

December 3, 2025

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council 202502034

**From:** Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

**Subject:** **Emergency Ordinance – Parks: Donation for Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps**

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Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**ESTABLISHING** new capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x262050, “Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps,” to extend and upgrade existing pedestrian access from Mt. Adams to the Playhouse in the Park located in Eden Park; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept a donation of up to \$800,000 from the Arn & Neil Bortz Families and the Ed & Pat Sheppard Trust for the Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps project; **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the donated resources into Park Miscellaneous Revenue and Special Activity Fund revenue account no. 326x8571; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation from the unappropriated surplus of Park Miscellaneous Revenue and Special Activity Fund 326 to the newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x262050, “Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps”; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Towne Construction Services to complete the Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps project; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to expend resources of up to \$800,000 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x262050, “Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps,” for Towne Construction Services to complete the Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps project; and **DECLARING** that expenditures for the Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps project serve a public purpose by extending and upgrading existing pedestrian access from Mt. Adams to the Playhouse in the Park located in Eden Park.

Approval of this Ordinance authorizes the following:

1. The establishment of capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x262050, “Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps,” to extend and upgrade existing pedestrian access from Mt. Adams to the Playhouse in the Park located in Eden Park;
2. The City Manager to accept a donation of up to \$800,000 from the Arn & Neil Bortz Families and the Ed & Pat Sheppard Trust to provide resources for the Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps project;
3. The Director of Finance to deposit the donated resources into Park Miscellaneous Revenue and Special Activity Fund revenue account no. 326x8571;
4. The transfer and appropriation from the unappropriated surplus of Park Miscellaneous Revenue and Special Activity Fund 326 to the newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x262050, “Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps”;

5. The City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Towne Construction Services to complete the Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps project;
6. The City Manager to expend resources in the amount of up to \$800,000 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x262050, "Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps," for Towne Construction Services to complete the Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps project; and
7. The declaration that expenditures for the Eden Park/Playhouse in the Park Steps project serve a public purpose by extending and upgrading existing pedestrian access from Mt. Adams to the Playhouse in the Park located in Eden Park.

As a condition of the donation, the donors require the Cincinnati Park Board to direct the award of the project to Towne Construction Services, which requires Council to authorize the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Towne Construction Services.

This donation does not require matching funds or new FTEs/full time equivalents.

Extending and upgrading pedestrian access to the Playhouse in the Park located in Eden Park aligns with the "Sustain" goal to "[p]reserve our natural and built environment" and the "Collaborate" goal to "[w]ork in synergy with the Cincinnati community" and the strategy to "[u]nite our communities" as described on pages 193 and 209-211 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to begin work on the project to meet the conditions of the donation.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director  
Steve Webb, Finance Director

Attachment

