CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Historic Review Commission

Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness

DIRECTIONS:
Please note: You must complete a Zoning and Development Review Application (ZDR) along with this Application. The ZDR can be filed and fees paid online after creating an account at OneStopPGH. Please upload this Application when submitting the ZDR along with your supporting documentation.

DEADLINE:
Completed applications must be received at least 13 business days prior to the HRC hearing, when a hearing is required. In order to confirm your spot on the agenda, you must confirm that your application has been received by emailing historicreview@pittsburghpa.gov.

FEE SCHEDULE:
See attached.

ADDRESS OF PROPERTY:
4200 Forbes Avenue (AKA 221 Schenley Dr.), Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Lot & Block: 0027-S-00150-0000-03)

APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION

OWNER NAME: City of Pittsburgh / Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
COMPANY NAME: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

OWNER ADDRESS: 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

APPLICANT NAME: Sergei C. Matveiev, AIA
COMPANY NAME: elagin architecture, inc.

APPLICANT ADDRESS: 20 Brilliant Avenue, Suite 200F, Pittsburgh, PA 15215

APPLICANT CONTACT (EMAIL): sergei@elagin.co (PHONE): 412.303.4331

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (REQUIRED):

☐ Drawings ☐ Photographs ☐ Renderings ☐ Site Plan ☐ Other

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT (ATTACH ANOTHER SHEET IF NEEDED):

Interior and exterior renovations to Carnegie Library’s Main Branch. Work to include: in-kind reconstruction of the exterior grand steps, new sidewalks to improve access, a small vestibule addition for a new accessibility elevator, a new elevator machine room within the existing basement and main entry hall renovations.

APPLICANT OR PROPERTY OWNER SIGNATURE:

SIGN: ___________________________ DATE: 04.06.2022
City of Pittsburgh  
Department of City Planning  
Attention: Ms. Sarah Quinn  
Historic Preservation Planner  
200 Ross Street, 4th Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Email: sarah.quinn@pittsburghpa.gov

RE: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh  
Main Branch – Additions & Renovations  
4200 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
eai Project #: 02-21-008

Dear Ms. Quinn and Commissioners,

elagin architecture, inc. (eai) has been contracted by Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to prepare renovation plans for the historic Oakland Branch. Dedicated in 1895, the Longfellow, Alden & Harlow designed library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as a historic structure by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. The vast historic structure known as Carnegie Institute is comprised of two organizations, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh. The total area of the Institute is 806,434 square feet, of which 181,932 are Library and 624,502 are Museum. The construction of the branch can be summarized as a four-story loadbearing masonry and steel structure occupying a 22.6-acre City-Owned parcel in Pittsburgh’s 4th Ward. The focus of the proposed is the main entrance to the library, which faces Schenley Plaza. The current state of the entrance is such that repairs are urgently needed to preserve as much of the existing stone elements as possible. Along with the preservation work, improvements in accessibility are also proposed, including a new elevator to be tucked-away in the existing vestibule.

The cause of the deterioration to the Schenley Plaza Grand Stair entrance has been identified as insufficient foundation drainage below the stairs, whereby decades of freeze-thaw cycles have precipitated significant movement of the supporting construction. To remedy the hydrostatic problems, the stair will be carefully deconstructed and catalogued for reconstruction in-kind with new foundations being installed, the front planting beds facing Schenley Plaza will require excavation for the installation of water-proofing and drainage, and Eichenlaub Landscaping has been tasked with providing low-maintenance landscaping plans for the yards adjacent to the proposed work area. The existing portico at the top of the steps will also undergo a gentle restoration that preserves patina and includes restoration of the exquisite bronze entry doors.

The accessibility improvements are not limited to the elevator; this project will also endeavor to reduce travel distances for visitors using public transportation. This will be accomplished by providing new paved routes from the existing bus stops at Forbes Avenue to the Library’s main entry point. The elevator itself will require a small lower-level addition on the side of the existing vestibule, and will be in an area obscured by existing building elements and shrubbery.
Lastly, the final element of this project includes the renovation of the library’s main entrance hall. The current configuration of the entry hall includes an undesirable tripping hazard at the building’s historic vestibule, two 20-year-old glass vestibules, and an open vertical platform lift, which allows cold air to rush in to the building during the winter months. In recent years, the aging glass vestibules have been creating significant maintenance headaches for the Facilities Department, and the ad-hoc solution to the tripping hazard has also become problematic for the Staff. To correct these issues, the proposed includes new doors at the entry hall, a shaft-enclosed elevator and a permanent ramp at the tripping hazard.

The design development process for this project has been collaborative in that Carnegie Library and eai have sought the input of major stakeholders, including (but not limited to) the Branch’s Staff, facility users and members of the Community. The proposed has also been presented to a joint Development Activities Meeting, whereby City Planning hosted Oakland Business Improvement District and Oakland Planning and Development Corporation. It is worth noting that much of the planning for this project has focused on limiting disruption to visitors who rely upon the library as a critical cultural institution. Paramount to these discussions has been planning the work in a manner that maintains access to the Schenley Drive entry point throughout the majority of the construction.

Thank you for your attention to this important project, and let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sergei C. Matveiev, AIA
Principal
Presentation for:
Historic Review Commission

Project:
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Main Branch, Oakland
Schenley Plaza Entrance
Addition & Renovations
4400 Forbes Avenue
(aka 4200 Forbes Avenue &
221 Schenley Drive)
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Introduction

Property Under Consideration
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Main Branch, Oakland
4400 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Civil & Structural Engineer
Gateway Engineers, Inc.
100 McMorris Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Owner
City of Pittsburgh
414 Grant Street, Room 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2409

MEP & FP Engineer
WNA Engineering, Inc.
1257 Perry Hwy., Suite 100
Portersville, PA 16051

Architect
Elagin Architecture, Inc.
(Sergei C. Matveiev, AIA)
20 Brilliant Avenue, Suite 200F
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Landscape Architect
Eichenlaub
Box 111282
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Civil & Structural Engineer
Gateway Engineers, Inc.
100 McMorris Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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Landscape Architect
Eichenlaub
Box 111282
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
4400 Forbes Avenue
Parcel I.D. 0027-S-00150-0000-03
Zoning District: EMI
Improvements Location

4400 Forbes Avenue
Parcel I.D. 0027-S-00150-0000-03
Zoning District: EMI
**Scope of Work**

- In-kind reconstruction of the exterior Grand Steps facing Schenley Plaza.
- New exterior paving to improve accessibility and reduce travel distances from Forbes Avenue’s bus stop.
- A small vestibule addition accessing a limited use/limited application (LULA) elevator for improving the existing accessible route.
- Construction of a shaft for the LULA and the installation of the LULA itself with a machine room.
- New landscaping at main entry’s planters.
Schenley Plaza Entrance – Grand Stair In-kind Reconstruction
Grand Stair In-kind Reconstruction
New Paved Route from Forbes Avenue
New Paved Route to Proposed LULA Location
LULA Elevator Vestibule Addition Location
Improved Accessible Route
Entry Hall Renovations
Proposed Paving Plan
Proposed Vestibule Addition

EXISTING GRAND STAIR TO BE DISMANTLED & RECONSTRUCTED IN KIND WITH NEW FOUNDATION DRAINAGE. WILL REQUIRE HISTORIC REVIEW COMMISSION APPROVAL.

WORK SEQUENCE:

TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS AT THE FACILITY, RESTORATION WORK AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE SHOWN ON THIS PAGE SHALL BE PERFORMED IN THE DESCRIPTION BELOW.

1. ENTRY 'A' TO REMAIN OPEN AS WORK IS BEING PERFORMED ABOVE ENTRY DOORS 'B' & 'C'. CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION ABOVE ENTRY 'A' AS ADJACENT WORK IS BEING EXECUTED.

2. ENTRY 'B' TO REMAIN OPEN AS WORK IS BEING PERFORMED ABOVE ENTRY DOOR 'A'. CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION ABOVE ENTRY 'B' AS ADJACENT WORK IS BEING EXECUTED.

NOTES:

- ALL WORK ADJACENT TO PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS MAY NOT COMMENCE UNTIL SUCH TIME WHERE PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION ABOVE ENTRY 'A' IS IN PLACE PER 2009 IBC, CHAPTER 33.

- WITH CLOSURE SEQUENCE SHOWN HEREIN, ADEQUATE EGRESS WIDTH WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE FACILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH 2009 IBC, SECTION 1005.

- PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION MAY BE PROVIDED ACROSS THE ENTRANCE IN LIEU OF STAGED CLOSINGS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

KEYNOTES:

- ANCHOR SLEEVES
- CRACK REPAIR
- BRONZE PLAQUE TO BE REINSTALLED
- BRONZE DOORS TO BE REPAIRED & REFINISHED
- DELAMINATING STONE
- STONE REPLACEMENT
- STONE DISCOLORATION
- CORNICE DELAMINATION
- STAIRS SMOOTHED & CORKED
- ENTRANCE ORNAMENTAL MOLDINGS NOT USED
- COMPLETE ORNAMENTAL MOLDINGS NOT USED
- PATCHING ORNAMENTAL MOULDINGS NOT USED
- CLEAN ORNAMENTAL MOLDINGS NOT USED
- REFURBISH BRONZE DOORS. MAINTAIN PATINA WHILE GENTLY CLEANING.
- PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION PROVIDED ACROSS ENTRANCE IN LIEU OF STAGED CLOSINGS DESCRIBED ABOVE.
- PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION MAY BE PROVIDED ACROSS THE ENTRANCE IN LIEU OF STAGED CLOSINGS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

- UPON COMPLETION OF REPAIRS, APPLY WATER REPELLENT TO CHEEK WALLS.

- APPLY WATER REPELLENT TO CHEEK WALLS.
Proposed Entry Hall Renovations

- NEW LIFT FOUNDATION REINFORCED 8" CMU WALL.
- METAL GRATE MAIN LEVEL + 8'-1-3/4"
- NEW LOWER LIFT STOP - 1'-6"
- 6" 16 GA. CHANNELS AT 16" O.C.
- 1" GP DENSGLASS SHAFTLINER.
- 1-1/2" TEMPERED GLASS FRAMELESS BUTT JOINTS.
- 1-1/2" TEMPERED GLASS INSERTS. ADHERED IN PLACE WITH CLEAR SILICONE. TYP. OF 12.
- S.S. GLAZING CHANNEL BENT TO MATCH ARCHE'S CONTOUR.
- INSTALL VINYL APPLIQUE ON TRANSOM GLASS TO GIVE FROSTED GLASS APPEARANCE.
- 4' LED STRIP LIGHT.
- HIP BRACE TOP OF WALL TO SIDE WALL WITH 4"X4"X14" STRUCTURAL STEEL.
- GARAVENTA ELVORON HYDRAULIC LULA LIFT W/ S.S. WALL PANELS AND LED LIGHTED CAB
- BRACE CMU WALL TO EXISTING SLAB W/ #5 DOWELS @ 12" O.C. EPOXY INTO EXISTING.
- (2) 6" CHANNELS, 5'-9" LONG. CONCRETE TOPPING.
- PATCH AREA W/ MARBLE SUPPLIED BY CLP.
- 1'-1/2" CORRUGATED DECKING.
- 6" 16 GA. CHANNELS AT 16" O.C.
- SUMP 1" GP DENSGLASS SHAFTLINER.
- INSTALL VINYL APPLIQUE ON TRANSOM GLASS TO GIVE FROSTED GLASS APPEARANCE.
- 4' LED STRIP LIGHT.
- RAIL AND BRACKETS BY GARAVENTA.
- BRACE TOP OF WALL TO SIDE WALL WITH 4"X4"X14" STRUCTURAL STEEL.
- GARAVENTA ELVORON HYDRAULIC LULA LIFT W/ S.S. WALL PANELS AND LED LIGHTED CAB
- BRAZEL TOP OF WALL TO SIDE WALL WITH 4"X4"X14" STRUCTURAL STEEL.
- GARAVENTA ELVORON HYDRAULIC LULA LIFT W/ S.S. WALL PANELS AND LED LIGHTED CAB
- BRACE CMU WALL TO EXISTING SLAB W/ #5 DOWELS @ 12" O.C. EPOXY INTO EXISTING.
- (2) 6" CHANNELS, 5'-9" LONG. CONCRETE TOPPING.
- PATCH AREA W/ MARBLE SUPPLIED BY CLP.
- 1'-1/2" CORRUGATED DECKING.
- 6" 16 GA. CHANNELS AT 16" O.C.
- SUMP 1" GP DENSGLASS SHAFTLINER.
- INSTALL VINYL APPLIQUE ON TRANSOM GLASS TO GIVE FROSTED GLASS APPEARANCE.
- 4' LED STRIP LIGHT.
- RAIL AND BRACKETS BY GARAVENTA.
Petition Request
The Proposed Improvements will require the Approval of:
- Historic Review Commission
- City Planning Development Activities Meeting (Completed)
- Art Commission, City Planning (Pending Review)
- City Planning Commission, City Planning (Review by AC and HRC is a prerequisite)
- Department of Public Works (Pending Review)
Thank you.