

Notes: Frances Plaza 4/4/08

Physical Description

- Most of the layout is given in the architectural plan. Several measurements that may not have been mentioned were that: the distance between the two oak trees is about 28 feet, and 11 open feet are required on one side of the plaza for emergency vehicle access.
- One planter, the one closest to State Street Brats, will remain in the Frances plaza.
- The trees will likely not be removed, and the 4-ft fence at State Street Brats will enclose the two trees nearest that building.
- State Street Brats lights its seating areas. It has two area lights as well as strings of small white lights that are intended to create atmosphere as well as subtly light the area.
- The City will install pedestrian lights in the area (indicated in the plans).
- The plaza and surrounding areas must fit a bike rack (?).

Usage

- Frances Plaza has a fairly steady stream of people at all times of day and night.
- The three blocks away from the plaza, down Frances Street, is the Kohl Center (a sports arena), creating a direct site line.
- The plaza is also situated near a parking garage, many student apartments, and student dorms. Especially on game days and after the bars close, it often serves as a spot of congregation.
- The area is generally used by a cross section of Madison's population.
- State Street Brats holds an outdoor seating area in the Plaza that often serves as a local hangout.

Timeline

- The pavement should be laid by mid-August
- The artists should let the City engineer know at the proposal presentation stage if the waterlines and pipes the City has already planned for are not sufficient, so that appropriate changes can be made before the area is paved.
- The project proposal presentation date is June 5, 2008.
- The entire renovation will be completed by September 12, 2008

Artists' Tasks

- It has been expressed that a fountain should be easy to maintain and timeless.
- There should be some materials of high quality so that the structure can be sustained.
- The artist must obtain a permit.
- The artist's plans must get the approval of a licensed engineer.
- Proposal development should include plans for the engineering of the fountain.
- As a part of the permit, the artist must obtain a pre-approved contracting (?) group to operate in Wisconsin.
- City engineering will provide a list of approved contractors to all finalists.

Potential Issues

- Climbing into or onto the fountains.
- Contamination of the water.
- People may have the desire to pull pranks.
- It was mentioned that smooth granite is both difficult to climb and makes graffiti easy to wipe off. It was also mentioned that sharp edges and should be avoided.
- Children have tendencies to also touch the water, and so the water must be as sanitary as possible.
- Different leaves, discarded items can clog the drain.

Mechanics

- It is strongly recommended to not place any parts (such as the filter) of the fountain underground. There are several reasons for this. The different piping systems underground do not leave much room open. Madison, climate does not support the underground vaults because the ground gets very cold, and can freeze at any time, and it easily retains moisture. There is also high humidity in the summer months. This creates problems for the electrical controls, pumps, and other sensitive equipment system and makes maintenance cost prohibitive. It is a three-person job to fix problems in the underground vaults.
- It would be possible to put the filter in the planter or behind it.
- It could be a low-flow fountain. If the pipe is of wider diameter it will require less water pressure.
- The underground piping should be galvanized/stainless steel with standard diameter.

Other

- Artist Questions should be sent directly to the arts program administrator who will forward them to the correct City staff person and then respond to all the artists with the question and the answers.
- Madison's Brand Image and Vision – Madison enriches you intellectually and emotionally.