



FOUNDED IN 1975

**Working to Keep Streeterville a Neighborhood**

SOAR is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

November 17, 2008

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Mr. Jim St. Marie  
General Manager  
NBC Tower  
455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive  
Chicago IL 60611

RE: NBC Plaza Renovations

Dear Mr. St. Marie:

Thank you for your presentation to the SOAR Neighbors Action Task Force on August 9<sup>th</sup>. We appreciated the opportunity to hear about your planned renovations for the NBC Plaza, and your efforts in improving this common space utilized by workers, residents and visitors alike.

Overall, your plans incorporated many positive elements including increased lighting, common-grade accessibility to all people, and many more trees than the existing plaza. In addition, the improvements to the drainage situation will ensure a safe plaza that provides a healthy spot for the numerous trees you are planning.

A concern we have about the renovations is the lack of grass and flowers as well as the appearance of the plaza during winter months. When the trees lose their leaves, the plaza will look barren and cold. As you know, Chicago is not known for quick winters, so the appearance of this area during the cold season will impact the neighborhood for several months.

The incorporation of color and sculpture will help alleviate the barren appearance during the winter months. Color can be incorporated into the furniture, or an interesting paver can be used instead of concrete. In addition, a sculpture that blends well with the plaza during the summer, and becomes a showpiece in the winter, will provide visual stimulation to the area. You should also consider adding temporary planters in the summer months that can contain a variety of flowers and then be removed in the winter months to facilitate easy snow removal.

While you perform work to the underside of Cityfront Plaza Drive, we feel it is a great opportunity to improve the lighting and appearance of the lower levels. We request that your plans include improvements to this area.

We would appreciate seeing updated plans addressing the above concerns so that we can provide you, Alderman Reilly and the Chicago Plan Commission with a letter of support for this project, feature it in our community newsletter, and consider it as a candidate for SOAR's annual Beautification Award.

**Streeterville Organization of Active Residents**

244 East Pearson Street, Suite 101, CHICAGO IL 60611

T: 312/280-2596 F: 312/280-4631 Email: soarchicago@aol.com Web Site: www.soarchicago.org

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Gail Spreen  
President and  
Co-chair Neighbors Action Task Force

Michael Kraynak  
Director and  
Co-chair Neighbors Action Task Force

Cc: Alderman Brendan Reilly  
Arnold Randall, Commissioner, Dept. of Planning & Development  
Paul Zalmezak, Dept. of Planning & Development  
Gregory Gobel, Fujikawa Johnson Gobel Architects  
Bernard Jacobs, Jacobs/Ryan Associates  
John Maxson, GNMAA  
Kevin Richards, Streeterville Chamber of Commerce  
SOAR Board of Directors and Executive Director