

The Coalition to Preserve Eastern High School and Promote Mental Health understands that Eastern's west wing and auditorium are not suitable for clinical care. Rather, we imagine a harmonious extended UMH-Sparrow campus with all of the proposed services and psychiatric facility, as well as a restored west wing and auditorium that could be used for the health system, or the community. There is potential here for something incredibly special, if we are able to work with creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

My name is Andrew Muylle. I am an Eastern High School alum and a neighbor of UMH-Sparrow Hospital and Eastern. However, this is not just a nostalgic appeal. This is about far more than sentiment. This is about providing mental health services to a community desperately in need. And, it's also about the sense of place, meaning, and identity of a city. Simply put, the original Lansing Eastern High School is a part of the character of Lansing.

Eastern in its entirety is a massive building. This coalition has only requested a seat at the table to explore the possibility of preserving the iconic Pennsylvania Avenue wing and auditorium, which is the portion of the building that faces the neighborhood to the west. This incredible and unique piece of architecture is a very small portion of the massive footprint of the entire building. I have to believe there's a way to preserve this small section while still realizing the full potential of the proposed extended campus and psychiatric services.

The Pennsylvania Avenue wing has stood for almost 100 years. With preservation, it could stand as a stunning memorial to the past, a gateway to the future, and cement the University of Michigan's legacy in Lansing and beyond.