

### This Place Matters!



I have grown up living in or around the Swiss Historic District and I love looking at old buildings. My Mom used to work near Deep Ellum and I loved driving down and looking at the Union Bankers Building. It has always seemed sad to me that it was all boarded up. It is a great building with huge arched windows up top. I can only imagine the great events that happened there.

After passing the building for so many years and asking my parents about it, I decided to look it up on the internet. I found out it was built in 1915 by African Americans, for African Americans with African American money. It was designed by an African American architect by the name of William Sidney Pittman, son-in-law of Booker T. Washington. Originally the building had offices for African American professionals like doctors and lawyers. On the top floor they would have social events.

After learning more about this building I started thinking about how important saving the building would be for the African Americans of Dallas. In a year when the United States elected our first African American President, it would be a great time to raise money to save the building. If we could all work together we could fix the building up and give offices to African American small businesses that can't afford rent. The top two floors could be used as a community center for poor kids that do not have a place to go after school.

The Union Bankers Building could unite the community and help businesses and families during these tough times. The building is in a perfect location now that there is a new DART rail station opening down the street. By fixing up this awesome building in Deep Ellum we can bring people and business back to the area and honor African American history.