

2/9/2011

Moore Square Master Plan

This project is being led by: Parks and Recreation



2011 Moore Square Master Plan

Project Team

Consultant
 Christopher Counts Studio - Park Designer and Team Leader

Sub-Consultants
 Frank Harmon Architects - Architect
 The John R. McAdams Company - Civil Engineer
 The Natural Learning Initiative (NCSI) - Children's Play Consultant
 Cynthia Rice Landscape Architecture and Planning - Consulting Landscape Architect
 Integrated Stormwater Systems - Stormwater Ecologist
 Bartlett Tree Experts - Arborist
 Capital Building Consultants - Cost Estimator

Project Partners

Public Leadership Group
 Raleigh Citizen Advisory Council
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Parks, Recreation & Greenway Advisory Board
 Raleigh Historic Districts Commission
 Arts Commission
 Downtown Raleigh Alliance
 Downtown Living Advocates
 Parks & Recreation
 City Planning
 Transportation

City Departments
 Department of City Planning, Urban Design Center
 Public Works Department
 Public Utilities Department
 Police Department
 Fire Department

Current Activity

Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) District: Central

Christopher Counts Studio, LLC (CCS) is providing design services for the completion of a conceptual Master Plan for Moore Square. Moore Square is owned by the State of North Carolina and includes approximately four acres, bound by East Hargett Street to the north, South Person Street to the east, East Martin Street to the south, and South Blount Street to the west.

The project is comprised of three phases:

- I. Competition program review, site investigation, and public meeting #1 - September 9, 2010
- II. Design refinement, internal review, and public meeting #2 - December 16, 2010
- III. Master Plan booklet, final drawings, and cost estimate - January 2011

The Master Planning process began in April 2010. Phase I & II are COMPLETE.

Public Meeting #1 was held on Thursday, September 9, 2010 at Cobblestone Hall in historic City Market. Participants at this event were asked to provide feedback on the event itself and on CCS' conceptual plan.

The second Moore Square Public Participation Event was held on December 16, 2010 at Chavis Park Community Center. Christopher Counts Studio gave a presentation of the preliminary draft master plan and then hosted a question and answer session around the site model.

Phase III began with the distribution of the DRAFT Moore Square Master Plan to the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB), City Council and the Public Leadership Group on January 20, 2011 meeting. It is now available to the public for review. See Moore Square Master Plan Report under Related Information for the full DRAFT report.

Status

Planning Phase

History and Background

Moore Square was originally conceived in 1792 when it was designated as one of four public spaces in Raleigh. Today, Moore Square is a historic, signature destination.

The square serves as host for a number of high-profile, public events including concerts, Artsplosure, area school activities, summer movies and is the home of Raleigh's most recognized icon, the acorn sculpture, which sits in the square's southwest corner. The square, however, was not designed as a venue for large events, and the heavy traffic has created significant maintenance issues and impacted the attractiveness of the square.

In 2009, Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker issued a 'call for ideas' to re-conceive the four acre square to best serve a new era and inform potential applicants of the City of Raleigh's first design competition.

Competition

The competition was a juried process approved by the City Council and representatives from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. The City, through the Competition, hoped to:

- Create a unique public space and urban experience for the 21st century;
- Engage broad public participation throughout the process and in the future; and
- Establish the conditions to develop a sustainable economic development strategy for the Moore Square area.

Christopher Counts, of Christopher Counts Studio in Charlottesville, Virginia, was selected the winner of the jury-based competition with a design concept that creates a new Moore Square respectful of tradition while looking forward. His design builds upon the square's unique and significant characteristics while expanding the square's sense of space and programmatic range. It also organizes the site into visually and functionally distinct areas that accommodate a wide range of uses.

While the concept by Mr. Counts won the design competition, it is considered only the beginning of a public process to refine and confirm a more detailed master plan for Moore Square. The process will include public meetings to receive input from citizens, a project website, and review by a number of local and state boards and commissions.

Master Plan

In January 2010, the Raleigh City Council unanimously approved a master plan services contract with CCS, the winner of the Moore Square Design Competition. The contract amount is \$184,000.

A master plan is a conceptual design document that, once approved by the City Council, generally describes and guides the future design, development, and management of a property.

The DRAFT master plan is scheduled to be presented for review and consideration by the Raleigh City Council and the State of North Carolina over the next 3 months. As the owner of Moore Square, the state must approve any changes to the property. Funding for implementation of the master plan has not been determined.

Project Scope

Timeline

2009: Competition Phase

- Public Competition Approved - April 21
- Public Input Meeting/ Open Call for Ideas - June 17 & June 27
- Jury Selected - June
- Call for Conceptual Designs - August 3 through September 10
- Winner Announced - October 24 at Raleigh Wide Open
- Winning Concept Presentation - December 1

2010/2011: Master Plan Phase

- City Council Presentation Master Plan Process Proposal - February 2
- Begin Master Plan Work - April
- Urban Design Center Lunch Forum - April 21
- Phase I: Competition Program Review
 - Site Investigation
 - Public Input Meeting - September 9, 2010
- Phase II: Concept Development & Review
 - Public Input Meeting - December 16, 2010
- Phase III: Master Plan booklet, final drawings and cost estimate
 - Master Plan Submission - January 20, 2011 - PRGAB: Plan Distribution
 - CCS Presentation and Public Hearing at PRGAB Meeting: February 17, 2011
 - PRGAB Action: March 17, 2011 - CCS Presentation to City Council: April, 2011
 - Work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for State support of the DRAFT Master Plan: On-going

2011 - 2012: Schematic Design & Development*

2012 - 2013: Construction Documents*

* Public input is included as part of the design/development and construction documents process; however, these two processes are currently unfunded.