

## **Oakland-Wide Community Meeting**

**Minutes: May 25, 2021**

**University of Pittsburgh: Historic Preservation and Early Re-development Plan for 3441 - 3443 Forbes Avenue (Croatian Fraternal Union Building)**

**Presenting: Mary Beth McGrew, Associate Vice Chancellor for Planning, Design and Real Estate; Melissa McSwigan, Preservation Pittsburgh**

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The University of Pittsburgh has been in discussions with Preservation Pittsburgh on preserving the façade of the former Croatian Fraternal Union Building. The property is currently owned by Pitt, having previously been owned by the Allegheny Health Department from the 1960's until about 2018. Prior to that, the building was the Croatian Fraternal Union Building, constructed in 1928, which was a vital space to support Croatian immigrants. The university has had concerns on the overall integrity of the building, especially as rain and snows goes into open cracks between the façade and the building. They are currently proposing removing the façade in pieces and storing it in a climate-controlled facility, demolishing the existing building, and reconnecting the façade to a new building development to display the historic nature of it.

Q: What is the status of the overall process of this project in terms of the building's nomination to the Historic Review Commission?

A: In September of 2018, the building was researched, and an application was submitted by the Preserve Croatian Heritage organization and Preservation Pittsburgh. The Historic Review Commission (HRC) instructed the parties to work together to find a solution, and the nomination was on hold as discussions occurred. They can begin applying for the demolition process after Preservation Pittsburgh submits a letter to the HRC regarding the agreement that the parties reached. Pitt plans to then proceed as quickly as possible with demolition and storing the façade so that it is complete before winter, given the current structural status of the building.

Q: Will the new seven-story building have any architectural ties to the façade next to it?

A: Design work still needs to be done for the new building.