

in Florida, she says. “You can’t trace it all to the anti-DEI legislation, but that plays a role.” The legislation will also make it harder to recruit both faculty and students, she and others say.

Maria Ong is a senior research scientist who studies the culture of physics at TERC, a STEM education R&D nonprofit in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Women and people of color already face “roadblock after roadblock” when they pursue physics careers, she says. “My fear is that with these new pieces of legislation, individuals will opt out early in their education and careers, and physics will be the worse for it.”

External programs

Although independent DEI programs don’t require state funding, physicists and their departments in states with anti-DEI legislation are reconsidering whether they can legally participate. Rahman says her department chair said they would pull out of APS-IDEA. “I said no, and the department chair

said I have to do it on my own time,” she says. At least one Texas physics department withdrew its application to join APS-IDEA because of that state’s new law.

Erika Brown, the APS-IDEA program lead, notes that institutions are still interpreting the new legislation. “Ambiguity makes it unclear for some folks whether participation might be construed in a way that negatively impacts them,” she says, adding that the consequences are “serious sounding.”

The TEAM-UP Together initiative, launched in 2022 by the American Institute of Physics (publisher of *Physics Today*) and partners, aims to double the number of African American physics bachelor’s recipients by 2030. It grants money to students and to de-

ASHAUNI LENNOX/AAPT



Scientific progress and preservation clash in demolition of Curie building

A compromise involves relocating the historic structure.

The Pavillon des Sources in Paris, where Marie Curie prepared and stored radioactive samples, is set to be removed to make way for a building that will house offices and laboratories for cancer research.

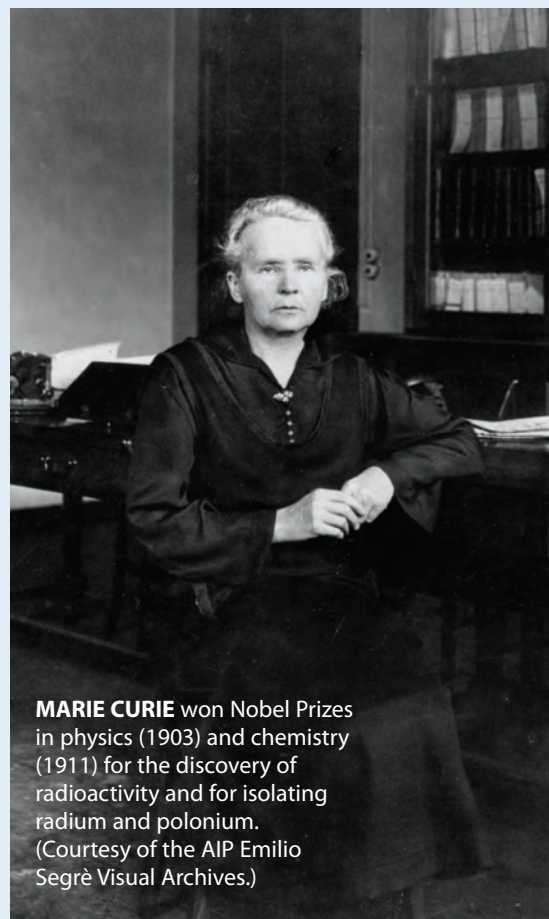
The plan was originally approved by the city of Paris in March 2023. At least two petitions were circulated worldwide in favor of preserving the building in honor of Curie—a two-time Nobel Prize recipient and possibly France’s most prominent physicist as well as the world’s most famous female scientist.

In response to opposition, the demolition plan was delayed and revised: Instead of razing the Pavillon des Sources, the building will be taken apart brick by brick and rebuilt nearby as an expansion to the Curie Museum. The solution was put forward by the Curie

Institute—a nonprofit foundation created by Marie Curie that focuses on cancer research, teaching, and treatment—which announced it in a press release on 31 January.

Taking apart and rebuilding the Pavillon des Sources adds €5 million (\$5.4 million) to the €13 million cost of the new building, according to the Curie Institute press office. The new building is supposed to be completed by 2026, the office says. It did not provide a date or exact site for the reassembly of the Pavillon des Sources. Many observers doubt it will really happen. “It’s a decision that will not be fulfilled,” says a Curie Institute scientist who requested anonymity because of the topic’s controversy.

Completed in 1914, the Pavillon des Sources and two companion buildings were erected for Curie partly because people were “making pilgrimages to meet her, and she worked in disgraceful labs,” says Laura Dawes, a science histo-



MARIE CURIE won Nobel Prizes in physics (1903) and chemistry (1911) for the discovery of radioactivity and for isolating radium and polonium. (Courtesy of the AIP Emilio Segrè Visual Archives.)



JOYCE PALMER-FORTUNE and Gary Felder mark the recognition of Smith College's physics department by SEA Change, a program that aims to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education. State anti-DEI laws are causing some departments to reevaluate how to frame their applications for SEA Change recognition.

partments (see *Physics Today*, February 2020, page 20). "Any department working toward our goals can apply for funding in our program," says project manager Arlene Modeste Knowles. "The question is whether departments in some states would be able to participate in a program that is geared toward African American students." The initiative is "keeping a close watch on anti-DEI

laws," she says. "We want to make sure we don't put stakeholders in jeopardy."

SEA Change, a program headed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, recognizes departments for working toward and achieving diverse and inclusive environments. In preparing its recent application to the program, one physics and astronomy department sought legal advice to preemptively avoid falling afoul of potential future anti-DEI laws. "We didn't want to plan this and not be able to carry it out," says a professor who was involved in the application process.

Many physicists wonder whether TEAM-UP and other programs will adjust to serve all students as a way to help participants comply with state anti-DEI laws. Many of the programs are already open to everyone. But, says Kelso, "we are trying to center the voices of marginalized people. If you say you are doing something for everyone, it waters down the effort."

Toni Feder

rian at the Australian National University who started one of the petitions to save the Pavillon des Sources. Meanwhile, fancy new radium institutes were being set up in London, Vienna, Warsaw, and elsewhere, says Dawes. The labs and buildings where Curie had earlier discovered radium and polonium no longer exist, she adds.

To one side of the Pavillon des Sources is the Pavillon Curie, where Curie and others conducted experiments with radioactivity and which now houses physics offices and laboratories and the Curie Museum. On the other side is the Pavillon Pasteur, where cancer patients were treated with radium; it now houses biology offices and laboratories.

The layout of the three buildings reflects the flow of activity, says Dawes, with the central Pavillon des Sources originally supplying radioactive sources for both experiments and cancer treatment. "From a heritage point of view, to maintain the integrity of the site, all three buildings need to be kept intact and in their spatial relationship with each other," she says.

The new, five-story building will house a chemical biology and cancer



THE PAVILLON DES SOURCES in Paris is slated to be taken apart brick by brick and reassembled nearby. Radioactive samples were prepared and stored in it, part of an ensemble of three buildings where Marie Curie worked from 1914 until her death in 1934. A five-story structure dedicated to cancer research to be built in its stead will extend partly atop one of the neighboring structures.

project. The research direction "fits in perfectly with Marie Curie's scientific heritage," the press release says, and "will increase our knowledge of how

tumors function, exploit identified vulnerabilities and develop new therapeutic strategies."

Toni Feder