

# town square

**project**

Town Square

**neighborhood**

East Liberty

**grant amount**

\$10,000

**grant year**

2004

**community organization**

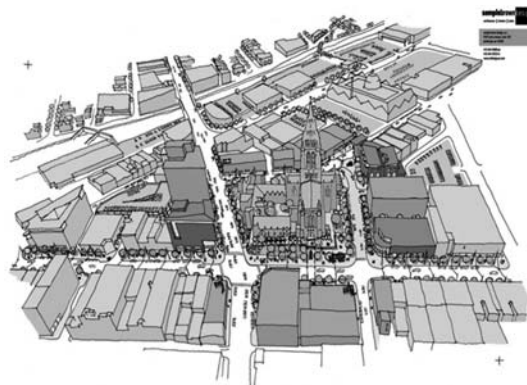
East Liberty Development, Inc.

**architect**

Semple Brown Design

**project type**

development planning



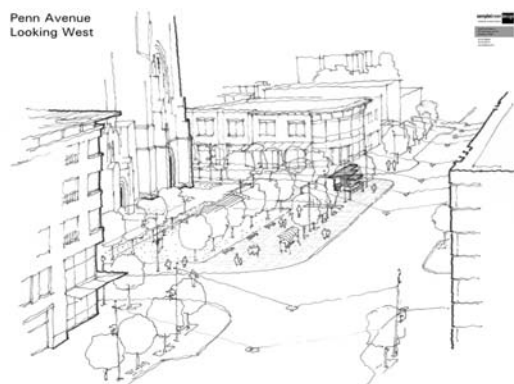
An aerial rendering of Town Square with proposed changes

In early 2004, East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) initiated the East Liberty Town Square project to articulate a community vision for the heart of the neighborhood. To move this project forward, ELDI approached the CDCP for support. Upon receiving the requested grant, ELDI was able to leverage the funding provided by the CDCP to raise more than twice as much from other sources.

A group of community stakeholders convened by ELDI selected Semple Brown Design as the architecture firm to articulate a vision that would guide future development around Town Square. The conditions in Town Square- of a church located in the center of a retail district- presented many challenges to the success of the place in terms of business and public space vitality. Local residents and business and property owners were consulted for recommendations about how to guide the area's future development.

Since the plan's completion in 2004, East Liberty has seen progress in the implementation of the established vision for Town Square. Developers have purchased several key buildings with plans to rehabilitate them and establish new, desired uses in those locations.

Another outcome of the Town Square plan has been the establishment of a programming committee for the East Liberty neighborhood. In summer of 2005, the committee created ongoing outdoor activities in the form of an artists' bazaar and evening movies. These activities brought people, many of them new, into East Liberty's public spaces at times when they had previously been inactive.



Penn Avenue looking West, with new landscaping and lighting



Baum Boulevard looking East toward a proposed new parking garage