

Urban Design Guidelines

9A Bigelow Blvd Development

Please build One Bigelow as soon as possible. How does Pitt and its SCI expected to be treated as a serious CS and IS school when they function in two decrepit and old buildings? When people think of CS/IS they expect high tech build like the Gates-Hillman Center, Iribe Center, or the Ray and Maria Stata Center, at Pitt we offer a two floor cellar above a Panera Bread and a IS building that looks like a broken Rubiks Cube (with an even worse interior). How can Pitt be taken seriously with these buildings? The people of SCI have worked incredibly hard to take Pitt CS/IS to the next level, please make this process easier by expediting the planning and construction of One Bigelow. Thank you.

4A Hillside Site

Please consider WindStax [1] or O-wind-turbine [2] for hilltop "[O-wind-turbine is] A truly-omnidirectional, single-axis wind turbine especially suitable for apartment buildings facing chaotic winds in urban environments" [2]. [1] <http://windstax.com/> [2] <https://www.jamesdysonaward.org/2018/project/o-wind-turbine/>

3 Forbes Fifth Ave District

Minor fixes: The photo on Page 2 of the "3 Forbes Fifth Ave District" document for 3343 Forbes Ave (Gold Building) incorrectly shows the Oxford Bldg. Also, on Page 1 of this document the dotted perimeter line does not contain the Gold Bldg at 3334 Forbes.

6C Wesley W. Posvar Hall Expansion

It would be useful to also include in these expansion plans GSPIA. We could use additional space as well on the third floor, including for centers.

7A Recreation and Wellness Center

Parking at Pitt is already difficult. Wait lists for parking spots are 4+ years now, even for the lots that are easiest to get into. And this plan will eliminate at least two existing parking garages (O'Hara and the OC lot) and not replace them. There needs to be plans to improve and expand on existing parking.

5B OC Lot Redevelopment

Parking at Pitt is already difficult. Wait lists for parking spots are 4+ years now, even for the lots that are easiest to get into. And this plan will eliminate at least two existing parking garages

(O'Hara and the OC lot) and not replace them. There needs to be plans to improve and expand on existing parking.

5C Petersen Bowl Infill

The Pete lawn is an important green space and recreation area for students on upper and mid campus. Any development here must preserve the open space as students on upper and mid campus have limited options for green space.

5 Hilltop District

There seems to be an opportunity to combine the WQED tower with an appropriately designed wind-to-electricity device.

9A Bigelow Blvd Development

Would a wide pedestrian and cyclist bridge connecting the raised green space at Soldiers and Sailors with the Bigelow Development be allowed? Or, would a pedestrian tunnel and cyclist tunnel be more practical than a bridge?

3A BK Lot Site

Please consider allowing a pedestrian bridges over Fifth from 3A for pedestrians climbing the hill.

6 Lower Campus District

Would Tesla or another company donate solar panels for the roofs?

6B Academic Success Center

Concern with the height and overall massing - as shown it does not seem to be contextual to neighboring buildings

6D Bouquet Gardens Redevelopment

While contextual height to Sennot Square makes sense for a portion of the site, not necessarily for all of the site. You have the residential compatibility, which is great. We'd love to see the massing broken up and varied as it approaches the residential neighborhood to have a smoother transition.

10A Frick Fine Arts Expansion

This is hugely concerning. The original character of the building will disappear. the open space related to the building is important to that portion of the park and civic district area generally. It seems a more sensitive addition could be considered rather than making the entire building disappear. the zoning issues here merit much more discussion.

3B Oakland Avenue Redevelopment

Definitely need to see massing broken up and the zoning issues here merit much more discussion with the community.

3A BK Lot Site

This is absolutely outrageous in terms of scale. To eliminate this open space would be a huge detriment to the public realm, NOT a benefit to the public realm. This proposal is hugely problematic.

General Comments/Feedback

What are the university's plans, if any, to upgrade its counseling center? In its current state, it is completely unacceptable and shows a complete lack of concern about students' mental health. I'm unable to find any information on the recently announced health and wellness center, and I assume that's where the counseling center upgrades would come into play.

(1) Please include an indoor track of 1/8 mile per lap in the new facility! Given Pittsburgh's winters, the lack of such a track has been a major weakness of wellness facilities at Pitt all of these years. (2) Please emphasize equipment that everyone can use, not exclusive privileges that come with extra fees. A university community is supposed to be inclusive, and its wellness facilities should also aim for utility for all, not for a privileged few.

Please build football stadium on campus rather than using Heinz

Hi - I attended the community meeting on March 11 in Mervis Hall and have some follow up comments. Bigelow One - I believe the overall height and massing have been reduced. Good. It should not be as high as S&S Memorial (which sits on a hill). Bouquet Gardens - I'm shocked that they will be demolished (did I hear this correctly). They were built 10-15(?) years ago and tore down some nice and historic buildings in the process. What a waste. Pitt really should examine sustainability and quality in all design (for Bouquet Gardens and elsewhere). When possible, buildings should be reused (it's the green thing to do and often the older buildings

were made to last. Bouquet Gardens is a case in point). Most old buildings were built to last 100-200 years, whereas newer construction may only have a life of up to 40 years. If you are partnering with trade schools with regard to construction, teaching renovation (not just new construction) is a valuable skill. I also heard mention of public art at Bouquet Gardens. The trouble with public art is that it stays around too long (someone else said that - I'm an art lover, but not all art is good or something that we want to see around forever!).

I appreciate everyone's hard work and thorough planning, and I think the master plan sounds great, except for the parking situation. There needs to be more resident student parking options throughout campus, especially if you plan to increase the number of beds for students. For example, there is very limited resident student parking for students living in Bouquet Gardens, and street parking is limited as well. Is there any way to include a resident student parking area near Bouquet Gardens for students of Bouquet Gardens to park? When I lived in Bouquet Gardens, the only student parking pass option I had was to park my car at the OC lot on upper campus which was a 25-30 minute walk. While I understand that the Port Authority bussing system is sufficient for getting around the city, it is very limited for destinations outside the city. For students that may work outside the city with co-ops and internships, cars are a necessity. During my time at the University of Pittsburgh I held a few jobs off-campus, outside the city of Pittsburgh so my car was necessary. Finding a place to park in Oakland was extremely difficult. If the number of student beds on campus are planning to increase, parking areas throughout Oakland for resident students should be consistent with the increase of students. The University already charges students for parking passes for university parking lots, so increased parking areas would allow for another way for the school to make money. In the master plan, student rec is a point of emphasis. Are the number of accessible student basketball courts on campus going to increase? Currently, on campus, the main area for student rec basketball are the three courts in Trees Hall. There is also one less used court in Bellefield Hall, and an outdoor court on upper campus next to the Falk School and VA hospital. It would be beneficial for students if there were more accessible basketball courts closer to lower campus or in South Oakland, where the majority of Pitt students reside. Having to walk 15-20 minutes to get to a basketball gym and then wait for a game to open up on one of three crowded courts at Trees Hall is inconvenient. In the plan, Gregg Scott made a comment about the Petersen Events Center being too far for a student rec center being that students do not want to walk up the hill. The basketball courts at Trees Hall are an even farther walk for students coming from Lower Campus. Planning to meet the needs of a diverse student body is an on-going process. The two areas described above, increased accessible parking and accessible student rec basketball courts, are both important aspects that have an effect on student life. I understand that it is impossible to please everyone, but please consider both of these concerns. If our mission is to strive to give the best student experience while at the University of Pittsburgh, the parking in Oakland must improve, and there should be more accessible options for student activity. I admire everyone's hard work, and I am looking forward to watching the University continue to grow and improve. Thank you.

To whom it may concern, Reviewing the master plan thus far, it seems that many exciting changes are coming to Pitt in the semi-near future, which will be of great benefit to the campus community as a whole. I am a PhD student in Chemistry who has taken advantage of many of the great aspects of student life at Pitt. I write this feedback out of concern for a major aspect of my life here at Pitt – playing squash with the faculty, graduate, and undergraduate student members of Pitt’s Squash Federation. Meeting squash players a year ago brought about a renewed joy in my weekly recreational activities and fostered an even greater sense of connection with the Pitt community, which was remarkably helpful throughout the most difficult time of my PhD studies. Our squash club is 50-70 active members strong and continues to grow each semester. Before I started playing, the club met three times a week at the Fitzgerald Field House – we now meet 4 to 6 times per week, playing for multiple hours per time, and with regularity we see 15-30 players. The club was featured in a University Times article that can be found here: <https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/squash-federation-brings>

My concern is that in the master plan, the Field House is destined for removal. This would be an unfortunate mistake, considering the community that squash provides across so many interdisciplinary students and faculty. I believe it is rare to find a club that so gracefully brings together undergraduates, graduates, and faculty, provides healthy leisure, and fosters appreciation of others’ work and research through conversation among the community. The Fitzgerald Field House currently has 8 courts. It is important for the survival of this club that squash courts be incorporated in the University’s master plan. With even more than 8 courts, growth of Pitt’s Squash Federation could continue, and the courts would be filled and enjoyed. Please strongly consider including squash in Pitt’s master plan for the wonderful community it provides so many people! Regards, Michael Collins Ph.D. Candidate Department of Chemistry

To whom it may concern, I first wanted to thank you for reaching out to us to know about this. I was checking the master plan and it looks really exciting. I'm a PhD student in Computer Science and would love to have an office in the new building even for a short period of time before I graduate. However, I'm writing this email for something that has been an essential part of my life here at Pitt and quite honestly has changed it for better. I've been playing Squash here at Pitt for 2 years now as a part of Pitt's Squash Federation which includes faculties, graduate and undergraduate students and have been active for more than 40 years now. You can read more about the club here: <https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/squash-federation-brings>

We are today playing at the Fitzgerald Field House but I realized from the master plan that the building is designed to be removed. Playing squash with this club really changed my life for better in one of the most stressful times of my program. The club consists of around 50 - 70 active members and every time some where between 20 - 35 people show up. I've been an active member and officer of man student organizations including serving as the Vice President of Finance of Graduate Students and Professional Governments (GPSG) here at Pitt and this is still quite a turn out for any club every week at least three days a week. It is important for the club's survival to have access to squash courts that are available to both students and faculties from different departments such as literature, medical school, computer science and etc. A great number of the active members are faculties who are really pushing it forward. More and more students are also being involved every day. We have about 8 courts today and that is already becoming too few. Therefore, I would really appreciate it if university can include

Squash courts that will be accessible to students and faculties in the new buildings. Pitt squash federation is really above and beyond a group of people who play squash together and more like a smaller family within the greater Pitt's community and more and more people are joining everyday to the extent that today we have 6 sessions a week instead of 3 and it seems soon even that will become too crowded.

We have a thriving community of squash players (faculty, grad students and undergrad students) for over 30 years. We have several days per week where over 8 courts are filled with players at the Field House. This facility also serves a community squash program Steel City Squash which engages underserved youth with a structured after school exercise program. Please ensure that in the final plan and during transition these squash communities can continue thrive by playing uninterruptedly

I wasn't able to see if there were any plans to incorporate squash facilities in the new Athletics Master Plan. There are currently 8 squash courts in the Fitzgerald Field House, and there is a sizeable group of Pitt and UPMC students/staff that play there. It would be great to see that group be able to continue to play as the university grows. I don't know if there is any possibility that the university will ever look at starting a full squash program, but existing facilities would allow that expansion to take place. Additionally, the squash group was also recently featured in the University Times. <https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/squash-federation-brings>

I am an Anthropology and Public Health grad student here at Pitt. Since I met the Pgh Squash Federation PSF my physical and mental health changed enormously towards good vibes. I love the federation therapeutic effect, and sadly I don't see any mention on squash courts in the Master Plan. Please keep the PSF in mind, as this article says, it is one of Pitt's hidden gems.

A vibrant community of ~40 faculty and students make full use of the 8 dilapidated old squash courts in the Fitzgerald Field House. We were recently highlighted in the University Times: <https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/squash-federation-brings> The best players defect to a local club because the courts aren't in good condition, and we still manage to acquire new members even though there is no publicity. In short, we exist and want to ensure the Master Plan includes an equal quantity of squash courts that will not only serve our current community but attract others at Pitt to this excellent sport, and who knows, maybe return Pitt to fielding competition teams in future. Currently I see no accommodation for squash in the Master Plan. And please note, squash is not racketball - the courts are of different dimensions, the lines are drawn differently, and the use of walls and ceilings are different. They should not be counted as similar. Thank you.

Hello, Demolishing the Music Building would be a huge blow to the aesthetic beauty of the university one gets while approaching from 5th Avenue. It's one of the few approaches to the

university that has that collegiate feel; the old buildings, the Cathedral Lawn with the Cathedral in the background. It was my favorite approach to the university as a student and the Music Building was a major part.

I read the entire master plan and it seems wildly ambitious. While I think that it will be good for the university, I have some concerns about some recent spending by the university that could have been allocated towards it instead of being mindlessly wasted as it appears it was. The plan mentions that they intend to replace the \$13.2 million dollar sports dome with a 400m track. While I think that it is nice to have such a facility on campus, as I am a large proponent of athletics and fitness generally, I would really like to see it publicly addressed as to why the university is spending multi-millions of dollars on buildings and repairs that will be destroyed within about five years. As someone directly affiliated with the university, I am not happy with the significant wastes of finances that this, and other projects, are.

My feedback pertains to parking, and the "opportunity" to make our campus more sustainable by removing up to 2000 parking spots as described on page 98. I live outside Oakland and commute. When I started at Pitt in 2015, recent hires in my department were waiting 12 - 18 months for a parking lease, which seemed reasonable for an urban campus. To date, I have waited over 3.5 years and I'm not close to getting a spot. Please let me describe a typical morning for the last 3.5 years. I get the kids ready either for school, or for their grandparents, and start my approximately 40 minute commute. I have a very narrow window (about 20 - 25 minutes) when Soldiers will open to non-leases; however, arriving during the "window" is no guarantee. About once every other week, there is an event that closes Soldiers to non-leases for a day or sometimes for the entire week. In addition to events, I can get stuck in a traffic jam due to weather or an accident. In the case of a traffic jam or weather, I spend the commute in a panic, often calling my co-workers or students to let them know that I *may* be late to my first meeting because when I do arrive I may or may not be able to find parking. This was especially stressful during the first few years when I was establishing credibility and a reputation for being prompt, responsible, and engaged. In the case that Soldiers is unexpectedly closed, I race around Oakland trying to find an alternative. When Soldiers is closed, street parking is filled, and only by luck can I find a spot. Sometimes I check the OC and O'Hara lots, but if Soldiers is full then those lots are too. I can spend anywhere from a few minutes (luck) to 40 minutes driving around Oakland looking for street parking. Then, when I do find parking, I typically have to walk some distance, and then walk that same distance again a few hours later to move my car to another location (and street parking is significantly more expensive than garage parking). Averaged over every week for the past 3.5 years, I would estimate that I've lost about 30 - 45 minutes per week searching for parking and then walking some distance. So using a conservative estimate, I've lost at least 2 full work weeks searching for parking, moving my car, walking to and from a spot far away, etc. During the first 12-18 months I regarded this parking issue as a temporary inconvenience that everyone goes through during their first months at Pitt. When I was pregnant, the stress was heightened. Now, after doing this day after day after day for 3.5 years, I'm just plain sick and tired of it. I resent the

fact that the most stressful aspect of my day-to-day work situation is parking. I resent the fact that I have to spend time searching for parking, because every minute that I waste on parking is another minute that I won't spend with my kids. Let me be clear: my lost parking time does not cut into my work – I do my job 100% - it cuts into my personal life. I am even more upset after reading the master plan. The university is promoting health and wellness by replacing the O'Hara garage with a wellness center. The irony is that the single largest negative impact to my health and wellness from this job is being expected to show up every day for work and perform a top level, and not having a place to put my car. The idea that they will increase the rates significantly to deter the people they hire from parking nearby is offensive. It has taken 3.5 years for my base salary to equal what I was making at the U. of Notre Dame 3.5 years ago with free parking. I did not expect to incur a salary penalty (i.e., a tax) for living outside of Oakland. Instead of coming up with ways to disincentivize Pitt employees from driving – why not come up with ways to incentivize them? I am an extremely patient person, especially when it comes to temporary inconveniences, but I'm tired of this and there is no end in sight. I am highly satisfied with my department and my school, but what this experience has taught me is that daily, needless, stress and aggravation has significantly decreased my overall job satisfaction at Pitt. The idea that the situation is only going to get worse if the transportation piece of the master plan is implemented is extremely disappointing.

I've been teaching film classes at Pitt for 8 years now, and my conclusion is that Pitt needs better classrooms and screening spaces if we want to compete with the Film and Media Programs at other universities. My 36-student Intro to Film class barely fits into a space that's already fitted with uncomfortable, squeaky desks. Also, as more Pitt students make films, we'll need spaces to screen and celebrate them. Currently, it feels like the Film and Media program has been relegated to a second-class afterthought of the university. This shouldn't be the case.

I didn't see anything in the proposal about a screening space for all the media production work that is expanding at Pitt in the Film & Media Studies Program and Studio Arts. While space is being added for Studio Arts, there's no mention of space for production studios or teaching space that we urgently need in the Production track in Film & Media Studies. At the moment, Pitt has no decent film screening space which is highly unusual for a university of its size.

More classrooms and screening facilities (and improved classroom tech) would be greatly appreciated!

We need visual arts, media, moving image resources. Good spaces for film screenings or multimedia presentations do not exist in the Dietrich School.

This campus needs a black box style movie theatre which can hold 150 people and can be used for film classes, academic film screenings related to ANY subject, and film screenings hosted by student organizations. We do not have enough film-ready classrooms to host our own film classes, and then any time a student group or other department wants to show a film, they ask us if we have available film classrooms they can book - we do not! Films are being screened in lecture halls with poor acoustics and in classrooms with light bleeding in from the windows so you can't see the screen. In other words, all current film viewing options on campus are poor quality. NYU has a movie theatre, other schools have them, why not Pitt? This is not just about Film and Media Studies; when the health sciences need to screen a documentary about organ transplants, where will it be shown? When Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies needs to show a film about trans rights, where will it be shown? This is a serious need for this campus which will benefit everyone.

The proposal to develop Bellefield Hall into a home for the music department is laudable, however the current Bellefield auditorium is acoustically terrible. I recommend that it be retrofitted with acoustic treatment as well as considerable thought given to adding an orchestra pit. A smaller recital hall would be nice as well. Pitt desperately needs a better place for music and theatre. Just rehabbing Bellefield is probably not sufficient. To put this in context: Acoustics at Pitt are often ignored. There is a modern classroom on the 12th floor of Benedum that is acoustically horrible. The compensation was to add amplification (!). Architects are not the best people to consult when making decisions about room design and acoustics. I strongly suggest that the planning office make sure that an acoustical consultant is involved in *every* new building.

The fact that my building (LRDC) is being fast-tracked for demolition as quickly as possible, and we don't even know for sure where we are going yet, is an extreme negative. Add to this, we are likely to be thrown into a temporary or transient existence for as many as five years, and I find this situation intolerable, and unfair. Our building is to be replaced by an open-air stair. This despite the fact that an escalator option was BUILT INTO our building, and never completed, which would allow people to move from O'Hara Street up to University Drive and escape the elements at the same time. I do not really see the need for feedback, as the speed with which our building's demise has approached has been such that there was never clearly any other option for us. But to force this upon us AND basically toss us into rental space for years on end? That is both short-sighted and cruel. I would expect this from the corporate world I used to work in. I did not expect it here, and I am disappointed to say the least.

There's currently no plan for the music building. No consideration for our classrooms, our practice rooms, our rehearsal spaces, our library, and our research spaces. Clearly the University has it in to remove our department because they've make more profit. This is a terrible mistake.

We need a space for our classes! It's really important to have a centralized place for a department to come together and work.

What about the music building? Where are you going to put us? And the music library? Are we going to be consolidated into a place without practice rooms or without pianos? We also have no real small concert hall? Why isn't this included in the master plan.

Don't tear down the music building! That's insanity!

I am a graduate of Pitt's PhD program in music. While at the University of Pittsburgh, I took advantage of my program's excellent reputation in my discipline and learned from widely respected faculty members. I also taught hundreds of Pitt undergraduates as a teaching assistant and instructor. Demolishing the music building with no plan to relocate the department shows extreme disrespect for the labor and academic value of Pitt's music faculty and graduate students. Such action also shows extreme ignorance of the music department's contributions to campus life and undergraduate instruction at the University of Pittsburgh. Perhaps it's time to reconsider the so-called "master" plan.

It's outrageous that the University of Pittsburgh would consider destroying the music building in favor of dorms. The business of the university is education not rental property. The music building must stay.

The music building cannot be torn down without plan of relocation. How much more money do you need to suck out of people by adding more dorms?

Do not demolish the music building. The music program at Pitt is too important to the university. Consider other options.

I am absolutely against the plan of demolishing the Music building, specially because I do not see anything on the plan concerning to relocation on classes, practice rooms or other Music premises. The Music department produces conferences, jazz encounters, and houses great scholarship. We are already squeezed in a tiny building, but we have a building. The plan of demolishing it without offering a solution for music students and faculty is absurd and may kill the great work faculty and students have been doing in this department.

I am deeply enraged by the total lack of concern for the music department. At the graduate level, we are a premier, globally-recognized department for the academic study of music. At the undergraduate level, we supply over 1000 students with courses each semester. ANY university music department will tell you that we have incredibly specific needs regarding our facilities in order to do what we do well. Pitt absolutely cannot demolish our building in favor of student housing—something universities use to increase their income—without a REAL PLAN of where to put us. We cannot be relegated to an empty cathedral floor or part of another building. If Pitt wants to destroy our building, they need to supply us with a new, improved one that meets our needs in ways that they aren't even met right now. The humanities and arts matter, at least Pitt claims they do. Show us.

I did not contribute to the earlier feedback, so here are some possible areas to prioritize: (1) How can our buildings/infrastructure/campus be designed so as to mitigate risks related to a possible active shooter situation? (2) Water safety (especially with respect to lead) (3) New facilities for the School of Computing and Information? --> related: perhaps consider space for collaboration between SCI and medicine, in addition to engineering and medicine (4) Safety of bike paths (perhaps by adding physical barriers)