

Fine Arts Plaza

Observations & Comments: Plus and Minus

The plaza fountain stimulates the most comments.

- People agree that a water feature is desired.
- The empty pool in the winter is a negative. It becomes too dominate.
- The size of the pool is questioned. Some compare it to a lap pool.
- Suggest a more sculptural feature that includes water in the warm months and can stand alone in the winter.
- The past 2 summers, it has been closed due to lack of maintenance fees.
- The fountain drains into the storm not the sanitary as required by the DEQ.

Pedestrian traffic thru the space is considered cumbersome. The plaza is in the middle of the academic core and is a destination of the campus users but the some believe the existing pathways feel narrow. The fountain is a barricade.

The existing pedestrian traffic patterns are “terrible” in that they do not relate to the context. Art is prominent and must be reflected.

The trees are appreciated but spaces for assembly and then for smaller gathering must be planned. One stated that the plants there are not good plaza “stuff” and is not compatible with the architecture.

Many consider the plaza to be for formal and public functions and forget that the space must function more for the day to day life of the campus community. A stated goal is the plaza should have a positive spin of “who we are”.

The plaza is a day and night focus. Lighting is very important but most do not want “in your face” fixtures. A designed approach is required.