

Elmer, Linda

From: Lori Caterini <lcaterini@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2019 10:57 PM
To: Elmer, Linda
Subject: Support Letter for Historic Designation of Marcus Center

February 3, 2019

TO: City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission

Zeidler Municipal Building
841 N. Broadway, Room B-1
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express appreciation for Dan Kiley's horse chestnut grove at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. I believe that granting historic designation of this site will raise awareness of its significance and power.

I became aware of Dan Kiley's grove by chance after attending a Shakespeare in the Park performance two years ago at Peck Pavilion. After the play, my friends and I made our way to this grove and spent some time there. I knew nothing about the grove or who designed the space until much later. Enfolded within a forest in Downtown Milwaukee, I felt the hush of nature and the peacefulness of a church. The grove felt enchanted. Spending time there was my most vivid memory of the evening.

I urge everyone involved with making decisions about this site to consider Dan Kiley's grove an artistic treasure. Preserving Dan Kiley's grove would not conflict with the Marcus Center's goals to reach diverse audiences, highlight many artistic forms and increase revenue. As a registered art therapist and installation artist, I feel that people continuously connect to the world through all their senses. Landscape architecture is especially relevant and valuable as an art form because of its accessibility for all, including those just happening to pass by a space as magical as this grove.

I hope Dan Kiley's grove will continue to be a gift to us all.

Lori Caterini
3859 North Humboldt Blvd., #6
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Elmer, Linda

From: Stephanie Van Alyea <sfvaquirk@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2019 9:51 PM
To: Elmer, Linda
Cc: Historic Preservation Commission
Subject: Support FOR the historic designation of the Dan Wiley landscape and the Harry Weese Building.
Attachments: Appl for Temporary.pdf; Attachments 1.pdf

Dear Commission,

I support the historic designation of the Dan Wiley landscape and the Harry Weese Building. The city of Milwaukee is so fortunate to have examples of this architecture and landscape architecture. It is important to maintain and preserve them for generations to come.

They represent a time period when the community came together in admiration of modern design and represent the era in which they were created.

They have become beloved and important public monuments for Milwaukee. Recognizable for design relevance and what they stand for. Together they speak proudly for public admiration of art and performing art. Their survival matters. Please designate these important cultural monuments as historic and preserve them for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Van Alyea

Application and article by Mary Louise Schumacher for the milwaukee Journal Sentinel attached below



February 03, 2019

Historic Preservation Commission
via email: hpc@milwaukee.gov; lelmer@milwaukee.gov

THE KILEY GROVE AT THE MARCUS CENTER

The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago.

This proverb, in various forms, is repeated in indigenous cultures around the world. The Japanese carpenters who rebuild the shrines at Ise extend that to 60 year period. The temple monks in the mountains and hills of China think in hundreds of years. Yet, for most situations, twenty years is the period of time where trees begin to mature in a way that they fulfill their spatial and ecological functions in urban landscapes.

Make no mistake. Removal of the Kiley Grove is not only a desecration of a masterwork, but it is setting the clock back on a mature landscape that will burden the site with an adolescent space for decades. The architect, Jim Shields, and the project leadership understand that there is a durable investment in the Marcus Center's Harry Weese building. Therefore, the work on the building is to adapt, rejuvenate, and tinker with an existing work.

Why do the architects not give the same respect to the landscape?

The Kiley Grove has strong conceptual and spatial integrity as does the Harry Weese building. The building deserves respectful new interventions and those proposed are intelligent and well-considered - for instance, the transparent glazing (the equivalent of which is to crown thin, crown lift, and prune the horsechestnuts to increase light and lateral visibility).

The grove deserves the same.

The decision to remove the grove reveals that the architect lacks similar creativity, intelligence, sophistication, and nuance that is granted the building. Only those unencumbered by talent would not be up to the worthy challenge to revitalize a masterwork and opt, instead, to design a generic and banal space following the wholesale removal of a masterful landscape.

Respectfully,

Ron Henderson FASLA
Professor, Director of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program
Senior Fellow of Garden and Landscape Studies, Dumbarton Oaks