

University Place Promenade Petition to Chancellor Syverud

May 6, 2016

We the undersigned members of the Syracuse University faculty are greatly concerned about the proposed conversion of University Place into a "Promenade" and the relocation of all bus and other vehicular traffic to Waverly Avenue.

We are concerned at the lack of discussion and transparency in the decision-making process that has led to this drastic remaking of two streets that are the main thoroughfares of Syracuse University on either side of several buildings, including the Newhouse School, Schine Student Center and Bird Library.

We are concerned that no broad input was gathered from faculty or staff, and student input was gathered in a hasty and methodologically unsound manner, at the end of the semester when students are distracted by a thousand other demands.

We are concerned about the cost of this effort, given the many other more important demands on the university's budget, and that precious resources (some garnered through the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program for staff) are being spent on aesthetics with no discernable academic purpose.

We are concerned that the Promenade with its concrete furniture with embedded LED lights and heated sidewalks will perhaps not enhance the student experience, and will in fact only be used sparingly as a Promenade throughout much of the year, given Central New York weather conditions.

We are concerned that Waverly (already narrowed down to accommodate parking and a bike lane) will be choked further with the extra traffic of approximately 250 Centro buses a day, and will become even more dangerous to walkers, bike riders, and people with disabilities, as well as a source of frustration to all those drivers who seek to navigate it.

We are concerned about accessibility issues for people in wheelchairs, on crutches, and otherwise impaired who will be forced to get off buses on Waverly, and then traverse the steep University Avenue slope to access main campus buildings.

We are concerned that adding unnecessary Waverly Avenue traffic bottlenecks to future construction of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families complex on Waverly and Crouse will be intolerable.

We are concerned about the impediments to entrance and exit from Newhouse School buildings, Schine and Bird Library that will result temporarily from the construction of the

Promenade, and permanently from the changes to Waverly, and that the driveway to Quad 2 will have to be reconfigured unnecessarily.

We are concerned that the Waverly Avenue traffic bottlenecks will create a very difficult and unsafe environment for Newhouse students checking out production equipment for their academic classes from the “Cage” in the Newhouse 2 Lobby facing Waverly.

We are concerned about the impact of increased heavy traffic on the fragile web of water pipes underneath Waverly Avenue, which already break regularly.

We are concerned that the position of the City of Syracuse is a mystery, given that these are City streets and legislation will need to be changed to block University Place permanently.

As a result, we request that this project be halted so that a full campus discussion of priorities and plans for the physical environment in this area can take place, and reassessed only after the construction of the IVMF center and its impact on City roads and traffic is better known.



Name of Faculty Member, Title, Department or Program

1. Tula Goenka, Associate Professor, Television, Radio & Film, Newhouse School
2. Harriet Brown, Associate Professor, Magazine, Newhouse School
3. Margaret S. Thompson, Associate Professor, History, Maxwell
4. John Nicholson, Professor of Practice, BDJ, Newhouse School
5. Eileen E. Schell, Associate Professor, The Writing Program, CAS
6. David M. Rubin, Professor and Dean Emeritus
7. Gael Sweeney, PWI, The Writing Program
8. Douglas Quin, Associate Professor, TRF, Newhouse
9. Adam Peruta, Assistant Professor, Newhouse
10. Vanessa Watts, PWI, The Writing Program
11. Steven Cohan, Professor Emeritus, English, CAS
12. Lawrence Mason, Jr., Professor, MPD, Newhouse School
13. Diane Grimes, Associate Professor, Communication and Rhetorical Studies, VPA
14. Christal Johnson, Assistant Professor, Public Relations Department, Newhouse
15. Romita Ray, Assoc professor, Art and Music Histories
16. Dan Pacheco, Peter A. Horvitz Endowed Chair of Journalism Innovation, Newhouse
17. Rae Ann Meriwether, Lecturer, The Writing Program
18. Rochelle Ford, Professor, PRL, Newhouse School
19. Evan Smith, Professor, TRF, Newhouse School
20. Eric Grode, Assistant Professor, NOJ, Newhouse School
21. Michael Park, Assistant Professor, Newhouse
22. Rebecca Moore Howard, Professor, The Writing Program
23. David J Robinson, Dellplain Professor of Latin American Geography
24. Jenny Doctor, Associate Professor, TRF, Newhouse School
25. Don Mitchell, Distinguished Professor of Geography
26. Lois Agnew, Associate Professor, The Writing Program
27. Andrea Constable, Professional Writing Instructor, The Writing Program
28. Melissa Chessher, Professor, Magazine Department, Newhouse School
29. Simon Perez, Assistant Professor, Broadcast and Digital Journalism, Newhouse School
30. Jim Shahin, Associate Professor, Magazine Department, Newhouse School
31. Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Distinguished Professor, Women's and Gender Studies
32. Robin Riley, Assistant Professor, Women's and Gender Studies
33. Barbara Jones, Professor of Practice, TRF, Newhouse School
34. Lawrie Chase, Professional Writing Instructor, The Writing Program
35. Wayne Franits, Professor of Art History, CAS
36. Johanna Keller, Associate Professor, NOJ, Newhouse School
37. Tod Rutherford, Professor, Department of Geography
38. Jessica Corey, Lecturer, The Writing Program
39. Matt Huber, Department of Geography
40. Beth Ferri, Professor, School of Education
41. Shobha K. Bhatia, Engineering and Computer Science

42. Vivian May, Associate Professor of Women's & Gender Studies
43. George Theoharis, Professor, School of Education
44. Barbara Applebaum, Professor, School of Education
45. Beth Egan, Associate Professor, Advertising, Newhouse
46. Eunjung Kim, Assistant Professor, Women's and Gender Studies and SOE
47. Mara Sapon-Shevin, Professor, School of Education
48. Brian Sheehan, Associate Professor, Newhouse
49. Farhana Sultana, Associate Professor, Geography Department, Maxwell School
50. Richard Dubin, PoP, Newhouse
51. Zaline Roy-Campbell, Associate Professor, School of Education
52. Dana Cloud, Professor, Communication and Rhetorical Studies
53. Michael Gill, Assistant Professor, School of Education
54. Bonnie Ryan, Associate Librarian, Syracuse University Libraries
55. Pat Longstaff, Newhouse School
56. Aileen Gallagher, Assistant Professor, MAG, Newhouse
57. Ken Harper, Associate Professor, Newhouse
58. Dennis Kinsey, Professor, Public Relations, Newhouse School
59. Carol Liebler, Professor, Communication, Newhouse School
60. Chris Tuohy, Associate Professor of Broadcast & Digital Journalism, Newhouse School
61. Dona Hayes, Associate Professor, Broadcast and Digital Journalism, Newhouse School
62. A. Randall Wenner, Coordinator, Broadcast Journalism Facility, Newhouse School
63. Michael Cremedas, Newhouse School
64. Keren Henderson, Assistant Professor, Broadcast and Digital Journalism, Newhouse School
65. Mel White, Assistant Professor, Newhouse School
66. Joon Soo Lim, Assistant Professor, Public Relations, Newhouse School
67. Michael Schoonmaker, Associate Professor, Chair, Television, Radio, Film Department, Newhouse School.
68. James Tsao, Professor, Chair, ADV Department, Newhouse School
69. Karen Oakes, Professional Writing Instructor, Writing Program
70. Mark Rupert, Political Science, Maxwell
71. Renée Stevens, Assistant Professor, MPD Department, Newhouse School
72. Sally Roesch Wagner, Adjunct Faculty, Honors Program
73. Kishi Animashaun Ducre, Associate Professor, African American Studies, CAS
74. Paula C. Johnson, Professor, College of Law
75. Mary Kiernan, Instructor, Falk College
76. Roger Hallas, Associate Professor of English, CAS
77. T. Makana Chock, Assoc. Professor, Newhouse School
78. Jessica Posner, CVPA and Honors Program
79. Hua Jiang, Assistant Professor, Public Relations, Newhouse School
80. Carol Fadda-Conrey, Associate Professor, English
81. Scott Erdman, Associate Professor, Biology, CAS
82. Jackie Orr, Associate Professor, Sociology, Maxwell

83. Mike Davis, Alexia Chair, Newhouse School
84. Myrna García-Calderón, Associate Professor, CAS
85. Jacob Bendix, Associate Professor, Geography
86. Michele Combs, SU Libraries
87. M. Gail Hamner, Professor, Religion
88. Larry Elin, Associate Professor, TRF, Newhouse School
89. Christy Ashby, Associate Professor, School of Education
90. Suzanne Lysak, Associate Professor, BDJ, Newhouse School
91. Hille Paakkunainen, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
92. Seth Gitner, Associate Professor, Newhouse School
93. D. Bruce Carter, Associate Professor, Arts & Sciences/Falk
94. Susan Wadley, Ford Maxwell Professor of South Asian Studies, Anthropology/Maxwell
95. Steve Davis, Associate Prof, Newhouse School
96. Dorri Beam, Associate Professor, English
97. Joanna Spitzner, Associate Professor, School of Art
98. Laura Heyman, Associate Professor, Department of Transmedia
99. Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Adjunct, Department of Transmedia
100. Deborah Pellow, Professor, Anthropology
101. Herb Ruffin, Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies, CAS
102. Kathleen Feyh, Senior Lecturer, Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies
103. Gregory Heisler, Distinguished Professor of Photography, Department of Multimedia, Photography and Design, Newhouse School of Public Communications
104. Carol Babiracki, Associate Professor, Music History and Cultures
105. Bruce Strong, Associate Professor/Chair, Multimedia, Photography & Design, Newhouse School
106. Emily Vey Duke, Associate Professor, Department of Transmedia
107. Claudia Klaver, Associate Professor, Department of English
108. Cooper Battersby, Associate Professor, Department of Transmedia

This online petition is now closed, and has been delivered to Chancellor Syverud.