



Groundbreaking Day for University Hills



The only known image of Groundbreaking Day for University Hills. From the left: Dr. Bill Parker, Lt. Gov Leo McCarthy, Founding Chancellor Daniel Aldrich, UC Regent Stanley Sheinbaum, Irvine Mayor David Stills, and UC Irvine Academic Senate Chair Marjore Casrio.

The Story

On June 15th, 1984, about 75 people gather at the southerly edge of the Las Lomas apartments on what would become Los Trancos Drive to break ground for the first 90 homes in University Hills. Local campus champion Dr. Bill Parker and other dedicated UC Irvine employees and

consultants had worked for several years prior to the groundbreaking to create an innovative program to address the alarmingly high cost of housing in southern California. In remarks to the crowd, UC Regent Stanley Sheinbaum called the University Hills housing program “a major breakthrough, a prototype of what the university (system) needs badly.” (*Los Angeles Times*, June 16th, 1984) Then Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy joked with Founding UCI Chancellor Daniel Aldrich that he might teach a class in the “political wisdom in Sacramento.” Chancellor Aldrich quickly retorted that it “would only be a one-unit course.” (*Los Angeles Times*, June 16th, 1984)

At the time of the groundbreaking, the entire development was envisioned to grow as large as 400 homes. As of 2012, University Hills is a community of 989 for-sale homes and 240 rental units. Grading for the first phase of University Hills began the next week.

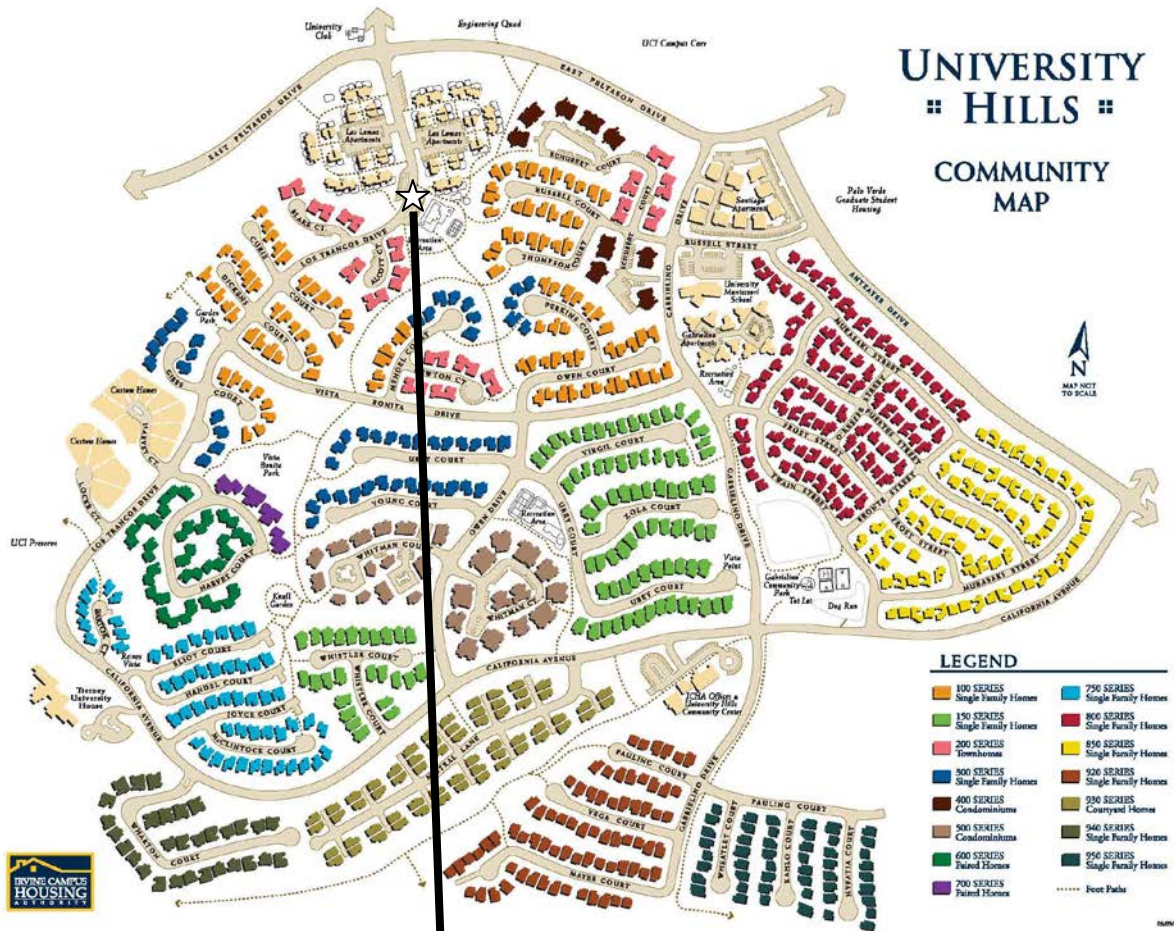
University Hills Facts

- 254 acres
- 1229 homes and apartments
- 3 parks
- Community Center
- Tierney University House
- Approximately 3,100 residents
- First phase completed in 1985
- The largest on-campus, for-sale workforce housing community in the nation.

For Further Study

<http://www.lib.uci.edu/ucihistory/index.php?page=architecture&function=university>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_Hills,_Irvine,_California

Location



**Groundbreaking
Location**