Cleveland
City Planning Commission

Superman Monument Initiative

North Coast Harbor Placemaking

Superman Monument Committee

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The City of Cleveland has introduced the world to many “firsts”. Cleveland was the “first” to introduce the nation to the term Rock N Roll by local DJ Allen Freed, Cleveland was also the "first" city in the nation to introduce and implement the "first" traffic signaling by inventor and Cleveland native Garrett Morgan. And one of the more widely recognized of Cleveland's “firsts” was the creation of the most notable and identifiable fictional heroes - Superman.

Over the years the city has paid tribute to the creators by memorializing the house in the Glenville neighborhood where Jerry Siegel grew up. Now it seems only fitting that a large-scale permanent monument be dedicated commemorating their achievements.

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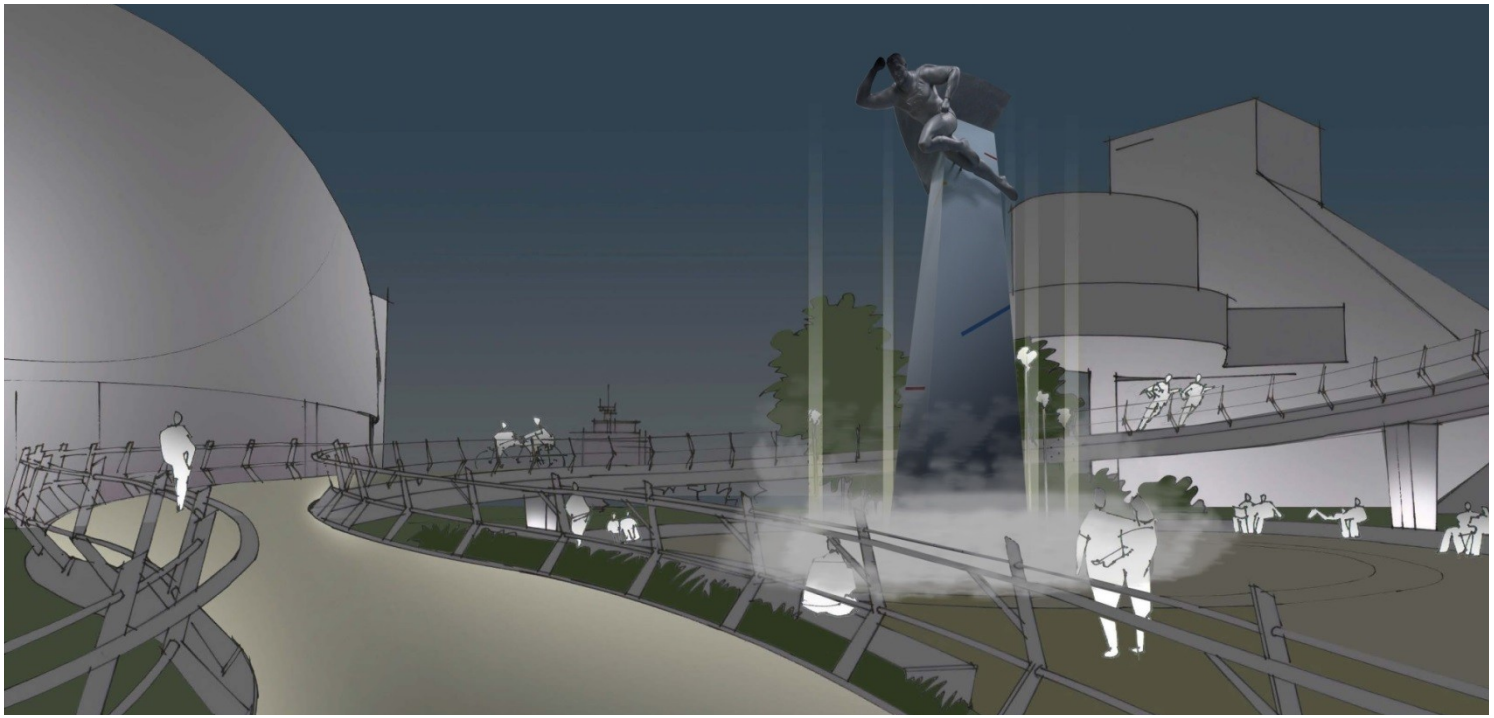
It is my pleasure to announce a project to create a prominent work of art celebrating this “first” through the development of a large scale monument depicting Superman – honoring Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the acclaimed Clevelander’s who created this globally recognized cultural icon of DC Comics in 1932.



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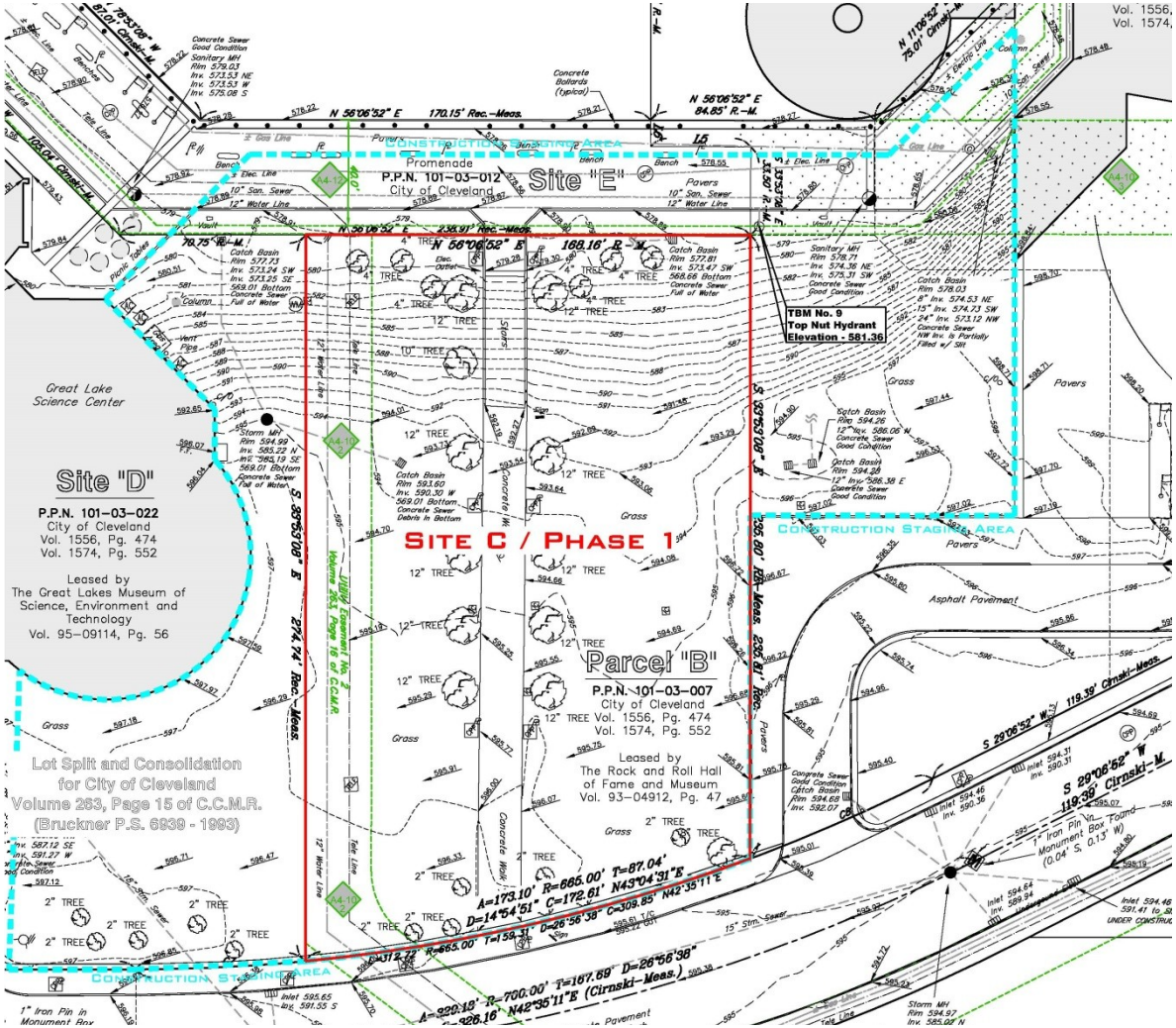
Existing Conditions Plan

The monument will be located within Cleveland's Downtown lakefront Plan Phase 1, Site C parcel; occupying approximately 2,375 SF (.05 Acres) of the area adjacent to Erieside Avenue, located between the Great Lakes Science Center and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



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Site Context Plan

The monument is proposed to be prominently displayed within a civic plaza between the Great Lakes Science Center and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Identified as The North Coast Harbor Plaza in previous City Planning documents, this site is envisioned to become a signature public space within the City.

Additionally, this site will become the landing zone for the cities future Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge which connects the Mall with the North Coast Harbor District; as well as being one of the future development sites of Cleveland's multi-phased Lakefront Development Plan.

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Existing Conditions

Existing Site Open Space

Existing Site as viewed from the Rotary Plaza adjacent to Erieside Avenue

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Existing Conditions

Existing Pedestrian Connection

Existing viewshed of the Downtown Skyline

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The Superman Monument Initiative is a catalyst for knitting Erieside Avenue, the pedestrian and cycle bridge, and the North Coast Harbor Promenade together; as well as Cleveland's Lakefront Development Plan.

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The ‘Big Idea’

Public Tribute and Civic Amenity

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Plaza Concept

The concept for the monument and the approximately 55 foot diameter plaza utilizes elegance and simplicity in order to demonstrate the power, respect, and mystique that Superman embodies. Each of these characteristics are visible in monument and with how the connection is made between the monuments base and the family-friendly plaza.

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Monument

The central feature, a statue sculpted by nationally recognized artist David Deming, will serve as an alluring testament, promoting Cleveland as the birthplace of the creators of the “Man of Steel”.

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Monument and Base

This beautiful stainless steel statue will be approximately 13 feet long, perched atop a base that will raise the statue 35 feet from the plaza; providing viewing opportunities of 360 degrees. A stylized crystal base will be utilized, reminiscent of the Crystal Fortress of Solitude, a sanctuary of Superman's and a place of solace.

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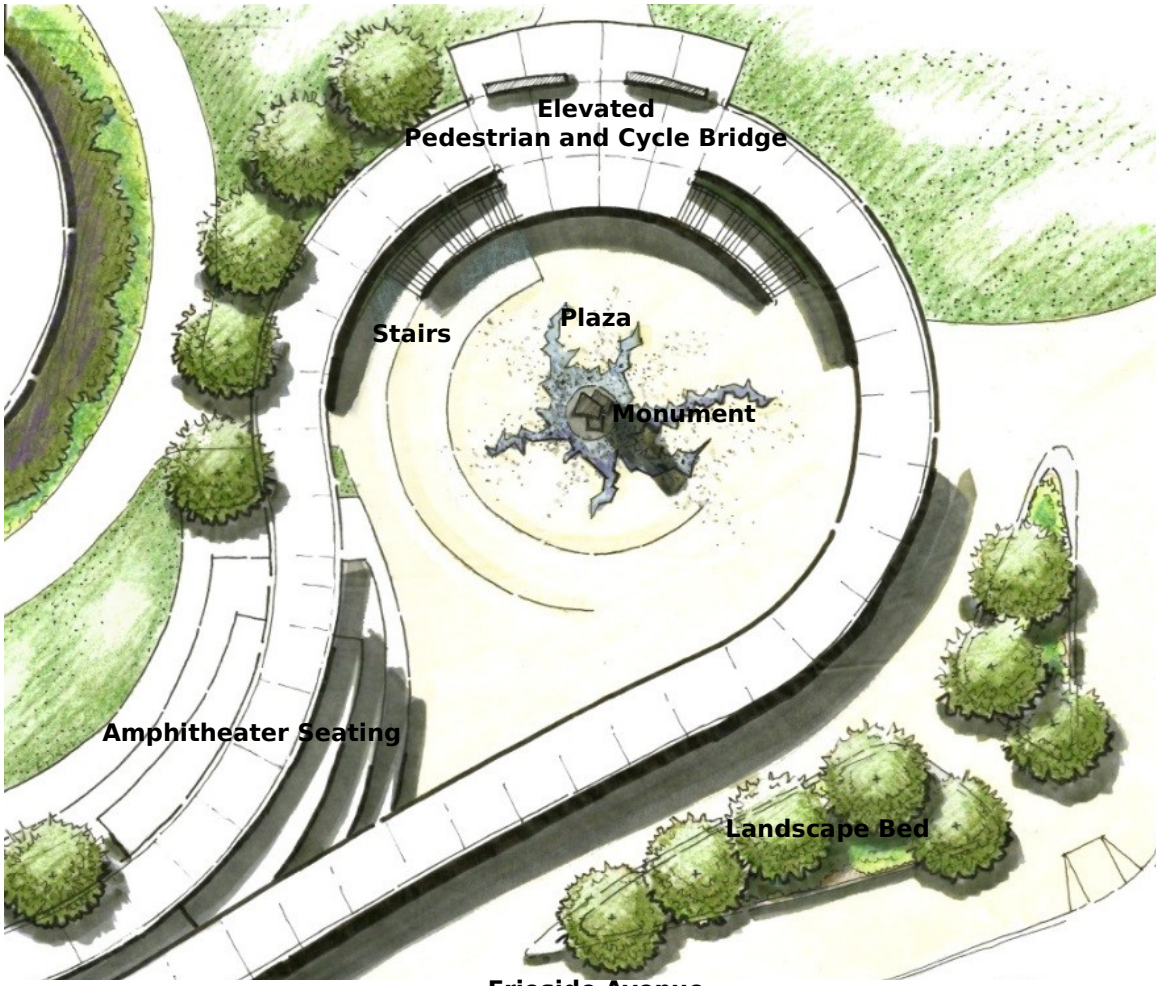
Plaza Features

The monument base will project from the plaza through molded, irregularly formed concrete rising upward; providing the appearance of the crystal base dramatically ascending from the earth. The incorporation of a fog feature within and around the perimeter of the monument's base will provide a free-flowing dimension that accentuates the plaza experience by creating an interactive cloud of mist.

The adjacent Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge activates the vertical plane of the site, causing one to experience the plaza from different heights – adding comprehensive interest. Furthermore, terraced steps combines functionality and elegance; while providing the



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Plaza Elements

Fog mist creates an ever-changing environment and a sense of mystery

Molded concrete allows for the creation of unique forms, establishing the character and quality of the space.

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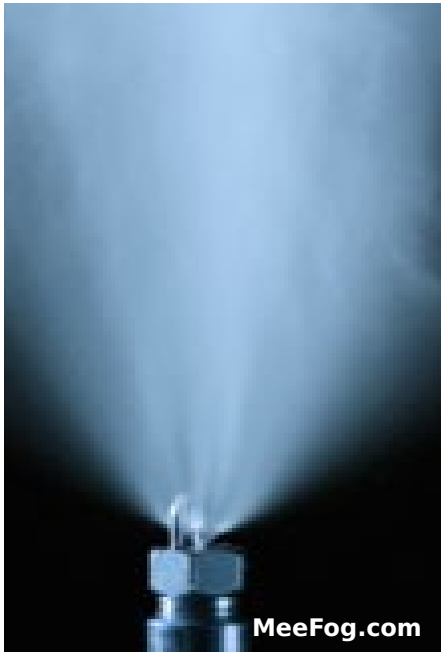
Plaza Elements



MeeFog special effects system

Dramatic lighting will be incorporated to highlight the plaza features, the monument and base.

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Bronze Figures

Accompanying the primary monument will be a series of human scale figures representing the creators of Superman – Siegel and Shuster; as well as Joanne Siegel, the model/inspiration for Louis Lane.

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Coordination

This nearly 3 million dollar project will become a reality through a partnership between the City of Cleveland, and the capital investment by the Superman Monument Committee, a 501(c) organization; along with the support and coordination from:

- The Group Plan Commission;
- Cuyahoga County Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge Design Team, Rosales+Partners;
- Cumberland Development, LLC, CEO Richard Pace;
- The Segal and Shuster Society; and,
- The North Coast Harbor District;

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The project is envisioned to be dedicated after the completion of the Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge and will surely become a highly recognizable attraction for our city residents, our wonderful visitors, and Superman fans worldwide; celebrating yet another Cleveland “first".