

Plaza Preservation Project

Project Update

The Project's Goals:

Enhance and preserve the Plaza's historical environment

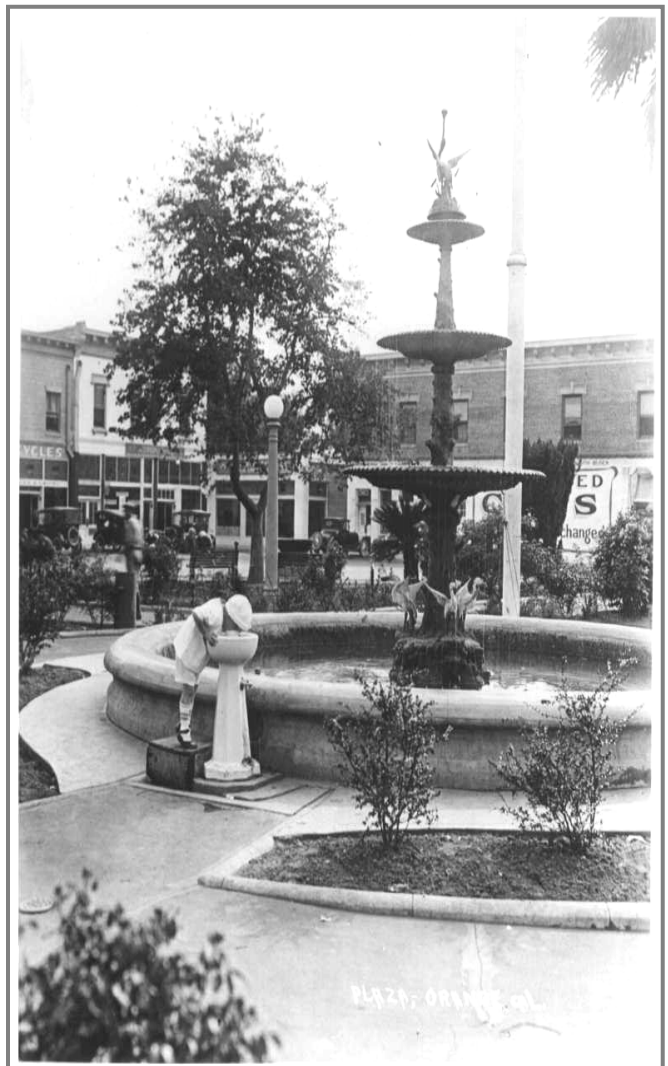
Maintain and enhance economic viability of the area

Improve safety and maintenance

Benefits of

The Plaza Preservation Project:

- Preservation of the historical environment of the Plaza, including refurbishment of the central decorative fountain
- Refurbishment of existing landscaping to recall the era of the late 1930's to the late 1940's, while preserving the Plaza's pine trees
- Relocation of inscribed brass plaques to a similar location in the plaza
- Removal of the circa-1970 brick planters in the quadrants to make room for outdoor dining and safer strolling
- Improved lighting that will create an inviting evening atmosphere and better security
- Better pedestrian and car access to the Plaza through improved traffic flow and relocation of crosswalks
- Safety and maintenance enhancements by improving drainage to direct water away from buildings
- Historically correct, paved sidewalks on the Plaza quadrants that provide sufficient room for pedestrians and dining, inviting shoppers and diners to stroll
- And more!



Questions and Answers

Most Frequently Asked About the Plaza Preservation Project

Q: Why is the City undertaking this project?

A: The Plaza has become a popular destination for residents of Orange and for visitors from throughout the county and the region. The City's goal is to restore the Plaza to retain its rich historical past and maintain its niche as a premier dining, shopping and business district. In addition, the Plaza is in need of repair and refurbishment to improve access for pedestrian and vehicular traffic and by visitors in wheelchairs, etc.

Q: Have the opinions of the public been considered?

A: Yes. The Plaza Preservation Project has involved extensive public input, including 14 public meetings and two community meetings. Downtown merchants, residents, members of the Historical Society, the Orange Taxpayers Association, the Old Towne Preservation Association, the Planning Commission, and the Design Collaborative provided input. In addition, community members and Plaza merchants have been invited repeatedly to participate in the process by providing their opinions and vision for the project. All this input has been carefully considered and has been critical in shaping the project.

Q: How will the project be paid for?

A: The City will pay for the project.

Q: When will construction begin?

A: Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2001.

Q: Will the Plaza and adjacent streets remain open?

A: Yes. The availability of parking within the Plaza quadrants will be affected, however, everything possible will be done to mitigate negative impacts.

Q: Will everything be under construction at the same time?

A: No. The construction will be done in phases. The project team is establishing one-on-one contact with adjacent businesses to minimize construction impacts and maintain access.

Q: What about access to businesses?

A: Everything possible will be done to ensure access to businesses. There may be short periods of time when workers or equipment are in front of doorways. The project team is working with individual business owners to try and meet their peak hour business needs.

Q: Will residents be affected?

A: No, apartment residents should not be directly affected. However, there will be an increase in activity in the general area, which may, at times, result in an increase in dust and/or noise. The project team will do all it can to minimize these effects.

Q: Will I be able to shop, dine, and take a stroll in the area during construction?

A: Yes. Although the Plaza will be in construction mode during this time, enhanced signage will encourage continued patronage during construction.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Call Tara Finnigan, business & public affairs manager, at 714-288-2590.

What's Going On Now?

- Meetings with merchants affected by construction will be held in the next few weeks to obtain their input regarding a possible construction schedule.
 - Final construction plans, including a schedule, will be presented to the City Council for approval in late 2000.
 - Construction is tentatively planned for early 2001.
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