



“ *... we don't think there's any jeopardy of us being able to receive federal funding if it becomes available [for the Civic Arena site].*

— Mary Conturo,
Director, Sports and Exhibition Authority



The Civic Arena, completed in 1961, with its retractable dome that opens in two minutes, was an engineering wonder and today is still one of America's best examples of 1960s modern architecture.

And while Ms. Conturo may not think Federal funding is at risk, Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act clearly states the opposite, “An agency may not grant assistance or a license or permit to an applicant who damages or destroys historic property with the intent of avoiding the requirements of section 106.”

In September, demolition of the Civic Arena began, but the local and national repercussions of this potentially precedent-setting activity are yet to be resolved. **The fight is far from over.** Here's a quick summary of recent Civic Arena events:

- 2007** The Sports and Exhibition Authority (SEA) promised to demolish the Civic Arena at tax-payer expense when it agreed to build a new arena for the Pittsburgh Penguins
- 2010** The SEA approved demolition
- 2011** The City of Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission and the Pittsburgh City Council voted against local historic designation
- July 2011** Preservation Pittsburgh filed a federal lawsuit against the SEA and other parties claiming that the SEA is violating federal preservation law and jeopardizing future federal funding. The initial case was dismissed and an injunction to halt demolition was denied. Demolition of the interior and the roof began. Preservation Pittsburgh filed an appeal.
- Last month** A judge denied the SEA's motion to summarily affirm the lower court's dismissal of our case which means we will have our day in court. (See page two of our newsletter for details.)

Now, we need your help **to continue our fight against the SEA and to ensure that other agencies cannot exploit loopholes to evade Federal preservation law.** We need to raise \$50,000. We have already received \$20,000 in commitments from our Board members. We are looking for both small and large donations to fill the gap. Please make your tax deductible donation today!