HSC beautification project underway

The $35 million renovations, which aim to improve the Health Science Campus and the surrounding area, will be completed in 2015.

By MADISEN KEAVY
Daily Trojan

The Health Sciences Campus is undergoing a $35 million beautification project that aims to create a more cohesive appearance between the University Park Campus and HSC.

The project has been divided into three phases. The first and current phase focuses on streetscape beautification, largely moving in an east-to-west direction across campus. These phases will reduce disruption within the campus to manageable sizes.

Voluntary public funds will be used to support streetscape improvements including new sidewalks and infrastructure.

“The main goal is to create a better environment and to improve the pedestrian experience on the campus and surrounding streets for faculty, staff, students, visitors to the campus and the community,” said Laurie Stone, USC executive director of land use and planning.

Larger impacts to the overall aesthetics of the campus will include two prominent campus markers on Soto Street and smaller ones on less-populated campus entrances.

Construction began in August, when infrastructure was readjusted on Alcazar and Soto streets. Power lines, water and gas lines were moved underground in order to create a seamless path for pedestrians.

Unlike the University Park Campus, HSC does not have a consistent architectural style. To stylistically connect the two campuses, there are plans for more outdoor park-like areas to be built. Widened sidewalks, decorative brick motifs and 700 trees will be added as well.

Project coordinators hope this beautification process will create uniformity within.

“The campus also currently lacks an identity; the brick banding and use of streetscape fixtures similar to the University Park Campus will help enhance the USC identity.

Chinese New Year

Yanwen Cai, a freshman civil engineering major, performed a traditional Chinese song on the Er Wu in front of Tommy Trojan on Monday for the International Student Association's monthly performance. Chinese New Year is on Sunday.

By RACHEL BRACKER
Daily Trojan

The university can build on up to two million square feet in The Village lot.

Though the Los Angeles City Council approved construction on the The Village at USC project in December, the timeline for development is not set and initial planning stages for the first phase, which precedes actual architectural design, could take anywhere from 12 to 24 months.

The first phase of construction will just affect the lot of the University Village. Cardinal Gardens and Century apartments will not be impacted immediately.

The university must also build a new fire station before any construction begins, according to USC Real Estate and Asset Management. This might happen in the next year or two.

The large size of the project is to blame for the amount of time it will take for construction to begin. The city permits USC to build on up to two million square feet — 10 times the size of the Ronald Tutor Campus Center. For reference, the new Engemann Health Center took 18 months to construct and about six months to plan. It is 101,000 square feet.