A few blocks west of the campus core, the University’s unique research and innovation district, Innovista, is taking shape with the recent development of two large facilities: the Horizon Center and Discovery Plaza. Listed by the Carnegie Foundation as one of only 63 public universities in the highest tier of research institutions in the United States, USC has research initiatives in nanotechnology, health sciences, the environment, and information technologies taking place in the Innovista. The University aims for this research to be an economic catalyst that will raise the state’s per-capita income and quality of life by attracting knowledge-based businesses and high-paying jobs to Columbia.

The Innovista is an ideal location for development through a Public Private Partnership (“PPP”) because of the area’s emerging identity and focus on growth. A PPP would allow the University to increase their housing capacity on or near campus without significant investment through an effective partnership with a private developer. The parking lot at the corner of Assembly Street & Blossom Street, adjacent to the new Moore School of Business site, has been identified as a possible location for development. Housing specific groups of USC students in the Innovista through a PPP could present an excellent, low-cost opportunity that satisfies the University’s strategic objectives.

USC effectively used a PPP to build 20 fraternity and sorority houses in the University’s Greek Village development. The 743 beds for Greek students came at minimal cost to the housing system and have been highly successful. A potential expansion site for the Greek Village has been identified across Blossom Street where an additional four to five houses with as many as 175 new student beds could be developed for Greek organizations.
GREEK VILLAGE
BUILDING OBSERVATION REPORT

BUILDING INFORMATION
Building Name: Greek Village

NARRATIVE
The Greek Village was constructed in 2002 and has not been included in the renovation analysis of this study. While normal, on-going maintenance and repair work will be necessary, capital costs have not been identified for this building during the 10 year time horizon of this study.

Exterior, Greek Village