

## **Gathering Space and Stage**

### **July 12, 2004 – Terwilliger Lodge, Dulle Park**

- What about a band shell pop-up—even temporary?
- What about Bryant Park? What do they have?
- One thing that I think is missing is the WOW factor—something that visitors will remember and talk about. Also, we need to accommodate big events. Introduce technology and wireless access. Huge wireless video screens that are tasteful. So when we have an activity there we can project things and create more activity. Will introduce another level of excitement to the square. If it done right, it can be really nice.
- You talked about getting rid of the wall and that it could be a danger. And there are people who sit on the wall and people watch. Can you simply lower the wall?
- People sit on the walls. Are you going to have more seating? [shows chairs] Are they fastened down?

### **July 13, 2004 – Aronoff Center for the Arts**

- We receive around 40 inches of rain a year. Everyone knows that happens in Cincinnati, and when it rains or we have bad weather, everyone stays inside. And so you are designing a park that people can walk through in nice weather, which we only have for a few months of the year. I have been a resident of the Greater Cincinnati area all my life, and I can tell you the Square will be empty.
- Is there a place for events and ceremonies? A place for bands to play? A place for speeches? I think we need a stage.
- What about lighting issues? You have a lot of lighting issues there. From a safety viewpoint, you need to pay attention to lighting.

### **July 14, 2004 – Cintas Center, Xavier University**

- I like the idea of the skating rink. It just gives a little variety.
- I get an impression that it is an upscale development and it is a destination. I'd like to take a different approach to making it economically feasible. We need to make a real effort to bring people from Over the Rhine and the West End. One of the good things about the Fountain is that it brings people from different backgrounds together to interact. It may make us very uncomfortable to bring people together. It is in the richness and the diversity that we have the value, and it is in the diversity that we bring the community together.
- I think we need to have more room for people to congregate, because people will tear the trees down. Hopefully the Reds will win the pennant and the Bengals the Super Bowl--but people will tear the trees down.
- In Love Park in Philly, they had a skateboard and other things for the kids. It brought such vitality and commercialism to the City. There was much clamor from a youthful population who wanted to know that there was something devoted to them.
- Also, umbrella tables—don't forget about umbrella tables.

### **July 19, 2004 – Hyatt Regency Cincinnati**

- I like having a stage and I think we will need fewer trees if we have a stage. Also, if you have a stage, instead of a concrete or brick design, if you have a kiosk it would blend in better with what is being proposed here.
- We do need some type of stage. We need activities in the evening. People are not going to come downtown to just sit under the trees.
- Cincinnati's downtown has always died in the evenings. It dies around 5 on Saturdays, and on Sundays it is a ghost town down here.
- Where is the lighting coming from—there are no lamp posts, etc.
- Is there some way of putting up a seasonal greenhouse where people could gather on the Fountain in the bad weather?
- It was suggested that there would be some temporary stages here and there. But if people were sitting back behind the Fountain, the Fountain would obstruct their view.
- We definitely need lighting downtown. We can do gaslights or something like that.

### **August 11, 2004 – St. Williams Church**

- Make sure there are a lot of people coming to the events. There's safety in numbers.
- Why not make smaller parks where you can have events throughout downtown and distribute the events?
- The new space has a lot less area for people to gather--for example, when the Reds win the pennant.
- Once it's all finished, what about maintenance? We aren't real good on maintenance. Not it's dirty—there's chewing gum on the sidewalks, etc. And there are cutbacks, cutbacks, cutbacks. Recreation got another million dollars cut from its budget.

### **August 12, 2004 – Southbank Partners Office, Newport, KY**

- The impact of the design, looking at the drawings, is that the space has become much more sequestered open air space. I don't know that it would necessarily serve all of the possible end uses. But being able to show films on a regular basis would be exciting. Used to do that. To introduce some of that energy into the space would be really mesmerizing.
- Regarding the excitement of the events that Dave was talking about. Is there a conflict, because the City was moving toward The Banks as drawing people toward the river and creating festival and larger events. In consideration of the Banks, Newport, and the general riverfront, are we going to become known as the festival area of the Midwest? Is this too much?
- Is this area going to be soft enough that you could put in bocce ball?
- I am curious as to how many days a year the Fountain is utilized, either light or moderate use. Not just Oktoberfest. And how did that statistic go into the programming of the designers, and what effect does it have on your thinking as far as attractions and entertainment?