

OCF Path Segment Study

SESAME STREET

Description:

A loop within a cul-de-sac, Sesame Street connects to the Main Stage area where Pike Street and Sallie's Alley converge and extends some 300 feet past The Ritz sauna to Watergate. Includes two food booths, seven craft booths, Child Care, and The Void. Public services include one drinking water station, one hand wash station, one toilet site, four recycling kiosks, saunas and showers, child care, and no info booth. Tinkerbell phones are at Child Care and The Void. Ferrocement structures and statuary are located near The Ritz. No stages are here, but ad-hoc performance sites include The Void, the plaza near The Ritz, and in the grove of trees across from Child Care.

The lowest part of the Fair, this path segment is the historic Indian Creek channel. It floods early and often and is sometimes covered by eight feet of water. It is well shaded by ash trees. The wetland soil does not support vigorous turf.

Strengths:

Shade and numerous benches provide respite from the action and sun of Main Stage. Good AAAA access. Emergency access and egress routes are adequate. The Ritz provides a strong draw. The ferrocement plaza is a popular gathering spot. Toilets are easy to access for service. Watergate is the main access for service vehicles to the northeast end of the figure 8 and for food booth re-supply from Chillville.

Problems:

One of the newest areas to be developed at the Fair, it is still building repeat clientele. Short sight lines provide feeling of intimacy but may hide vendors. Child Care booth is hidden by neighboring craft booth. Ash trees need to be maintained for safety. Dust is occasionally a problem. Ferrocement seems out of keeping with the ambience of the fair. The long distance from the entrance can be difficult for fairgoers with children at Child Care. Smoke and ash from the saunas and wood-fired water heater at The Ritz can foul the air.

Goals:

More traffic for hidden booths. Better visibility for Child Care booth. An additional or replacement child care compound near the main entrance.

Implementation:

Install signs to direct fairgoers to booths in the back of the loop and to Child Care. Include new child care compound when planning entrances, Crafts Lot, and/or Gypsy Way. Limit the use of decorative concrete.