

Ray Adamyk launches two-year renovation of Pomona's YMCA building

Come back in a couple of years and you'll see the grand re-opening of Pomona's historic YMCA building – only this time, it is being re-purposed and designed for everything from office space and residential to community groups and even a showcase for artifacts.

Pomona-based historic preservation expert Ray Adamyk, founder and president of Spectra Company, purchased the nearly 100-year-old building last summer for \$2.65 million and had been working on a careful demolition phase until last month's official groundbreaking cere-

mony to kick off the renovation phase.

"There's some real beautiful parts of the building that we have found as we've been doing our clean-up and demolition," Adamyk said during a tour of the building, adding that the actual construction to restore the building "to its former glory" was just getting under way.

And Adamyk already has his grand re-opening planned for spring 2020, on the 100th anniversary of the beginning of construction of the 80,000 square foot structure.

The building is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and, when renovation is completed, will include updated live/work spaces, newly designed

creative offices, state-of-the-art concert and special event venues, a coffee bar/café and lounge and even a conference room for Adamyk's company conference room at the bottom of the deep end of the original swimming pool.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told a couple of hundred guests and dignitaries seated

in the lawn in front of the building that construction of the building continued from 1920 to 1922.

He called it "a place where people came together, it's

where parents brought their children, it's where community members came."

And he said making the building once again "a place

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Ray Adamyk



GROUNDBREAKING FOR YMCA RENOVATION PROJECT -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval shows off his talent with a shovel at last month's groundbreaking for a YMCA renovation project to be known as "The Village Pomona" under way by Pomona's Spectra Company. Pictured, from left, are Josue Castillo, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Tom Hsieh, a board member of "The Village Pomona" non-profit currently being organized; Mario Ramos, representing Congresswoman Norma Torres; Bennie Ayala, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva; Sandoval; Ray Adamyk, founder and president of Spectra Company; Pomona City Councilmembers Rubio Gonzalez, Robert Torres and Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; and Mike Hoyer, media consultant for the project.



Spectra Company's Ray Adamyk describes some of the historic artifacts that will be showcased in the building.



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where the community can come together” is “exciting to the city of Pomona.”

Adamyk, who said he was born in England and grew up

in a mobile home park in Canada, moved to Southern California 30 years ago, and most recently lived in Claremont for 11 years before relocating to a home in Pomona.

“I love this place, I love this city,” he said, adding that the renovated building itself is “going to be pretty cool.”

He said the building could

include boutique retail, art studios, a barber shop, culinary arts, “possibilities are endless.”

His own company, which has been located in Pomona for the past 15 years, will be moving into the basement.

The project itself will be known as “The Village Pomona – at the Old Pomona YMCA Building.”

“A transformation is taking place before our very eyes in this city,” Adamyk said. “You can see it all over.”

“Our goal is to maintain the historic integrity of this land-

mark building, while adaptively reusing the creative space in a sustainable manner that will support the visions and goals of our community,” Adamyk said in a prepared news release distributed at the event.

Spectra, with more than 150 employees, has preserved historic buildings in California and the West including Hearst Castle in San Simeon, the Biltmore Hotel and the Bradbury Building in downtown Los Angeles and others.

A column inside Pomona's old YMCA building is representative of the early architectural styles that will be restored.

Pomona's old YMCA building is located at 350 N. Garey Ave.

Bright Prospect empowers low-income, first-generation students to get to and through college. The organization serves more than 2,200 high school and college students from Pomona and Ontario.

Tickets to the event are \$125 and deadline for reservations is April 6.

For information, contact Gregory Gillam at (909) 623-9007, ext. 222, or by e-mail at gregory@brightprospect.org.

To RSVP on line, visit the web site at www.brightprospect.org.



Ray Adamyk, personally conducting the first tour of the inside of Pomona's old YMCA building, describes plans for the building's main gym which will become a venue for everything from concerts to weddings.



Posing in front of those iconic windows upstairs at the Pomona YMCA are, from left, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, former Pomona Councilmember Debra Martin, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Fairplex Community Advancement Manager and Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Tammy Roush, Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto, Benny Ayala representing State Sen. Connie Leyva, Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez and Pomona Chamber Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz.

Bright Prospect's Stephanie Campbell to be honored

Outgoing Bright Prospect Executive Director Stephanie Campbell will be honored next month at the organization's annual celebration “Gala '18” scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday, April 20, at the Padua Hills Theatre in Claremont.

Campbell, Bright Prospect's founding executive director, served the organization for 16 years.

Also recognized at the event will be Bright Prospect alumni who are working in the Inland Empire.

Campbell, a 30-year resident of Pomona who has touched the lives of thousands of young people and their families in the course of helping high potential students get into and through college, has been credited as being a catalyst of a program that continues to break the cycle of poverty.

She will remain on as a consultant to the organization following her retirement.

Health care and education veteran Elizabeth Zamora took over as executive director last month.

Pomona Optimists to hold annual fundraiser next month

The Pomona Optimist Club will hold its annual fundraiser next month with proceeds going toward “Suits for Success,” “Student of the Month,” and the club's “Essays and Oratorical Contest.”

Other programs to benefit from the fundraiser include “Campaign against Childhood Cancer,” “The Village Academy Soccer Team,” “Respect for Public Safety Awards,” “Youth Volunteer of the Year Award” and the annual “Christmas Shopping Spree.”

The event is scheduled for 5 to 10 p.m. Thursday, April 12, at the Pomona Eagle's lodge, 954 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona.

Guests are encouraged to come dressed to celebrate their favorite “era.”

Cost of dinner (with a Vegan option), dessert and non-alcoholic drinks is \$20.

Tickets can be purchased from club members in advance or can be purchased at the door.

For more information, “like” Pomona Breakfast Optimist Club on Facebook.

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– continued working the streets of Pomona and “refused to take no for an answer” when they asked if they could continue to help their fellow law enforcement officers.

A memorial fund with proceeds going to Claudia Casillas, the slain officer's widow, has been established at the California Association of Highway Patrolmen Credit Union. Contributions can be made on line at cahpcu.org/officer-greggory-j-casillas-memorial-fund or checks can be mailed to Officer Gregory Casillas Memorial Fund, 2843 Manlove Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

A credit union spokesperson said the credit union will absorb fees and 100 percent of the unrestricted funds will go to the family.

Deputy District Attorneys Robert Serna and Antonella Nistorescu of the Crimes Against Peace Officers Section are prosecuting the case.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Pomona Police Department.



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