

Monroe Street Reconstruction

Crazylegs Plaza & Wingra Park Entrance Mosaic Workshop

Meeting Notes

6:00-7:30 PM, November 8, 2017

HotelRED

Total participants: 18

City staff and elected officials: Alder Sara Eskrich, Karin Wolfe (arts program administrator), Ben Zellers (transportation planner)

Design team: Ken Saiki (landscape architect), Julia Schilling (landscape architect), Marcia Yapp (artist)

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to share the approved landscape plans for Crazylegs Plaza and the Wingra Park Entrance, and to collect public input on the desired look and feel of the mosaic art to be installed at each location. A presentation of the landscape design for both sites was followed by a mosaic input session led by artist Marcia Yapp, to gather feedback on desirable

Site Design Discussion Notes

The following notes were recorded during the discussion that followed the design presentation.

Wingra Park Entrance:

- Is there a possibility of incorporating a more exciting bus shelter?
 - Likely no. Metro is only able to maintain normal shelters, and Parks does not want to take on additional maintenance for a custom shelter.
 - Alder Eskrich: There is an opportunity to install window clings on the bus shelter that look like etched glass. This has been done on the north side. Meeting attendants have expressed interest in lily pad or boat imagery.
- Do we have to stick with the existing park signage?
 - Yes, it's a city standard.
- Could the name of the park be incorporated into the mosaic wall?
 - The City does not like words to be included in art, because it then becomes classified as a sign.
- Is it possible to include a drinking fountain at the entrance of Wingra Park? It would make it more inviting and be used by cyclists and pedestrians. There are too few when taking the path around the lake.
 - Yes, we will explore that.

Crazylegs Plaza:

- Two options were presented for this site at the previous meeting. This looks like the second option, but I remember hearing more support for option 1 in the group I participated in. What attributes of this option resulted in its selection?

- People liked the curved nature of the path in this option.
- People also preferred to have the heavier used, outdoor seating area at the SW corner instead of at the NW corner along Regent Street. The other option depicted the rain garden at the bottom corner of the site instead of at the center.
- Will the mosaic wall be the signage for this park?
 - No. This will technically not be a park, but a right-of-way, maintained by City Engineering. It will be a non-named space.
- Traffic calming measures will be included as well, correct?
 - Yes, two safety islands will be installed on Monroe Street.
- Why does the sidewalk connection from Oakland not line up with the sidewalk in the triangle?
 - Sidewalks don't go straight through the site to keep the center of the triangle open for game day vending (which may expand to other days in the future) and other potential future uses of the site.
- Are any of the trees depicted in these plans existing?
 - A few of the large trees will remain. Three ash trees will be removed for Emerald Ash Borer and from regrading/resurfacing. The darker circles on the plan are new trees.
- Besides the lower corner with table and chairs, are there any other seating spaces?
 - Yes, there will be seating along the mosaic wall and around the rain garden, and benches at the bus shelter and by the drinking fountain.

Mosaic Input Session Notes

The following comments were gathered from the mosaic input session discussion and written comments from participant worksheets.

Marcia Yapp, overview of the mosaic design process:

- I will begin design development after hearing the input at this meeting.
- The final mosaic designs will be approved by the City. After approval, I will select the final colors, scale up the design, order tiles and prep for creation workshops in spring/summer 2018.
- Anyone interested in participating in the mosaic creation workshops should share their contact information with me. I like this to be a community process.

Preferred Mosaic Styles

Crazylegs Plaza (6 ballots received)

- Atmospheric – 3
- Geometric – 3
- Textural – 2
- Pictorial – 1
- Symbolic – 1
- Organic – 0

Wingra Park (6 ballots received)

- Textural – 4
- Organic – 4
- Atmospheric – 2
- Geometric – 2
- Pictorial – 1
- Symbolic – 1

Wingra Park Entrance: Discussion

Mosaic size will be approximately 50 ft²

- These two sites are very different. The art in each should be quite different too. The Wingra Park entrance should be more natural. There could be more flamboyance at Crazylegs Plaza.

- Marcia: I agree. I imagine an understated design at Wingra and a design that complements flow and movement at Crazylegs.
- I think the mosaic should reflect the lily sculpture or involve water.
- The Ho-Chunk Nation is also a huge contributing factor to this area.
- I spend a lot of time in the park and appreciate the human and natural components. There are two sections to the mosaic, so maybe one could depict human uses (soccer, playground, boating) and the other natural components (cat tails, fish, ducks).
- Images related to water make sense for this location.
- The mosaic panel boundaries shouldn't be so angular/sharp. I would prefer to see a much calmer shape, a sloping, as opposed to a stark, line. The park is a very calm space.
 - Marcia: So, more restful as opposed to active. I imagine that the selected imagery will help to soften the look of the panels as well.
- The two separate walls looks awkward. Could this be one larger panel instead?
 - The Parks Division prefers gaps between the panels for safety and visibility reasons (harder for someone to hide behind them).
- What is the height of the bench in the main seating area?
 - 18 inches off the ground.

Wingra Park Entrance: Responses to Worksheet Questions

- What is the desired character of the space?
 - Native American aspect
 - Arboretum connection
- What makes the space special/interesting?
 - Flowing contours
- Which mosaic style fits best?
 - Textural and pictorial
 - Textural
 - Atmospheric, pictorial
 - Organic, with stylized aspects of nature and several colors
 - Organic or geometric style
 - Blues mosaic – Wingra sunset, Wingra water. Glow in dark. Contemporary take on the art/pattern of toile, using imagery from Wingra and the corridor.
 - Focus on shapes/forms vs. symbols/figures/characters.
- What feeling(s) should be communicated by the mosaics?
 - Flowing, peaceful
 - Calming, no defined images
- What images come to mind?
 - Wingra means “duck” in Ho-Chunk. Water, Great Blue Heron, eagles, owls, musky, fish, Ho-Chunk Nation rice fields. Do NOT include invasive plants, i.e., cattails
- Colors/color schemes?
 - Natural colors or gentle/pastel colors
 - Water
- Symbols/figures/characters?
 - Carry the lily pad into the mosaic – repeats and element, yet that element would also follow through to the actual lake.

Wingra Park Entrance: Additional Written Comments

- Focus on Lake Wingra and uses of the park
 - Natural: springs, lily pads and flowers, cattails, water/wind/waves, ducks (Wingra means “duck” in Ho-Chunk)
 - Human: playground (merry-go-round), soccer, Frisbee, yoga
- No mosaic needed. Spend money improving the look of the wall with stone caps, not concrete.
- For obvious reasons, I believe the elements should be related to the natural features of the lake. There is a very nice flow of the landscaping edges and seating areas.
- Vary the width of the mosaic panels – maybe one side 2/3 (closer to the water), and the other side 1/3 (closer to the road).
- Lake Wingra is special because it is the only lake where the shoreline is almost completely natural from the water!
- Inquire about addition of drinking fountain at Wingra Park.

Crazylegs Plaza: Discussion

Mosaic size will be approximately 220 ft²

- I think that a pictorial style would work well at this location. There are lots of famous and memorable people from Madison that could be depicted.
- Incorporating something interpretive or educational at this location has come up throughout the process. There will hopefully be lots of large groups at this site in the future.
- Maybe incorporate scenes/eras of Monroe Street’s history; a historic narrative depicted in images, reminiscent of a toile or tapestry.
- It follows the bike path, so maybe incorporate elements of motion or movement, walking, biking, vehicles.
- The unique intersection of streets/street grid that forms the triangle could be visually interesting.
- An abstract, flowing design that doesn’t represent any specific figure.
- Use colors that would go well with a sea of red and white. Maybe fall colors?
- The wall is long enough for all of the seasons to be depicted in some way.
- There are already lots of depictions of badgers and the color red around the city, but there is life and color other than that.
- Maybe allude to the badger sculpture in the mosaic, as the Wingra mosaic might relate to the lily sculpture.
- This site is a transitional area from the wooded bike trail area to a more urban setting. Maybe incorporate a transition from more natural/organic to more geometric shapes and carry the natural shapes and colors from the depictions on the Wingra entrance mosaic.
- Consider using the lightboxes to highlight certain characters/aspects along the trail/path/history.
- Both sites evoke pathways; water system at Wingra Park and urban/transportation at Crazylegs.
- Highlight the different textures of the two pathways/trails.

Crazylegs Plaza: Responses to Worksheet Questions


- What is the desired character of the space?
 - Gathering, crossroads
 - Flow and movement; gathering space

- Flow, movement
- What makes the space special/interesting?
 - Dynamic, exciting confluence. Special space – it has, or tells, a story. Unique style / memorable design (symbolic or pictorial).
- Which mosaic style fits best?
 - Geometric, atmospheric
 - Pictorial or geometric; Bader or UW patterns and colors
 - Pictorial
 - Geometric, with a lot of curves and several colors
 - Symbolic
 - Symbolic – trail of people what have used the path during the years; mining.
 - Geometric – prefer the image of the purple, green, black, red and orange mosaic.
 - Focus on historical symbols/figures/characters (vs. shapes/forms)
- What feeling(s) should be communicated by the mosaics?
 - Warmth, community, inviting, colorful, exciting
- What images come to mind?
 - Street grid! (see Fig. 1, below)
 - NOT sports images
 - Urban “toile”
- Colors/color schemes?
 - Red, blue, green
 - Red, blue, turquoise, black, green, yellow
 - When viewing the wall, Camp Randall is in the background – red and white seems to fit.
 - Contrasting, bright colors
 - Warm colors
 - Bold single hue with tonal/saturation variation
- Symbols/figures/characters?
 - Abstract symbols of Monroe Street history, from Ho-Chunk (panther mound?), UW, early commerce
 - PATH theme with seasons
 - Mosaic honoring Richard Davis, UW music professor and jazz musician – for example – notable Madisonians
 - Legs in motion, different sizes – walking, kicking, dancing
 - Mosaic wall follows bike path, so a bike-related theme might be appropriate.
- Rhythm/flow/movement?
 - Flowing

Crazylegs Plaza: Additional Written Comments

- I really like the theme of trails/paths (same comment for both locations) – perhaps to connect these two, if there were curves or patterns or shapes that were similar, even though colors/overall imagery is different.
- Although we want to have this have a separate look and feel from the Wingra Park entrance, I think it would be beneficial to have similarities between both ends of the quarter. Nature never goes out of style – always a safe bet.
- How many different ways can a person or pet sit/rest?

Fig. 1




Crazylegs Plaza & Wingra Park Entrance Mosaic Input Session

Design details to consider for each site:


- What is the desired character of each space?
- What makes the space special/interesting?
- Which mosaic style fits best?
- What feeling(s) should be communicated by the mosaics?
- What images come to mind?
 - Colors/color schemes?
 - Shapes/forms?
 - Patterns/textures?
 - Symbols/figures/characters?
 - Rhythm/flow/movement?

Crazylegs Plaza Notes



Wingra Park Entrance Notes

lake wingra is special
b/c only lake
where shoreline is
almost completely
vertical from
the water!



KEN SAIKI DESIGN
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS

UrbanAssets