RECLAIMING

CONTINENTAL SQUARE

Public Forum #2

September 12, 2012

YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

BETTER YORK

Murphy & Dittenhafer ARCHITECTS

AGENDA

- RECAP OF 6/13/12 PUBLIC FORUM #1
- CONCEPT THOUGHTS
- QUESTIONS/ DISCUSSION

RECAP OF PUBLIC FORUM

RECLAIMING CONTINENTAL SQUARE

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 18TH CENTURY

ARTICLES
OF
Confederation
AND
Perpetual Union
BETWEEN THE
STATES
OF
NEW-HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, CONNECTICUT, NEW-YORK, NEW-JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, NORTH-CAROLINA, SOUTH-CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.
LANCASTER:
PRINTED BY FRANCIS BAILEY.
M.DCC.LXXVII.

- YORK WAS FOUNDED 1741 WITH THE CREATION OF THE SQUARE, ORIGINALLY CALLED "CENTRE SQUARE"
- A COURTHOUSE LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF THE SQUARE WAS COMPLETED 1756
- 1777-1788 YORK WAS THE CAPITAL OF THE NATION
- THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION WERE DRAFTED AND ADOPTED IN THE COURTHOUSE
- 1787 YORK WAS INCORPORATED AS A BOROUGH

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 18TH CENTURY

- MARKETS WERE HELD TWICE A WEEK IN SHED ADJACENT TO COURTHOUSE
- TRAVELLING THEATRE COMPAINES PERFORMED IN THE COURT HOUSE

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THE 18TH CENTURY

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 19TH CENTURY

- THE COURTHOUSE WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1842
- TWO NEW MARKET SHEDS REPLACED THE COURTHOUSE AND OLD MARKET SHED
- YORK WAS THE LARGEST NORTHERN CITY TO BE OCCUPIED BY THE CONFEDERATE ARMY FOR 2 DAYS IN 1863
- 1887 YORK WAS INCORPORATED AS A CITY

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 19TH CENTURY

1868

1893

•BY 1876 THE SQUARE WAS TOO CROWDED WITH MARKET VENDORS

1850

•1887 THE MARKET SHEDS WERE TORN DOWN AND THE MARKETS MOVED TO CITY AND CENTRAL MARKETS

•145 ELECTRIC STREET LAMPS INSTALLED IN YORK IN 1887

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 19TH CENTURY

1899 SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

- YORK CELEBRATES 150 YEARS
- TEMPORARY ARCHES WERE CONSTRUCTED OF WOOD AND WHITE-PAINTED MUSLIN TO LOOK LIKE STONE
- THE ARCHES WERE LIGHTED WITH ELECTRIC LIGHTS

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE Early 19TH CENTURY

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE Late 19TH CENTURY

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 20TH CENTURY

- STREETCARS OPERATED IN YORK FROM 1886 UNTIL 1938
- NAME CHANGED FROM "CENTRE SQUARE" TO "CONTINENTAL SQUARE" IN 1920s
- THE COMFORT STATIONS WERE BUILT IN 1929

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 20TH CENTURY

1950s

1965

- PARKING METERS INSTALLED IN YORK IN 1940
- A massive, spontaneous celebration was held in the square when the end of WWII was announced.
- Current design completed 1962 - 1963

1960s

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 20TH CENTURY

UNDERNEATH CONTINENTAL SQUARE OF YORK

CITY'S $65,000 COMFORT STATION

$65,000 YORK COMFORT STATION NOW COMPLETE

CITY'S LATEST IMPROVEMENT TO BE OPEN FOR INSPECTION SOON

BATHS AND BARBER SHOP

- PLUMBING PLAN -

PUBLIC COMFORT STATION

- BUILT 1929 FOR $61,490
- CONTAINED A BARBER SHOP, BOOTBLACK STAND, 5 COMPLETE BATHS WITH SHOWERS, 20 SINKS, 10 URINALS & 15 TOILET STALLS
- BUILT AT A TIME WHEN NOT ALL RESIDENTS HAD INDOOR PLUMBING
- HOTELS AND BARS PREVIOUSLY ALLOWING USE OF THEIR FACILITIES HAD CLOSED BECAUSE OF PROHIBITION

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THE Early 20TH CENTURY

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THE Late 20th CENTURY

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 21st CENTURY

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YORK'S HISTORIC PAST

THE 21st CENTURY

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CONCEPTS UNIFY THE SPACE

- LEVELING INTERSECTION
- PAVING MATERIALS
- LIGHTING
- SIGNAGE

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CONCEPTS

HIGHLIGHT THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

HIGHLIGHTING THE ARCHITECTURE:

- UPLIGHTS / DOWNLIGHTS
- CHANGE TREES?
- AWNINGS
- SPECIAL INTEREST ADDITIONS

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CONCEPTS
ESTABLISH A DESTINATION

- INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- RESTAURANTS
- VISITOR CENTER

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CONCEPTS

CREATE AN INVITING SPACE

- HIGH CANOPY TREES
- UMBRELLAS & AWNINGS
- SEATING & TABLES
- PLANTS & FLOWERS
- BRIGHT COLORS

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CONCEPTS

WEAVE IN HISTORY

COHESIVE HISTORICAL IDENTITY:

- ORGANIZE MARKERS & MONUMENTS
- TELL THE HISTORY OF THE SQUARE
- VISITORS CENTER
- DIRECT VISITORS TO OTHER HISTORICAL SITES
- PROVIDE INTERACTIVE APPS

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PUBLIC FORUM FEEDBACK

Accessible to all People:
•Children, Residents, Visitors

Conducive to Evening Activities as well

Sense of Place:
•Create Town Center Environment
•***"Place to Go"***

Create Activity / Vitality → ***"Heartbeat"***

Pedestrian:
•Safe Options to use Space

Identified as Town Square → ***"Unifying Space"***

Highlight Architecture:
•Lights add Life, even when ***closed*** at night

Integrate Modern Architecture:
•Opportunity to Project Historic Stories & Images
•Use Local Art & Historic Architecture Resources → ***"Make it York"***

Establish Destination:
•Options to Attract and Engage Children
•Give Reasons for Community to come Downtown to the Square
•Beautification alone is not enough

Weave in History:
•Technology as a Tool for Education on History
•Include Current Events

Keep it Simple → **Emphasize Buildings**

Elements / Street Surface → **Level Paving:**
•Curb Safety → Make Visually Distinct → Accessible / Curb Cuts
•***"Plaza"*** look
•Coordinate with Utilities
•Can Paving tell History?

Water Feature:
Engaging for Children
Is it right for the Square?
Recycle Water
Is Square too Small for Interactive Water?

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PUBLIC FORUM FEEDBACK

Public Art:
Changeable not Permanent (attracts the community to return and see what is ***"new")***
WWII → what can we do to enhance its use?
Use Lighting as Art → Changing with the Seasons

Seating:
Moveable
Open to Pedestrians → Avoid Blocking / Jamming
Seating Walls:
•Not Conducive to Speaking to each other
•Some ***"OK"***

Landscaping:
•Colorful Plants & Flowers
•Small size better
•Moveable
•Winter Plants as well

Entertainment:
•Include a Non- Permanent Multi-Purpose Stage
•***"Don't Overdo"***

Comfort Station:
•Juxtapose with Modern
•Assets
•Incorporate as a Visitor Center → Coffee Café
•Combined with use that is monitored

Miscellaneous:
•Entertainers / Performers → ***"YES"***
•Maintain ***"Simplicity"***

Locations:
•Don't inhibit gathering
•Unify → ***One Space not Four Spaces***
•Use Overlay of History for guidance to locations and paving

Other:
•Create ***"Excitement & Challenges"***

OUR CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

STEP 1 – HIGHLIGHT THE ARCHITECTURE

HIGHLIGHTING THE ARCHITECTURE:

- UPLIGHTS / DOWNLIGHTS
- CAN HAPPEN IMMEDIATELY
- WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT BEFORE MAJOR CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

STEP 1 – HIGHLIGHT THE ARCHITECTURE

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STEP 1 – HIGHLIGHT THE ARCHITECTURE

STEP 2– UNIFY THE IDENTITY

-CREATE AN INVITING PLACE AS A DESTINATION

-INTEGRATE LAYERS OF HISTORY

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UNIFY THE IDENTITY

CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

UNIFY THE IDENTITY

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

UNIFY THE IDENTITY

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

UNIFY THE IDENTITY

HYBRID OF BOTH

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

UNIFY THE IDENTITY

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

UNIFY THE IDENTITY

UNIFYING THE IDENTITY:

- HISTORIC STREET LIGHTS
- HISTORIC TRAFFIC LIGHT STANDARDS

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

UNIFY THE IDENTITY

MODIFY TRAFFIC & SIGNALING

- TRUCKS
- CAPACITY
- TIMING
- PED ONLY

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

UNIFY THE IDENTITY

UNIFYING THE IDENTITY:

- SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING
- INFORMATION PAVILION

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CREATE AN INVITING PLACE AS A DESTINATION

CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

CREATE AN INVITING PLACE

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

CREATE AN INVITING PLACE

NEW TREES

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

ESTABLISH A DESTINATION

INTERACTIVE WATER FEATURE

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

ESTABLISH A DESTINATION

PROJECTED IMAGES & ART

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ESTABLISH A DESTINATION

WAR MEMORIAL PLANTER & WATER FEATURE

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

ESTABLISH A DESTINATION

FLOWERS & PLANTINGS

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INTEGRATE LAYERS OF HISTORY

CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

LAYERS OF HISTORY

RELOCATING HISTORIC MARKERS

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

LAYERS OF HISTORY

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

LAYERS OF HISTORY

RELOCATING TROLLEY TICKET BOOTH

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

LAYERS OF HISTORY

COMFORT STATION & ABOVE GROUND GLASS PAVILION

POSSIBLE USES:

- INFO KIOSK/ COUNTER
- COFFEE BAR/ RETAIL
- HISTORICAL EXHIBIT
- LOCAL ARTISTS GALLERY
- ALL OF THE ABOVE

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LAYERS OF HISTORY

INTEGRATE & REUSE COMFORT STATION

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

LAYERS OF HISTORY

INTEGRATE & REUSE COMFORT STATION

- UPPER LEVEL FOOTPRINT 1250 GSF
- UPPER LEVEL +/-550 NSF LEASABLE

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CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

LAYERS OF HISTORY

HISTORY IN THE GROUND PLANE

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QUESTIONS/ DISCUSSION

CONCEPT DESIGN THOUGHTS

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