

## **CLEVELAND FOUNDATION CENTENNIAL PLAZA ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Tuesday, July 15, 2014, | Public Square | Cleveland**

### **Remarks of Anthony Coyne, Group Plan Commission Chairman**

Cleveland has done a fantastic job of building world-class amenities. Now is our chance to build world-class public spaces to match. The Group Plan Commission has developed an exciting vision that will transform Public Square, enhance the malls and connect downtown Cleveland to the lakefront.

Other cities have invested in their anchor public spaces with inarguable results. Done well, they can define a city and leverage both public and private investment, creating a more liveable city, and paving the way for more growth.

We can deliver this same impact, bringing to life a vision other cities will emulate, creating a vibrant, greener, more connected city from the Terminal Tower to the Lake Erie waterfront.

No public space is more central to Cleveland than Public Square. Making it once again the vibrant public space all Clevelanders deserve takes a bold vision and the commitment of the whole community.

Working with Cleveland's own LAND Studio, James Corner Field Operations, best known for New York's High line, has crafted a visionary plan for making Public Square a vibrant hub for Cleveland day and evening, year-round. Now we are in a position to deliver on that vision in the next two years.

The commitment by our public sector partners—Mayor Jackson and the city of Cleveland, County Executive FitzGerald and Cuyahoga County—has put us in a great position. The set of civic stakeholders that work with us every day—including GCP, DCA, LAND studio—reflects the broad support for our transformative projects. We know that by coming together, we can get this done.

The announcement today of the Centennial gift from the Cleveland Foundation is a catalytic milestone for Public Square, for the Group Plan, and for the city of Cleveland. Like those Clevelanders who defined and transformed this City 100 years ago—from the Cleveland Museum of Art to the Shaker Lakes Garden Club to the Cleveland Foundation itself—today's centennial gift and the momentum it generates will leave its stamp on Cleveland for the next century.

The Cleveland Foundation Centennial Plaza at Public Square will be a vital place for robust, free, year-round activity and programming, a point of pride for visitors, but also for Clevelanders who can enjoy it every day. It is a well-deserved recognition for the Cleveland Foundation's historical commitment to the transformation of the most symbolically important space in the heart of our city.

By stepping up as a partner and a leader, the Cleveland Foundation has also led the way for others in the community to join together to take part in Cleveland's transformation. That is their gift and also their challenge to us. Thanks to their commitment, we believe we can and will meet that challenge.

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