



GREEKTOWN MOVING FORWARD ON DEVELOPMENT OF RANDOLPH PLAZA, A NEW PUBLIC PEDESTRIAN PARK SPACE IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN DETROIT

Greektown Neighborhood Partnership awarded grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds for Design and Access of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and also the Quicken Loans Community Fund, furthering the implementation of the Greektown Neighborhood Framework Vision.

DETROIT, Mich., June 17, 2020 – Greektown Neighborhood Partnership has been awarded a grant to support the development of Randolph Plaza as a downtown public park space and bicycle connector through the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds for Design and Access of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The \$50,000 grant funding will spur the next phase in development of the first public space developed in the Greektown district in close collaboration with the Downtown Detroit Partnership, City of Detroit, Michigan Department of Transportation, Quicken Loans Community Fund, and local business and property owners.

The goal of the Randolph Plaza Pre-Development Project is to develop a long-term concept plan for the space as an urban pedestrian park plaza and future bicycle route for many users, a neighborhood destination, and an asset for Downtown Detroit. The Greektown Neighborhood Partnership and partners seek to transform a newly created public space into a multi-functional urban park plaza where downtown residents and nearby workers, stadia-goers, visitors, nearby hotel guests and students can socialize, relax, dine, learn, and participate in cultural activities. Centered on pedestrian and bicycle circulation, connectivity, and mobility, critical elements of the project include universal access, safety, greening, public art, and business and economic development, all while celebrating the district's strong cultural roots. Greektown Neighborhood Partnership will soon be releasing a Request For Proposal (RFP) for this work.

Randolph Plaza is also the focus of one of Challenge Detroit's summer challenge projects. As one of Challenge Detroit's summer nonprofit project partners, Greektown Neighborhood Partnership and the Downtown Detroit Partnership receive the time and talent of five Fellows. Fellows are using design thinking, project management, and community engagement skills to help the project move forward, directly informing the next phase of development in this new public space.

"Building upon the [Greektown Neighborhood Framework Vision](#), a community-led urban planning initiative released in September 2019 and adopted by the City of Detroit, the development of Randolph Plaza will connect Greektown with the wider downtown and complement forthcoming development in the district, while supporting the existing businesses in the area," explained Melanie Markowicz, Executive Director of Greektown Neighborhood Partnership. The recently announced proposed Exchange residential development abuts Randolph Plaza, and businesses on the plaza including the Baltimore Bar, The Well, and Buffalo Wild Wings are establishing new outdoor cafes.

Greektown Neighborhood Partnership was also recently awarded grant funding from the Quicken Loans Community Fund for \$80,000 to support the programs and operations of the organization in implementing the *Greektown Neighborhood Framework Vision*. The Framework honed in on five key categories: Public Realm, Mobility & Parking, Culture & History, Development Opportunities, and Neighborhood Experience. Design strategies are focused around connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods and the downtown core, activation, increasing built density, the introduction of new public open spaces connected by activated pedestrian paths, and the creation of a mixed-use neighborhood, expanding uses beyond entertainment.

For more information about Greektown, please visit www.GreektownDetroit.org.

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About Greektown Detroit

Greektown is a celebrated entertainment and cultural district, serving both Detroiters and visitors from around the world all year round. The traditional center of Detroit's Greek community, the Greektown neighborhood is one of the last surviving Victorian-era commercial streetscapes in downtown Detroit. Lively Monroe Street is the heartbeat of historic Greektown, and our district is bounded by Gratiot, Randolph, Lafayette, and I-375. For more information, visit www.GreektownDetroit.org.

About the Greektown Neighborhood Partnership

Greektown Neighborhood Partnership is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the long-term economic and cultural vibrancy of Greektown. We support and enhance inclusive and equitable opportunities for growth within the district through community and economic development programs, all while celebrating our strong cultural roots. Our organization is charged with implementing the [Greektown Neighborhood Framework Vision](#), a strategic community planning initiative announced last fall, with design strategies focused around connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods and the downtown core, increasing built density, the introduction of new public open spaces connected by activated pedestrian paths, and the creation of a mixed-use neighborhood, expanding uses beyond entertainment. For more information, visit www.GreektownDetroit.org.

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