Virgil Cantini Mosaic Reconceptualization

PUBLIC MEETING August 2, 2021
Welcome!

Virgil Cantini Mosaic
Reconceptualization
Public Meeting
Department of City Planning
Our Team

Sarah Minnaert
Public Art & Civic Design Manager

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Our Team

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To share information about and gather community feedback on the possible locations for the Cantini Mosaic’s reinstallation.

Please note: The City of Pittsburgh will not determine the mosaic’s final location at this meeting, but the community feedback gathered from the meeting will inform the City’s decision-making process.

**Ground Rules:**
- Stay on topic. Public remarks must be relevant to the discussion of the possible locations
- Keep comments brief and avoid repeating previously shared comments/sentiments
- Ensure comments are respectful of all meeting attendees. Public remarks are not an opportunity for vulgar, insensitive, and/or hateful speech
- Limit all comments to no more than 3 minutes. All speakers will be given a 30-second warning and will be cut off after 3 minutes

**Purpose of Today’s Meeting**

To share information about and gather community feedback on the possible locations for the Cantini Mosaic’s reinstallation.
About the Mosaic
How did we get here?

2016 – The Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) received a $19 million Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the construction of a park over I-579 (The CAP Project).

2017 – The City of Pittsburgh approved plans for the "Cap" Project, a new three-acre public greenspace spanning a structure over a portion of the I-579 Crosstown Boulevard. The plans included the removal of the pedestrian tunnel housing the Cantini Mosaic. Local historic preservationists begin a ‘Save the Virgil Cantini Mosaic’ campaign to save all 28 mosaic panels, which resulted in re-opening of Section 106 consultation.

2018 – The FHWA and PA SHPO agree that the Mosaic is eligible for listing in the NRHP as a public works project of high artistic value. The Section 106 consultation process resulted in the preparation of a Programmatic Agreement.
What is the Programmatic Agreement?

The Section 106 Consultation Process led to the implementation of a legally binding programmatic agreement, signed by the City of Pittsburgh, the Sports and Exhibition Authority, FHWA, PA SHPO, and the Consulting Parties. Stipulations include:

- The documentation of the Mosaic Tunnel in its original setting;
- The creation of a character defining features document and a revised Historic Resources Survey Form (HRSF);
- The careful removal of the 28 mosaic panels followed by crating, storage, and eventual relocation;
- The identification through consultation of an appropriate reinstallation site for the mosaic panels somewhere in the City of Pittsburgh; and
- The full reinstallation of the Mosaic by December 2023.
How did we get here?

2018 – a Character Defining Features document was prepared to “inform the consideration of potential relocation sites and reinstallation programs.”

2019 – the Mosaic panels were removed by McKay Lodge and placed into a City of Pittsburgh storage facility. Later that year, the tunnel was demolished when construction of the CAP commenced.

2020 – In late 2020, the E. Holdings, Inc. Team was engaged by the City of Pittsburgh as a consultant and project coordinator to guide the process of identifying a new location for the reconceptualization of the Mosaic.

2021 – The Cantini Mosaic Reconceptualization Project Starts. A group of Key Stakeholders (a subgroup of project stakeholders, which included some of the Section 106 Consulting Party members) met monthly to help identify and evaluate potential locations. Over 110 stakeholders were identified and consulted.
Our Goals
for Today

(1) Present the Identified Locations to the Public for Review + Comment
(2) Answer Questions Related to the Locations
(3) Take Public Comment
### Criteria for Location Evaluation

- Within the City of Pittsburgh limits
- Publicly accessible (open to public + ADA), ideally in a publicly-owned space
- Highly travelled pedestrian corridor
- Two vertical walls, of at least approximately 60’ in length and 8’ high
- Covered for protection from the elements
- Lighting to maximize reflectivity, through a potential combination of natural light, reflected light, and projected light

### Cantini Mosaic Possible Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viable?</th>
<th>Location ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Photos</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Measurements</th>
<th>Neighborhood/City Limits (Y/N)</th>
<th>Meets Parameters (~15’W x 8’H x 60’ L)</th>
<th>Covered (Y/N)</th>
<th>Pedestrian Only? (Y/N)</th>
<th>Pedestrian foot traffic</th>
<th>Accessibility (H/M/L?)</th>
<th>Public Access (any restrictions? Hours/Location)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Potential Locations

- Preliminary Phase – currently coordinating with owners regarding details + logistics
- Working on cost estimates – to be included in final report
- Not making a decision at this time – presenting options for review + discussion only
Steel Plaza T Station – 6th Ave/Ross Street Entrance

- Ownership: Port Authority of Allegheny County
- Meets Dimensional Requirements
- Open to the Public
- ADA-accessible
Pedestrian Tunnel in Point State Park

- Ownership: Commonwealth of PA
- Meets Dimensional Requirements
- Open to the Public
- ADA-accessible
Pedestrian Tunnel in Point State Park
- Ownership: depends on location
- Open to the Public
- ADA-accessible
- Requires NEW construction of walls along both sides of the trail
Riverfront Trail Location

- Ownership: depends on location
- Open to the Public
- ADA-accessible
- Requires NEW construction of walls along both sides of the trail

Conceptual renderings by Rob Pfaffman, Architect
Questions on Locations?

- Please type your question into the Q&A!
- Please remember, we are only answering questions directly related to the proposed locations at this time.
- The City of Pittsburgh will not determine the mosaic’s final location at this meeting, but the community feedback gathered from the meeting will inform the City’s decision-making process.
Public Comment Period

Those wishing to comment should register in advance or use the "Raise Hand" function during the meeting.

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- **Stay on topic.** Public remarks must be relevant to the discussion of the possible locations.
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- **Ensure comments are respectful** of all meeting attendees. Public remarks are not an opportunity for vulgar, insensitive, and/or hateful speech.
- **Limit all comments to no more than 3 minutes.** All speakers will be given a 30-second warning and will be cut off after 3 minutes.
Thank You!

Submit public comments by 8/13/2021
https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/cantini-mosaic