



30 November 2011

Dear Friend,

This past August marked the 20th anniversary of the demise of the Syria Mosque and the subsequent founding of Preservation Pittsburgh. This is a time to reflect on the destruction of the building (still a parking lot) and the relevance of our organization. Unfortunately, preservation groups are still very necessary in the City of Pittsburgh. There are now three organizations (Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, Young Preservationists Association, and Preservation Pittsburgh) plus a number of neighborhood and community development groups. One might think there is redundancy here, but this is not the case and we wish there were more groups to serve as protectors of our shared heritage.

Preservation Pittsburgh endeavors to work cooperatively and proactively with politicians, developers, and other groups and is increasingly invited to serve as a consulting party on regional projects. We acknowledge that some of our advocacy projects, like the Civic Arena, are controversial — but in addition to recognizing and preserving our historic, architectural, cultural, and environmental heritage, Preservation Pittsburgh strives to hold our political and business leaders accountable to existing preservation laws.

As our newsletter indicates, our work extends far beyond the Civic Arena. **(If the Civic Arena is your passion, please see the reverse side of this letter and page one of our newsletter for more details.)** We find ourselves not only advocating for various buildings and neighborhoods, but also taking on a watchdog role at the local, state, and federal level. We also need to educate appointees and elected officials about the importance of Preservation, demand public and open process, and strengthen protections for historical resources. This is a huge task, but our recent dealings have demonstrated a glaring need for this.

We are calling on you now — not to promote Preservation Pittsburgh in a vacuum — but to join us and get stuff done. The more supporters we have, the more power we have when dealing with politicians and other entities. With our limited resources, we have accomplished much thus far. We believe that Preservation is a resource, not a roadblock, for great economic development. Please join us in this effort to support our shared heritage by making a tax-deductible donation today.

Sincerely,

Scott Leib
President