

## Elmer, Linda

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**From:** Margarete Harvey <margareteharvey@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 04, 2019 12:06 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** HPC: Dan Kiley's Chestnut Grove

To the Historic Preservation Commission:

Dear Linda,

Apologies that I cannot present my thoughts in person to today's HPC meeting, but I have a prior commitment. As a retired landscape architect I have some insights that might be of help.

1. When considering the temporary historic designation of the Kiley designed sunken garden with chestnut grove, please, remember that here we have one of the few examples in Milwaukee where building and landscape were designed together, to enhance each other. Villa Terrace is another example. All too often the landscaping is added to our buildings as an afterthought, usually with the remnant of a budget, like a shawl that can be exchanged willy-nilly whenever fashion changes.
2. The argument about the tree removal completely hides the fact that the proposed new design fills in the sunken garden aspect of the Kiley design. In my opinion the sunken garden is a critical part of the whole which should be preserved at all cost. It was intended to create a particular peaceful feeling that gave people a respite from the hustle and bustle of city life. A ramp and a more compactable surface would bring it up to present day ADA standards.
3. If you allow the complete destruction of the landscape, because you are planning some alterations to the building, you diminish the whole. The proposed changes to the building, i.e. more glass and concessions along the west and south facades could go ahead on their own without removing the landscape.
4. Other Kiley-designed gardens like the Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Indiana have been given National Historic Landmark status in 2000. This was a collaboration with Eero Saarinen, the architect for our own War Memorial. So by giving temporary historic designation to the Marcus Center Garden, you would elevate the importance of both, the Marcus Center and the War Memorial/Art Museum.

There are several ways in which the necessary improvements of the Marcus Center building could be accomplished, while preserving most of the Kiley Garden, but they are not your charge for today. Please, give the garden the temporary historic designation.

Sincerely,

Margarete Harvey, ASLA

Landscape Architect

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**Elmer, Linda**

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**From:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Sent:** Monday, February 04, 2019 12:13 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Trees at the Marcus Center

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**From:** [jwilberg@wi.rr.com](mailto:jwilberg@wi.rr.com) [mailto:[jwilberg@wi.rr.com](mailto:jwilberg@wi.rr.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 04, 2019 11:22 AM  
**To:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Cc:** 'mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org'  
**Subject:** Trees at the Marcus Center

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge that you act to preserve the grove of trees at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. The grove is a majestic, thoughtful, engaging space that is unique in downtown Milwaukee. It would be a travesty to replace these trees, to cut them down, so that somehow people would find the area more inviting to sit or picnic or whatever else people do on plain grass.

The trees offer shade and refuge at the same time they inspire a sense of peace and an appreciation of nature. I hope you protect this grove and other beautiful and old places in our town. We need our history to keep us rooted in our community.

Sincerely,

Jan Wilberg

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D. Founder, Time of the Month Club, Inc.  
2018 Milwaukee Business Journal Woman of Influence