2021. The Local Review Board noted its approval at that time.

The Art Commission will note that there are two sketches of the Esser’s Plaza sign in the submission. We are interested in your input with regard to the nature of the sign and whether we should open this aspect of the design to further creative input from area artists.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Esser's Plaza Renovation</th>
<th>Estimated Construction Costs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Demolition and drainage</td>
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<td><strong>Furnishings:</strong> benches</td>
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<td>trash cans</td>
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<td>low planter rail</td>
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<td>lighting</td>
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<td>Professional services – pre-bid meeting and site progress reviews</td>
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<td><strong>Improvements:</strong> concrete sidewalk</td>
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<td>unilock pavers</td>
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<td>4” planter curb</td>
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<td>precast lawn bench</td>
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<td>Artwork sign</td>
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<td>Relocate canal stones</td>
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<td>Planting: canopy tree, mulch, lawn, topsoil and plants</td>
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<td>Overhead 2%</td>
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<td>Profit 6%</td>
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<td>Contingency 15%</td>
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