

Notwithstanding Ordinance for the Installation of Artwork on the Ohio Avenue Steps in CUF

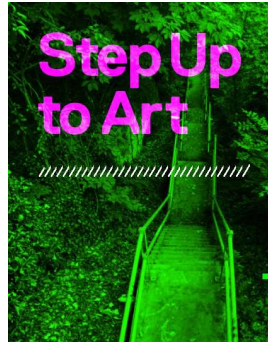
Economic Growth and Zoning Committee | December 7, 2021

1



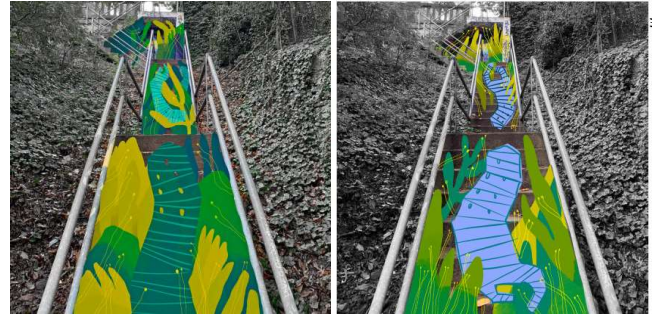
2

Background & Proposed Artwork



◀ Collaborative research project including UC faculty and Spring in Our Steps

Multiple goals including improved connections, health, and equity ▼



- Artwork on Ohio Avenue steps selected by community vote
- NWO needed to permit the installation on public right-of-way
- Team will install and maintain artwork with guidance from DOTE
- City will own artwork after installation



3

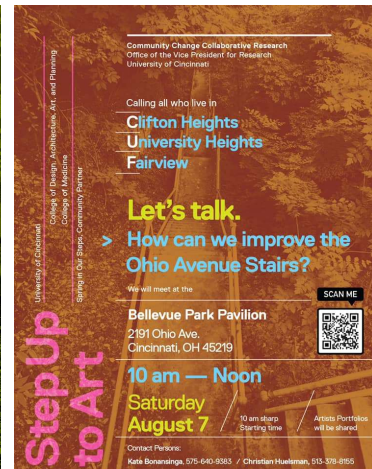
Analysis

- Creates a **pedestrian-friendly environment** to reduce reliance on the automobile for travel
 - Enhance the connection between the CUF and Mt. Auburn neighborhoods
 - Enhance the staircase as a pedestrian connection between two neighborhoods which are separated by steep topography
- Provides **effective signage**
 - Proposed signage along the steps will provide information about the artwork, as well as about the history of the Ohio Avenue steps
- Enhances a **historic resource** of the city
 - The Ohio Avenue steps were part of the over 400 staircases constructed during the late 19th century in Cincinnati.
 - Bring increased recognition of this historic resource.

4

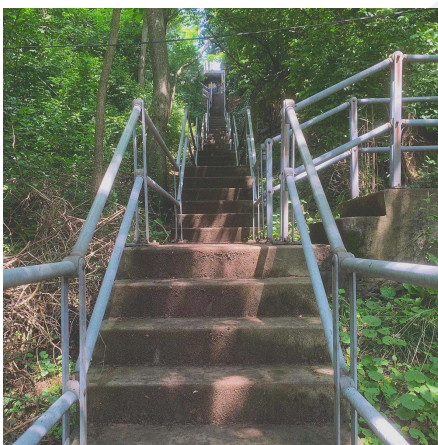
Public Comment & Notification

- **Notice** sent to property owners within 400', as well as CUFNA, CHCURC, Mt. Auburn Community Council, and Mt. Auburn CDC
- **Letters of support** received from CUFNA and Mt. Auburn Community Council
- Ongoing **community engagement** led by applicant team, including focus groups and voting on the artwork



5

Consistency with *Plan Cincinnati* (2012)



Connect Initiative Area

Strategy: “Expand options for non-automotive travel” – Need to maintain public stairway and alley systems to expand connectivity for pedestrians

Live Initiative Area

Goal: “Build a robust public life”

Strategy: “Develop and maintain inviting and engaging public spaces that encourage interaction between different types of people”

Sustain Initiative Area

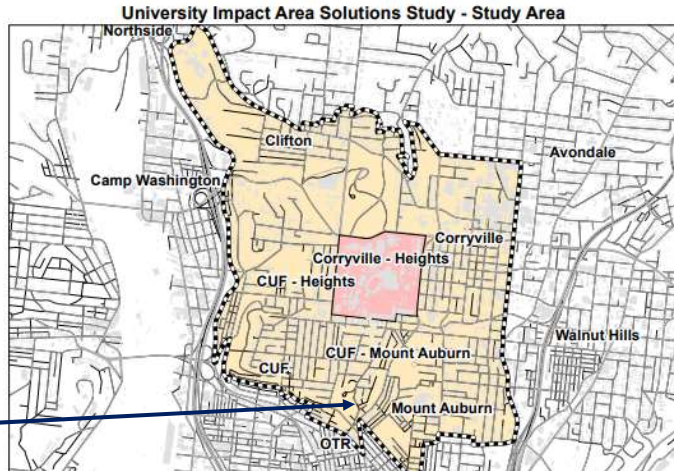
Goal: “Become a healthier Cincinnati”

6

Consistency with *University Impact Area Solutions Study (2016)*

Connectivity Goal:
“Design and implement a safe and integrated pedestrian network”

Ohio Avenue Steps



7

Conclusions

The Notwithstanding Ordinance will permit the installation of artwork on the Ohio Avenue steps which will:

- Enhance a pedestrian connection between CUF and Mt. Auburn
- Create a unique public space between CUF and Mt. Auburn
- Enhances a historic resource in the city
- Encourage walking and physical activity
- Promote community pride and identity

8

Recommendation

The City Planning Commission recommends that the City Council take the following action:

APPROVE the Notwithstanding Ordinance permitting the installation of artwork on City-owned right-of-way, known as the Ohio Avenue Steps, between Ohio Avenue and Van Lear Street in CUF with the following conditions:

- 1) That the artwork installation size, location, and design be reviewed and approved by the Department of Transportation and Engineering at the time of permit review; and
- 2) The petitioner shall coordinate with the City regarding the donation of the mural in the right-of-way including a contract with the City in a similar form as the City of Cincinnati Artwork Donation Agreement (Exhibit C); and
- 3) All artists involved in the creation and installation of the artwork shall provide the City with a Waiver of Rights pursuant to the Visual Artists Rights Act (Exhibit D).