

## Elmer, Linda

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**From:** Bauman, Robert  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2019 1:43 PM  
**To:** Dana Hoffman  
**Cc:** Elmer, Linda; Lemmer, Jodi  
**Subject:** RE: Change the plan and keep the trees

Thanks. We will make your comments part of the record.

**From:** Dana Hoffman [<mailto:danamariehoffman@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2019 12:33 PM  
**To:** Bauman, Robert  
**Subject:** Change the plan and keep the trees

Alderman Bauman.

Perhaps the plan to cut down the chestnut grove at the Marcus Center can be rethought.

For one thing, the grove is a beautiful, peaceful spot. Unique in downtown. The proposed lawn is none of that.

For another, it's the work of Dan Kiley, who is regarded as one of the most important landscape architects of the twentieth century.

Milwaukee has worked so hard to change its image, with things like the Calatrava and sculpture along Wisconsin Avenue. Destroying the grove seems like a step backward.

It's good to see that the Marcus Center has been granted temporary historic status. I hope this can be made permanent.

Thanks for your consideration.

Howard Hoffman

## Elmer, Linda

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**From:** J. Urdan <1jurdan@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2019 12:19 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Granting Historic Preservation Status to the Marcus Center For the Performing Arts.

Dear Linda Elmer-

I am emailing you to ask that you grant Historic Preservation status to the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and its grounds. I am a WI resident, I live downtown and enjoy greatly the horse chestnut tree grove...and the building that holds many memories for me...in the very heart of downtown. What a great advantage we have. The newspapers and TV carry stories of cities wanting to bring trees and green to their downtowns. We have this wonderful building designed by Harry Weese, and the marvelous horse chestnut tree grove designed site-specifically by the legendary Dan Kiley.

Please protect our great City's great Assets. Thank you- Joan Urdan/ 923 E. Kilbourn Ave/ Milwaukee WI 53202 Sent from my iPad

**Elmer, Linda**

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**From:** Kathy Brumder <kathybrumder@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 1:24 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** In support for the historic preservation of the Horse Chestnut Tree Grove

Dear Historic Preservation Commission

I support a historic designation for the Marcus Performing Arts Center and its grounds. My support is in an effort to preserve the Dan Kiley Horse Chestnut Tree Grove which is a wonderful urban public space.

Kathleen T. Brumder  
2841 N. Lake Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

**Elmer, Linda**

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**From:** Jared Kraft <jared.kraft@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 3:44 PM  
**To:** Historic Preservation Commission; Elmer, Linda; Hatala, Carlen; Askin, Tim; Bauman, Robert; mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org; mmurphy@milwaukee.gov  
**Subject:** Fwd: April 1st HPC - Permanent Historic Designation Kiley Grove/Weese PAC

Greetings ,

As a Milwaukee resident, architectural professional and an individual inclined towards the respectful preservation of distinguished forms/styles of architecture and art I am lending my name in support to designate the Marcus Center and Groves for historic preservation.

I believe that the Marcus Center and Groves should be saved for many reasons but specifically that it should be saved as it meets FOUR criteria for designation as noted by the Historic Preservation Commission regulations.

As noted by the Commission:

The Marcus Center exemplifies “the development of the cultural, economic, social or historic heritage” of Milwaukee; embodies “distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen”; is the “work of an artist, architect, craftsperson or master builder”; and is a recognizable visual landmark. Designation requires meeting just one criterion.

Similarly, in regards to the removal of deteriorating deceased trees I believe that remedies do not just happen as it may please those vested but that correct protocols are in place for Milwaukee County in how to create a preservation plan and treatment plan. While they are trees, they should be treated as part of the work produced by both Weisse and Kiley and therefor have more significance than a typical street/boulevard tree that has simply perished and needs to be removed. The trees themselves are the intrinsic piece of the commissioned work.

Thank you very much for your consideration.  
Best wishes,  
Jared Kraft

## Elmer, Linda

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**From:** Hatala, Carlen  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 12:08 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Marcus Center

Did a copy of this get to you?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Grace Graves [<mailto:hmsgraves@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 12:01 PM  
**To:** Hatala, Carlen  
**Subject:** Marcus Center

I continue my support for Historic designation for the Marcus Center. The grove of trees needs to be preserved.

Grace Graves

**Elmer, Linda**

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**From:** Paula Schulze <paulajschulze@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2019 2:14 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Marcus Center Historic Designation

Hello,

I would like to voice my support for giving historic designation status to the Marcus Center. Such a move would help prevent the hasty destruction of the Dan Kiley chestnut grove.

I work downtown and appreciate the contribution that the grove makes to the downtown environment. I hope that community support for the historic designation will lead the Marcus Center to reevaluate its plans to transform the site.

Paula Schulze  
Shorewood, WI

**Elmer, Linda**

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**From:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2019 12:59 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Marcus Center for the Performing Arts

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Caralyn Court [<mailto:caralyncourt2@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 30, 2019 9:28 PM  
**To:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Subject:** Marcus Center for the Performing Arts

I urge the Commission to grant historic status for the subject venue and preserve the Dan Kiley grove.

Thank you.

Caralyn Court  
[Caralyncourt2@gmail.com](mailto:Caralyncourt2@gmail.com)

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Kiley Grove / Performing Arts Center Permanent Historic Designation -- April 1st, 2019  
**Date:** Friday, April 05, 2019 9:58:03 AM

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PAC

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**From:** Anthony Janis [mailto:[ajanis@brayarch.com](mailto:ajanis@brayarch.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 10:24 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda; Historic Preservation Commission; Hatala, Carlen; Askin, Tim; Bauman, Robert; [mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org](mailto:mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org); Zielinski, Tony  
**Subject:** Kiley Grove / Performing Arts Center Permanent Historic Designation -- April 1st, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Milwaukee's Kiley Grove is a rare magical place that transcends space and time. It is a special oasis of weightlessness that allows us to live in the moment, to return home to nature.

Within this tree room chapel, one's restless mind quiets. We become the observer of our own thoughts and the world around us.

Immersed in this natural cathedral of tree trunk columns and branch vaults, we find stillness, we reconnect to our original selves.

The power of this rejuvenating place is felt as one's positive energy gained here is put forth into the world.

Milwaukee's Kiley Grove is an exceptional design, in which over a 50 year process, has grown into an empowering transcendental microcosm.

It is part of our best heritage and is a gift to be treasured forever.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Janis



Anthony Janis | Bray Architects  
Architectural Intern  
829 S. 1st Street | Milwaukee, WI | 53204  
O 414.226.0200

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out more [Click Here](#).

Dawn McCarthy  
Interim Executive Director  
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance  
PO Box 510642  
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Historic Preservation Committee, City of Milwaukee  
City Hall, Room 301-B  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

April 1, 2019

Re: Support for relating to the Permanent Historic Designation of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts at 929 North Water Street in the 4th Ald. District.

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

Milwaukee Preservation Alliance is writing to the Historic Preservation Commission today to voice our support for the Resolution (File #181570) relating to the Permanent Historic Designation of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts (MCPA) at 929 North Water Street in the 4th Ald. District.

The Wisconsin statute (s. 62.23(7)(em)) regulating local Historic Preservation ordinances states "it is declared a matter of public policy that the protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of improvements of special architectural character or special historical interest or value is a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety, and welfare of the people."

The statute doesn't demand preservation in amber but wants to "Effect and accomplish the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of such improvements and of districts which represent or reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history". Its policy is to "Safeguard the city's historic and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in landmarks and historic districts." This policy will "Stabilize and improve property values, Foster civic pride in the beauty and noble accomplishments of the past" and "Protect and enhance the city attractions to residents, tourists and visitors, and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry". MPA would argue that nothing in this language prohibits the Marcus Center from pursuing their goals to make the Marcus Center a place that is more inviting, accessible, diverse and sustainable.

The City of Milwaukee Ordinance sites criteria for designation. MPA agrees that the Marcus Center meets four of ten criteria.

e-1. Its exemplification of the development of the cultural, economic, social or historic heritage of the City of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin or of the United States.

*MPA Comment:* It is important to show the evolution of Milwaukee cultural and civic thinking; that "in a city filled with 19th century treasures, the city, the county and the War Memorial Development Committee selected a modern design, brutalist in style, for the construction of a performing arts center, and a unique design for the landscape based on geometry, linear forms, and crisp edges with a simple planting consisting of a grove of trees." Per the study report "Milwaukee left behind its traditional roots to look to the future." Though changes have occurred to both the grove and the building, none of those alterations compromise the representation of that cultural period.

e-5. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.

*MPA Comment:* To date alterations to the Weese building do nothing to completely negate distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen. This building would not be built today, nor would it ever be thought to be a 21st Century construction. It remains an embodiment of its time. Similarly, Dan Kiley's landscape grove of chestnut trees, set within an overall grid of squares, continues to be simple in form and plant use. The modern landscape design continues to complement the flat planes and expressive volumes of the Marcus Center. Kiley's use of trees, linear rows and geometric forms are characteristic of his landscapes. Most if not all updates made over the years are reversible.

e-6. Its identification as the work of an artist, architect, craftsperson or master builder whose individual works have influenced the development of the city.

*MPA Comment:* In comparison to other Weese construction in Milwaukee, Harry Weese showed Milwaukee with the Marcus Center that modernism can take on many different faces. Despite alterations, the Marcus Center remains a Modernist construction. Dan Kiley likewise gave Milwaukee something new, a landscape that reflects the geometry of the Marcus Center. It utilizes nature with its trees and grids of turf but nature here conforms to specific patterns, very different from the landscape treatment of our past public parks and parkways.

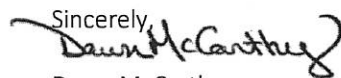
e-9. Its unique location as a singular physical characteristic which represents an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the city.

*MPA Comment:* The Marcus Center and the Kiley landscape continue to stand out on their site in the heart of Milwaukee's downtown. The Marcus Center remains monumental and does not resemble anything around it. It remains a destination building and the Kiley landscape with its grove of horse chestnut trees, despite ill-considered changes is still highly recognizable, a welcoming spot to enjoy outdoor performances, providing the kind of amenity not found elsewhere downtown.

The Permanent Historic Designation process has been the only venue for public input on the future of the Marcus Center, a landmark which clearly lives in the hearts and memories of the Milwaukee community. This designation process energized members of the community to speak out passionately about the significance of the Marcus Center. The designation process engendered amazing essays, op-eds, and articles written by talented and knowledgeable journalists, architects, historians and preservationists, sharing their insights and articulating the brilliance of the designs that elicit such community passion, and why it matters. These writings offer ideas that deserve consideration. They offer resources and recommendations to meet both the public interest and a successful Marcus Center future.

The Historic Designation provides guidelines to enable the contemporary use of the Marcus Center while protecting these unique representations of a period in the evolution, development and history of Milwaukee.

Milwaukee Preservation Alliance strongly supports the Resolution relating to the Permanent Historic Designation of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

Sincerely,  


Dawn McCarthy  
Interim Executive Director  
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance  
PO Box 510642  
Milwaukee, WI 53203

**From:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** FW: The Grove  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:28:10 PM

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For the PAC file.

**From:** Melissa Muller [mailto:[melissajmuller@gmail.com](mailto:melissajmuller@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 1:46 PM  
**To:** Bauman, Robert; Perez, Jose; Coggs, Milele; Stamper II, Russell; Rainey, Khalif  
**Subject:** The Grove

Public space is just that, PUBLIC space. Please keep the dialogue in the process. I support the grove and what it means to the community and those who need free access to it.

--

Melissa Muller

*design* [melissajmuller.com](http://melissajmuller.com)  
*fine art* [treeoflifeearthworks.com](http://treeoflifeearthworks.com)

April 22, 2019

Cc: Chris Lee

**Alderman Khalif J. Rainey**  
**Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Development Committee**  
**City of Milwaukee Common Council**

**Re: Marcus Center – Landmark designation of the Kiley grove**

Dear Alderman Rainey,

Docomomo US and Docomomo US/Chicago write in support of the landmark designation for the horse chestnut landscape grove at the Marcus Center. Designed by Dan Kiley, one of the most important landscape architects of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the grove is one of the most significant Modernist landscapes in the City of Milwaukee and part of a greater building and landscape ensemble by Harry Weese, a well-known modernist architect.

The grove was designed by Kiley at the beginning of his career, and it contains elements that would become hallmarks of his work: a carefully curated palette of durable materials, a simple plan that creates a rich spatial and social space, and a balanced dialogue with the surrounding architecture. But it is more than just an embodiment of his Modernist design principles - the grove is a remarkably enduring and intact work that offers visitors a sense of place. It is this very sense of place that demonstrates that the grove meets landmark criteria, particularly E-9, which recognizes the “unique location as a singular physical characteristic which represents an established and familiar visual feature of [...] the city.”

Other cities and cultural institutions have publicly demonstrated their commitment to preserving Kiley designed landscapes and we encourage Milwaukee to join this distinguished list that includes: the Art Institute of Chicago, the Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis, Fountain Place in Dallas, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., among others. As the stewards of one of two Kiley-designed landscapes in Milwaukee, you and your fellow Council Members have an opportunity to safeguard this treasured public space for future generations. Protecting the grove against destruction is an essential first step. We urge you to uphold the City of Milwaukee Landmark designation to preserve the Kiley grove at the Marcus Center.

Sincerely,



Liz Waytkus  
Executive Director  
**Docomomo US**



Serge Ambrose  
Chair  
**Docomomo US/Chicago**

*Docomomo US is a chapter of Docomomo, an international non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of modern architecture, landscapes and design. Through advocacy, education and documentation, we provide leadership and knowledge by demonstrating the importance of modern design principles including the social context, technical merits, aesthetics and settings of these important pieces of American history.*

**From:** [Rebecca Silber](#)  
**To:** [Kovac, Nik](#); [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Milwaukee's Kiley Grove  
**Date:** Thursday, April 25, 2019 9:58:01 AM

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I urge you to uphold the Historic Preservation Commission's recent designation of the Marcus Center site as a historic property.

Many thanks,  
Rebecca Silber

**From:** [Dawn McCarthy](#)  
**To:** [Nik Kovac](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#); [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**Subject:** Support historic designation for the Kiley/Weese Marcus Center  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 9:44:26 AM

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Dear Alderman Kovac,

As we discussed last night, I urge you to uphold the Historic Preservation Commission's recent designation of the Marcus Center site as a historic property for the following reasons.

- Designation will ensure that the public has a voice in what happens as the Marcus Center reinvents itself.  
- The site meets four of the criteria for designation even though alterations have been made.

- Exemplifies the development of the cultural, economic, social or historic heritage of the City of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin or of the United States.
- It embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.
- It is identified as the work of an artist, architect, craftsperson or master builder whose individual works have influenced the development of the city.
- It represents an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the city.

Accessibility problems can and should be addressed. Designation does not prohibit alterations to make accommodations, as the Americans with Disabilities Act provides.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dawn McCarthy  
2589 N. Lake Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

**From:** [Theurich, Petra NI/FBC-SIC](#)  
**To:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Reference File #181570 - Kiley Grove  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 10:48:12 AM

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Dear Alderman Bauman,

I urge you to uphold the Historic Preservation Commission's recent designation of the Marcus Center site as a historic property for the following reasons:

- The legacy of architect Harry Weese (who ranks as famous as Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Frank Lloyd Wright) and landscape engineer Dan Kiley.
- Stop changing the building and grounds from its original 1966 design.
- Do not cut the shade-giving trees that would surely be missed, especially as temperatures, already on the rise, are only projected to increase in the coming decades.
- It is a masterful demonstration of the skill and vision that brought Kiley international acclaim as a pioneer of Modernism in designed landscapes and as a recipient of the National Medal of Arts (1997), a rare achievement for a landscape architect.
- Designation will ensure that the public has a voice in what happens as the Marcus Center reinvents itself.
- The site meets four of the criteria for designation even though alterations have been made.
- Accessibility problems can and should be addressed. Designation does not prohibit alterations to make accommodations, as the Americans with Disabilities Act provides.

<https://tclf.org/demolition-dan-kiley-landscape-milwaukee-announced>

Thank you for your consideration,

Petra Theurich  
2806 S. Cleveland Park Drive  
West Allis, WI 53219



**From:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Peter Zanghi](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#); [Perez, Jose](#); [Rainey, Khalif](#); [Stamper II, Russell](#); [Coggs, Milele](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Marcus Center  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 11:38:41 AM

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Thanks for your comments. I will be supporting designation.

**From:** Peter Zanghi [mailto:pzanghi@milwaukeepreservation.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 10:55 AM  
**To:** Bauman, Robert  
**Subject:** Marcus Center

Dear Alderman Bauman,

I urge you to uphold the Historic Preservation Commission's recent designation of the Marcus Center site as a historic property for the following reasons:

1. Designation will ensure that the public has a voice in what happens as the Marcus Center reinvents itself.
2. The site meets four of the criteria for designation even though alterations have been made:
  - Exemplifies the development of the cultural, economic, social or historic heritage of the City of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin or of the United States.
  - It embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.
  - It is identified as the work of an artist, architect, craftsperson or master builder whose individual works have influenced the development of the city.
  - It represents an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the city.

Accessibility problems can and should be addressed. Designation does not prohibit alterations to make accommodations, as the Americans with Disabilities Act provides.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter Zanghi  
1660 N Prospect Ave #1205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

**From:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** FW: support HPC historic preservation of Marcus Center  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 11:39:57 AM

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**From:** pamela frautschi [mailto:phfmke1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 10:39 AM  
**To:** Kovac, Nik; Murphy, Michael (Alderman); Hamilton, Ashanti; Bauman, Robert; Coggs, Milele; Lewis, Chantia; Perez, Jose; Johnson, Cavalier; Rainey, Khalif; Borkowski, Mark; Zielinski, Tony; Donovan, Robert; Stamper II, Russell; Witkowski, Terry  
**Subject:** support HPC historic preservation of Marcus Center

*Dear Alderman Kovac and others,*

*I urge you to uphold the Historic Preservation Commission's recent designation of the Marcus Center site as a historic property for the following reasons.*

*- Designation will ensure that the public has a voice in what happens as the Marcus Center reinvents itself.*

*- The site meets four of the criteria for designation even though alterations have been made.*

- Exemplifies the development of the cultural, economic, social or historic heritage of the City of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin or of the United States.*
- It embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.*
- It is identified as the work of an artist, architect, craftsman or master builder whose individual works have influenced the development of the city.*
- It represents an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the city.*
- Accessibility problems can and should be addressed. Designation does not prohibit alterations to make accommodations, as the Americans with Disabilities Act provides.*

*Thank you for your consideration,*

*Pamela Frautschi*

2430 E Newberry Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53211

**From:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Keep the Kiley Grove!  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 11:56:08 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Meagan Schultz <[meaganbschultz@gmail.com](mailto:meaganbschultz@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 26, 2019 at 11:42:39 AM CDT  
**To:** [rjbauma@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rjbauma@milwaukee.gov), [JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov](mailto:JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov), ,  
[mcoggs@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mcoggs@milwaukee.gov), [Russell.Stamper@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Russell.Stamper@milwaukee.gov),  
[Khalif.Rainey@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Khalif.Rainey@milwaukee.gov), [mayor@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mayor@milwaukee.gov),  
[chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
**Subject: Keep the Kiley Grove!**

Hello from a concerned citizen!

Please accept this email as a vote to KEEP the Dan Kiley grove in downtown Milwaukee. What a treasure we have in our city. What we need is MORE green space like this for the public to appreciate. Not LESS! And how fortunate we are to have TWO Dan Kiley designs - that bookend his career. Please do not tear this down. Let our kids enjoy this for years to come!

Many thanks,  
Meagan Schultz  
2723 E Bradford Ave

**From:** [Victoria Lang](#)  
**To:** [Perez, Jose](#); [Rainey, Khalif](#); [Stamper II, Russell](#); [Coggs, Milele](#); [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** The Marcus Center  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 10:40:14 PM

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*Gentle People,*

*I am writing to you regarding The Marcus Center. The building does not deserve Historic designation. Too much has been changed since it was built. The Marcus Center and its facility are committed to the transformative power of live visual arts. Anything that stops or limits changes that will help them deliver on that mission is unacceptable. Any additional financial burdens you impose upon them could harm the Marcus Center as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Over the course of 50 years, the Center has evolved in profound ways to reflect the collaboration, innovation and social engagement that are at the core of what they do. The facilities that they use to carry out their mission have to change as their community changes. As it celebrates its 50th Anniversary, the Center needs to be a more welcoming, inviting, open and accessible facility to truly serve Milwaukee's diverse community for the next 50 years. When built in 1969, there were no specific accommodations for persons with disabilities. In every renovation since then, the Center has added accommodations and the new plan addresses accessibility both inside and outside to better serve our patrons with disabilities.*

*Please reconsider your Permanent Historic Designation on the Marcus Center.*

*Thank you.*

*Sincerely,  
Victoria Lang*



Victoria Lang | FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER | Off Broadway Touring | 917-545-4554 |  
[Victoria@OffBroadwayTouring.com](mailto:Victoria@OffBroadwayTouring.com) | [OffBroadwayTouring.com](http://OffBroadwayTouring.com)

**From:** [phelm@wi.rr.com](mailto:phelm@wi.rr.com)  
**To:** [Perez, Jose](#); [Raine, Khalif](#); [Stamper II, Russell](#); [Coggs, Milele](#); [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Reject the HPC decision for Permanent Historic Designation on the Marcus Center  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 9:52:37 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear ZND Committee:

I was informed that the Historic Preservation Commission has imposed Permanent Historic Designation on the Marcus Center, a facility that I hold very near and dear to my heart. Specifically, from what I understand, this designation pertains to saving the tree grove adjacent to Kilbourn Avenue. While there may be significant reasoning to preserve this area of land, I'm not fully confident that this is the most intelligent or practical move in the long run. Whichever way you look at it, the imposed designation is absolutely wrong, and I would like to explain in detail why.

First and foremost, I have been a frequent patron and performer in the Marcus Center for nearly 30 years. As a young kid, I attended my sister's MYSO performances back in the "PAC" days. When I attended college at UW-Milwaukee, I also became a member of the Florentine Opera Chorus and remained on their roster for twelve years. I was Broadway Series subscriber for over ten years, witnessing some of the greatest national tours that the Marcus Center was so determined to bring to our city. And now, I make my living as a full-time Equity actor, music director and pianist, and even though I relocated to New York City in the summer of 2017, I still return to Milwaukee at least once a year to perform with First Stage Children's Theater in the Todd Wehr, or other various Marcus Center projects in Vogel Hall. As you can see, I have quite an extensive history with the Marcus Center, and have a long list of reasons why I so frequently called it "home."

For these reasons, it's imperative that the Marcus Center continues to grow as a facility to accommodate its increasing patronage. To impose Permanent Historic Designation would prevent the Marcus Center to continue with their current renovation plans -- plans that would continue to vitalize this wonderful facility and expand its already growing and necessary performing arts programming. And as the community arts center for the next 50 years, it seems almost detrimental to put such a designation on such a Milwaukee institution.

The building itself is much too young and has significant changes since it was first built, and quite frankly, anything that will limit the Marcus Center's ability to alter and further progress its facility and surrounding grounds is unacceptable, especially for the reasons I've noted above. For any business, a building needs to change as the community changes, and should this designation affect its overall patronage, and it will, adding any sort of financial implications will only harm the Marcus Center, especially as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Specifically in regards to the grove itself, I always felt it was a rather uninviting area and needed updating. It doesn't have the welcoming, sophisticated feel that the rest of the surrounding grounds do. The crowded trees only enhance a rather dark, cold, intimidating tone of it, and I truly believe that the removal and replanting of the area would only benefit the Marcus Center as a whole, especially for its fantastic outdoor programming in the summer. Furthermore, it truly is the first area of the Marcus Center that patrons see, driving up Kilbourn Avenue, and its present state is far from appealing. It needs tremendous and immediate attention, along with the fact that its current state is far from accessible to patrons with mobility limitations.

I strongly advise you reject the Permanent Historic Designation on the Marcus Center, as it is absolutely vital and critical that the Marcus Center has the 100% full ability to continue their renovation plans in order to continue to provide Milwaukee with the greatest performing arts facility in the Midwest.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at this email address or the phone number below. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Helm

--

**Paul Helm**

**414.737.3989**

**[www.paulhelm.net](http://www.paulhelm.net)**

*"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible." - Audrey Hepburn*

**From:** [Jeannette Gardner](#)  
**To:** [Perez, Jose](#); [Raine, Khalif](#); [Coggs, Milele](#); [Russell.StamperII@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Russell.StamperII@milwaukee.gov); [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#); ["John Hassig"](#); [hlofy@marcuscenter.org](mailto:hlofy@marcuscenter.org)  
**Subject:** Please allow the Marcus Center to make changes it deems necessary to move forward with future improvements!  
**Date:** Sunday, April 28, 2019 5:48:12 PM

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Dear ZND Committee members,

As a performing arts agent who has worked with the Marcus Center several times over the years and has great respect for its importance to the artistic vitality of Milwaukee, I'm adding my voice to implore you to allow the Marcus Center to go ahead with their proposed renovations and to reject the Historic Preservation Committee's objection.

**Important Points:**

- *The building does not deserve designation –too much has been changed since it was built.*
- *Marcus Center and its facility are committed to the transformative power of live visual arts. Anything that stops or limits changes that will help us deliver on this mission is unacceptable.*
- *Additional financial burdens could harm the Marcus Center as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.*
- *Over the course of 50 years, the Center has evolved in profound ways to reflect the collaboration, innovation and social engagement that are at the core of what we do. The facilities that we use to carry out our mission MUST change as our community changes.*
- *As it celebrates its 50th Anniversary, the Center needs to be a more welcoming, inviting, open and accessible facility to truly serve Milwaukee's diverse community for the next 50 years*
- *When built in 1969, there were no specific accommodations for persons with disabilities. In every renovation since then, the Center has added accommodations and the new plan addresses accessibility both inside and outside to better serve our patrons with disabilities.*

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Gardner, President

Gardner Arts Network

155 W. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, # 604

New York, NY 10023

212 496-9121 [www.gardnerartsnetwork.com](http://www.gardnerartsnetwork.com)





**From:** [Karen Hunt](#)  
**To:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [khalifRainey@milwaukee.gov](mailto:khalifRainey@milwaukee.gov); [Courtney Russell](#); [Stamper11@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Stamper11@milwaukee.gov); [Coggs, Milele](#); [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Marcus Performing Arts Renovation  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 2:58:13 PM

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Dear Alderman Bauman,

I am writing to oppose the historic designation of the Marcus Center for Performing Arts. It is an aging building with many accessibility barriers, and a permanent historic designation will cause the Marcus Center to significantly reduce or even drop their plans for renovating the existing building and grounds areas. According to the Marcus Center, the Historic Preservation Commission staff have already stated that they would oppose many of the planned renovations. The facts are quite simple – without any renovations, the Marcus Center will continue to have to deal with significant accessibility barriers for their patrons that they cannot resolve. With renovations, they are legally obligated to use up to 20% of the project funding toward accessibility improvements. Over the past several years, the Marcus Center has made incremental accessibility improvements with every renovation that they have undertaken, but more work remains to be done before the building can truly be considered inclusive and accessible for the people with disabilities within our community.

The Marcus Center has seen many changes over the years, and it cannot be considered “historic”. To formalize the historic designation would be to make permanent the barriers to accessibility.

Please oppose the historic designation for the Marcus Center.

Sincerely,

Karen Hunt

1660 N Prospect Ave., #1705

Milwaukee, WI 53202

**From:** [Curt Kluth](#)  
**To:** [Perez, Jose](#); [Rainey, Khalif](#); [Stamper II, Russell](#); [Coggs, Milele](#); [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Marcus Performing Arts Center Historic Designation  
**Date:** Sunday, April 28, 2019 12:11:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-1496233002.png](#)  
[Outlook-1517855773.png](#)

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Dear Committee Members,

It is my understanding your committee will be conducting the hearing on whether or not to reject the Permanent Historic Designation for the Marcus Performing Arts Center in a few short weeks. While tradition and legacy of the building remain important, so are the needs of continuing to culturally enhance our great city with facilities that are able to provide programming such as the Marcus Center. As part of Saz's Hospitality Group, who operates the food and beverage at multiple event spaces throughout the city, including the Marcus Center, we see the continued desire from our guests for increased and updated services & offerings.

For the 501(c)(3) Marcus Center to remain competitive in the marketplace many of the proposed upgrades are necessary. While I understand the designation will not eliminate the opportunities for these upgrades, it has been asserted that many of the key pieces of the reimagined Marcus Center would not be approved under current historic guidelines. I urge you to help the Marcus Center continue to evolve to reflect the collaboration and innovation of so many great cultural groups in Milwaukee while continuing to remain relevant for our residents that have more and more choices for entertainment, knowledge and spending their time each and every day.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, minus my college time at UW-Madison, I hold many memories growing up spending days with my grandparents at Rainbow Summer, or attending a performance in the building. Rejecting this designation will allow the building to continue to innovate and create memories for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Curt Kluth

Curt Kluth  
Partner / Chief Financial Officer  
**Saz's Hospitality Group**

5539 W State Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
O [414.256.8772](tel:414.256.8772) • C [414-617-1228](tel:414-617-1228) • F [414-875-9769](tel:414-875-9769)  
[www.sazs.com](http://www.sazs.com)

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Love brunch? We've got a brand new one! Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-2pm, Saz's State House will be making brunch lovers smile with classics like Eggs Benedict along with unique dishes like a Barbacoa Skillet and Hot Honey Chicken + Waffles! [See the whole menu here.](#)

**From:** [John Lauber](#)  
**To:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Marcus Center Renovation  
**Date:** Saturday, April 27, 2019 11:47:39 AM

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Dear Alderman Bauman;

For 20 years my business was located in your district in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward. While I sold the business 2 years ago, I am still very active and the business is still located in your district on East Wells St. 15 years ago I was diagnosed with a degenerative muscle condition known as Kennedy's Disease. I am very fortunate as this condition progresses very slowly. As the condition began to limit my mobility, I decided to use my talents in support of others with disabilities. For the past 5 years I have served as a Board Member and volunteer Treasurer of IndependenceFirst. It is in that regard that I am contacting you today.

I am writing to oppose the historic designation of the Marcus Center for Performing Arts. I have enjoyed many performances at the Marcus Center over the years but as my condition progresses I am becoming concerned my options to continue doing so will become limited. It is an aging building with many accessibility barriers, and a permanent historic designation may cause the Marcus Center to significantly reduce or even drop their plans for renovating the existing building and grounds areas. According to the Marcus Center, the Historic Preservation Commission staff have already stated that they would oppose many of the planned renovations. The facts are quite simple – without any renovations, the Marcus Center will continue to have to deal with significant accessibility barriers for their patrons that they cannot resolve. With renovations, they are legally obligated to use up to 20% of the project funding toward accessibility improvements. Over the past several years, the Marcus Center has made incremental accessibility improvements with every renovation that they have undertaken, but more work remains to be done before the building can truly be considered inclusive and accessible for the people with disabilities within our community.

Alderman Bauman, anything you can do support not only keeping The Marcus Center a treasured Milwaukee resource but a venue accessible to all will be greatly appreciated. One thing to keep in mind is we are all living longer. As a result if we are fortunate, with age we will all experience mobility issues. People in their 70's, 80's and even 90's deserve to be able to continue enjoying the arts. To do that we need an accessible Marcus Center. If you would like to learn more about this effort or IndependenceFirst, I would be happy to introduce you to Marci Boucher our new CEO. IndependenceFirst located just across the river from your district at 540 S 1st St employees over 1,300 people in its various programs. If you have time to tour their office I am confident you will walk away impressed by this marvelous resource for the people disabilities in our community.

Kind regards,

**John Lauber**

Founder

**Lauber Business Partners**

924 East Wells St. Suite 408

Milwaukee, WI 53202

[John.Lauber@Lauber-Partners.com](mailto:John.Lauber@Lauber-Partners.com)

T [\(414\) 273-9980](tel:(414)273-9980)

M [\(414\) 975-4180](tel:(414)975-4180)



**From:** [John Lauber](#)  
**To:** [Hamilton, Ashanti](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Marcus Center Renovation  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 4:09:54 PM

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Dear Alderperson Hamilton;

We have met through my role as the Part-time CFO of NWSCDC. Something you may not know is I suffer from a degenerative muscle condition known as Kennedy's Disease. I am very fortunate as this condition progresses very slowly. As the condition began to limit my mobility, I decided to use my talents in support of others with disabilities. For the past 5 years I have served as a Board Member and volunteer Treasurer of IndependenceFirst. It is in that regard that I am contacting you today.

I am writing to oppose the historic designation of the Marcus Center for Performing Arts. It is an aging building with many accessibility barriers, and a permanent historic designation may cause the Marcus Center to significantly reduce or even drop their plans for renovating the existing building and grounds areas. According to the Marcus Center, the Historic Preservation Commission staff have already stated that they would oppose many of the planned renovations. The facts are quite simple – without any renovations, the Marcus Center will continue to have to deal with significant accessibility barriers for their patrons that they cannot resolve. With renovations, they are legally obligated to use up to 20% of the project funding toward accessibility improvements. Over the past several years, the Marcus Center has made incremental accessibility improvements with every renovation that they have undertaken, but more work remains to be done before the building can truly be considered inclusive and accessible for the people with disabilities within our community.

Ashanti, anything you can do support not only keeping The Marcus Center a Milwaukee resource to be treasured but a venue accessible to all will be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to learn more about this effort or IndependenceFirst, I would be happy to introduce you to Marci Boucher our new CEO. IndependenceFirst employees over 1,300 people in its various programs. If you have time to tour their office at 540 S 1st St I am confident you will walk away impressed by this marvelous resource for the people disabilities in our community,

Kind regards,

**John Lauber**

Founder

**Lauber Business Partners**

924 East Wells St. Suite 408  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

[John.Lauber@Lauber-Partners.com](mailto:John.Lauber@Lauber-Partners.com)

T [\(414\) 273-9980](tel:(414)273-9980)

M [\(414\) 975-4180](tel:(414)975-4180)



**From:** [Jerry Mc Closkey](#)  
**To:** [Perez, Jose](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Marcus Center for Performing Arts  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 3:23:26 PM

---

Dear Alderperson Perez;

I am writing to oppose the historic designation of the Marcus Center for Performing Arts. It is an aging building with many accessibility barriers and a permanent historic designation will cause the Marcus Center to significantly reduce or even drop their plans for renovating the existing building and grounds areas. According to the Marcus Center, the Historic Preservation Commission staff have already stated that they would oppose many of the planned renovations. The facts are quite simple - without any renovations, the Marcus Center will continue to have to deal with significant accessibility barriers for their patrons that they cannot resolve. With renovations, they are legally obligated to use up to 20% of the project funding toward accessibility improvements. Over the past several years, the Marcus Center has made incremental accessibility improvements with every renovation that they have undertaken, but more work remains to be done before the building can truly be considered inclusive and accessible for the people with disabilities within our community.

The Marcus Center has seen many changes over the years, and it cannot be considered "historic". To formalize the historic designation would be to make permanent the barriers to accessibility.

Please oppose the historic designation for the Marcus Center.

Jerry McCloskey

**From:** [Tom Rave](#)  
**To:** [Bauman, Robert](#); [Coggs, Milele](#); [JoseGPerez@milwaukee.gov](mailto:JoseGPerez@milwaukee.gov); [Rainey, Khalif](#); [Stamper II, Russell](#)  
**Cc:** [Lee, Chris](#); [Marci Boucher](#)  
**Subject:** Marcus Center for Performing Arts Accessibility  
**Date:** Sunday, April 28, 2019 10:03:37 PM

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Dear Alderpersons Bauman, Coggs, Perez, Rainey and Stamper,

I am a director plus executive and finance committees member of IndependenceFirst, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose vision is full inclusion of people with disabilities in every aspect of our community.

The Marcus Center building has had many changes over the years such that the Center no longer could carry any particular historic or architectural significance. Some of the changes have improved accessibility for people with disabilities that are required by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Dan Kiley-designed sunken garden with gravel, low benches and chestnut trees is the feature that drove the historic designation by the Historic Preservation Committee. As was commented at the HPC meeting by people with disabilities, that garden is not accessible to people with wheel chairs and others who suffer instability when trying to navigate the area.

The proposed building and landscape plans for the redevelopment of the whole Marcus Center facility align with one of Dan Kiley's key principles – "to reconnect human beings with their space on their land". The new design would make the grove and surrounding areas accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities.

I think that accessibility by human beings is a higher priority than preservation of trees in a sunken gravel garden that is inaccessible to people with disabilities - which accessibility is required under the ADA. Further, more accessibility changes at the Center are planned and then having to get the approval of the Commission for all external changes, even though they would not affect the garden, would slow the process and increase administrative expenses.

I oppose the permanent historic designation by the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) of the Marcus Center for Performing Arts and ask that the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee not accept or confirm that designation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Rave  
Brookfield, WI



Dear Appeals Committee,

Please accept this letter as my official statement on the matter of Local Landmark Designation of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts building and surrounding site.

As background, I was appointed to Milwaukee's Historic Preservation Commission by Mayor John Norquist in 1993. In 26 years of service, I have participated in a variety of historic preservation decisions, large and small. In that time, I have seen many great heritage places fought for and saved. Those actions have placed Milwaukee in an important position as an American city that is proud of its past, values its remaining historic landmarks, and works hard to protect vulnerable heritage assets.

In those years, I have also witnessed the removal or modification of many valuable heritage places. I haven't always agreed with the removal or changes, but in all cases, decisions were made in a public forum with stakeholders testifying on both sides, followed by open and honest discussion.

As coordinator of the Historic Preservation program at UWM's School of Architecture, for the past 20 years I've offered a course titled *Introduction to Historic Preservation*. Students learn about the great monuments in Milwaukee that were lost to demolition in the 60's, 70's and 80's – like the Chicago Northwestern Train Station, the Plankinton Mansion, and the Milwaukee Road Depot. My message to the students is that that era, prior to the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act and the subsequent US supreme court decisions upholding the authority of local commissions, is over. We are now in an era of open discussion that demands that they, as future designers and visionaries, be responsible for making the case to the community for building retention and appropriate modifications. Transparency and openness about changes to heritage places is now the norm in Milwaukee as with most other American cities.

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Complex is a great heritage asset for Milwaukee, easily deserving local listing as illustrated by staff. If this great building and adjoining site are denied listing, we will officially foreclose on the opportunity to publicly discuss modifications and changes. We will be revisiting the past, where a small group of men decided the fate of our irreplaceable heritage landmarks.

Therefore, I very strongly urge this committee to support placement of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and its adjoining site on the local register. Making modifications and updates, as with all great historic buildings, is expected. And, as witnessed through the activities of local historic preservation commission across the country, the best results will be achieved through open and transparent public discourse.

Matthew Thomas Jarosz  
commissioner, Historic Preservation Commission  
4/28/19

**Statement of Sally Peltz**  
**RE: Historic Designation of the Performing Arts Center**

**Vice Chair**  
**Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission**

Date: April 29, 2019

I am vice chair of the Historic Preservation Commission. I strongly support historic designation of the Performing Arts Center (PAC).

There seems to be considerable confusion about this issue. The only issue before the Common Council at this point is whether the PAC qualifies for historic designation under the historic preservation ordinance which sets forth several criteria for designation. There is little question in my judgment that the PAC qualifies for historic designation under this criteria.

The major point of contention appears to be whether historic designation will impede the implementation of alterations and improvements at the PAC.

As the Common Council is aware, if the PAC receives historic designation, proposed alterations and additions would require approval from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and possibly the council if there is an appeal from any HPC decision. This process would provide oversight of decisions to alter or change the PAC buildings and grounds including possible removal of the trees. This oversight would enable the public to weigh in at public hearings. There would be transparency and an open process which I would think every citizen of Milwaukee County would welcome since the PAC is a public building owned by the people. The people would have a voice which I think is a good thing.

Finally there is nothing in this process that would preclude the PAC from making their facilities or grounds more accessible to the disabled. Historic buildings undergo alternations all the time to improve accessibility. Such alternations are routinely approved by the HPC.

In summary I urge the committee to recommend historic designation to the full council since the PAC meets the criteria established by the ordinance and there is a need for transparency and public input concerning any proposed changes and alterations to the PAC.

Sally Peltz

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear members of the ZND Committee,

I am inclined to write this letter today because I feel the need to voice my dissatisfaction with the proposed changes to the iconic Kiley Horse-Chestnut Tree Grove located next to the Marcus Center for Performing Arts in downtown Milwaukee, WI. I am a practicing landscape architect in the Milwaukee area and moved here from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area a few years ago. I'm learning more and more about Milwaukee every day during my lunch time walks that include visits to the grove as well as to other small park oases in the urban jungle. I admire the amazing architectural gems that have been preserved over the years as well as the public plazas and green spaces that allow for pleasing lunch hour breaks. It is nice to see how much has been saved! However, as in most urban centers, the green spaces are few and precious and deserve our attention too.

The Kiley grove is especially unique because of the enclosed feel of the canopy of mature horse chestnut trees over plentiful seating in an open, yet sheltered space. It's a nice place to enter and escape from the big city. Of course, due to lack of proper maintenance over the years, it could use some improvements and upgrades. It looks *like there were once tree up-lights in the gravel and, it would be nice if there were* more seating options such as benches with arm rests and backs for people who need more support. It would also be easy enough to make it ADA accessible with a few tuck-in ramps and regrading of the gravel for wheelchair use.

The overall space is welcoming and I appreciate that there aren't corporate sponsor labels on anything. However, there is one thing that needs to change right away. Why are there luxury cars placed around the large fountain on the east end of the plaza space? Is it a car lot? I don't believe famed landscape architect, Dan Kiley, envisioned his plaza park to hold cars for sale. It seems like a blatant capitalist endeavor that does not belong in this park space and should be moved elsewhere.

In conclusion, I personally would hate to see the grove torn down and replaced by a wide open generic lawn space to most likely be used for private events with tents. As a landscape architect and lunch time visitor, I know we can do better. We need to listen to our public users and design a space that is welcome for all - including people who do not have deep pockets.

Sincerely,



Dana Schumacher, PLA, ASLA

**From:** [Angela Quigley](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Kiley Chestnut Tree Grove - Please Preserve  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019 2:16:57 PM

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Hi Members of the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee:

I wanted to explicitly express my support to establish the historic designation of the Kiley Chestnut Tree Grove next to the Marcus Center. Please don't allow these trees to be removed!

Milwaukee should work to maintain and add green spaces, not remove them. Furthermore, this space being **designed by the nationally renowned landscape architect Dan Kiley** -- it is simply not just a bunch of trees, but a work of art and a shaded nature respite in an area of downtown that lacks tree spaces.

Thank you.

--

Angela Quigley  
414-405-3845

**From:** [Susan Scot Fry](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Support for the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts appeal against historical status designation  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019 11:40:00 AM

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Dear Staff Assistant Lee,

I have recently sent the following email to several of the Aldermen and Alderwomen involved in reviewing the actions described in the subject line. I would appreciate if you would include the official record of the meeting. Thank you.

My name is Susan Fry and I'm the Executive Director of Optimist Theatre, producers of Milwaukee's free Shakespeare in the Park. I'm writing in support of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

My perspectives are a unique blend. Professionally, as a Resident Partner with the Marcus Center. Personally, I am a resident in the Brewer's Hill neighborhood historic district.

My 147 year-old home is not just a residence. I feel a strong sense of stewardship to preserve the home, the neighborhood, and how it visually and architecturally represents the rich heritage of Milwaukee. I am proud of this and take it very seriously.

As a Resident Partner with the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, I have seen and experienced the depth of character, care, and vision represented by the staff. As I combine my perspectives and experiences, I must say that I am 100% in support of the assertion that the Marcus Center and grounds do not warrant historical status.

Yes, there is deep history there. The history is represented by their commitment to programming and to their outreach to ensure that great art is available to all walks of life. I've found them to be caring stewards of their building and grounds as it's evolved over time. The proposals they've made are exciting to me as a founder of a professional arts organization. They are also in keeping with my commitment to preserve our history.

And yet, I do not believe that historical status is warranted. The building and grounds are not their original configuration. In keeping with the Marcus Center staff's commitment for the arts and downtown aesthetic offerings, they have thoughtfully evolved those grounds and buildings over their 50 years, least of which is that they are ADA accessible.

Our missions dovetail. Shakespeare in the Park is free to see but far from free to

produce. It exists to serve the greater good, to bring people from our segregated city together for a shared experience. The support we've received from the Marcus Center has enabled us to jump from an average of 2,000 people per season to over 3,500. Their proposed upgrades to the grounds will enable us to reach and deliver a quality production like never before. Without them, we will have maximized our potential to connect with the citizens of the greater Milwaukee area. This is something that our little company and the Marcus Center have in common.

My personal home requires a financial outlay for maintenance that is slightly higher than a home that is not designated as historical. The same would happen with the Marcus Center thus effectively placing limits on their outreach and community support.

In order to keep up with the evolving demands of our audiences, and to be a vital part of the downtown Milwaukee renaissance, they need to be able to act both quickly and conscientiously. Over the years, they have proven their commitment to this higher purpose.

There are several Marcus Center proposals for evolution that will directly impact our ability to deliver on the right the people of our community have to the transformative powers of theatre. In particular:

- Outdoor projected signage. This is a large ticket item for a disposal resource that Optimist Theatre expends every season. Utilizing the proposed signage will enable us to re-direct those funds to our number one line item – employment. Since Optimist Theatre only hires local cast, crew and vendors, that money goes directly back into the local economy.
- Sound system expansion. Currently, Shakespeare in the Park can effectively reach audience members located within the physical bounds of the Peck Pavilion. With the proposed sound system enhancements, we will be able to create a quality experience for a much larger population. It is one of the only ways we can evolve to meet the growing demands of the greater Milwaukee area on accessibility to our performances.
- Green space. Optimist Theatre expends a great deal on community outreach. When we are able to successfully entice our fellows from the inner city to make the trek downtown – no mean feat – we have to deliver. A green space is a much more attractive and welcoming setting than the grove.

I was raised by a mother who was an avid gardener. Truly astounding work so I have a deep appreciation for plant life. As such, I also feel strongly that letting the sun shine in to an area planted with trees is better for the trees than the deep shade now cast by the chestnut trees.

In conclusion, please accept my support as one of the voices of the people of Milwaukee and as a representative for the arts and history.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Susan Fry  
Executive Director, Optimist Theatre  
Proud Brewer's Hill Historic District Homeowner

Susan Scot Fry  
Executive Director  
Optimist Theatre - Shakespeare in the Park  
[www.FreeShakespeareInThePark.org](http://www.FreeShakespeareInThePark.org)  
262-498-5777  
SSFry@OptimistTheatre.org

Let's celebrate a milestone! **2019 will mark the 10th anniversary of Shakespeare in the Park!**  
Join us from June 25th through July 13th of 2019 for the delightful comedy, *The Comedy of Errors*.  
Shakespeare in the Park is sponsored by the [Isabel and Alfred Bader Fund](#) and the Gerda A  
Debelak Fund via the [Greater Milwaukee Foundation](#)

**From:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Stately Chestnut trees  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019 9:33:03 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Ruland <[judithr0130@gmail.com](mailto:judithr0130@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 29, 2019 at 7:22:33 PM CDT  
**To:** [rjbauma@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rjbauma@milwaukee.gov), [JoseGPerez@Milwaukee.gov](mailto:JoseGPerez@Milwaukee.gov),  
[mcoggs@Milwaukee.gov](mailto:mcoggs@Milwaukee.gov), [Russell.Stamper@Milwaukee.gov](mailto:Russell.Stamper@Milwaukee.gov),  
[Khalif.Rainey@Milwaukee.gov](mailto:Khalif.Rainey@Milwaukee.gov)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Stately Chestnut trees

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Ruland <[judithr0130@gmail.com](mailto:judithr0130@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 29, 2019 at 7:06:47 PM CDT  
**To:** [chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Stately Chestnut trees

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Ruland <[judithr0130@gmail.com](mailto:judithr0130@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 29, 2019 at 7:00:28 PM CDT  
**To:** [chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
**Cc:** [margareteharvey@wi.rr.com](mailto:margareteharvey@wi.rr.com),  
[andrea.bryant@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.bryant@gmail.com), Chris Lese  
<[kimlese@att.net](mailto:kimlese@att.net)>, Brenda Rosin-Schaff  
<[wildcatcreekfarm@gmail.com](mailto:wildcatcreekfarm@gmail.com)>,  
[lisa.bro@hotmail.com](mailto:lisa.bro@hotmail.com), [sbryant3@wi.rr.com](mailto:sbryant3@wi.rr.com),  
[bloomingj@hotmail.com](mailto:bloomingj@hotmail.com), [marykberger@att.net](mailto:marykberger@att.net),  
[bettya@heritageflowerfarm.com](mailto:bettya@heritageflowerfarm.com), Barbara Brown  
Lee <[Barbara.BrownLee@mam.org](mailto:Barbara.BrownLee@mam.org)>,  
[rosbal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosbal@sbcglobal.net), [brigid.globensky@mam.org](mailto:brigid.globensky@mam.org),  
[amy.kirschke@mam.org](mailto:amy.kirschke@mam.org), [cers39@aol.com](mailto:cers39@aol.com),



[charlottecastleberry@yahoo.com](mailto:charlottecastleberry@yahoo.com),  
[cmrestan@hotmail.com](mailto:cmrestan@hotmail.com), [nacody2011@gmail.com](mailto:nacody2011@gmail.com),  
[texgirl@wi.rr.com](mailto:texgirl@wi.rr.com), [kincaica@gmail.com](mailto:kincaica@gmail.com), Jule Groh  
<[jule6553@gmail.com](mailto:jule6553@gmail.com)>, [rubyckerr@gmail.com](mailto:rubyckerr@gmail.com),  
[debra.s.koenig@gmail.com](mailto:debra.s.koenig@gmail.com), Karen Thaker  
<[kthaker@wi.rr.com](mailto:kthaker@wi.rr.com)>, [kempergill@gmail.com](mailto:kempergill@gmail.com),  
[keeplaughing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keeplaughing@sbcglobal.net),  
[lkc.couture@gmail.com](mailto:lkc.couture@gmail.com), [debralmiller@hotmail.com](mailto:debralmiller@hotmail.com),  
[quilt44@hotmail.com](mailto:quilt44@hotmail.com), [erstern44@gmail.com](mailto:erstern44@gmail.com),  
[teenaplannerstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:teenaplannerstudio@yahoo.com),  
[sybille1@earthlink.net](mailto:sybille1@earthlink.net), Suzie Hanks  
<[suzie.hanks@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.hanks@gmail.com)>,  
[marcie.hoffman@mam.org](mailto:marcie.hoffman@mam.org),  
[packermom22@aol.com](mailto:packermom22@aol.com), Liz Joehnk  
<[ejoehnk@aol.com](mailto:ejoehnk@aol.com)>, [nancy@matthisen.com](mailto:nancy@matthisen.com),  
[mages222@yahoo.com](mailto:mages222@yahoo.com), [patnetzow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patnetzow@sbcglobal.net),  
[nicholassunset@yahoo.com](mailto:nicholassunset@yahoo.com), [ntawney@aol.com](mailto:ntawney@aol.com),  
[scharner4312@gmail.com](mailto:scharner4312@gmail.com), [claudia@rovens.com](mailto:claudia@rovens.com),  
[ttwinkel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttwinkel@sbcglobal.net), [trs2040@gmail.com](mailto:trs2040@gmail.com),  
[sk8trmom@yahoo.com](mailto:sk8trmom@yahoo.com), Will Radler  
<[radlerwj@gmail.com](mailto:radlerwj@gmail.com)>, [jwintersberger@wi.rr.com](mailto:jwintersberger@wi.rr.com)  
**Subject: Stately Chestnut trees**

As a concerned member of the Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club and proud resident of Milwaukee as well as lifelong supporter of the arts in our city I want to state the urgency of preserving the treasure of these trees and their value to our community. Milwaukee is so fortunate to enjoy this mature garden in an overly paved urban environment. Truly a respite on a steamy summer day to rest and cool off while "brown bagging it" or just savoring nature's gift in all it's glory. Dan Kiley's garden designs are treasures that increase in beauty as they continue to mature. What an incomparable enhancement to the Marcus Center. In this age of the threat of changing climate, the peril of ever decreasing air quality and the loss of places of green refuge in our cities, we cannot afford the short sighted and regrettable decision to remove these beautiful trees. Only the uninformed could consider such a decision. There is no getting them back once they are gone. Please. Please know that we must preserve this treasured place. We must all make our voices heard, and quickly, to save this Dan Kiley treasure.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Kiley Chestnut Grove  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019 10:27:27 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Valerie Brumder <[viipiib@gmail.com](mailto:viipiib@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 28, 2019 at 4:22:29 PM CDT  
**To:** [rjbauma@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rjbauma@milwaukee.gov)  
**Subject:** Kiley Chestnut Grove

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- honoring prominent landscape architect Dan Kiley
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**From:** Brenda Rosin-Schaff <[wildcatcreekfarm@gmail.com](mailto:wildcatcreekfarm@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 29, 2019 at 8:50:04 PM CDT  
**To:** [rjbauma@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rjbauma@milwaukee.gov), [JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov](mailto:JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov),  
[Russell.Stamper@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Russell.Stamper@milwaukee.gov), [Khalif.Rainey@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Khalif.Rainey@milwaukee.gov),  
[mcoggs@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mcoggs@milwaukee.gov), [mayor@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mayor@milwaukee.gov),  
[chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
**Subject: Dan Kiley Landscape Architect**

Dear Elected Officials,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the public space designed by the notable Dan Kiley. If you are not aware, due to lack of interest in horticulture and art, knowledge of Public Green Space importance, or simply motivated by new development, I urge you to take the time to educate yourself on the significant contribution of a man whose work is known around the world. Losing this living art would be a terrible insult and would not go unnoticed, especially as Milwaukee will be hosting the National Garden Federation Convention in 2020, where places of this magnitude will be a highlight. A city such as Milwaukee needs to keep these types of green respite and not disregard their value. There certainly must be ways to compromise the desire to enhance the Marcus property, while leaving this particular treasure intact. Certainly a movie screen does not hold the same value and could easily be put in a different location, if needed at all. After all, it is Wisconsin and how many months would it actually get used? Think of the additional crime that could potentially increase in changing this location. It enhances the Riverwalk.

I worked in the office building across from this location for many years and found it a respite from a very stressful job. Being able to have a place like that cannot be duplicated. We need trees for emotional well being, especially in an environment heavy with concrete structures, pavement, etc.

Again, I request that you listen closely to the arguments and pleas of the majority of people that elected you rather than seeing only from new development for this particular space.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Rosin-Schaff

Statement of Marion Clendenen-Acosta

**Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Permanent Historic Designation**

April 30, 2019

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts holds many special memories for me; whether performing at Rainbow Summer, working with students at City Ballet Theatre's summer camp, dancing for many seasons in Vogel Hall or enjoying quiet moments in the chestnut grove.

At the same time, as a practicing architect, I consider the bigger picture of what the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts means to the heritage of the City of Milwaukee. Four criteria for permanent historic designation of this cultural amenity have been set forth; all of which have clearly been met.

As outlined in the preservation guidelines for the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts study report, permanent designation does not preclude consideration of proposals for renovations of the facilities. Similarly, designation would not impede changes needed to meet accessibility requirements at the chestnut grove. As standard process, renovations to designated properties would come before the Historic Preservation Commission for review. Additionally, permanent designation will preserve the right of the public to have a voice and to be included in the open discourse regarding modifications proposed to this public amenity.

Based on all this, I am in full support of permanent historic designation of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts facilities and grounds, including the chestnut grove and urge passing of this measure.

Marion Clendenen-Acosta, AIA

Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission, Chair

**Statement of Sally Peltz**  
**RE: Historic Designation of the Performing Arts Center**

**Vice Chair**  
**Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission**

Date: April 29, 2019

I am vice chair of the Historic Preservation Commission. I strongly support historic designation of the Performing Arts Center (PAC).

There seems to be considerable confusion about this issue. The only issue before the Common Council at this point is whether the PAC qualifies for historic designation under the historic preservation ordinance which sets forth several criteria for designation. There is little question in my judgment that the PAC qualifies for historic designation under this criteria.

The major point of contention appears to be whether historic designation will impede the implementation of alterations and improvements at the PAC.

As the Common Council is aware, if the PAC receives historic designation, proposed alterations and additions would require approval from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and possibly the council if there is an appeal from any HPC decision. This process would provide oversight of decisions to alter or change the PAC buildings and grounds including possible removal of the trees. This oversight would enable the public to weigh in at public hearings. There would be transparency and an open process which I would think every citizen of Milwaukee County would welcome since the PAC is a public building owned by the people. The people would have a voice which I think is a good thing.

Finally there is nothing in this process that would preclude the PAC from making their facilities or grounds more accessible to the disabled. Historic buildings undergo alternations all the time to improve accessibility. Such alternations are routinely approved by the HPC.

In summary I urge the committee to recommend historic designation to the full council since the PAC meets the criteria established by the ordinance and there is a need for transparency and public input concerning any proposed changes and alterations to the PAC.

Sally Peltz

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear members of the ZND Committee,

I am inclined to write this letter today because I feel the need to voice my dissatisfaction with the proposed changes to the iconic Kiley Horse-Chestnut Tree Grove located next to the Marcus Center for Performing Arts in downtown Milwaukee, WI. I am a practicing landscape architect in the Milwaukee area and moved here from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area a few years ago. I'm learning more and more about Milwaukee every day during my lunch time walks that include visits to the grove as well as to other small park oases in the urban jungle. I admire the amazing architectural gems that have been preserved over the years as well as the public plazas and green spaces that allow for pleasing lunch hour breaks. It is nice to see how much has been saved! However, as in most urban centers, the green spaces are few and precious and deserve our attention too.

The Kiley grove is especially unique because of the enclosed feel of the canopy of mature horse chestnut trees over plentiful seating in an open, yet sheltered space. It's a nice place to enter and escape from the big city. Of course, due to lack of proper maintenance over the years, it could use some improvements and upgrades. It looks *like there were once tree up-lights in the gravel and, it would be nice if there were* more seating options such as benches with arm rests and backs for people who need more support. It would also be easy enough to make it ADA accessible with a few tuck-in ramps and regrading of the gravel for wheelchair use.

The overall space is welcoming and I appreciate that there aren't corporate sponsor labels on anything. However, there is one thing that needs to change right away. Why are there luxury cars placed around the large fountain on the east end of the plaza space? Is it a car lot? I don't believe famed landscape architect, Dan Kiley, envisioned his plaza park to hold cars for sale. It seems like a blatant capitalist endeavor that does not belong in this park space and should be moved elsewhere.

In conclusion, I personally would hate to see the grove torn down and replaced by a wide open generic lawn space to most likely be used for private events with tents. As a landscape architect and lunch time visitor, I know we can do better. We need to listen to our public users and design a space that is welcome for all - including people who do not have deep pockets.

Sincerely,



Dana Schumacher, PLA, ASLA



**From:** [Angela Quigley](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Kiley Chestnut Tree Grove - Please Preserve  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019 2:16:57 PM

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Hi Members of the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee:

I wanted to explicitly express my support to establish the historic designation of the Kiley Chestnut Tree Grove next to the Marcus Center. Please don't allow these trees to be removed!

Milwaukee should work to maintain and add green spaces, not remove them. Furthermore, this space being **designed by the nationally renowned landscape architect Dan Kiley** -- it is simply not just a bunch of trees, but a work of art and a shaded nature respite in an area of downtown that lacks tree spaces.

Thank you.

--

Angela Quigley  
414-405-3845

**From:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Stately Chestnut trees  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019 9:33:03 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Ruland <[judithr0130@gmail.com](mailto:judithr0130@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 29, 2019 at 7:22:33 PM CDT  
**To:** [rjbauma@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rjbauma@milwaukee.gov), [JoseGPerez@Milwaukee.gov](mailto:JoseGPerez@Milwaukee.gov),  
[mcoggs@Milwaukee.gov](mailto:mcoggs@Milwaukee.gov), [Russell.Stamper@Milwaukee.gov](mailto:Russell.Stamper@Milwaukee.gov),  
[Khalif.Rainey@Milwaukee.gov](mailto:Khalif.Rainey@Milwaukee.gov)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Stately Chestnut trees

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Ruland <[judithr0130@gmail.com](mailto:judithr0130@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 29, 2019 at 7:06:47 PM CDT  
**To:** [chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Stately Chestnut trees

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Ruland <[judithr0130@gmail.com](mailto:judithr0130@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 29, 2019 at 7:00:28 PM CDT  
**To:** [chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
**Cc:** [margareteharvey@wi.rr.com](mailto:margareteharvey@wi.rr.com),  
[andrea.bryant@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.bryant@gmail.com), Chris Lese  
<[kimlese@att.net](mailto:kimlese@att.net)>, Brenda Rosin-Schaff  
<[wildcatcreekfarm@gmail.com](mailto:wildcatcreekfarm@gmail.com)>,  
[lisa.bro@hotmail.com](mailto:lisa.bro@hotmail.com), [sbryant3@wi.rr.com](mailto:sbryant3@wi.rr.com),  
[bloomingj@hotmail.com](mailto:bloomingj@hotmail.com), [marykberger@att.net](mailto:marykberger@att.net),  
[bettya@heritageflowerfarm.com](mailto:bettya@heritageflowerfarm.com), Barbara Brown  
Lee <[Barbara.BrownLee@mam.org](mailto:Barbara.BrownLee@mam.org)>,  
[rosbal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosbal@sbcglobal.net), [brigid.globensky@mam.org](mailto:brigid.globensky@mam.org),  
[amy.kirschke@mam.org](mailto:amy.kirschke@mam.org), [cers39@aol.com](mailto:cers39@aol.com),

[charlottecastleberry@yahoo.com](mailto:charlottecastleberry@yahoo.com),  
[cmrestan@hotmail.com](mailto:cmrestan@hotmail.com), [nacody2011@gmail.com](mailto:nacody2011@gmail.com),  
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[packermom22@aol.com](mailto:packermom22@aol.com), Liz Joehnk  
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**Subject:** Fwd: Kiley Chestnut Grove  
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[mcoggs@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mcoggs@milwaukee.gov), [mayor@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mayor@milwaukee.gov),  
[chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:chris.abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
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Again, I request that you listen closely to the arguments and pleas of the majority of people that elected you rather than seeing only from new development for this particular space.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Rosin-Schaff

Statement of Marion Clendenen-Acosta

**Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Permanent Historic Designation**

April 30, 2019

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At the same time, as a practicing architect, I consider the bigger picture of what the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts means to the heritage of the City of Milwaukee. Four criteria for permanent historic designation of this cultural amenity have been set forth; all of which have clearly been met.

As outlined in the preservation guidelines for the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts study report, permanent designation does not preclude consideration of proposals for renovations of the facilities. Similarly, designation would not impede changes needed to meet accessibility requirements at the chestnut grove. As standard process, renovations to designated properties would come before the Historic Preservation Commission for review. Additionally, permanent designation will preserve the right of the public to have a voice and to be included in the open discourse regarding modifications proposed to this public amenity.

Based on all this, I am in full support of permanent historic designation of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts facilities and grounds, including the chestnut grove and urge passing of this measure.

Marion Clendenen-Acosta, AIA

Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission, Chair



**From:** [Dawn McCarthy](#)  
**To:** [Hamilton, Ashanti](#); [Johnson, Cavalier](#); [Kovac, Nik](#); [Bauman, Robert](#); [Dodd, Nikiya](#); [Coggs, Milele](#); [Rainey, Khalif](#); [Donovan, Robert](#); [Lewis, Chantia](#); [Murphy, Michael \(Alderman\)](#); [Borkowski, Mark](#); [Perez, Jose](#); [Witkowski, Terry](#); [Zielinski, Tony](#); [Stamper II, Russell](#); [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Milwaukee Preservation Alliance - Please support File #181570/Marcus Center Designation  
**Date:** Monday, May 06, 2019 5:21:15 PM

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May 6, 2019

Dear Milwaukee Alderwomen and Alderman,

We are writing to you today to ask for your support for Resolution #181570 at the May 7th Common Council meeting. The resolution would landmark the Dan Kiley Horse Chestnut Grove and the Harry Weese Marcus Center of the Performing Arts.

Milwaukee Preservation Alliance is a nonprofit organization. We advocate that protecting buildings and sites of special architectural character or special historical interest is valuable to the community for cultural as well as economic and environmental reasons.

Dan Kiley and Harry Weese may not be well known locally but both are internationally recognized, respected and awarded architects. Harry Weese has been described as the architect that shaped Chicago's skyline. He is also the noted architect of the Washington D.C. metro system. Daniel Kiley was awarded with the National Medal of Arts in 1997. (The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government.)

Our concern is that the significance of this site is being overlooked. Protecting meaningful works such as this is declared a matter of public policy and a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety, and welfare of the people according to state statute. The statute goes on to say that the policy will "Stabilize and improve property values, Foster civic pride in the beauty and noble accomplishments of the past" and "Protect and enhance the city attractions to residents, tourists and visitors, and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry".

The Marcus Center has been shown to meet four criteria for designation according to the City's preservation ordinance. Designation provides guidance on future development in order to protect important characteristics that give a sense of the architects' work and of their time period.

Landmarking is a very important function provided by the City. We are discouraged to see the myth that designation prevents making buildings ADA accessible perpetuated, serving to politicize this important function. Marcus Center had a plan to create accessibility in 2011. The plan preserved Dan Kiley's design but the Marcus Center failed to implement the plan. There are a number of ways to provide accessibility to the grove as many architects have testified. Accessibility can and should be provided.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dawn McCarthy

(C) 414-520-5191  
Interim Executive Director  
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance  
PO Box 510642  
Milwaukee, WI 53203