PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Get to Know Osher 4.0

We have heard from a number of our members that they don't know much, if anything, about the Osher 4.0 Project to build and pay for the new Osher “home” in CMU’s Cyert Hall. That’s why we have devoted this issue of It’s All Talk to that subject. We hope that these articles will help explain what is happening, give you a picture of the timing of actions, and identify the teams of professionals and member volunteers who are involved in this critical endeavor.

To begin, this ongoing project has two components: the first is the design, construction and furnishing of our future Osher “home” in Cyert Hall, and the second is a campaign to fund that work.

Where are we? While most campus construction projects have been put on hold because of COVID-19, we have been given the “green light” by Carnegie Mellon University to proceed with completing and finalizing the plans for remodeling our assigned space in Cyert Hall. Our Carnegie Mellon project manager and our architectural firm are working with us now to finalize the configuration and the numerous details and furnishings for our new space. When this phase has been completed, potentially by the end of November, and we have approved the plans, the architect will produce the final drawings and specifications needed to solicit bids from area construction firms and obtain building permits from the City of Pittsburgh. When responses are received, they will then be reviewed, a construction firm will be selected, and a contract will be negotiated and signed.

When all these preparation steps have been completed, and Carnegie Mellon has determined that construction on campus can be done safely in accordance with any local or state COVID-19 directions in effect at that time, a date for the work to begin will be set. When will that be? It is still a little early to know for sure. Carnegie Mellon is currently using the Cyert space for their classes. The current ‘best-estimate’ timeline developed by our CMU project manager calls for demolition and construction work to begin in May 2021, with move-in penciled in for late August.

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The 4.0 Design Team

We are very fortunate to have two outstanding individuals working with us to create our new learning environment: Danielle Theriault, an architect with the firm NEXT, and Jan Held, our Carnegie Mellon University project manager.

Danielle brings 14 years of experience to our project – and exemplifies her firm’s mission to deliver client-driven quality design. From the outset, She has been focused on understanding our program, how that understanding will translate into our new space, and how we can maximize our space with as much flexibility as possible. Danielle has been receptive of our suggestions and has worked hard to incorporate them into the evolving design scheme.

Jan Held has over 20 years of experience as an architect and project manager. Her lifelong guiding mantra has been “making the world a better place.” As a Senior Project Manager at Carnegie Mellon, she has been able to redefine aging infrastructure and underperforming spaces into creative and high-performing classrooms, offices, laboratories, dormitories, and collaboration spaces consistent with Carnegie Mellon University’s innovative reputation. Jan’s knowledge of sustainability and change management is guiding us through our entire creative process.

Jan is a gift to us in two ways: she oversaw the construction of Cyert Hall and knows every inch of the building – and, she is wise in the ways of the CMU administrative structure, which is invaluable!

Both Jan and Danielle are laser-focused on providing us with a new facility that meets our needs and exceeds our expectations. Working with Danielle and Jan has been a delight! Both bring a high degree of professionalism and a client-friendly outlook which bodes well for an outstanding result!

Our committee feels it is important to have input from a number of sources to ensure that the membership is represented in the decision-making process. In that spirit, Past President Betsy Martin has assembled a group of interested members to consult with the design team on interior furnishings.

“We have enthusiastically donated to the Osher 4.0 project, believing that it will help create an outstanding home for Osher at CMU – one that provides excellent instructional facilities and a physical environment that promotes socialization. We urge you to join us in helping to raise the necessary funds to support the Osher 4.0 effort!”

Eileen and John Olmsted

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Funding Our New Home in Cyert Hall

Our campaign to fund the design, construction and furnishing of our Cyert Hall space continues. To date, we are well on our way to raising over 40% of our $1.3 million goal. This is quite an accomplishment! And, we are very grateful to all who have contributed!

Moving into a new space that we have designed to meet our very specific needs is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! And, it requires a once-in-a-lifetime response! We are approaching foundations, corporations and non-profits for assistance, BUT, in truth it is our members, those who will benefit from using the new classrooms, kitchenette, and lounge who must contribute the most toward its realization.

The small group that launched our Osher program 27 years ago, provided the legacy that we continue to enjoy today. They and those who have followed, have created not only one of the most successful programs in the country, but the largest Osher program on a single campus.

It is now our time to build on that legacy – for us and for the future of our Osher program. We are asking that every member make a contribution that supports this effort. Also consider a gift to be used as a matching grant. Last year, a donation of $15,000 from a member’s estate was more than doubled on Pittsburgh’s Day of Giving. If you have already contributed, please consider another gift. Please help build our once-in-a-lifetime home! Together, we can do this!

Thank you!
Jeffrey Swoger, Chair 4.0 Steering Committee

Use your IRA Distribution as a Gift Option for the Osher 4.0 Capital Project

If you are contemplating a gift to Osher 4.0, but are concerned about preserving cash in the present environment, here is an alternative that might work for you.

If you are 70-1/2 or older, you are eligible to make a gift directly from a traditional IRA (other than an ongoing SIMPLE or SEP) to a 501(c)(3) organization, such as CMU for the Osher 4.0 Capital Project, without having to declare that amount as taxable income as you would with a regular IRA withdrawal. Your contribution to CMU for the Osher 4.0 Capital Project from an IRA may count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) as well. (Note: RMDs have been waived for 2020 but not 2021 as of this writing.) Since proceeds of this type from the IRA are not taxed, contributions made from IRAs are not allowed as a charitable deduction. Please talk to your accountant about these particulars.

If you make a contribution from your IRA, make sure that the check is made out to Carnegie Mellon University for Osher 4.0, not to yourself, and that it is transmitted directly to CMU, the custodian of the donations for Osher. On the Osher at CMU website, following the link to Donate to 4.0, and then to the IRA section found under Gifting Instructions, you will find a sample transmittal letter for IRA donations. And of course, please check with your financial advisor, investment professional, or tax accountant before you consider a contribution from an IRA.
A Vision for Cyert Hall
Lyn Decker, Executive Director

Soon after I came to Osher at CMU in 2012, the quest for new space started, or should I say for those who have been around longer than me – restarted. From then to now, there have been hundreds of meetings with university officials about a possible new home for our beloved program. Maybe here, maybe there, in this building – no – how about that building? All possibilities, which, for a variety of reasons, never worked out. For each of our last three presidents, Joe Shirk, John Olmsted, and Jim Reitz, a considerable amount of their time and energy was spent in pursuit of suitable new space for us. The final green light was elusive until the summer of 2019 when we were granted space in Cyert Hall. The space, compared to other potential offers, is almost perfect, and we are thrilled.

Our new space in Cyert Hall is closer to the garage, closer to bus and shuttle stops, and close to a lot of CMU resources. Not only do we have a good space assignment, the build out price is projected at less than the previous options – which is great! The major problem I see with the location is that there is no place to buy a cup of coffee in the building!

Now that we have our new location assigned, what is the vision?

Next year at this time, I see our reception area and lounge filled with members catching up with each other over coffee and tea while

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Get to Know Osher 4.0
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It is worth noting that there are some unanticipated advantages to our new space, should some level of restrictions remain in place even after a COVID-19 vaccine is available and we are allowed to hold in-person classes. For example, the hallway leading to our space from the elevator and stairs is 10 feet wide and can be accessed with minimal, if any, contact with others. Also, there are no CMU classrooms on our floor; the remaining space is used for storage and network equipment rooms. This means that there will be very few non-Osher folks sharing our hallway.

Our large classroom is designed to accommodate as many 40 members with social distancing. And, as we have considered the importance of flexibility, we will have the ability to utilize other areas – such as the member lounge – for classes as well. Finally, the heating and ventilation experts working on our project are paying special attention to the air handling systems to ensure adequate air circulation. CMU experts have been working tirelessly to institute comprehensive air sanitation equipment in buildings throughout the campus.

We will continue to provide updates as work progresses toward completion. We understand that we have a long way to go, but I am confident that our new home will be both a highly functional and inviting space in which to gather, interact with other Osher members, and attend the many stimulating courses offered by the Osher curriculum.

I am hoping that you agree that this is an exciting opportunity for our CMU Osher program and that you will continue to support the project with your generous donation.

Allan Hribar
President & Executive Committee Chair
Donor Honor Roll

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions we have received from those members listed below. Thank you for your support. We are asking that every member contribute something to this critical endeavor in order for us to reach our goal.

The list covers the period from November 2017 to October 15, 2020.

Naming Opportunities
John & Eileen Olmsted
Osher LLI at Carnegie Mellon University

$20,000 - $49,999
James H. & Susan Schumacher Morris
In honor of John A. Olmsted & Lyn Decker

$10,000 - 19,999
The estate of Florence & Harvey Zeve
Jack Buncher Foundation
William R. Cadwell
Linda & Jeffrey Swoger
Gift in kind
Beverly & Douglas Jones
Gift in kind

$5,000 - $9,999
Allan Hribar
Ann K. Giorgi
Bette A. Landish & Mark D. Winer
Anonymous
J. Robert R. Myers
Judith R. Lave
Rhoda Eligator
In honor of Helen Faye Rosenblum
Janet Hunt
Jack Patzer & Mary Duqiun
Michael Colligan
Jack Patzer & Mary Dugijn
Janet Hunt
In honor of Helen Faye Rosenblum
Eugene Joseph & Saundra O. O'Sullivan
Frederick L. Porkolab
Pete & Deb Rossin

$1,000 - $4,999
Priscilla J. McCrady
Lee M. Hershenson
In honor of John A. Olmsted
Cheryl Kubelick
James & Jacqueline Cimino
Paul & Leslie Miller
Byron & Marcia Gottfried
Rosalie Barsotti
Elizabeth Bell Martin
Barbara J. & Randy S. Weinberg
Jim Reitz
In memory of Mary C. Heath
Marcia Frumerman
Bruce & Marian Block
Steven L. Calvert
Owen Cantor
Stephen Strelec
In honor of John A. Olmsted
Michael Colligan
Jack Patzer & Mary Dugijn
Janet Hunt
In honor of Helen Faye Rosenblum
Eugene Joseph & Saundra O. O'Sullivan
Frederick L. Porkolab
Pete & Deb Rossin

$500 - $999
Gregory J. & Kathleen S. Wright
Jeffrey Holst
Edwin J. & Mona Strassburger
In honor of Helen Faye Rosenblum
Peter A. & Ann E.M. Isaac
Marjorie Carpe
In honor of John A. Olmsted
Joseph P. & Lyn Decker
Donald K. & Beatrice C. Carter
John A. Liberatore

$250 - $499
Anna Estop
Lucille N. Kenworthy
In honor of Gloriana St. Clair & Helen Faye Rosenblum
Alan & Ruth Garfinkel
Martin E. & Sally G. Goldhaber
Barbara McNulty & Kenneth L. Love
George R. Scheuring
Lee Silverman
Roslyn R. Goorin
Mark & Leslie Carsman
Joseph & Rosemarie Shirk
In honor of Helen Faye Rosenblum
David N. Katz
Suzanne Flood
Chris T. & Kathleen Hendrickson
Raymond N. Baum
Peter Sukernek
Anonymous
Mark S. Karnet & Charlee M. Brodsky
Bruce S. Rabin
Stanley A. Winikoff
Jeremy Avigad
Marilyn Meltzer
Richard W. & Carolyn Reed
In honor of Elizabeth B. Martin
Michael & Betty Ginsburg
Alan J. James & Beverly A. Thornton
Linda Petrilli
Thalia Snyder
In honor of Herman Snyder
Eugene Colleran
Mary D. Delaney
Harry & Susan Givelber
In honor of John A. Olmsted
David & Barbara Matthews
Jeffrey & Sandra Solomon
Carolyn Stewart
Lloyd Stires & Tina Rhoades
Janet T. Jain

$100 - $249
Myron & Jill J. Susman
Barbara Hepner
Ruth Reidbord
Anita V. Dos Santos
Frederick W. Steinberg
Jeffrey M. Mates & Linda Apter
Ron Lane & Diane J. Lane
Joan F. Humphrey
Colette Dugan
Marcy Bloom
In honor of Helen Faye Rosenblum
Sheeldon & Ellie Levine
Robert L. & Marsha G. Ludwig
John Pierce & Susan Davis
Michael & Linda Rosenbaum
Arlene Carbone-Wiley
Robert & Bonnie Isacke
Patricia Jablonski
Louann Neusch
Judy Kimblin
Thomas Michael Regan
Mark Wilson
Zelda Curtiss
Wallace G. Clements
Susan B. Hansen
In honor of John A. Olmsted
Gary Davis & Lorraine Freedlander
Marjorie K. Silverman
Esther Sales
Barbara Abraham
Marlene J. & Jeffrey Haus
Thomas Eliseuson
Rosa Barnett Averbach
James T. Wallace
Helen F. Eaton
Gary Bates
Rosalyn K. Sherman
Suzanne J. Gibbon
Robert J. & Sarah D. Eldridge
Mark H. Emerson
Joan M. Bernard
Marjorie K. Silverman
William A. Meisinger
Mary D. Delaney
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A Vision for Cyert Hall
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waiting for the classes to begin. (Yes, we'll solve the no coffee problem by having coffee and tea available in our lounge!) There are monitors announcing the classes of the day, upcoming activities and events. It feels cozy, friendly, warm, and just nice!

Three study leaders have already arrived and are hooking into the AV system, the screens are down; computers and microphones are already on. One class has the wall between the two rooms open to accommodate the 85 enrolled students. The class across the hall is setting up for bridge in the John and Eileen Olmsted activity room, and there is a writing class about to start in the small meeting/classroom across the hall. It is noisy now, but it will soon all quiet down as 9:15 rolls around and the students begin finding their seats.

Glancing around, I see one of our Osher Hosts straightening up a few chairs and pitching a left-behind coffee cup. Several people just stashed their lunches in the refrigerator before ducking into class. Members of the Membership/Social Committee are chatting among themselves as they await their 9:30 meeting in the “entrance hall” lounge – soon to be dedicated because of a generous donor. I believe today’s topic is planning for the monthly pizza and movie event scheduled in two weeks – 60 people have already reserved their spots – it is a good sign that this will become a successful social event.

In the truly back office, the staff is busy with their daily chores of keeping the organization running smoothly. Someone has come to drop a course and another member is there to volunteer to help with entering some data into the attendance system. It is a busy place. It is a good place. It feels like a welcoming home made up of a lot of Osher family and friends... and coffee!

Please contribute to our vision. We only need $800,000.00 more to turn our vision into a reality!

Help Us Build Our New Home

Now that you know more about our future home in Cyert Hall and the critical need to fund it, it is time to do your part. It might be a while until we can walk into our new classrooms or have a cup of coffee in our new lounge, but there a challenging goal to meet and your help is urgently needed NOW.

Donations can be pledged now and completed over a three-year period.

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Make checks payable to Carnegie Mellon University for Osher 4.0

It is time to renew your 2021 Membership!

Soon our Winter 2021 course catalog will be published online.

To enroll in classes in the winter term, once registration is open, you must have your 2021 membership dues paid. Dues are $100.00 for the 2021 year.

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.

To save money, we are not mailing out membership invoices. Instead we are asking that you use this form and mail it back with your check or sign in online to your registration account and pay with your credit card.

Make checks payable to: Osher at CMU
Address: Osher at CMU / 5000 Forbes Avenue / Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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A Proclamation

Please join your Board of Directors in special recognition for the following Osher at CMU Staff for their tireless work, behind the scenes, working from home, in the most challenging circumstances of our times; ensuring the success of our world-class life-long learning organization. The transition from ALL on campus classes to ALL virtual classes was rapid and seamless.

Chelsea Prestia – Administrator/Publications
Olivia McCann – Administrator/Programs
Kate Lehman – Administrator/General Office
Lyn Decker – Executive Director and Registrar

To recognize their many contributions, we proclaim 2020 to be “The Year of the Osher at CMU Staff.”

Board of Directors, Osher at CMU