Mellon Square

SUSAN M. RADEMACHER
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

2015 PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE HERITAGE CONFERENCE
July 11, 2015
Our Story

- Founded 1996
- More than $80 million raised
- Volunteer stewardship valued at more than half-a-million dollars
- 14 major capital projects completed
- 5 major capital projects underway
- Professional staff
- Environmental education program
Pittsburgh
1940

An Urgent Need for Parking, Clean Air & Greenspace
The American Sign Language gesture for “Pittsburgh”
The block prior to demolition, ca. 1949
Pittsburgh’s Renaissance I
1947 Kaufmann Department Store Exhibit
Pittsburgh in Progress
Richard King Mellon and David L. Lawrence
Photographed by Margaret Bourke-White
31 STORIES OF ALUMINUM MAKE NEWS

TURN AN INSPIRED ARCHITECT LOOSE with a contractor who loves aluminum—and a new kind of building story happens. A building like the 31-story, ultramodern Alcoa headquarters office in Pittsburgh: Efficiency through light weight was the keynote of its building...and innovations the result. Outside walls of 3 to 52 feet aluminum panels were simply hung like curtains from within—no scaffolding was required. Aluminum windows slotted in a vertical slot for safe and easy window cleaning. A pressurized aluminum radiant heating and cooling system in the ceiling is insulated with aluminum. Wiring, conduits, water tanks, ducts, elevator—out aluminum, too. Light-weight, this building saved hundreds of tons less structural steel framing than a conventional building of the same size....Thin-reinforced, it yields thousands of feet of extra floor space. It will require no painting—and virtually no maintenance. **The innovations— which make it a sound investment and a new, better way of building—are conceived and developed by Alcoa. In fact, the whole American aluminum industry has been built on Alcoa research, which for sixty-four years has worked to give aluminum more confidence in houses one.**

Alcoa Company of America - Pittsburgh 30, Pa.
James A. Mitchell and Dahlen K. Ritchey
Philip D. Simonds  John O. Simonds
“This Square is an artistic achievement... a symbol of the great redevelopment program undertaken by Pittsburgh....

Richard King Mellon

Mellon Square Dedication
October 18, 1955
IT’S WONDERFUL

Fort Pitt

It tastes so good... it’s wonderful
Deterioration
A Plan of Action

• Rediscovering Historic Significance

• Forging a Future Vision

• Accounting for Maintenance
Preservation
Restoration
Reconstruction
Rehabilitation

Paving & Sidewalk
Steps
Drainage
Granite Masonry
Planters
Lighting
Central Fountain
Cascade Fountain
2014 Project Cost

$ 7 M Construction
$ 3 M Maintenance Fund
$10 M Total
Patricia O’Donnell, Heritage Landscapes
Rehabilitation
Terrace
Green Roof