

Our Mission

The purpose of IPRO-364: Ramovation is to work with IIT community partner, the Save the Ramova organization to:

Use the work from IPRO 364 spring 2011, summer 2011, and future semesters to provide a feasibility study for the renovation of the Ramova Theater and to project the impact that the renovation will have on spurring development on the Halsted corridor in the Bridgeport neighborhood in order to present valuable information to potential stakeholders and to help procure community support.

Background

Located on 35th and Halsted in the Bridgeport neighborhood, the Ramova Theater was once an exciting, vibrant pinnacle of the neighborhood when it first opened in 1929.

The Ramova cinema, once seating 1500 people and showing first run films, is larger than its sister, the Music Box Theater in Lake View. The highlight of the Ramova was when Charlie Chaplin premiered in the controversial film "The Great Dictator," which the loop palaces in the downtown theater district refused to show. However the shift in the demographics in the 50's forced the Ramova into showing 2nd-run films, and the theater slowly declined until closing in the mid-1980's.

Future Goals

- Further investigate the program layout and adjacencies
- Reexamine the preliminary building plans to create a high efficiency and lost cost design
- Continue research on sustainable materials
- Begin to look at atmospheric elements that could enhance the overall layout of design
- Continue efforts from summer 2011 to interview businesses on the Halsted Corridor

Acknowledgements

- The Save the Ramova Organization
- Maureen Sullivan
- Rob Warmowski
- Robert C. Vagnières Jr. , Principal Robert C. Vagnières Jr. & Associates
- John Twombly, Director of Undergraduate Programs in Business, IIT
- John Molloy, Project Manager, Dept. of Planning and Development
- Felix Duron, The Pangere Corporation
- Ray Shepardson, Market Value Productions
- Nanette Shepardson, Market Value Productions
- Vince and Cipriana Simons, General Contractors, Mayne Stage Theater
- Bridgeport Residents

Please contact Limia Shunia with further questions: mail@limiashunia.com

IPRO 364 RAMOVATION



Inspiring Bridgeport

Summer 2011

Research Methods:

Case Studies

Wrote a case study report on movie theaters that have gone through major renovations in order to make the Ramova Theater the best fit for the community.

Surveys

Compared the survey demographics from last semester to the Bridgeport census demographics to find out what gaps needed to be filled and circulated survey to targeted age groups

Halsted Corridor

Visited and analyzed the Ramova Theater site and the Bridgeport Neighborhood to further understand the community dynamic

Clean Energy

Researched methods of capturing, storing, and utilizing energy in efficient ways while minimizing overall expense to help transform the Ramova Theater into a modern, sustainable system

Analysis: What We Found from Our Research

Case Studies

- Music Box Theater serves as an example of what the Ramova should look like
- Mayne Stage is also a retrofitted Vaudeville theater and showcases green design

Surveys

- Top 3 events the Bridgeport residents would like to see at the Ramova are film screenings, musical concerts/shows, and theatrical plays
- Top 3 amenities they would like to see are casual dining, coffee shop, and snack shop

Halsted Corridor

- There are only a few recreational activity spaces in the community
- Most businesses in the area are retail and various services

Clean Energy

- A solar-wind hybrid system for energy capture, grey water irrigation and dual-flush plumbing fixtures for water conservation, and a green roof for insulation and produce are recommended.

Synthesis

The IPRO-364 Summer 2011 team built upon the valuable research performed by the Spring 2011 IPRO team to complete:

- A thorough cost estimate by analyzing the given plan and proposed amenities
- A revised program from the preliminary program of Spring 2011 that is a stronger link to the wants and needs of the community
- A diagrammatic plan based on programmatic elements
- Efficient energy recommendations

