

# Herald-Star

September 27, 2022

## Urban Mission to reveal ministry plans

By Janice Kiaski

STEUBENVILLE — Urban Mission Ministries is ready to reveal its Seventh Street Plaza design plans that include the development of a ministry and opportunity corridor in downtown Steubenville on North Street.

That multi-year, multimillion-dollar undertaking will be shared Thursday during the last of three community meetings that the Rev. Ashley Steele, executive director, said will have more the feel of a celebration, not just plans for a building and beyond.

Steele, community partners and representatives of Rothschild Doyno Collaborate of Pittsburgh, an architecture and urban design firm the mission has been working alongside since the beginning of the year, welcome the public to the gathering which will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the plaza space that has housed different grocery stores in its history.

RDC has worked with the mission through the visionary process, to “bring in a different perspective, but what they’ve brought is the different techniques to hear from the community, from surveys to small focus groups to these community meetings that they’ve sought feedback from the community, and each time they’ve provided a little bit more information,



**CASTING VISIONS** – The Rev. Ashley Steele, right, executive director of Urban Mission Ministries, and Melanie Buzgan Dower of Rothschild Doyno Collaborative of Pittsburgh look at materials on display at an August community meeting about development of a ministry and opportunity corridor in downtown Steubenville. That will come more in to view with details being announced Thursday during the mission’s “community celebration” from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Seventh Street Plaza, Steubenville. -- Janice Kiaski

what they’re hearing, and then communicating that back to the community, but then also pairing that with, okay, you mentioned that this building could satisfy this particular need in the community, here’s what that might look like,”

Steele said during an interview.

“It’s been helpful for us these last several months, as we’ve been able to listen, they’ve been able to listen, and then this final meeting, is the combination of those previous gatherings plus all

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the other work that's been done behind the scenes," Steele said. "We'll be able to celebrate the conclusion of these gatherings but then also give the next steps, what happens next, and how

that will hopefully impact the community in a good way."

Steele said she and Melanie Buzgan Dower of RDC will spearhead Thursday's presentation with testimonials

in the mix from people who have been beneficiaries of the mission's help.

"We'll just keep reaching for the stars because we're just people of faith."