

CITY GREEN TO PROVIDE OUTDOOR CREATIVE SPACE FOR CITY

By: Chad Pelishek, Director of Planning and Development



Many residents have been asking what is being developed on the corner of New York Avenue and North 7 Street. This is the new arts and culture space created as a result of the 2014 Harbor Centre Master Plan. This space has been named City Green. The Master Plan identified the need to connect the Mead Public Library and the John Michael Kohler Arts Center. The design on City Green was such to allow people at both the library and the arts center to be able to see each other. City Green was developed in conjunction with the Encore Apartments. The developers of Encore Apartments believe this public art space is critical to the success of their project and would not have invested nearly \$10.5 million in the apartment development without the pledge of the city to develop this space.

City Green, when completed, will be home to the Arts Center M.I.K.E stage which you may have experienced if you attended the Levitt Amp Sheboygan Concert Series. This grain bin looking structure will be moved across the street and serve as the backdrop to the stage. The columns one sees now will be the structure for a metal roof system to be installed over M.I.K.E. In 2018 City Green will be the home of the Levitt AMP Sheboygan Concert Series, as well as the venue for other public concerts and events. Currently, there is a group of downtown partners that have been meeting to develop the framework to encourage community groups to consider providing outside programming throughout the season in this venue. The goal for 2018 is to energize this space at least three to four days per week. This will encourage residents/tourists to make downtown Sheboygan a destination. Although specific criteria have not been fully developed for the performances to be held at this space, we are looking for ideas from the community. So, if you are part of a group that you think would benefit from organizing performances at this new arts/culture space, we encourage you to reach out to the City Development Department staff at 920.459.3377 or development@sheboyganwi.gov. City Green will also be the location in 2018 for the ever popular John Michael Kohler Arts Center Midsummer Festival of the Arts.

Also, in 2018, the Arts Center, in partnership with the City, will be completing a Connecting Communities art project on this site. As a tie-in in the development of the Arts Center Art Preserve project on the western side of the City, the Connecting Communities project will work with city stakeholders to develop playable sculptures on the City Green. The city has budgeted funds through the Community Development Block Grant program to help with this project and feel it is another great way to connect the Arts Center with the downtown community. More information will be available in the coming months on this project.

The City has also commissioned the service of an architectural planning firm to assist with a master plan on the library block. A number of ideas have been considered to provide less concrete on the east side of the library and add more grass areas and trees, to looking at the flow of pedestrian and vehicle traffic around the Halprin Fountain, the front door of the library and the book drop off lane and parking lot to the west. Final design plans on this area will be available soon.

In closing, the Levitt Foundation which has graciously funded three years of the Sheboygan Concert Series, has allowed the Arts Center to reapply for this grant. The Levitt Foundation sees the City Green and Encore Apartments development as a key project in their mission of transforming downtowns with free music. Please watch for another competitive voting process in early November and please vote for Sheboygan, Wisconsin, to be a Levitt AMP winner four years running!