

## **Activities & Uses: Programming & Operations / Retail / Economic Opportunities**

### **May 4, 2004 -**

- Have elevator from garage open into a shopping area.
- It's not a comfortable place now to enter the square; doesn't feel safe.
- "I used to be afraid of parking in the garage, but I went downtown during the summer of the pigs. Now I'm used to it, and I go there because it's cheap. Other people consider it scary and dark."
- "The garage is relatively safe, inexpensive, but always leaking water."
- "I never take the elevator to the Square; it stinks, smells bad. I go to the Westin."
- Should have a lot of young street performers.
- Sound & music to create some excitement.
- A few small kiosks with merchandise that is more high-end and not so tacky.
- Retail should appeal to office workers not teeny-boppers.
- Not dollar store or MTV type things.
- Merchandise should be better taste and quality. Street vendors give vitality, like at Oktoberfest.
- Be unique, not just hot dogs.
- Conducive to sit there and eat quickly.
- It needs character.
- Businesses that aren't in every mall.
- No more chains. They all have the same merchandise.
- Palomino's, Provident Camera are examples of unique places not in the malls.
- Not a good bakery. Servatii's good, but need place like Shadeau (from Main Street)—more one-of-a-kind, not high volume.
- All kinds of stores okay.
- DCI gets A++ for Ambassador program and 10-minutes free parking. DCI gets points for cleanliness.
- Events don't all have to be so big.
- Have entertainment before an Aronoff show—have a teaser performance on the Square. Kiosk selling Reds & Bengals stuff; Cincinnati Store a block away and people don't know where it is.
- Likes new visitor center.
- Square is used almost daily from spring to fall with people taking out permits.
- Used extensively for free speech.
- Stage is functional for that purpose even though it is not aesthetically pleasing. If stage is removed, where else in the city can that occur?
- City has mobile stages that can be erected quickly and easily.
- Likes Public Library book sale.
- Subsidy for rent in first few years to attract small businesses. \$13/sf too high; work up to that amount but don't start with that.

### **May 5, 2004 -**

- Wifi would be good.
- Is Fountain Square a 'hot spot' for Cincinnati Bell?
- Current seating not conducive to sitting there with laptop and using wireless.

- Have real authentic metts and brats.
  - (Avril's just started operating "Fare on the Square."--DG)
  - Like idea of European cafes.
  - Retail should be clothing; that would generate traffic.
  - Not too many places to eat after a certain time, especially with children.
  - More choices in food.
  - "It would be good to get a cup of coffee and dessert on the Square after the theatre." "The garage smells like people are using it as a bathroom." (young man from Pleasant Ridge)
  - Music venue to enable music to flow out onto the square.
  - Tap all 5 senses; more sensory stimulation. Good aromas. Pleasing touch.
  - Why is Fountain Square elevated; is that to vent garage? (Engineering needs to be studied.--DG)
- Skating rink looks like a corral, all walled in; only seems fully operational on 6 days a year. It would be nice to be able to skate around the fountain or go around something.

#### **May 6, 2004 –**

- Wine shops, coffee, shops and more fun things, but make them stay open until 10 or 11. Lots of people at noon because they work here, but limited things happen after hours. There need to be other destinations that bring people downtown, not just the Square. People go to Bryant Park from Theatre District in NY.
- When more people live downtown, they will visit square in the evening.
- 5/3 Bank retail center and Post Office attract a lot of people and really should be at street level.
- More cart vendors on a temporary basis.
- Stage is there because some City department wanted a permanent stage, not just always erecting and taking down.
- Keep Visitors Center where it is.
- Outdoor art exhibits would be great from local art institutions and showcase more diversity than makes Cincinnati special—we're a good tossed salad, not a melting pot. Have history of fountain.  
Scope is too large & ambitious; how can the square be all things to all people.
- What is its purpose and definition?
- Must have adequate safety.

#### **May 10, 2004 –**

- Have a range of prices for food choices.
- Fountain-side outdoor dining at evening. Be able to walk to a movie theatre, like the Esquire, right downtown, accessible by foot.
- Have entertainment.
- One of the draws of Newport on the Levee is how concentrated everything is. Downtown Cincinnati is more spread out.
- How is this going to be funded?
- Is this a place where there could be an outdoor concert? Live musical entertainment, something worthwhile.

- Chasing pigeons; my grandchild asked “Grandma, can we go chase the pigeons?”

**May 11, 2004 -**

- Often there are booths on the square but they look scrappy and out of place (like Public Library sale); is there a way to accommodate them so they don't look out of place.
- There needs to be an entity that plans the events and recruits activities to occur on the square.
- Who is this for? We need to ask this question in every category.
- I remember when Cincinnati Recreation Commission pulled a trailer up every day to put on a show; that's what stage replaced. It could look better but it serves a purpose.
- Have local news teams use Fountain Square as a backdrop the way Rockefeller Center is used on the Today show.
- If you're 5/3 Bank, you're down here to do commerce.
- A playground is great, but it has to complement the businesses. I don't like the stage, the skywalk, all the concrete.
- Most of our comments are about bringing people to the space.
- I want it to be nice, but I want to do business. I'm not here to play. Enhance real estate value by doing more business. We used to have 110,000 people working downtown. We want a destination that enables P&G and the rest of us to recruit workers who would like to be downtown.
- We were built on the river, but the future is about bytes. We have a great byte-moving infrastructure here, one of the best in the world, and a celebrated GIS system. Provide downtown workers and convention visitors (who bring in more money than businesses) with video terminals on the square. We have LCD plasma screens that can be on 24 hours a day and show what's happening, like a performance at Music Hall. People could have their PDA tied into current information. Make this an electronic center. Tie people in to places they wouldn't otherwise visit.
- I applaud this group for attempting to discover what uses should be here. Some of the opinions can't coexist. It's not a trick to design, just a little money. What matters is who is going to decide, and who is in charge of, what is going to happen there. Without knowing that, it's hard to design a space to accommodate it. Newport on the Levy was designed as a mix of business and entertainment, but business is suffering; people go there for the entertainment. Maybe the answer is to make it a blank canvas