

Martha Graham Memorial & Hummingbird Garden:

DRAFT

A Memorial garden as a means of revitalization of Brighton Pl

Background on Proposed Martha Graham Memorial & Hummingbird Garden

Approximate Square Footage: 15,000sf.

Among five vacant lots on Brighton Pl is the Martha Graham childhood home. A garden and memorial is proposed at the Martha Graham site which will include a memorial to Martha Graham and a hummingbird sanctuary.

Institutionalization of Brighton Place: Reason for the Martha Graham Vacant Lot.

Brighton Place is an at risk street bordering the Western Mexican War Streets. Historic buildings are deteriorating and under threat of being demolished. The majority of homeowners who once owned the row houses on Brighton Pl either fled or sold out to section 8 and low income subsidized housing groups. The critical mass of institutional ownership can be seen in the frequent chain link fences and the impersonalized stoops and windows. Swaths of land where recent demolitions occurred pock the streetscape and houses are boarded up. The street was a major part of a Mistick nominated National Historic District called the "The Old Allegheny Rows" similar to the designation of Allegheny West and the Mexican War Streets. Mistick sold his property and the Martha Graham row was demolished within a year as well as other buildings on Brighton Rd. Mistick is now focused on new construction. The end of Brighton Pl is a chain link fence dead end where the historic street grid has been somehow purchased and developed by Mistick – disconnecting Brighton Pl from the rest of the Northside.

Proposed new Garden:

Hummingbird memorial garden which connects hummingbird flocks to strategic hummingbird plantings to other Northside gardens and the slopes in the Central Northside. The plantings in the garden attract humming birds and reconnect Brighton Pl with the Northside. The proposed garden memorializes Martha Graham, her life and her work. The garden may also memorialize the struggle to save Brighton Pl from demolition. Funding will be sought through the various Martha Graham foundations, dance and performing arts institutions, residents of Brighton Place and others. Please contact Elena Firsova Firija@gmail.com for more information.

Background on Martha Graham:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha_Graham

In 1998, Time magazine named Martha Graham as the dancer of the century, a creative icon on a par with James Joyce and Pablo Picasso. <http://www.londondance.com/content.asp?CategoryID=1300>

The Historic University Of Pittsburgh maps confirms the location. 1901 Volume 1 - Allegheny City: Wards 1-8, 12 and 13: Plate 5

<http://images.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/maps/showmap.pl?client=maps&image=01v01p05&levels=5&originx=6818&originy=4118&lastlevel=1&fullheight=6464&fullwidth=8528&level=1&size=1&tnail.x=127&tnail.y=63>

Brighton Corridor Business District Value: A major memorial and garden on Brighton Pl will attract Pittsburgh wide dance and history enthusiasts. This Brighton destination will add to the success of future Brighton businesses.

Martha Graham Garden Property Ownership:

Land abutting the site of the Martha Graham home is owned by a nonexistent and heavily tax delinquent group called Northside Tenants Organization.

0022-M-00038-0000-00	NORTHSIDE TENANTS REORGANIZATION EDUCATION PROGRA	1523 BRIGHTON PLACE	Lot South of Martha Graham	
0022-M-00039-0000-00	NORTHSIDE TENANTS REORGANIZATIN EDUCATIONAL PROGR	1525 BRIGHTON RD	Lot South of Martha Graham	Street Incorrectly labled in City
0022-M-00040-0000-00	NORTHSIDE TENANTS REORGANIZATION EDUCATIONAL PROG	1527 BRIGHTON PLACE	Lot South of Martha Graham	
0022-M-00041-0000-00	NORTHSIDE TENANTS REORGANIZATION EDUCATIONAL PROG	1529 BRIGHTON RD	Martha Graham Home Historic Site	Street Incorrectly labled in City
0022-M-00042-0000-00	BRIGHTON PLACE ASSOCIATES*	1531 BRIGHTON PLACE	Lot North of Martha Graham	

Art work used to conceptualize the Martha Graham Memorial.

Freedom Corner:

After the URA removed 1,300 buildings, 413 businesses and 8,000 people from the Hill, a billboard appeared near Crawford Street and Centre Avenue. "Attention: City Hall and the URA," it read. "NO Redevelopment Beyond This Point."

The message worked. Further demolition of the Hill stopped at an intersection known as "Freedom Corner."

<http://www.post-gazette.com/businessnews/20000521eastliberty1.asp>



Martha Graham

