

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**May 17, 2011**

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**SUBJECT: RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF HERITAGE PLAZA**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on efforts by City staff, in cooperation with various stakeholders represented on the Heritage Park Steering Committee, to restore Heritage Plaza.

On July 28, 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 3768-07-2009 expressing the City's intent to collaborate with a variety of public and private partners in formulating schematic design recommendations for the restoration and improvement of Heritage Plaza and, as financial resources permit, in implementing such recommendations. Since adoption of the resolution, Heritage Plaza has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

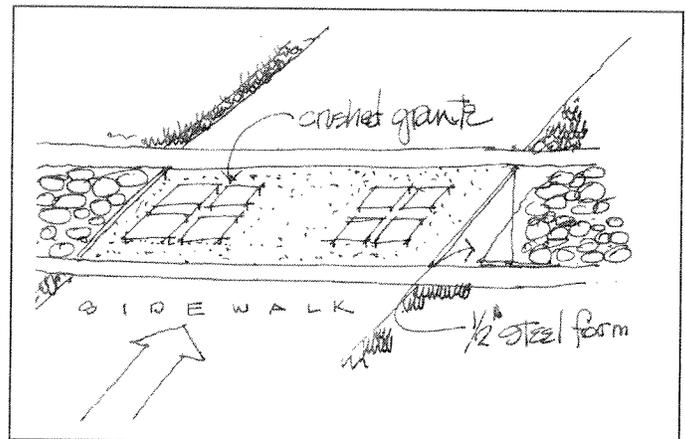
In an effort to implement phase one restoration efforts, with funding provided by the Amon G. Carter Foundation, the City and Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. invited Laurie Olin of the OLIN Studio to lead a design team comprised of local architects and landscape architects to develop interim design strategies to reopen Heritage Plaza. On February 17, 2011, Mr. Olin presented design workshop findings to the Heritage Park Steering Committee. Using the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitation and Restoration, the design team recommended the following studies and design treatments:

Items to complete before pursuing any initial improvements to allow for the reopening of Heritage Plaza:

- Complete a full structural assessment including geotechnical investigation.
- Complete a tree survey.
- Develop engineering drawings of the Plaza.

If structural and geotechnical assessments indicate the Plaza is safe to reopen, the following design recommendations will be addressed:

- Design and install a temporary fill material or grates for water basins and runnels.
- Design and install temporary entry gates. The gates will allow scheduled closure of the Plaza until such time as the Plaza can be fully restored.
- Design and install temporary high quality lighting.
- Based on existing railings, install hand rails in appropriate areas.
- Install high quality plantings in key areas to delineate steep edges.
- Design and install signage and interpretative material.



*Sketch: Temporary Fill for Runnels*

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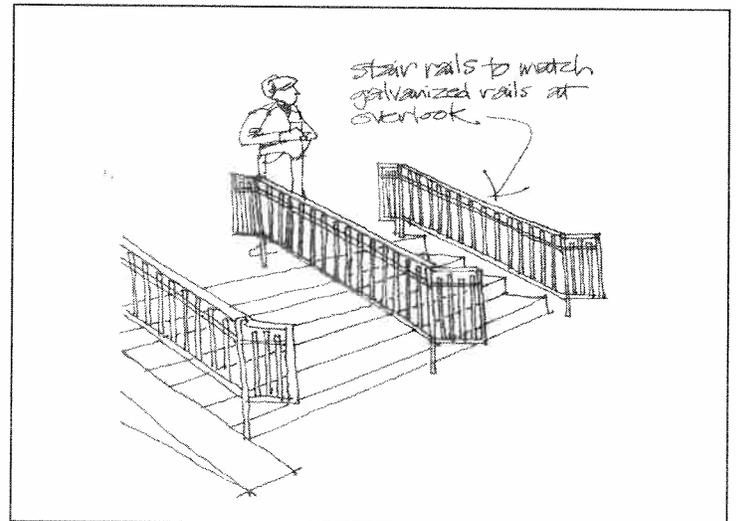
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- Explore and install appropriate ground surface treatments.
- Explore and install plantings in appropriate locations.
- Program activities and special events.

Heritage Park Steering Committee members, including representatives from the Texas Historical Commission, expressed support for the interim design concepts and voted to recommend that the City and Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. proceed to implement those recommendations. The Amon G. Carter Foundation has agreed to fund Downtown Fort Worth Initiatives, Inc. to undertake the structural assessment, geotechnical investigation, tree survey, and engineering drawings to be prepared during the summer of 2011.



*Sketch: New Hand Rails*

If you have any questions about this project, please call Richard Zavala, Director of Parks and Community Services, at 817-871-5711; or Randle Harwood, Director of Planning and Development, at 817-392-6101.

for **Tom Higgins**  
**Interim City Manager**