

UP WITH THE COMMUNITY



DOWN WITH THE STADIUM

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Church of the Advocate 1801 Diamond St Philadelphia, PA

Issue #1

We Are Stadium Stompers

By Stadium Stompers

Stadium Stompers is a movement against Temple University's plan to build a 35,000 seat football stadium in North Central Philadelphia. This is the first time in recent history that students and residents have come together to fight on common ground. We believe that the long-term residents should be treated with respect. We call for an end to the stadium's plan and school-driven gentrification. Below is a timeline of events dating back to our beginnings in 2015. For current events, check out our Facebook page.

2015

In November we held our first meeting at the Church of the Advocate. Hundreds of people turned out from the community, Temple and 15Now. In December, our numbers continued to grow with another big meeting at Church of the Advocate. We formed working committees (outreach, media, art & more) and made our first attempt



April 14, 2016 Coalition March w/ Philly Coalition for REAL Justice

to attend the Temple Board of Trustees meeting to discuss stadium proposal. We were met with resistance -- a blockade of Temple bike cops forcibly prevented our entrance to the meeting. Since we were not allowed inside to voice our concerns, we held a public rally outside to do so.

2016

We started 2016 with a petition drive collecting signatures against the stadium and with door-to-door outreach in the community to spread the word about the stadium proposal. Many community residents had not heard of Temple's plans.

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JOIN THE STOMPERS MOVEMENT!

Want to get involved with us?

Join us for a meeting at the
Church of the Advocate

(1801 Diamond St, Philadelphia, PA 19121) **every second and fourth Wednesday from 6pm-7:30pm.**

You can also follow us on:

Twitter: @StadiumStomper1

Instagram: @stadiumstompers

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stadiumstomper-philly

www.stadiumstompers.tumblr.com

We Are Not Alone: Atlanta Residents Fight For CBA with Georgia State over Football Stadium Development

By Kevin Rossi

If you drive some 800 miles and 12 hours south of North Broad along I-95 to Atlanta, you will find a remarkably familiar community resistance to an overreaching university.

Georgia State University, located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, is working to redevelop the 68-acre site of Turner Field as well as its parking lots, previously home to Major League Baseball's Atlanta Braves, into a mixed use area including offices, retail, student housing, apartments and a baseball field. Turner Field itself will be renovated into the new home for Georgia State's football team. The residents of the surrounding primarily black, middle and working class neighborhoods of Summerhill, Peoplestown, Mechanicsville, Pittsburgh and Grant Park – are worried about the skyrocketing real estate prices and taxes, displacement and gentrification that seem to always follow such a development.

Turner Field was originally built as the primary facility for the 1996 Summer Olympics. Following the conclusion of the Olympics, Turner Field was converted into the 49,000-seat baseball facility that was home to the Braves for 20 years. After their

National Football League counterparts, the Falcons, received more than \$200 million in subsidies from the city in 2013 to build a new stadium, the Braves decided they wanted a new home of their own – and, of course, a generous contribution from the city to fund it. Mayor Kasim Reed balked at the idea. Too much money was tied up in the Falcons' deal, and Turner Field was not even 20 years old. No deal.

However, the Braves would get their sweetheart deal instead from Cobb County, located just north of the city. The Braves opened their new home in Cobb County – SunTrust Park – in April 2017.

With the Braves moving out, Turner Field would be left empty. Enter Georgia State, which in 2016, along with development partners Oakwood Development and Carter, officially purchased the stadium and parking lots for \$30 million. The plan: \$300 million in redevelopment, extending Georgia State's campus to the south with a mixed sports, retail and housing district. The surrounding communities did not just passively watch these plans unfold, turning out to development meetings to voice their opposition before the sale of Turner Field to Georgia



Turner Field Plans, © Georgia Globe Design News, 2015

State was even finalized. Instead of taking a hard stance against any development, many of the community members, led publicly by the Turner Field Community Benefits Coalition, turned their attention to a community benefits agreements (CBA). A CBA with Georgia State would enter the school into a binding agreement with the surrounding communities to provide specific benefits and safeguards with regards to any development.

In early October 2016, a group of about 50 students and community members marched before staging a sit-in in Centennial Hall, home to Georgia State's administrative offices, demanding school president Mark Becker negotiate a CBA. In early April, a group of residents camped outside of Turner Field. Their signs read "Community Not Commodity," stating they would not leave until the school negotiated. About a week later in April, members of the school's chapter of United Students Against Sweatshops were arrested following an after-hours sit-in, again in Centennial Hall, stating they were staying until they got a meeting with President Becker to negotiate.

Finally, the people were heard. In late April, the communities entered into two separate CBAs: one with Georgia State and another with its development partner Carter. Under the agreements, Georgia State and its developers will provide jobs and education programs, set aside at least 10 percent of housing for low-income residents and repurpose an entertainment center into a community center. Still, though, concerns remain about how the agreements will be enforced and how displacement can be avoided.

The struggle of the longstanding communities around Georgia State is not a perfect mirror to the ongoing struggle with Temple, but it certainly has its parallels. It is an example of how community and student partnerships can work toward a common goal, and how clearly communicating unified demands through both words and actions can lead to a successful campaign. It exemplifies the power of the people to imagine and implement a future that includes everyone.

And, if nothing else, it shows that we are not alone in this struggle.

Temple's Charrette Agreement

by Zachariah Acosta-Davis

In 1969, Temple University made public the 1970 Institutional Development Plan, which sought to double the campus size by over 2 million square feet. The plan received immediate backlash from community members and students.

The Steering Committee for black students quickly responded and presented a list of demands to the Temple University President, Paul Anderson. These demands included the creation of an Afro-Asian Institute, the admission of at least 200 Black Students with financial aid, and a public dialogue about Temple expansion.

A charrette: a public forum of Temple administrators, community members, and local political representatives, was held in Norris Homes, where questions and demands were raised. The result of the charrette was the "Community-Temple Agreement," and due to the persistence of residents and students, the Afro-Asian Institute was established (later renamed the African American Studies department) and the 200 black students with financial aid were admitted.

James Kelch, an attendant at the charrette meeting, stated to Temple News in 2016: "It would serve both Temple University's interests and the community's

interests to come together and try to work it out, instead of just going ahead and doing things and expecting the community to react." The current board members and president of Temple University have yet to meet with the Stadium Stompers and continue to hinder our attempts to establish a dialogue about the stadium's construction. We are currently negotiating terms for a meeting with the president and our steering committee.

We Are Stadium Stompers (cont.)

Meanwhile, Temple University President Neil Theobald hosted a student-only meeting about the stadium. Community members were not invited. Stadium Stompers students and community members pushed back by disrupting the meeting, asking why the community was not invited. Press from this action along with continued community outreach drew large numbers of community residents and students to Stadium Stompers.

In March we held our first Community Forum & Town Hall. Temple's Board of Trustees and President were invited to come and hear community responses and concerns, but did not attend.

On April 14th, 2016, Stadium Stompers participated in the Day of Rage walkout and day of action. Stadium Stompers, the Nurses Union, and Philly Coalition of REAL Justice marched in solidarity down Broad Street demanding a stop to stadium plans, a \$15 an hour minimum wage, and an end to Stop and Frisk.

In May, Stadium Stompers testified against the stadium proposal at the City Council Meeting and lobbied Council President Darrell Clark. Clark promised to meet with Stompers and never followed through.

Through the summer we continued to pressure Temple and build momentum. Stadium Stompers had a strategic planning training with George Lahey of EQAT.

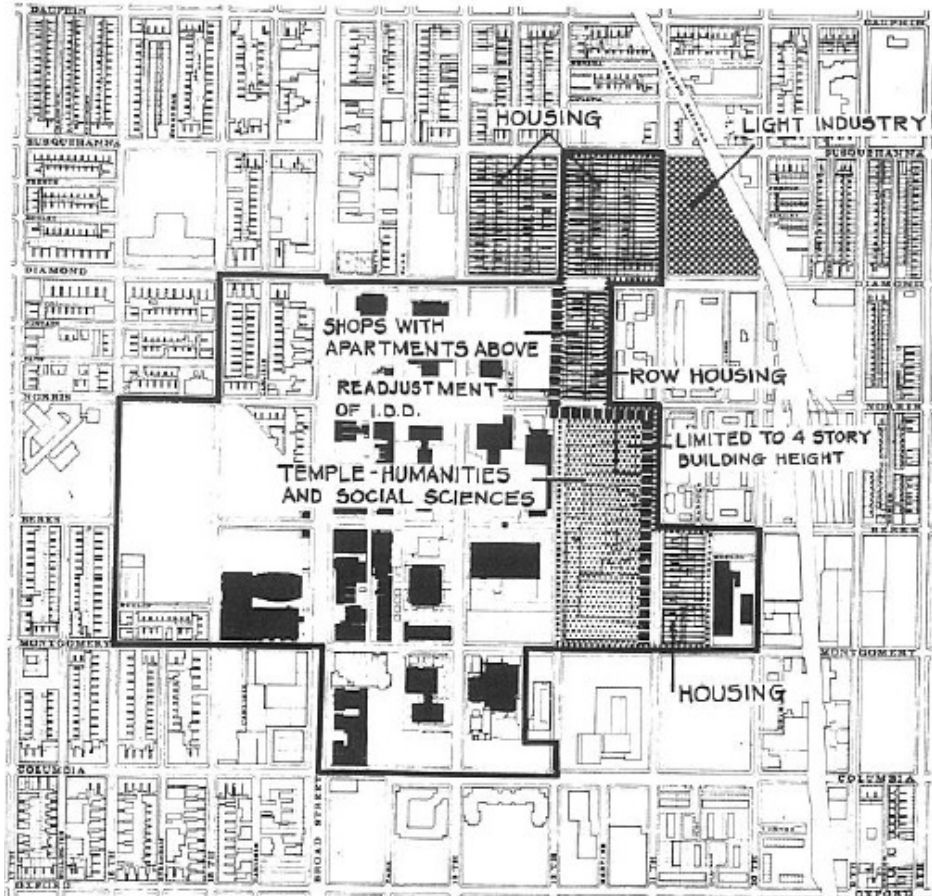
In August, we crashed President Theobald's BBQ and gave him awards for "World's Best Gentrifier" and for shirking his responsibilities to students and community members as president of a public university. We ended the summer with a team-building dinner and hang-out, solidifying our resolve, dedication, and pride for our neighborhood and cause.

We began the fall by launching a letter-writing campaign. Each bi-monthly meeting began by writing and collecting letters. Also interrupted Temple's Homecoming Procession in collaboration with local clergy to bring awareness of the movement against the stadium.

In October we continued our bi-monthly meetings as we planned for our next strategic actions: Community Traffic Studies. Held a film screening in collaboration with Media Mobilizing Project about the campaign at the Church of the Advocate. "Up With Community" captured the history of North Central and the Stadium Stompers' fight.

In December we launched the first Community Traffic Study where we held a press conference at Broad & Cecil B Moore, blocking traffic to show what the congestion would be like if a stadium were built in the area. **2017**

We continue to hold Community Traffic Studies, host bimonthly meetings and have launched online version of the petition.



Aerial layout of Temple's 1970 Charrette Agreement, COURTESY PHILADELPHIA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION ©

Call these Temple representatives and local politicians and tell them, "NO NEW STADIUM IN NORTH PHILLY!"

Darrell Clarke, City Council President
215-686-3442, 215-686-3443

Richard Englert, President of Temple University
215-204-7405

Patrick J. O'Connor, Chair, Temple Univ Board of Trustees
215-204-7308

Rep. Curtis Thomas, 181st Legislative District
(215) 560-3261

Sharif Street, State Senator District 3
(215) 227-6161



Stadium Stompers members blocking traffic as Broad and Cecil B. Moore as part of our ongoing "Community Traffic Study," 2016.

**UP WITH THE COMMUNITY!
DOWN WITH THE STADIUM!**