

Family has hand in labyrinth

By **ADAM TURER**

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Cincinnatians and visitors to the city will soon have an opportunity to enjoy a peaceful stroll through the area's first public labyrinth, thanks to the generosity and inspiration of the Barr family.

The Barr Family Foundation, headed by Rod and Barbara Barr, is funding the design and development of the labyrinth, which will be located at Cincinnati Riverfront Park.

The park, still in the design phase, will be located along the Ohio River between Great American Ballpark and Paul Brown Stadium. The idea for the labyrinth - a singular, winding walking path - came from Krissi Barr of Mt. Lookout. She experienced a labyrinth at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral after a long run up Nob Hill, and wanted to share the experience in her hometown.

"This was my dream. After my first labyrinth experience, I thought, 'We need to have this in Cincinnati,'" Barr said. When she became a Cincinnati Park Foundation trustee in 2003, she grew determined to make her dream a reality.

"This is a great idea," said Willie Carden Jr., director of the Cincinnati Park Foundation. "We just didn't have the funding to support it."

Not until Krissi's family stepped up and made their pledge.

"Their generosity and financial support allowed this to happen," said Krissi of her husband, Dan, and her in-laws, Rod and Barbara of Indian Hill.

The Barr Family Foundation is funding the labyrinth every step of the way. It is currently in the design phase. Sasaki Associates, the design team for the Riverfront Park, will design the labyrinth as well.

"They are the best in the world," Carden said. "We are tickled to have them."

Krissi had her choice of which area park she wanted to be home to the area's first labyrinth. She said the choice of the unfinished riverfront park was an easy decision.

"There is a calming sense that comes from the movement of the water," she said. "It is also a central part of the city where people from all sides of town can come together."



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Dan and Krissi Barr of Mt. Lookout are members of the Barr family, whose foundation is funding the design and development of the labyrinth at Cincinnati Riverfront Park.

Barr expects visitors to the labyrinth to come away with the same sense of inner peace that she found in San Francisco more than a decade ago.

"It is unbelievably calming. It is very naturalistic, very spiritual," she said. "It is a place of meditation where one can get lost in a sense of reflection and peace."

Carden is thrilled the Barr family is committed to the development of the

park, which he expects will be a major attraction for both residents and tourists.

"Like many great Cincinnatians," said Carden, "their philanthropic heart says a lot about what makes Cincinnati wonderful."

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