Art Commission Application Form

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

- Individual or organizational statement (250 word max)
- Letter of intent that includes history of project and its impact on the community (500 word max)
- Visual materials (See Art Commission Guidelines for requirement)
- 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 pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/rcx.
- 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 pacd@pittsburghpa.gov.

Project Information

Type of Project: ✔ Conceptual Review
☐ Conceptual/Final Review
☐ Final Review
☐ Courtesy Review

Has this project been come before Art Commission before?

✔ No
☐ Yes, when: ______________

Duration of project: From N/A / ___/____ to N/A / ___/____

Permanent?

☐ No
✔ Yes
Project Location

Address: 745 Greenfield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Cross Streets or other relevant information: Magee Recreation Center

Neighborhood: Greenfield

Applicant Information

Name: City of Pittsburgh - Office of the Mayor

Mailing Address: Office of the Mayor, City-County Building, Fifth Floor

City: Pittsburgh  State: Pennsylvania  Zip: 15219

Phone: 412-414-2149  Email: james.hill@pittsburghpa.gov

Relationship or Role in Project: Executive Assistant to the Mayor/Managing These Projects

Co-Applicant (optional)

Name: 

Mailing Address: 

City:  State:  Zip: 

Phone:  Email: 

Relationship or Role in Project: 

Presenter at Hearing if different than applicant: 
October 6, 2021

Mr. Andrew Moss & Members of the Art Commission
Art Commission of the City of Pittsburgh
Department of City Planning
John P. Robin Civic Building
200 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Moss & Members,

The City of Pittsburgh is seeking advice and a Conceptual Review from the Art Commission of the City of the Pittsburgh for the relocation of the bust of Mayor William Addison Magee from the City-County Building to the Magee Recreation Center in Greenfield.

The Honorable William Addison Magee twice served as Mayor of Pittsburgh from 1909 – 1914 and again from 1922 – 1926. He is the only Mayor of the twentieth century to serve non-consecutive terms. The bust of the Mayor previously overlooked Grant Street in a small parklet along Sixth Avenue. It was removed from parklet for the expansion of the Steel Plaza T-Station in the 1980’s. It is unknown if that removal saw Art Commission approval. From that time, he has bounced around various Department of Public Works Divisions. The piece was reported to have spent a period of time behind a maintenance shed in Point State Park. There, it was separated from its tall granite base - the base now lost to time. The piece now only features the bust of the former Mayor. It was then reportedly taken to the Department of Public Works’ Second Division in Hazelwood. In 2016 during the City’s Bicentennial of Incorporation celebrations, the family of the former Mayor asked to see the bust and it was brought to the City-County Building.

We are now looking to find a permanent home for the piece. It is our recommendation that the statue be placed at the Magee Recreation Center at Magee Park in Greenfield. The Magee family were prominent Pittsburghers whose earlier gifts included the Pittsburgh Zoo and Magee Women’s Hospital. We are hoping the Commission could provide input on this idea to allow us to move further with the process.

BUDGET

- All work regarding this project would be covered by the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of Public Works.
- There is no budget for a pedestal or base. We are hoping the Art Commission could first provide approval or insight for the new location before a setting is explored.

Sincerely,

James Hill
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

CC: The Honorable William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh
Mr. Daniel Gilman, Chief of Staff to the Mayor
Art Commission  
Department of City Planning  
City of Pittsburgh  
200 Ross Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear City of Pittsburgh Art Commission:

The City of Pittsburgh is seeking advice and a Conceptual Review from the Art Commission of the City of the Pittsburgh for the relocation of the bust of Mayor William Addison Magee from the City-County Building to the Magee Recreation Center in Greenfield.

The Department of Public Works is in support of relocation of the bust of Mayor William Addison Magee from the City-County Building to the Magee Recreation Center.

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Sincerely,

Chris Hornstein  
Acting Director, Public Works

CH/ksl
Mayor Magee’s bust in 1980, when it was at Grant Street, Sixth Avenue and Bigelow Boulevard, once the city’s geographic center.
Memorial to ex-mayor ends up on road less traveled

By Brian O'Neil

I was taking a shortcut to Point State Park, a seldom-used path under the ramps between the Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt bridges, when I saw a slab of granite that looked like a tombstone.

WILLIAM ADDISON MAGEE

Underneath this name were the words "vice mayor of Pittsburgh." At least I thought those were the words, but when I moved aside a dirty sheet of plastic I could see "Twice mayor of Pittsburgh."

Important dude. So what was Bill Magee's memorial doing here, with stacked picnic tables and a rusted yellow snow plow?

Fame is fleeting. For nearly 40 years, a bronze bust of Magee overlooked Grant Street from a tiny park at Grant's intersection with Sixth Avenue and Bigelow Boulevard. But the park was demolished 13 years ago when the intersection was realigned for the Steel Plaza subway stop.

Magee has been homeless since. Dead Republicans get no respect in Pittsburgh. His bust has been shut up in a Schenley Park office and this pedestal has been hidden behind the Fort Pitt Museum.

"Citizens of Pittsburgh dedicate this memorial in grateful remembrance of his long public service," the inscription on the slab says. "In recognition of his genius for municipal management, and appreciation of his pre-eminence as a city planner and his practical accomplishments for his native city."

Yeah, so then why do we keep this where even the pigeons can't find it? I once knew a homeless man who rested not far from Magee's slab, in the shade of the bridge, in summer.

Edward Osley Jr., one of the most pleasant men you'd ever hope to meet, died in December at 45.

Osley would be surprised to know how much he had over a former mayor. A lot of Pittsburghers remember "Eddie" and his greeting, "How ya doin', buddy?"

A lot never heard of Magee.

A few years ago, city planners expected to return his bust to a spot near its old home at Pittsburgh's geographic center. But that was tied to the City Center project, which was supposed to bring Macy's to Grant Street. That's still supposed to happen one day, so is a Mars landing.

Mike Eversmeyer, city historic preservation planner, said there are no immediate plans to do anything with Magee's statue.

Nobody asked me, but I think it could still serve a purpose right where it is, shoved against a bridge piling and half out of its plastic overcoat: Have every politician in Western Pennsylvania come see this for a healthy shot of humility.

Magee must have been a proud man. He came from a prominent political family. His uncle, Christopher, streetcar magnate and political boss, gave the city the Highland Park Zoo and founded Magee Hospital.

William A. Magee himself was mayor from 1909 to 1914 and again from 1922 to 1926. He also was a state senator, councilman and member of the state Public Service Commission. That's carved in stone.

Yet the city has been hiding his bust for about as long as Madonna has been showing hers, and you'd have a hard time finding anyone who still notices, much less cares.

Edward Magee Reno, whose grandfather was cousin to William Magee's father, has lobbied to return his distant relative to prominence. But Reno, 76, a retired engineer from Monroeville, has gotten nowhere.

"People got all revved up on the [Mayor Richard] Caliguiri statue and went on and forgot the past," Reno said. "We lose our arts and history through negligence."

But then Mayor Caliguiri was Magee motorized the police and fire departments and built playgrounds, but charges of corruption plagued him.

He committed himself to dealing with Pittsburgh's 215 brothels and gambling dens, but nearly half the brothels were still in business when his first term ended.

One historian noted Magee's best-known civic improvement was removing The Hump from Grant Street. It's not much of a legacy.

So now Magee's head is on a dolly in a Schenley Park office and his pedestal is, quite literally, beside the Point.

Brian O'Neill is The Gazette columnist.

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St. Peter continued from page 17

or Ireland would have been altogether more sophisticated than was the design of St. Peter's. In spite of its 'realism,' features of the church such as the position of the tower in the center of the west front and the rectangularity of the heads of the windows would seem to suggest an Ameri-

The lepers' window, at left, is a replica of those used in Ireland to give lepers a place away from the rest of the congregation to hear mass. Priests placed communion wafers on the railing for the lepers, who waited in the alcove. At St. Peter's, the window was never used.

can 19th-century designer."

Stanton suggests that designer might have been Philadelphia's John Notman, architect of our own late and much lamented St. Peter's Church, built Downtown in 1851, moved to Oakland in 1901 and demolished in 1990. Stanton cites many likenesses between St. Peter's and Notman's circa 1840 St. Thomas Protestant Episcopal Church in Glassboro, N.J., especially "the similarity of the two west fronts [which] is too strong to be pure accident." Stanton is referring to the central bell tower that dominates both facades.

Yet a 1978 Philadelphia exhibit of Notman's work makes no mention of St. Peter's, even though it attributes other buildings to him without documentation.

So there you have it: A whodunit worthy of Sherlock Holmes. But if St. Peter's did have an American architect, Notman is certainly the most likely choice.

At St. Peter's, visitors are welcome at weekend Masses (6 p.m. Saturday, 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday), and the church will be open for tours during National Bike Days, May 19-22. To arrange private tours, call 785-7781. Next year, St. Peter's celebrates its sesquicentennial, and a special Mass will be offered this July 1, commemorating that first Mass 240 years ago.

Monthly in The Gazette, stories by free-lance writer Patricia Lowry will feature Western Pennsylvania's evolving landscape, from architecture to atmosphere.