

PARISTO PITTSBURGH

DESIGN GUIDELINES



PITTSBURGH
DOWNTOWN
PARTNERSHIP

TO THE PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY

Thanks to a generous \$1 million grant from the Colcom Foundation, we are able to bring Paris to Pittsburgh, creating an even more vibrant and attractive Downtown Pittsburgh. Administered by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, this unique program provides incentives for businesses to enhance their streetscapes and make them more pedestrian-oriented in design and function.

The Colcom Foundation, which was created by Cordelia S. May to perpetuate her grant making philosophy, supports such efforts as community development initiatives, local and regional environmental programs, recreational facilities, and public exhibits – all of which improve Pittsburgh's vitality.

Paris to Pittsburgh is an exciting opportunity to embrace and encourage a new vision for Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Edwards

President and CEO, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding for the Paris to Pittsburgh Program was generously provided by the Colcom Foundation.

Christine Brill, R.A., took the lead role in conducting research and drafting the Paris to Pittsburgh Design Guidelines, as a consultant to the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh.

All renderings were generously provided by Astorino.

THE COLCOM FOUNDATION

The Colcom Foundation was created in 1996 to provide a forum for the examination and discussion of the major causes and consequences of overpopulation and its impact on environmental sustainability. On a local level, The Colcom Foundation supports programs that enhance Pittsburgh's viability and livability. Priorities include environmental, economic, community and recreational development efforts. The Foundation has participated in local programs to enhance parks and trails, expand public gardens and streetscapes, provide access to lifesaving equipment, create and maintain art for public spaces, support environmental education programs, and sustain local recreational facilities. The mission of the Colcom Foundation is to foster a sustainable environment to ensure quality of life for all Americans by encouraging reasonable U.S. population levels. Colcom provides grants to organizations whose activities address overpopulation and its adverse effects on natural resources, wildlife habitat and overall quality of life in America.

ASTORINO

Founded in 1972, Astorino is a full-service company with a strong team-based approach providing complete architectural, engineering, interior design, and design-build services. With emphases on quality design, innovative solutions and strong project management, this Pittsburgh-based firm is one of the fastest-growing architectural and engineering firms in the nation.



THE PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) is a dynamic, nonprofit organization comprised of business and community leaders, property owners, civic organizations, foundations and residents who provide energy, vision and advocacy for Downtown Pittsburgh. Working collaboratively with its partners, the PDP strives to create a positive Downtown experience for residents, workers and visitors alike. The PDP's strategic initiatives include clean and safe services, transportation, housing and economic development and advocacy.

For more information, visit www.DowntownPittsburgh.com



THE COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER OF PITTSBURGH

The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (CDCP) is a non-profit organization that improves the quality of life in the Pittsburgh region by encouraging good design of the built environment. The CDCP does this by investing in strategic projects, helping individuals and communities access architecture and planning resources, and educating the public about the value of design.

To learn more about the CDCP, visit www.cdc.org



community design center of pittsburgh

MISSION STATEMENT

Paris to Pittsburgh is a coordinated effort to enhance the environment of the Golden Triangle. Because the quality of the built environment impacts the success of urban centers, Paris to Pittsburgh’s goal is to activate the Golden Triangle through pedestrian-oriented streetscape design. This program promotes physical improvements that will help to enliven downtown Pittsburgh and looks to Paris’ vibrant street environment for inspiration.

DESIGN GUIDELINES OVERVIEW

A wide range of design elements may be used in downtown Pittsburgh to make the public realm more inviting and accommodating to pedestrians. Paris to Pittsburgh supports enhancements to buildings and streetscapes in the Golden Triangle, which are listed in the Table of Contents.



Guidelines relating to these program-eligible design elements are provided in this document. Paris to Pittsburgh promotes these design elements through a matching-grant program available to private building and business owners. The program supports enhancements to pedestrian-oriented businesses, including restaurants and cafés, and retail, such as newspaper stands, flower shops and bakeries. These guidelines articulate high-quality standards for design elements typical to active, urban, pedestrian-friendly streetscapes.

Program guidelines are intended to complement, but not replace, existing codes and ordinances related to the built environment that are enforced by the City of Pittsburgh. Guidelines should be referenced by Paris to Pittsburgh applicants and by individuals tasked with reviewing program-related design proposals.

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BUILDING FAÇADE ENHANCEMENTS

Paris to Pittsburgh encourages building enhancements that will help to visually activate the Golden Triangle's pedestrian streetscape. Such design elements may include the addition of storefront awnings and canopies, and the use of operable façades to create indoor/outdoor space. The program also supports building enhancements that: increase façade transparency; repair, restore or maintain original, exterior building materials; and/or remove existing roll-down security doors. Paris to Pittsburgh supports façade enhancements that complement a wide range of storefront occupancies, including restaurants, cafés and retail businesses. The program's financial support for eligible projects is limited, however, to work involving the first two building stories.

“A building façade is a business's first impression.”

STOREFRONT AWNINGS AND CANOPIES

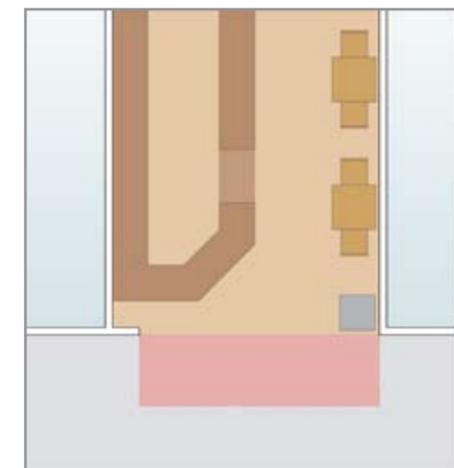
Decorative and functional elements such as awnings and canopies should be used to create human scale elements on building façades. Movable/retractable awnings and canopies are recommended, though fixed installations may be acceptable on a case-by-case basis. Awnings and canopies should be made of canvas or a canvas-like material. Attachments should cause no irreversible damage to the building structure, and awnings and canopies should be located so as to not obscure architecturally-significant building details. Awning and canopy signage should measure no more than 8" in height. Awnings and canopies should not conflict with street trees. Because they project into the public right-of-way, they must be reviewed and approved by the City of Pittsburgh's Planning and Public Works Departments. Retractable awnings are available from companies such as ScreenHouses Unlimited.



Sales counter can be brought right to sidewalk



Walk-up sales at the open storefront



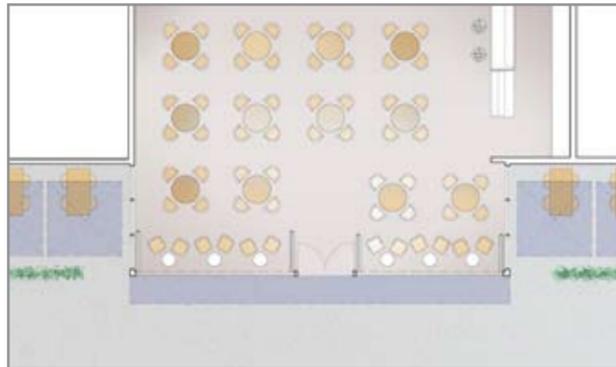
Open storefront, store front canopy, sidewalk and curb

OPERABLE FAÇADES

Paris to Pittsburgh supports façade modifications that enhance a storefront's ability to support indoor/outdoor uses. This can be accomplished by using sliding or folding panel doors, French doors, or attractive, partially transparent overhead-door systems. Operable façades can also be used to improve building accessibility as they create a new storefront entrance. There are structural, aesthetic and interior climate-control issues to consider before creating new openings in existing building façades. Building owners should consult with design and/or engineering professionals, and obtain permission from relevant City Departments, before they modify existing exterior building fabric. A variety of commercial-grade, operable wall systems are available from companies such as Nana Wall and Sliding Specialties.



Property owner has the option to build or install a movable sunroom extension



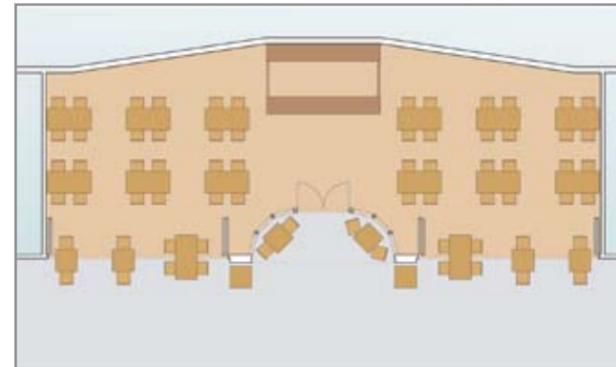
Portable building extension, café tables and canopies, and movable planters



Portable building extension to be used if on the public right-of-way



Front wall of establishment may open to street with movable walls



Open storefront, Nana Wall opening, and dining tables at openings



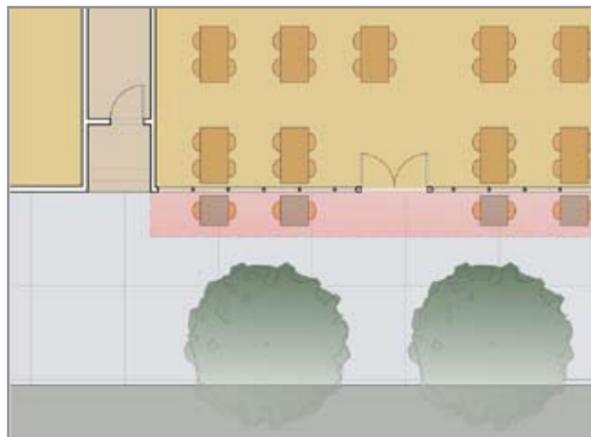
Movable wall, Nana Wall at storefront leading to sidewalk

INCREASING FAÇADE TRANSPARENCY

Paris to Pittsburgh strongly recommends façade improvements that restore original transparent storefront systems. The program encourages retail-storefront programming along the ground floor of buildings within the Golden Triangle's commercial districts. Storefronts should be visually-transparent to the interior, with large areas of window display in both their principal and secondary façades (on corner buildings, as applicable). Display windows should be lit at night to provide ambient street illumination, thereby contributing to a lively and safe pedestrian environment.



One row of tables seems more active where reflections from glass are present



Canopy at storefront, clear sidewalk, café tables and street trees



Café tables at sidewalk, clear sidewalk area and curb lane parking

“Good design adds value.”

EXTERIOR BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

Paris to Pittsburgh supports façade improvements that repair and/or maintain architecturally-significant, exterior building materials, when such enhancements are part of a broader effort to make a storefront more inviting to pedestrians and patrons. Building façade materials should be compatible with the existing built context. Recommended building materials include limestone, brick, cast iron, masonry, wood and other natural materials. Paris to Pittsburgh generally discourages the painting of exterior brick façades. The program may support the removal of paint from exterior brick façades, using appropriate methods, along with repairs to the masonry façade (as necessary). The use of Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EFIS), textured plywood and metal panels as exterior building materials is strongly discouraged in downtown Pittsburgh.

REMOVAL OF ROLL-DOWN SECURITY DOORS

Paris to Pittsburgh supports the removal of roll-down doors from retail façades in downtown Pittsburgh, as well as related repairs to the building exterior.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Urban Redevelopment Authority has several programs that may provide financial support to business or commercial property owners interested in improving storefronts in the Golden Triangle.

Contact the Business Development Center at 412.255.6669 for further details.

AGENCIES TO CONTACT

- Department of City Planning
- Department of Building Inspections
- Department of Public Works
- City Council
- Historic Review Commission
- Urban Redevelopment Authority

SIDEWALK CAFÉS

Outdoor cafés allow establishments to serve food and beverages on public sidewalk space. They are an important part of Paris' vibrant, pedestrian streetscape, and increasingly contribute to the activity of Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle as well. Cafés are permitted as long as a minimum of 5 feet of open sidewalk is maintained for pedestrian traffic. Permits for sidewalk cafés are granted annually by the Department of Public Works.

Businesses with sidewalk cafés should be open and set up for lunch and dinner service, weather permitting. All café furniture should be removed during the winter, though cafés may continue to operate year-round if furnishings are used on a daily basis and the area is properly maintained.

Sidewalk cafés may consist of some or all of the following design elements:

- Removable Café Barriers
- Operable Façades
- Café Umbrellas
- Outdoor Tables & Chairs
- Outdoor Radiant Heating
- Temporary Building Extension
- Hanging Baskets, Movable Flower Boxes & Planters
- Café Area Signage
- Café Lighting



Street tree canopy cover provides a comfortable quality of light on a sunny day



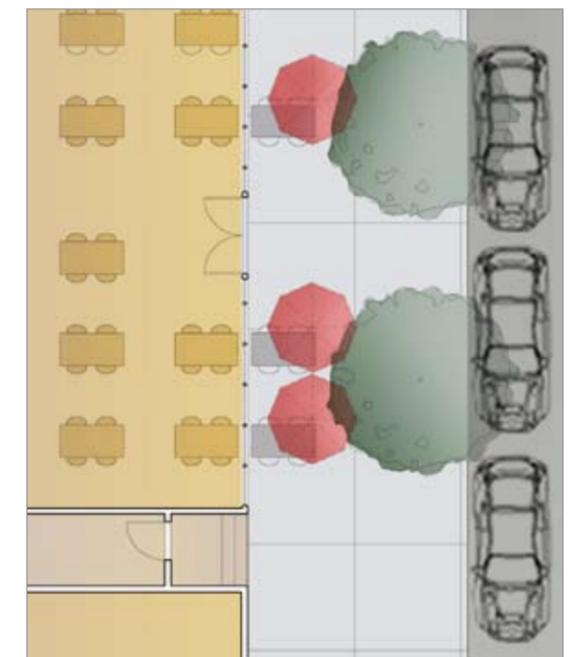
Even limited space at a busy intersection can feel like a private experience when dining



Storefront canopy, café tables and umbrellas, and street tree



Café seating, 5' clear sidewalk with curb lane parking



Café tables next to storefront and curb lane parking

REMOVABLE CAFÉ BARRIERS

Removable, freestanding barriers are required by the City of Pittsburgh to establish the boundary of café areas. Café operators may use rope and stanchions, chains and bollards, planter boxes or freestanding fences (between 20" to 36" in height). Café barriers may not be anchored to the ground, to buildings, to trees, or to other street furniture.

If used as removable barriers for sidewalk cafés, planter boxes should be made of safe, sturdy, durable and attractive materials. They should be 20" to 30" in height, and no wider than 2' at the base. Planters should be potted with live plants and flowers at all times. To promote a vibrant and interactive sidewalk café environment in the Golden Triangle, plant materials should not exceed 48" in height measured from the pavement.

OPERABLE FAÇADES

Paris to Pittsburgh supports façade modifications that enhance a storefront's ability to support indoor/outdoor uses. This can be accomplished by using sliding or folding panel doors, French doors, or attractive, partially-transparent overhead-door systems. Operable façades can also be used to improve building accessibility, as they create a new storefront entrance. There are structural, aesthetic and interior climate-control issues to consider before creating new openings in existing building façades. Building owners should consult with design and/or engineering professionals, and obtain permission from relevant City Departments, before they modify existing exterior building fabric. A variety of commercial-grade operable wall systems are available from companies such as Nana Wall and Sliding Specialties.

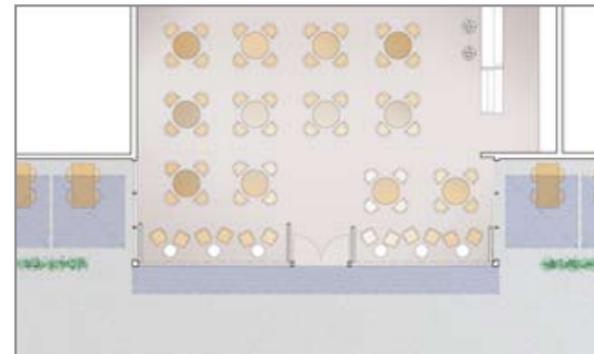
“Operable façades enhance a store's ability to support indoor/outdoor uses.”



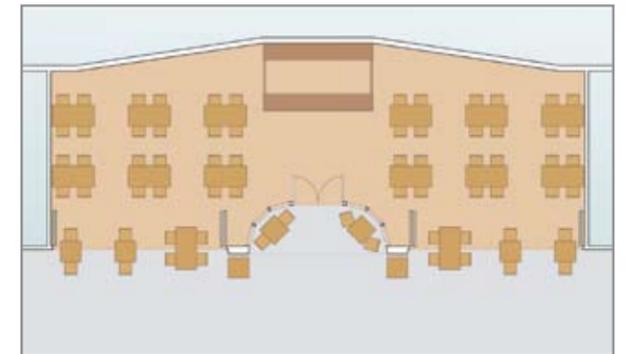
Property owner has the option to build or install a movable sunroom extension



Front wall of establishment may open to street with movable walls



Portable building extension, cafe tables and canopies, and movable planters



Open storefront, Nana Wall opening, and dining tables at openings



Portable building extension to be used if on the public right-of-way



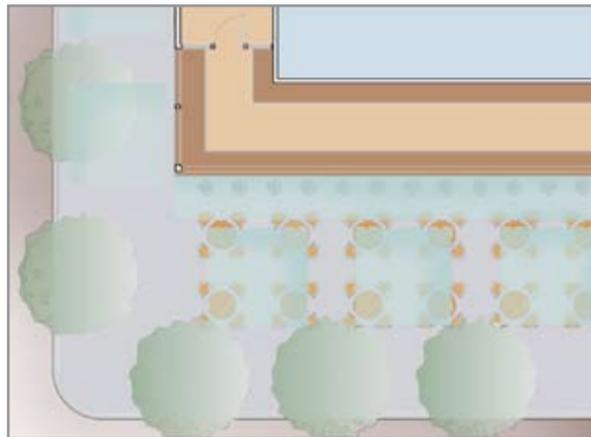
Movable wall, Nana Wall at storefront leading to sidewalk

CAFÉ UMBRELLAS

Umbrellas may be used to provide shade and shelter for sidewalk café patrons. Umbrellas should be made of canvas or other non-vinyl materials, and should be cleaned and maintained regularly. Solid-colored umbrellas are recommended, rather than fluorescent or patterned varieties. Umbrellas should be designed for outdoor commercial use. They must be freestanding or table-anchored, and may not be fastened to the ground. Umbrellas may display the name of the sidewalk café business in letters that do not exceed 6" in height. One business logo less than 1 SF in area is also permitted. Umbrella signage should not cover more than 10% of each umbrella's surface area, and should not contain generic advertising (i.e. Cinzano or Perrier).



Freestanding umbrellas can be moved as sun position changes



Tables and umbrellas, street trees, clear sidewalk and curb line



Canopy at open storefront, umbrella table seating and street tree

“Outdoor dining can be multi-seasonal.”

OUTDOOR TABLES & CHAIRS

Tables and chairs made of safe, sturdy, durable materials such as wrought iron, wood, steel or cast aluminum are recommended for street cafés. They should be of a commercial grade, manufactured for outdoor commercial use. The use of small round or square tables seating 2-4 people will maximize the number of available tables and will provide flexibility in the café layout. All furniture should be maintained and cleaned regularly. Tablecloths should be brought indoors nightly and cleaned on a regular basis.



High-quality café furniture can be elegant and durable

OUTDOOR RADIANT HEATING

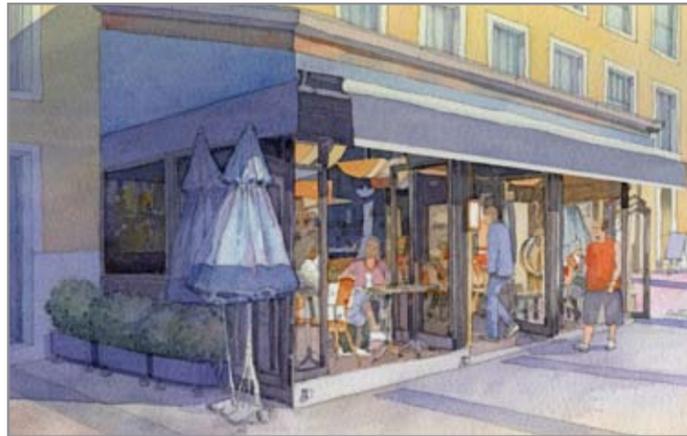
Portable heating lanterns may be used to make outdoor street café environments more comfortable for patrons, especially during early spring and late fall. Two types of outdoor radiant heaters may be used:

- **Radiant heat lanterns** are free-standing and movable, and are fueled by propane or natural gas. They are available from companies such as: Sunglo, Endless Summer and Raytech. Heating Lanterns must be carefully located to accommodate pedestrian, customer and employee movement. They must also allow for adequate clearance from all combustible surfaces, such as buildings, awnings, canopies, trees and signage. Review manufacturers' guidelines regarding these issues.
- **Wall- or ceiling-mounted radiant heaters** are powered by electricity or piped-gas. They are available from companies such as: Infratech, Calcana, Enerco and Sunpak. Heaters must be carefully mounted to accommodate pedestrian, customer and employee movement. They must also allow for adequate clearance from all combustible surfaces, such as buildings, awnings, canopies and signage. Depending on the specific product, heaters vary in their ability to be exposed to rain, wind and snow. Fixed-location heaters also require adequate ventilation and a dedicated power source. Their installation/operation must comply with code regulations.

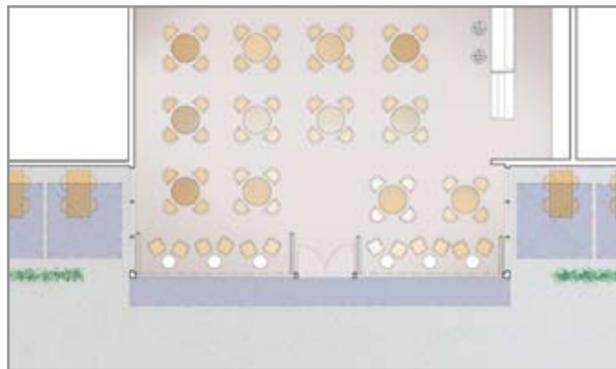
The use of outdoor heaters in the public right-of-way may be subject to review by the City of Pittsburgh Fire, Planning, Public Works and/or Building Departments.

TEMPORARY BUILDING EXTENSION

Temporary sidewalk café enclosures may be used during late fall, winter and early spring to extend the season of operation. Paris to Pittsburgh does not support the use of tent or tent-like enclosures. Rather, the program may support the use of temporary, sunroom-type enclosures at locations where a minimum of 5 feet of open sidewalk can be maintained to allow for pedestrian traffic. Enclosures must be made to commercial-grade construction standards. They must be suitable for outdoor use and a significant portion of their enclosing wall area must consist of visually-transparent window glazing. Café enclosures may not display the name of the business or carry generic advertising (i.e. Cinzano or Perrier), and they may not be permanently anchored to the ground, to buildings, to trees or to other street furniture. They should be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis, and must be removed during warmer months. Temporary enclosures built in the public right-of-way may be subject to review by the City of Pittsburgh Planning, Public Works and Building Departments. Demountable enclosure systems are available from companies such as Screen Houses Unlimited.



Property owner has the option to build or install a movable sunroom extension



Portable building extension, café tables and canopies, and movable planters



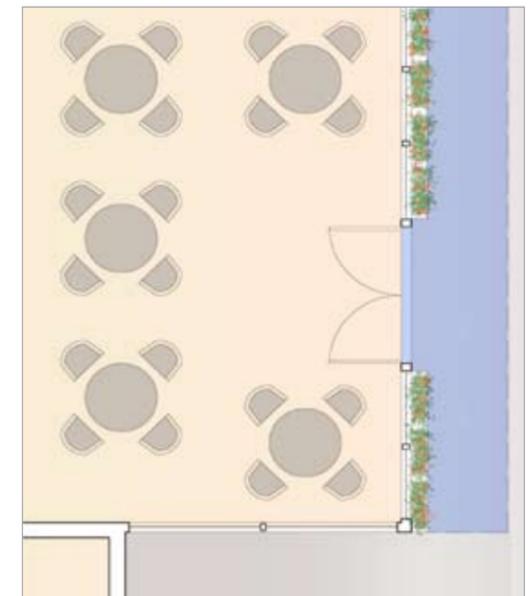
Portable building extension to be used if on the public right-of-way

HANGING BASKETS, MOVABLE FLOWER BOXES & PLANTERS

Hanging baskets, flower boxes and planters may be used to enliven streetscapes. They should be potted with live plants and flowers during temperate months, and removed during the remainder of the year. Plants require a good deal of maintenance and upkeep. Built-in irrigation systems or landscaping services may be used to water and/or maintain them. Paris to Pittsburgh requires program applicants to submit a maintenance plan along with proposals to install flower baskets, boxes and planters. Consult with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) before implementing such proposals, as contracted watering services may already be available in the vicinity of your building or business. The WPC may also offer useful advice and/or guidelines regarding downtown Pittsburgh streetscape plantings. Flower baskets, boxes and planters should not be permanently anchored to building surfaces. They should be attractive and made of safe, sturdy, durable materials such as wrought iron, wood, steel or cast aluminum. If movable planters are used, they should be at least 20" in height and no wider than 2' at the base. To promote a vibrant and interactive sidewalk café environment, their plant material should not exceed 48" in height measured from the pavement. All hanging baskets, flower boxes and planters must be made for outdoor use.



Planter boxes must be movable, but can have the appearance of being permanent



Canopy over sidewalk and movable fair weather planter boxes

CAFÉ SIGNAGE

A small menu holder, such as a window box or wall panel mounted on the exterior storefront of a restaurant, may be used as a café sign. It should be sized to accommodate a typically-sized menu and should not be used for additional signage or business identification. The menu holder should be constructed of high-quality, durable materials such as brushed or polished metal, glass and sandblasted wood. Freestanding, movable signage, such as A-frame signs (sandwich boards), white boards, blackboards and chalkboards, are not recommended.

CAFÉ LIGHTING

During evening and nighttime hours of operation, sidewalk cafés may require supplemental lighting beyond what is provided by street lights and adjacent storefronts. In some cases, the illumination provided by street lights may also be blocked by trees, by building awnings and canopies, or by umbrellas provided at sidewalk café tables. Light levels at sidewalk cafés may be supplemented using votive candles in shielded glass holders or flameless LED votives on tables. Festival or festoon lighting may also be used to illuminate café storefronts and outdoor seating areas (see Lighting section).



Lighting appropriate for dining should be provided, even where there are street lights

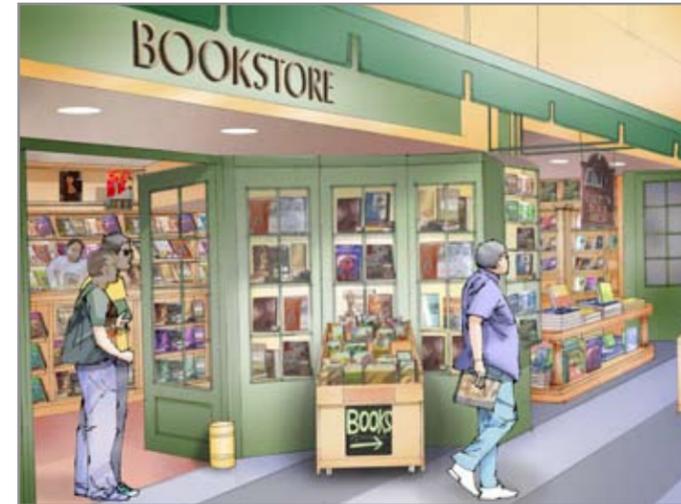
AGENCIES TO CONTACT

Department of Public Works
Department of City Planning
Bureau of Building Inspections
Fire Bureau

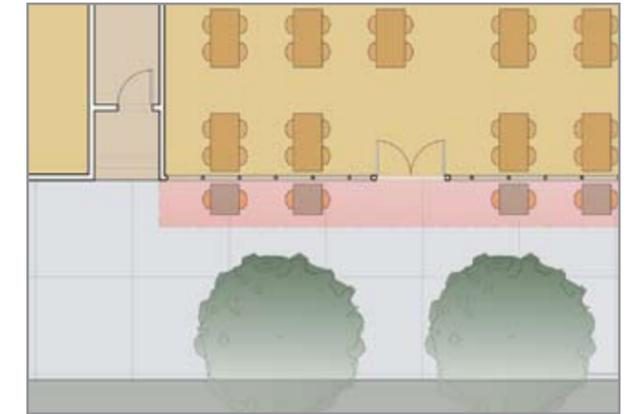
OUTDOOR RETAIL FURNISHING

Paris to Pittsburgh encourages pedestrian-oriented businesses to expand their retail environment onto adjacent public sidewalks. Flower and plant vendors, newspaper and magazine stands, bakeries, bookstores and other types of retail businesses contribute to Paris' vibrant pedestrian streetscape through their use of outdoor displays. Pittsburgh businesses can similarly enliven the Golden Triangle, while also attracting patrons. Where indoor-outdoor retail environments are created, a minimum of 5 feet of open sidewalk should be maintained to allow for pedestrian traffic.

Paris to Pittsburgh supports the use of movable carts and stands as outdoor displays. Outdoor retail furniture should be attractive as well as functional, and made of safe, sturdy, durable materials such as wrought iron, wood, steel or cast aluminum. Furniture used for sidewalk displays should be commercial-grade, manufactured for exterior use. Outdoor furnishings should be brought inside nightly and cleaned/maintained on a regular basis. Movable outdoor displays and carts are available from companies such as Steel Worx, Serra Design, CobraCo and Elise.



Retail products on the sidewalk can attract customers



Canopy at storefront, café tables, clear sidewalk and street trees



One row of tables seems more active when reflections from glass are present



Café tables at sidewalk outside of restaurant, clear sidewalk area

LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landscape elements improve the quality of the pedestrian environment in urban areas. Paris to Pittsburgh supports efforts to “green” the Golden Triangle by planting street trees; by using hanging baskets, movable flower boxes and planters; and by installing building-mounted flower boxes. Plant maintenance and upkeep is important to maintain a high-quality pedestrian environment. For this reason, program-related plant maintenance guidelines are also provided below.

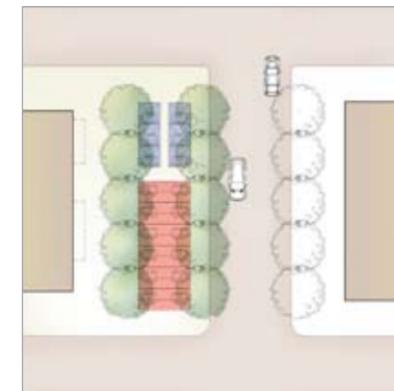
STREET TREES

Trees contribute to the visual quality of streets and improve environmental conditions for pedestrians by providing shade and wind protection. Paris to Pittsburgh supports proposals to plant street trees that meet the following guidelines:

- **Tree Installation and Removal:** Street trees may not be planted or removed in any public street without a permit from the Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works. The Forestry Division analyzes each proposed street tree location. It evaluates site conditions and constraints, identifies appropriate planting locations, and recommends tree species. To prevent damage to sidewalk vaults and infrastructure, and to promote safety, it is critical that tree installation be coordinated with existing utilities. Excavators must contact Pennsylvania One-Call at 1-800-248-1786.
- **Tree Maintenance:** Once installed in a public right-of-way, street trees belong to the City of Pittsburgh. Building and business owners are not permitted to trim or prune street trees. This is the City’s responsibility.
- **Tree Location:** Trees must be planted in 30 SF (min.) areas that have a minimum width of 3’. They must be located between the sidewalk and street curb. Street trees should not be planted directly in front of building entries or storefront windows, and must not conflict with building awnings, canopies or signage.
- **Species Selection:** A list of allowable and preferred plant species is available from the Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works. Selected trees should grow tall enough that they will not conflict with building signage and visibility.



Trees and shrubs provide some visual privacy without isolating patrons from street life



Street trees, café tables and table canopies



Clear sidewalk area, street tree canopy, and café tables and chairs

STREET TREES (continued)

- Tree-Pit Coverage:** Different designs for tree enclosures and tree-pit coverage should be used for different site conditions. Where there is adequate sidewalk clearance, open, sidewalk-level tree-pits should be planted with low-maintenance evergreen plants, perennials and/or ground cover. Paris to Pittsburgh supports the use of visually-transparent, 18" to 24" tall metal fences around the perimeter of tree planting areas to protect tree roots and plants. Metal tree grates may be used to provide a level sidewalk surface and protect tree roots. They are appropriate only for streets with limited sidewalk clearance and a high level of pedestrian traffic. Tree grates must be designed to allow for incremental tree growth and maintenance.
- Tree Lighting:** Paris to Pittsburgh supports the seasonal use of energy-efficient LED festoon/festival lights in street trees. Lights should not be animated or flashing. Lighting must be installed temporarily, only during the winter holiday season (between October 1st and March 1st), and must then be removed until the following year. Extreme care must be taken when installing and removing lighting so as to not damage street trees. The impact of street tree lighting may be enhanced when it is implemented as part of a consistent, coordinated, street- or district-wide effort, and the program may support such efforts. Paris to Pittsburgh does not support tree up-lighting.



Canopy at open storefront, umbrella table seating and street tree



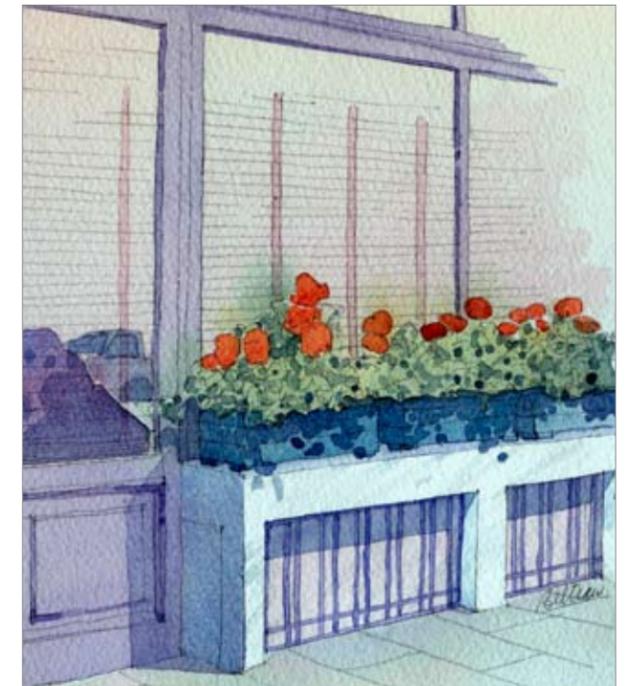
High/tall plants in movable planters can provide visual privacy along a busy sidewalk

For more information, review the City of Pittsburgh Tree Ordinance (part of the municipal Code), and Zoning Ordinance. The Shade Tree Commission and Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest may also be of assistance to building owners interested in planting street trees.

“Well-maintained plantings soften the urban landscape.”

HANGING BASKETS, MOVABLE FLOWER BOXES & PLANTERS

Hanging baskets, flower boxes and planters may be used to enliven streetscapes. They should be potted with live plants and flowers during temperate months. Hanging baskets, movable flower boxes and planters should not be permanently anchored to building surfaces. They should be attractive and made of safe, sturdy, durable materials such as wrought iron, wood, steel or cast aluminum. Planters should be at least 20" in height and no wider than 2' at the base. To promote a vibrant and interactive sidewalk café environment, their plant material should not exceed 48" in height measured from the pavement. All hanging baskets, flower boxes and planters must be made for outdoor use. Also see *Plant Maintenance Guidelines*.



Planter boxes must be movable, but can have the appearance of being permanent



Canopy, movable screen and planter, street light and street furniture

BUILDING-MOUNTED FLOWER BOXES

Building-mounted flower boxes may be used to enliven building façades. They should be potted with live plants and flowers during temperate months. Festive holiday plantings and decorations, including evergreen boughs, small boxwoods and poinsettias, may be used to enliven flower boxes during winter months. Building-mounted flower boxes should be attractive and made of safe, sturdy, durable materials such as wrought iron, wood, steel or cast aluminum. They should be made for outdoor use and must be securely attached to the building façade. Paris to Pittsburgh supports a wide range of storefront occupancies, including restaurants, cafés and retail businesses, but its financial support for eligible projects involving the installation of building-mounted flower boxes is limited to the first two building stories. *Also see Plant Maintenance Guidelines.*

PLANT MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Plants require a good deal of maintenance and upkeep. Built-in irrigation systems or landscaping services may be used to water and/or maintain them. Paris to Pittsburgh requires program applicants to submit a maintenance plan along with their proposals to install flower baskets, boxes and planters. Consult with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) before pursuing and implementing such proposals, as contracted watering services may already be available in the vicinity of your building or business. The WPC may also offer useful advice and/or guidelines regarding streetscape plantings in downtown Pittsburgh. As a final note, it may also be necessary to unobtrusively secure plant materials to prevent vandalism or theft.



Movable planter boxes in front of a sidewalk café

AGENCIES TO CONTACT

Department of City Planning
Department of Public Works (DPW)
DPW Forestry Division
Department of Engineering & Construction
Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Pennsylvania One-Call
Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission
Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest

Go to www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us and click on "Departments" for contact information

SIGNAGE

Paris to Pittsburgh recommends that signage be used as a decorative and functional element, as a human scale element on building façades. Well-designed signs attract patrons and contribute to the vitality of streetscapes through the use of color, illumination and even animation. Introductory guidelines for pedestrian-oriented signage in the Golden Triangle are provided. Consult the City Zoning Ordinance for detailed regulations regarding the size, location, content, installation and character of building signage. Advertising signs in and adjacent to City-designated Historic Districts shall be approved by the Historic Review Commission as well as the Department of City Planning.

“Signage should be compatible with the building’s architectural character.”

AWNING & CANOPY SIGNAGE

Signage attached to, or painted onto, canopies and awnings should measure no more than 8” in height.

PROJECTING SIGNS

Projecting signage can add to the character and quality of pedestrian streetscape. Because they project into the public right-of way, they are regulated by City Council, the Department of Public Works and the Department of City Planning. Sign supports and structures should be designed to be the minimum necessary for safe installation. They should also be compatible with the building’s architectural character, and should not obscure or damage significant architectural features/details. Projecting signs should consist of no more than two lettered faces, back-to-back.

ILLUMINATED SIGNAGE

In the Golden Triangle, illuminated window signs with stationary, shielded light sources, internal illumination or neon-type construction are recommended. Such signage must meet other requirements outlined in the City of Pittsburgh’s Zoning ordinance. In downtown Pittsburgh commercial areas, certain types of animated signs are also allowed. Consult the Zoning Ordinance for specific regulations.

FREESTANDING/ MOVABLE SIGNAGE

A-frame signs (sandwich boards), white boards, blackboards and chalkboards are not recommended in the Golden Triangle.



Normal street furniture, light poles and signage can activate a street even with minimal café tables



Walk-up sales at open storefront

“ A vibrant streetscape means a vital economy.”

CAFÉ UMBRELLAS

Each umbrella may display the name of the sidewalk café business as long as the name does not exceed 6” inches in height. A single business logo, not to exceed 1 SF, may be allowed on each umbrella. The total umbrella signage should not cover more than 10% of the surface of each umbrella and should contain no generic advertising (i.e. Cinzano or Perrier).



Freestanding umbrellas can be moved as sun position changes



A simple single row of tables and umbrellas transforms streetscape

CAFÉ AREA SIGNAGE

A menu holder, such as a window box or wall panel mounted on the exterior storefront of a restaurant, is a permitted café sign. The menu holder should be designed to hold a typically-sized menu and should not be used for additional signage or business identification. The menu holder should be constructed of high-quality, durable materials such as brushed or polished metal, glass and/or wood.

AGENCIES TO CONTACT

Department of City Planning
City Council
Department of Public Works
Historic Review Commission

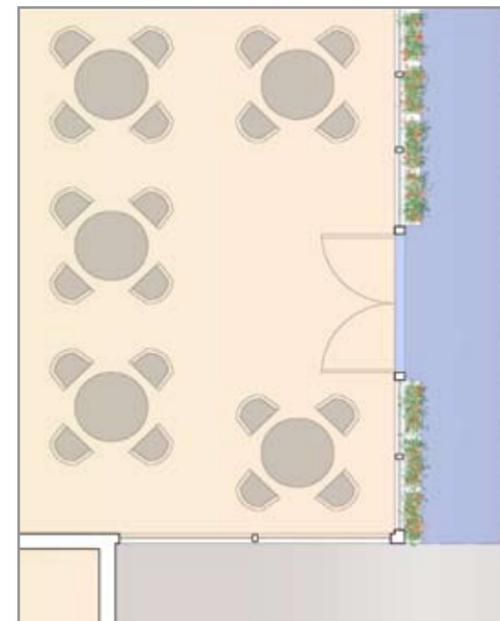
“Businesses should be accessible to all.”

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Building entries in the Golden Triangle should be generously proportioned, with direct entry from the sidewalk, to encourage connections to the public realm. Paris to Pittsburgh supports efforts to improve building accessibility through: the installation of ADA-compliant access ramps, and the use of operable façades.



Generously proportioned building entry



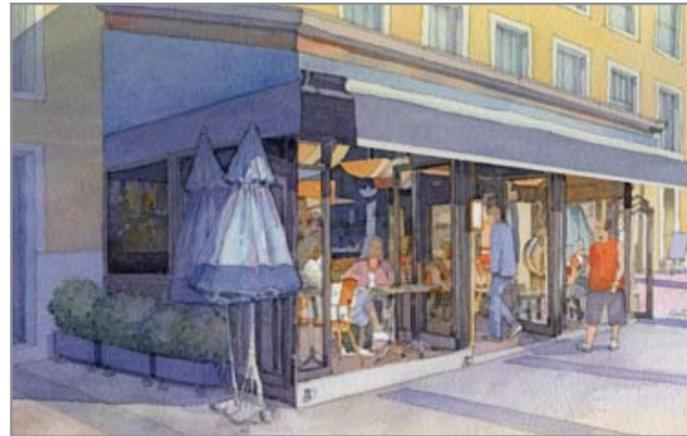
Direct entry from sidewalk

RAMPS TO IMPROVE BUILDING ACCESS

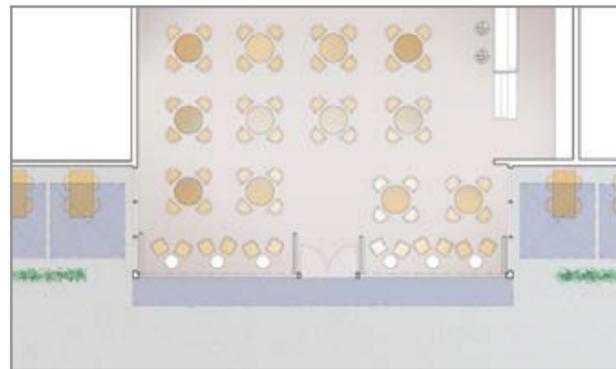
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) targets the elimination of barriers to access in public accommodations and commercial facilities when it is readily achievable to do so. When stairs comprise part of a main building entry sequence, accessibility may be achieved through building a ramp in the public right-of-way, improving access for business patrons as well as employees. Proposals for ramps in the public right-of-way must be reviewed by the Department of Public Works, City Council and the Department of City Planning. The Historic Review Commission must also review exterior ramps proposed within City historic districts.

OPERABLE FAÇADES

An operable façade can improve building accessibility as it creates a new or expanded storefront entrance. Operable façades can be accomplished by using sliding or folding panel doors, French doors, or attractive, partially transparent overhead-door systems. There are structural, aesthetic and interior climate-control issues to consider before creating new openings in existing building façades. Building owners should consult with design and/or engineering professionals, and obtain permission from relevant City Departments, before modifying existing building fabric. A variety of commercial-grade operable wall systems are available from companies such as Nana Wall and Sliding Specialties.



Property owner has the option to build or install a movable sunroom extension



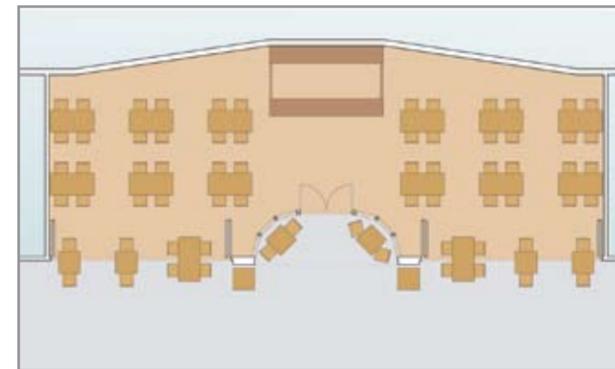
Portable building extension, café tables and canopies, and movable planters



Portable building extension to be used if on the public right-of-way



Front wall of establishment may open to street with movable walls



Open storefront, Nana Wall opening, and dining tables at openings



Movable wall, Nana Wall at storefront leading to sidewalk

AGENCIES TO CONTACT

- Department of City Planning
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Building Inspections
- Department of Engineering & Construction
- Historic Review Commission

“Thoughtfully lit spaces create a festive shopping atmosphere.”

STOREFRONT LIGHTING

Storefront display windows should be lit at night to provide ambient street illumination and contribute to a lively and safe pedestrian environment. Paris to Pittsburgh supports design proposals that will improve the illumination of storefront display windows.

BUILDING-MOUNTED LIGHTING

At times, the illumination provided by curbside street lights may be blocked by trees, building awnings and canopies, or sidewalk café umbrellas. Supplemental lighting may be provided using building-mounted light fixtures. Their supports should complement the building's architectural character, and should be the minimum necessary for safe installation. Installed fixtures should not obscure or damage significant building features or details. Lighting levels should be appropriate to their primary purpose (atmosphere, public safety, etc). In some cases, wall-mounted fixtures may also be installed primarily as decorative elements. Before installing building-mounted light fixtures, proposals should be reviewed and approved for compliance with: City Ordinances and Codes; the Americans with Disabilities Act, for acceptable wall clearance; and with the Historic Review Commission, if required.

ILLUMINATED SIGNAGE

In the Golden Triangle, illuminated window signs with stationary, shielded light sources, internal illumination or neon-type construction are recommended. Such signage must also meet other requirements outlined in the City of Pittsburgh's Zoning ordinance. In downtown Pittsburgh commercial areas, certain types of animated signs are also allowed. Consult the Zoning Ordinance for specific regulations.

FESTIVAL/FESTOON LIGHTING

Festival or festoon lighting can contribute to the character and vibrancy of a streetscape, particularly during evening and nighttime hours, as well as holidays. Such lighting, characterized by the City of Pittsburgh as signage, is generally allowed given its minimal size. Continuous illumination, rather than flashing or animated sequences, is recommended. Lighting should not obstruct pedestrian movement along sidewalks and in outdoor café areas. Festival or festoon lighting may also be used to illuminate storefronts and outdoor sidewalk cafés. *Also see Café Lighting.*

LIGHTING

Lighting is an important component of the pedestrian streetscape environment. It provides atmosphere, enables navigation and contributes towards a perceived sense of safety. Exterior light fixtures in downtown Pittsburgh must be contextually-appropriate in their design, and should provide light levels consistent with the character of the district in which they are located. For example, light levels in the First Side residential district should not be the same as those in Market Square.

TREE LIGHTING

Paris to Pittsburgh supports the seasonal use of energy-efficient LED festoon/festival lights in street trees. Lights should not be animated or flashing. Lighting must be installed temporarily, only during the winter holiday season (between October 1st and March 1st), and must then be removed until the following year. Extreme care must be taken when installing and removing lighting so as to not damage street trees. The impact of street tree lighting may be enhanced when it is implemented as part of a consistent, coordinated, street- or district-wide effort, and the program may support such efforts. Paris to Pittsburgh does not support tree up-lighting.

CAFÉ LIGHTING

During evening and nighttime hours of operation, sidewalk cafés may require supplemental lighting beyond what is provided by street lights and adjacent storefronts. In some cases, the illumination provided by street lights may also be blocked by street trees, by building awnings and canopies, or by umbrellas provided at sidewalk café tables. Light levels at sidewalk café tables may be supplemented using votive candles in shielded glass holders or flameless LED votives on tables. Festival or festoon lighting may also be used to illuminate café storefronts and outdoor seating areas. *Also see Festival/Festoon Lighting.*



Lighting appropriate for dining should be provided, even where there are street lights

SIGNBOARD LIGHTING

Signboards in the Golden Triangle may be illuminated by stationary, shielded light sources. Such signage must also meet other requirements outlined in the City of Pittsburgh's Zoning ordinance. Continuous illumination, rather than flashing or animated sequences, is recommended. Lighting fixture supports and structures should be designed to be the minimum necessary for safe installation. They should be compatible with the building's architectural character, and should not obscure or damage significant features or details. Before installing signboard-mounted light fixtures, design proposals should be reviewed and approved for compliance with City Ordinances and with the Historic Review Commission, if required (depending upon building location).

AGENCIES TO CONTACT

Department of City Planning
Historic Review Commission

THE COLCOM
FOUNDATION

ASTORINO
Architecture Engineering Interior Design Design/Build



community design center of pittsburgh



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