

**Honorable City Planning Commission  
Cincinnati, Ohio**

**March 17, 2023**

**SUBJECT:** A report and recommendation on a proposed naming of unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue to “Fig Alley Steps” in Mt. Auburn.

**BACKGROUND:**

A request to name an unnamed set of steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue in Mt. Auburn, along the CUF border, was received from “Step up to Art” in coordination with “Spring in Our Steps” in early 2023. More specifically, the location is situated approximately at 2023 Vine Street at the steps and approximately at 2020 Ohio Avenue at the steps.

Beyond the naming, the applicant intends for the steps to have a gateway style sign between Mt. Auburn and CUF, which will be designed by the Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE). The applicants are also working with DOTE and the Department of Public Services to potentially plant some fig trees along the staircase, which exist on the property above the steps on Van Lear Street. This name has been vetted through DOTE and “Fig Alley Steps” does not exist anywhere in Hamilton County.

**COMMITTEE OF NAMES:**

In accordance with the City of Cincinnati Committee of Names, Procedure for Processing Proposals for the naming or renaming of City Facilities, as empowered by resolution 16-2003, a request to name the unnamed steps has been submitted for consideration:

1. The naming of the unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue in Mt. Auburn.

The Committee of Names voted unanimously in January 2023 to support the step naming to “Fig Alley Steps.” The Committee of Names is recommending to the Director of City Planning and Engagement to name these unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue.

**PROCEDURE:**

Pursuant to Section III, E of the Committee of Names Procedure for Processing Proposals: The Director of City Planning and Engagement shall consider the Committee of Names’ vote and recommendation and make a recommendation to the City Planning Commission. The Director is not bound by the Committee’s recommendation. The City Planning Commission shall consider the Director’s recommendation and pursuant to its advisory powers under Article VII Section 9 of the City Charter, make a recommendation to City Council, together with any necessary and appropriate legislation.

**NOTIFICATION:**

Upon receiving the request, the Department of City Planning and Engagement staff sent out notices on March 3, 2023, to neighboring property owners, although there are no properties with addresses on this set of steps. Both the Mt. Auburn Community Council and the neighboring CUF Neighborhood Association were notified. Each Community Council reviewed the proposal at their full meetings and there is no opposition to the step naming. There has been no other opposition to the step naming to-date. Attached is a letter of support from the CUF Neighborhood Association.

**CONSISTENCY WITH PLAN CINCINNATI:**

The proposed step naming is consistent with the Connect Initiative Area of *Plan Cincinnati* (2012), “Maintain public stairway and alleyway systems” (page 130).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The staff of the Department of City Planning and Engagement, after considering all relevant correspondence and Committee of Names, recommends that the City Planning Commission take the following action:

**APPROVE** the naming of unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue to “Fig Alley Steps” in Mt. Auburn.

Respectfully submitted:



Caroline Hardy Kellam, Senior City Planner  
Department of City Planning and Engagement

Approved:



Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director  
Department of City Planning and Engagement