

THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT - VIRA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Importance of Public Process in Casino Design Plan Heinz Endowments Statement

Pittsburgh, Dec. 11, 2007 – The following statement has been issued by Maxwell King, president of The Heinz Endowments in support of the Riverlife Task Force's efforts to promote quality design and a full public process in projects connected to Pittsburgh's waterfront:

It is unfortunate that Don Barden is challenging the legitimacy of the Riverlife Task Force to tackle significant design issues connected to the Casino that is about to be constructed on waterfront that is at the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh.

It's a shame Mr. Barden doesn't understand the positive role Riverlife has played in Pittsburgh. It is clear from his public statements that he doesn't know all that the organization has done to make Pittsburgh's future brighter by working in good faith with developers of riverfront property and others to make the rivers and riverfront property more attractive and more accessible to the public.

We at the Endowments hope that Mr. Barden will stop to think about the long-term benefits of good urban planning. Riverlife, through a committed staff and a board representing every facet of the community, has, in the last eight years, done more to make Pittsburgh America's most livable city than any other institution in town.

It has taken long stretches of our waterfront and helped the community plan and create one of the greatest urban amenities in the nation. And it has worked constructively and effectively with all of the region's top leaders and institutions. Don Barden needs to understand Pittsburgh. And he needs to work with the Riverlife Task Force.