

Chambi, Larisa

From: Alexander Gilbertson <alexandertgilbertson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 11:36 AM
To: Chambi, Larisa; Public Engagement
Subject: CD-CPC-2026-00003 Smith Hall Historic Designation

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the kcmo.org organization. Use caution and examine the sender address before replying or clicking links.

Dear KCMO City Planners,

I am writing to express strong support for the preservation of the building recently nominated for historic designation by Pendleton Heights.

In 2025, Pendleton Heights nominated this structure to protect it from potential destruction. It is important to note that KCU currently has several empty lots available for development. Since arriving in the area in the 1970s, KCU has demolished at least 16 historic properties, making the preservation of this specific building even more critical.

Three neighborhoods within the Historic Northeast (HNE) have already voiced their strong support for saving this structure. We believe it is vital to preserve this piece of our community's history.

Thank you for your time and for considering the importance of this designation. Please help preserve the beautiful historic buildings in the Historic Northeast.

Best regards,



Alexander Gilbertson
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Chambi, Larisa

From: Dorri Alexander-Partain <uptil12am@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:20 PM
To: Public Engagement; Chambi, Larisa
Subject: CD-CPC-2026-0003 Smith Hall Historic Designation

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the kcmo.org organization. Use caution and examine the sender address before replying or clicking links.

Members of the City Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the Smith Hall Historic Designation/Overlay. Along with the original Children's Mercy Hospital building on Independence Blvd., these two grand structures have historic value, not just for residents of the surrounding Northeast neighborhood but all of Kansas City. Standing side by side, they represent the entrance to an area that strives to preserve history and architecture

Kansas City University (KCU) is doing a disservice to the community that surrounds their campus by not communicating with neighborhood residents, who find it continually difficult to view their organization as community partners, as they claim to be, when they applied for a demolition permit for Smith Hall without seeking input from the community. Neighbors feel that these historic structures have little value in the eyes of KCU and they have little regard to work with neighbors to find a compromise- this is why we are seeking City intervention to save Smith Hall, based on the criteria supported by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorrina Alexander-Partain
4415 Windsor Avenue
Kansas City,MO 64123

Chambi, Larisa

From: Kate Backes <KBackes@kansascity.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 12:15 PM
To: Public Engagement
Subject: Testimony: (March 4, CH-PRES-2025-00003) Vote NO on Smith Hall Historic Designation

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the kcmo.org organization. Use caution and examine the sender address before replying or clicking links.

To the City Plan Commission,

I am writing as both a member of the Kansas City, MO community and an employee of Kansas City University's Center for Population Health and Equity (CPHE) to respectfully urge you to vote **NO** on including Smith Hall on the Kansas City Register of Historic Places.

While I value historic preservation, Smith Hall can no longer be reasonably maintained. The structure is not energy efficient or environmentally sustainable, and it presents significant operational burdens. Due to structural limitations, including floor width and orientation, floor-to-floor heights, and structural loads and deficiencies, there is no feasible path to renovation that would meet the functional needs of training the next generation of students.

KCU's mission extends beyond education and research; it includes improving the well-being of the communities we serve. A new facility would allow KCU to better support our students, strengthen partnerships, and expand our community impact.

In my role as a Health Data Analyst for the CPHE, I see firsthand the amazing outcomes of this work. Score 1 for Health provides physical health, oral health, and vision screenings to thousands of students in the Kansas City area each year, connecting children with identified health needs to resources that will help them receive care. KCU also hosts an annual event on our campus, OneSight, that provides glasses to 700 children across the KC metro area.

KCU also partners with Della Lamb Community Services, which is in Pendleton Heights. The Refugee Health Navigator Program pairs KCU students with Della Lamb's refugee clients to help them navigate the U.S. healthcare system. We also host Della Lamb's Refugee and Immigrant Summit, focused on welcoming and wellness across Kansas City.

CPHE has also partnered with Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center to pilot outreach efforts supporting patients with diabetes and addressing social drivers of health. Additionally, we collaborate with Care Beyond the Boulevard by funding clinical providers and supporting the Street Wise Scholar Program, which pairs KCU students with individuals experiencing homelessness. In its first year alone, this initiative has already demonstrated meaningful impact.

To continue expanding these efforts, including growing our Student Health Advocates program and increasing the reach of Score 1 for Health, we require facilities that are functional and sustainable. Preserving Smith Hall would divert substantial resources toward a structure that cannot meet these needs, limiting our ability to invest directly in students and the surrounding community.

A new facility would not only enhance training for the next generation of healthcare professionals but could also support enrollment growth and job creation, contributing to local economic impact.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you vote **NO** on designating Smith Hall as a historic property and allow KCU to move forward with strengthening its service to Kansas City.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kate Backes, MPH

Health Data Analyst

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Chambi, Larisa

From: Kate Barsotti <kate.barsotti@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 9:07 AM
To: Public Testimony; Public Engagement
Cc: Chambi, Larisa; Melissa Patterson Hazley; Jonathan Cokely
Subject: CD-CPC-2026-00003 Smith Hall Historic Designation

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the kcmo.org organization. Use caution and examine the sender address before replying or clicking links.

Good morning:

I'm writing to ask for consideration that Smith Hall be saved from demolition. Kansas City University has torn down a significant number of buildings and housing in the area and instead of the promised investment, they propose to tear down Smith Hall.

Why the promised investment hasn't happened, we do not know. I suspect it's because they want to continue to develop within the perimeter of their fencing. Instead of helping the community with our public safety issues, the University has responded with fencing and 24/7 security that costs a million dollars a year. The recent stormwater improvements, partly paid for by the Kansas City taxpayer, have been fenced off; it is an amenity that we cannot access. If that same amenity were in the UMKC, the community would be able to partake.

This plan was approved in 2017. The road and infrastructure improvements may have delayed the investment. Are there any serious plans to ever complete this project? Or will the university continue to consider the neighborhood as a threat instead of as their community, and develop within a secure perimeter?

Regards,

Kate

KCMO Council approves KCU Master Planned Development district - Northeast News
<https://share.google/cpsplKRJ3yg1AzcwP>

"The MPD will enable KCU to proceed with expansion plans that include a new \$30 million Center for Medical and Surgical Simulation on its Historic Northeast campus. The MPD ordinance did draw criticism from historic preservationists, however, due to plans to demolish the century-old Colonial Court apartments located at 502-520 Maple Blvd. After the ordinance passed, KCU attorney Jim Bowers, Jr. indicated that the University had agreed before the meeting that any salvageable building materials would be donated to a local non-profit for re-use, when and if Colonial Court was demolished."