



CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY DEDICATES 'ARTS CENTER DRIVE' AND PARK

TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – (12/2/11) – Temple Terrace’s downtown redevelopment area is starting to display the “sense of place” residents always knew it could be.

A special ceremony was held Thursday afternoon to dedicate a new main street, dubbed *Arts Center Drive*, along with a beautiful new park. More than 250 attended the event, including special guests, elected officials and longtime residents.

Residents were treated to an unforgettable surprise when the City’s development team unveiled a bronze statue of Mayor Joe Affronti. The life-size statue states “Our Dream Became a Reality” at the base and depicts a smiling Mayor Affronti welcoming visitors to the new park.

Mayor Affronti said he was “surprised, honored and humbled” by the gesture.

Michael Vlass, who heads Vlass Temple Terrace LLC, the City’s development team, spoke at the event, along with Affronti, former mayor Fran Barford, City Manager Kim Leinbach and others. Vlass lauded the people of Temple Terrace for their vision and commitment to building a new downtown.

The centerpiece of the new park is an impressive gazebo with a Spanish Mediterranean-style dome, a mosaic-tiled fountain and two shade trellises. Vlass said the new park creates a “sense of place” and was “designed to be an intimate gathering spot for residents, guests and the Temple Terrace community at large.”

Work at the 29-acre redevelopment site, on the southeast corner of Bullard Parkway and 56th Street, will continue into next year. Plans call for a mixed development of retail, residential, restaurant and civic uses, including a 16,800-sq.-ft. Center for the Arts.

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