



HELP SAVE HISTORIC SAMOHI FROM DEMOLITION

Santa Monica taxpayers approved three school bonds totaling \$1.138 billion between 2006 and 2018. Look how they're using it.

Shouldn't we have a say in how our money is spent?

A cluster of historic buildings that formed the academic core of Santa Monica High School, is slated for demolition next year as part of a massive redevelopment and renovation of the campus. The campus plans did not come before the Landmarks Commission because the school district is autonomous and distinct from the City of Santa Monica. So it's up to us residents to call for a halt to the demolition until alternatives can be adequately explored.

What's been the response so far?

Samohi alumni and others have been signing a petition to save these buildings. Almost 2500 signatures have been collected to date. Additionally, the Santa Monica Conservancy is now asking the School Board to reconsider the demolition. Over the next 25 years nearly every building on campus will be demolished, beginning with this particular cluster next summer.

History of Santa Monica High School

Our only high school was sited purposefully atop Prospect Hill, overlooking the coast and the city. The historic academic buildings were built in 1913 and in 1924. After incurring severe damage from the 1933 Long Beach earthquake, they were rebuilt and reconstructed in 1937 and, in 1940 a Business Annex was added, all with federal funds from the PWA/WPA New Deal programs. Barnum Hall, the Art Building, the North Gym, and numerous artworks were also added at that time. All the buildings were designed by renowned architects.

Studies of Historic Buildings Commissioned

As part of its process, the District commissioned two historic assessment studies. One in 2008, found that the campus as a whole was highly historically significant and appeared to be eligible for the California and National Registers of Historic Places, and that two buildings within the cluster could be eligible for individual designation. That report was mothballed. A second assessment report was published instead in 2018, which agreed that the campus as a whole was significant, but dismissed it as a historic resource without ever considering a smaller cluster as a historic grouping.

Historic buildings tell the unique story of our city. The high school buildings on Prospect Hill are an important part of our history and should be preserved.



What You Can Do

1. [Write to the School Board and the District Superintendent](#) and ask them to halt next summer's demolition so preservation experts can examine the possibility of rehabilitating and modernizing the historic buildings. Remind them that rehabilitation teaches sustainability, and honoring the past as we modernize for the future gives context and value to the study of history and culture. Tell them that historic school buildings throughout the region and state have been successfully modernized and have won awards for it.
2. Virtually attend an [upcoming school board meeting](#) (1st & 3rd Thursdays) and ask to comment.
3. Sign the [petition](#) to save the buildings.
4. Join the [Santa Monica Conservancy](#) and increase the reach of your voice for preservation in Santa Monica.
5. Visit the [Santa Monica Conservancy's advocacy page](#) on this campaign for more detailed information.
6. Urge others to take these actions.

