November 3, 2021

Department of City Planning
Public Art & Civic Design Division
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

RE:  New DPW Salt Storage Facility -
Art Commission Application for CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Dear Commissioners:

The Department of Public Works (DPW), Bureau of Facilities, Architecture Division, in conjunction with our consultant, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) is pleased to submit an application for Conceptual Review to the Art Commission and Public Art & Civic Design Division.

Organizational Statement

The DPW Architecture Division is responsible for the design, renovation, and construction of projects at all City-owned and/or operated facilities, as well as the City’s parks. Our role is to maintain the buildings and recreational assets in a way that keeps them safe, functional, sustainable, and aesthetically pleasing for the employees and citizens that utilize them.

Letter of Intent

The existing Salt Storage Dome in Saw Mill Run Blvd (Currently having than 5,000 tons of salt storage capacity) is structurally deficient and has reached the end of its life. Therefore, it will be demolished along with an adjacent abandoned old diner building that is also owned by the City. Both lots will be consolidated to allow a new 7,500-ton Salt Storage Building. The Department of Public Works, along with a team of consultants, have been working on potential options for the exterior design of the building.

A Development Activities meeting took place on October 19, 2021, organized by the Mount Washington CDC to gather input from the community. We’ve collectively come up with the following goals:

• Improve the appearance of the Facility from the visible sides (North & West Facades) with an artistic concept
• Address all stormwater management issues with green space that will improve the impervious area at least 20% of the site.
• Potential artistic opportunity for the Seldom Seen Grenway entrance.

The new Salt Storage Facility & supporting assets on the site will include the following: a new building conformed by two large bays and a center comfort station, landscaping and stormwater management features.

Combining the community’s feedback and the design team’s expertise, we are proposing that the public art component focuses on the building’s visible façade as well as a more visible connection with the Seldom Seen Greenway entrance nearby. At this time, we are looking for input and suggestions from the Commissioners so that the public art can be seamlessly integrated into the construction phase.

Additional details & visuals are provided in the presentation.

**Letters of Support**
- Department of Public Works, Acting Director Chris Hornstein
- Councilwoman Theresa Kail Smith *(to be sent via separate email)*
- Conditional Letter of Support from the MWCDC

Thank you for your consideration and time spent reviewing this application package.

Respectfully,

Felipe Palomo
Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Dana Klann (CEC)
CoP DPW Salt Shed

Existing Conditions Map
CoP DPW Salt Shed – Compact Option A
Site Plan
CoP DPW Salt Shed – Compact Option A
Southeast Birds-Eye Perspective
CoP DPW Salt Shed – Compact Option A

Elevations

North

East

West

South
1. South Elevation

2. West Elevation
CoP DPW Salt Shed – Compact Option A
Northeast Perspective
CoP DPW Salt Shed – Compact Option A
Southwest Perspective
This memo serves as a Letter of Support for the Saw Mill Run Salt Storage Facility as noted above. The new facility and services that it will provide are vital to the community and for daily City operations. The building, as well as the public art component, will not only improve the overall environment and aesthetics of the site, but also be a welcoming feature to the adjacent Seldom Seen Greenway users and citizens that pass by when driving on Saw Mill Run Boulevard. The Department of Public Works is proud to support this project.

CC: Sarah Minnaert - Public Art & Civic Design Manager /City Planning
Anthony Cavalline – Arts, Culture and History Specialist/City Planning
"DPW Letter of Support AC - Saw Mill Run Salt Storage Facility(1)" History

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Art Commission
City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street, Fourth Floor
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

November 3, 2021

Re: Saw Mill Run (Salt Dome Storage) Facility (Project), 930 & 940 Saw Mill Run Boulevard
City of Pittsburgh, Department of Public Works

Dear Commission Members:

The Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) supports the Department of Public Works Saw Mill Run Salt Dome Storage Facility Project planned for 2021-2022, with conditions, and completely supports DPW’s application requesting an Art Commission Conceptual Review for the design of the facility. MWCDC is especially interested in this project because of its location in the neighborhood of Mount Washington, proximity to Emerald View Park, and the opportunity that the new facility offers to improve the visual approach to Mount Washington from Route 51.

DPW presented the project to Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights residents and businesses on October 19, 2021 in a Community Forum sponsored by MWCDC. MWCDC offers conditional support of the project in that (1) DPW is requested to make a second community presentation after the Art Commission Conceptual Review has taken place and after elements of the Conceptual Review have been incorporated into an updated design of the facility and (2) DPW’s final design takes into account community input received during the community presentations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Executive Director

Mount Washington Community Development Corporation
608 Virginia Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15211 • (412) 481-3220 • info@mwcdc.org • www.mwcdc.org

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