

Historic Kansas City Gazette ~ Winter 2019

NEWS

2018 Preservation Awards

HKC is now accepting nominations for the 2018 Preservation Awards! Categories cover a broad array of preservation issues in order to encourage nominations from a wide range of professionals and disciplines. These efforts include best adaptive reuse of buildings; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of groups individuals who support preservation in their communities; innovations in preservation that push the movement forward; and educators and journalists who help us understand the value of preservation.

Nominations are due <u>Friday</u>, <u>February 15th</u> <u>2019</u>. The nomination process is simple. To view the categories, instructions, and the nomination form, click <u>HERE</u>.

Fees for Nominations:

HKC Members - FREE Non-Members - \$150 per project Not a member - join <u>here.</u>





Young Preservationist

The Young Preservationist organization focus is on raising awareness of preservation activities in the community by supporting the parent organization Historic Kansas City. Whether you're brand new to YP, or have been a member before, HKC would like for you to consider applying for a **board role** in the Young Preservationist. Learn more **here**.





Satchel Paige Home Update

Following the fire that damaged the home of Robert Leroy "Satchel" Paige, HKC, in collaboration with its partners, received emergency intervention funds from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to complete a phase one structural assessment.

In January, HKC and its partners, submitted a Letter of Intent to the National Trust African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund for mothballing of the home and future use study.

PLAZA ALERT! TWO PLAZA PUBLIC HEARINGS IN FEBRUARY





Save the Plaza from New 12- Story High Rise Development!

This Proposal Will Be Heard By The City Plan Commission Tuesday, February 19th

The Plaza's historic nature is immediately threatened by the <u>demolition</u> of the 7th Church of Christ Scientist at the corner of 47th and Pennsylvania to be replaced with a <u>12-story</u>, mixed-use project by Legacy Development. See plans <u>here</u>.

Key points:

- 1. The plan necessitates the <u>demolition</u> of the 7th Church of Christ Scientist: The 1942 church is an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style, specifically the latest evolution of the style that witnessed a resurgence in the 1940s; is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and has no protection from demolition.
- 2. **Legacy Development is Not Entitled to a Development Plan:** The building complies with current zoning, B4-5, which allows unlimited building height. Legacy is seeking approval of a development plan to build a 12-story high rise.
- 3. **The Proposed Building is Too Big for This Location:** The Plaza Plan was passed unanimously by the City Council in 1989 and again in 2016 in order to protect the sense of place and historic character. Legacy Developments' plan is in violation of the Plan. The project violates the "bowl concept", the building's proposed 12-story height is four times

- the maximum building height set forth in the "bowl concept". Allowing a 12-story building on a site meant for 3-4 stories is not an acceptable amendment to the plan.
- 4. **This Hurts the Plaza Long-term:** The corner of 47th and Pennsylvania is a bad location for a high-rise building that would replace a historic church. This will compromise its historic character. The Plaza is a cultural gem that attracts visitors and tourists worldwide. We can't continue to lose the Plaza one building at a time!
- 5. **A Deal's a Deal:** The policies of the Midtown/Plaza Plan are well known. The development community is aware of the restrictions on development, and that a number of businesses and property owners invested in the area understanding that these restrictions would be upheld.
- 6. This case impacts all neighborhoods in Kansas City. If the City Council ignores its adopted Plan on the Plaza it can ignore Plans in any neighborhood. Approval of this building would set a bad precedent for both the Plaza and the City at-large.

What you can do:

- Attend City Plan Commission hearing Tuesday, February 19th, 9:00 am, City Hall, 26th flr
- Bring your friends with you to the hearing.
- Can't make the hearing send a letter to Christopher. Hughey@kcmo.org
- Contact your city council person by email, letter or telephone. Contact info here.
- Support this effort become a member of HKC <u>here.</u>
- Join HKC or FOP on Facebook to show your support and stay informed: <u>HKC Facebook</u>
- Support Pending Legislation to Protect the Plaza, see details below.

Support Pending Legislation to Protect the Plaza!



We're optimistic, as Councilwoman Katheryn Shields is sponsoring the application and we have considerable support from a majority of the property owners and various stakeholders.

We still need your support!!!

City Plan Commission Hearing Tuesday, February 5th, 9:00 am, City Hall, 26th flr

See staff report here.

What You Can Do:

- Send a letter of support to Patty.Noll@kcmo.org. See example letter here:
- Attend City Plan Commission hearing Tuesday, February 5th, 9:00 am, City Hall, 26th flr
- Bring your friends to the hearing.
- Join HKC or FOP on Facebook show your support & stay informed.
- Support this effort become a member of HKC <u>here</u>.

Key Details Are:

• HKC is part of the current effort led by the Midtown/Plaza Area Plan Implementation Committee to establish a **Special Character Overlay District**in the "base of the bowl" for the Country Club Plaza. The objective is to ensure that the future expansion and operation of this resource would continue in a quality manner, respectful of the current design of

- the plaza. The overlay will codify height and use recommendations.
- A majority of the Plaza area remains unprotected! An immediate implementation measure of the Midtown/Plaza Area Plan in 2016 was to codify the recommendations of the "Bowl Concept" as an ordinance, rather than as a guideline. In 2016, a portion of the "Bowl Concept" was implemented through a zoning amendment that includes part of the "base of the bowl", essentially what Highwoods/Taubman owns. It caps the height in this area at 45 feet and restricts unwanted uses. A second expansion of the "Bowl Concept" was adopted along Main Street in 2018, with varied height/use restrictions.
- Over the years, the historic fabric of the Plaza has been slowly disappearing. It is under immediate threat due to "bottom line" driven development decisions that irresponsibly compromise the character of the Plaza by ignoring established city policy.

Westport Strategic Plan & Overlay District

For over a year now, HKC has been part of a collaborative planning effort with the Westport Regional Business League and the City to develop a long-term strategy for Westport. One anticipated outcome is the establishment of a **Special Character Overlay District** along Westport Road and Pennsylvania Avenue which would allow Westport to evolve in a way that is sensitive to the existing context and consistent in character. Draft plan coming soon. See process here.









HKC BUSINESS SPONSORS



Built around you.



It benefits to partner with Historic Kansas City!

Whether it is to provide opportunities to reach a high-quality audience or to support economic growth or to protect tangible history, we know our events and outreach initiatives provide an atmosphere that is unmatched in their ability to bring together like-minded companies and individuals who have an interest in making historic preservation economically viable. As the design and construction industry continues to evolve and grow, relationships are increasingly important. HKC's annual sponsorship program is specifically focused on supporting the development of strategic connections between our members, followers and sponsors.

HKC's annual sponsorship program offers a range of sponsorship opportunities to give you direct marketing and visibility benefits for 12-months. Click here for details and the **FIVE reasons** why YOU should be a business sponsor for 2019.

