

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Debra Holton <debka25@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 8:21 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Cc:** Kovac, Nik  
**Subject:** Save the trees

I am writing to acknowledge my support of saving the Dan Kiley Grove.

Best Regards,

Debra Holton

Sent from my iPad

**Elmer, Linda**

---

**From:** Ellen Irion <3005kenwood@live.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 30, 2019 10:34 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Cc:** Kovac, Nik  
**Subject:** Dan Kiley Chestnut Grove at the Marcus Center of the Performing Arts

I want to add my strong support of the designation of historic status to Dan Kiley's Chestnut Grove located at the the Performing Arts campus. Great cities have as a common element great public spaces. To remove Dan Kiley's design impoverishes the city generally and this part of the city specifically.

Respectfully,

Ellen Irion  
3005 E. Kenwood  
Milwaukee

*WBCS MISSION AND FUNDING*

*WBCS, Inc. was founded in 1998 as an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Its mission is to support early-stage breast cancer and prostate cancer research at The Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center.*

*Since its founding, WBCS has donated over \$6.8 million to MCW's Cancer Center for promising research and to endow the WBCS Professor of Breast Cancer Research and the WBCS Professor of Prostate Cancer Research. Promising breast cancer research and prostate cancer research by past WBCS grant recipients has led to over \$76 million in additional competitive extramural research grants to MCW.*

*Your participation in our WBCS events ensures continuing WBCS support of the MCW's Cancer Center research efforts.*

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Lillian Sizemore <lillsizemore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 30, 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda; Historic Preservation Commission  
**Cc:** 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  
**Subject:** Save Kiley Grove | Support for Historic Designation

I support the historic designation of Milwaukee's Kiley Grove.

Public debate is important, and so is our cultural history. We are a young country, trained to seek 'efficient', 'productive', 'cost-effective' solutions. We are still learning the value of our own cultural, economic, social and historic heritage. The offerings of visionaries from another era can help us develop a rich tolerance for the movement of time and expression in the built environment.

Milwaukee's mid-20th century development must be considered worthy of preservation: Milwaukee played a critical role in the rise of American modernism and was a leader in the Midwest. **Modern design symbolized the future and expressed the optimism of the era.** Kiley's landscape designs are renowned around the world. We owe it to our current and future citizens to protect examples of this period of urban development, and to care for what we already have. This is a sustainable and respectful path for our future.

A thoughtful accounting of what it would take to restore the grove is appropriate. We can take a cue from European cities that have cultivated public gardens for centuries, replacing plant material and managing along the way to provide soulful urban spaces to citizens and tourists alike. What a respite to find an "old growth forest" in the midst of a booming city! It literally gives us oxygen.

I support the historic designation of Kiley Grove.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment as a resident of Wisconsin.  
#savethegrove

Respectfully,  
Lillian Sizemore  
3813 Tulane Ave.  
Madison, WI 53715  
[lillsizemore@gmail.com](mailto:lillsizemore@gmail.com)  
415-793-0079  
-----

LILLIAN SIZEMORE

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Stephanie Van Alyea <sfvaquirk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2019 10:19 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Cc:** Kovac, Nik  
**Subject:** 'I support this designation'.

Dear HPC,

I support the designation.

Destroying Dan Kiley's important work is like tearing down the Calatrava MAM museum, crumpling up Leonardo DaVinci's Mona Lisa or bulldozing Frederick Law Olmstead's Lake and Central Parks.

The Chestnut Grove is a work of art designed to be a public space by Dan Kiley an important landscape artist.

Destroying it is part of a private war on public spaces created by deceased important artists.

Please save Dan Kiley's important modern public garden.

When the Marcus Corporation learned that this was an important piece of art I was very surprised they didn't cancel their plans, instead they have increased their determination to destroy it.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Van Alyea

Latest article by Mary Louise Schumacher analyzing Marcus Center issues.

<https://tclf.org/debate-over-kiley-grove-marcus-center-about-design-not-trees>

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Margarete Harvey <margareteharvey@wi.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2019 5:00 PM  
**To:** Historic Preservation Commission; Elmer, Linda; Askin, Tim; Bauman, Robert; mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org  
**Subject:** Kiley-designed grove of trees, #181570, #181652

Attn: Historic Preservation Commission

Dear Linda,

Having considered the pro's and cons of giving historic designation to the Kiley-designed grove of chestnut trees and having sat through the lengthy discussions regarding this issue at your March meeting, I want to reiterate my wholehearted support for the idea of giving permanent historic designation to the grove of trees in their sunken garden. As a retired landscape architect I have some insights that may be of help:

1. The Marcus Center is the cultural heart of this city. The specifically designed spaces outside of the Center are singular, in that they represent a collaboration of two distinguished artists, the architect Weese and the landscape architect Dan Kiley. That collaboration makes the place special. I can think of only two other such places in our city: Villa Terrace and the Calatrava/Kiley designed Art Museum. By giving historic preservation status to the Kiley garden, you would elevate the importance of all three venues and stress the historic heritage of our City.
2. The arguments in favor of tree removal completely hides the fact that the proposed new design fills in the sunken garden aspect of the Kiley designed space. In my opinion the sunken garden is a critical part of the whole design, which should be preserved at all cost. It was intended to create a particular peaceful feeling that gives people a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city. Two ramps and a more compactable surface would bring the sunken garden up to present day ADA standards.
3. The solid grove of horse chestnut trees matches the architecture of the building with its large masses, even though the building has undergone some changes. It is an easily recognizable landmark in our downtown where there are very few mature trees and where most trees are planted at 30' distance along the edges of streets and never attain great ages. Such a solid grove in the center of our city says "this is an urban space", "this is different from our run-of-the-mill suburban landscapes of lawns with tree edging". Yet that suburban landscape is exactly what is proposed to replace that singular grove of trees.
4. Lastly, while the Kiley garden is a public space, i.e. belonging to the County of Milwaukee, the public has simply been presented with these drastic changes. *Fait accompli!* So I urge you:
  - a. to give permanent historic preservation status to the grove today
  - b. to recommend that the Marcus Center follow the Milwaukee County protocol for dying trees and
  - c. to create a preservation and maintenance plan for the trees, so they can achieve great ages similar to the trees in the Tuileries in Paris.

Thank you for your attention,

**Margarete Harvey**

Margarete Harvey, ASLA

Landscape Architect

1470 E. Bay Point Road

Milwaukee, WI 53217

Cell 414-350-7595

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** T Buck <imtuck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2019 1:32 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Dan Kileys Landscape

It is with horror I write you and beg you to see that we keep and embrace this landscape! OMG, there is so little like this downtown.

Theresa Buck  
Milwaukee  
\$6047 condo property taxed.

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2019 12:59 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Kiley Chestnut Grove

**From:** Ursula Twombly [<mailto:ursula.twombly@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2019 6:53 PM  
**To:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Subject:** Kiley Chestnut Grove

As a local architect, having worked in the City of Milwaukee for the last 40 years, and strong supporter of modern architecture I encourage the members of HPC to place the Kiley Grove at the Marcus Center under local historic protection.

The grove is not only a reflective, shady green space downtown but also, like a painting, it is a treasured art piece by an important landscape designer.

Save the Grove.

Ursula Twombly, FAIA  
414-303-4423



## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Missy Levit <missylevit@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2019 5:44 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Grove of Horse Chestnut Trees next to Marcus PAC

Dear Ms. Elmer,

I am contacting you to because I support Permanent Historic Designation of the Kiley-designed grove of chestnut trees.

The healthy trees should be cared for by an arborist and allowed to thrive. The several permitted to be removed due to their poor condition should be replaced by chestnut trees according to Kiley's plan.

Milwaukee is fortunate to have this "pocket park," which is the envy of many other cities. It offers respite among many high buildings and busy city streets. It adds character and charm to the area. Maintaining the Grove for the thousands of visitors who will be in Milwaukee next year for the Democratic Convention will be a strong addition to the beauty and charm of our Downtown.

The Green Tree Garden Club contributed to the purchase of the trees. As a member of that Club, I am disappointed that the new plans may remove the trees. Our Club raised the money from charitable donations to provide for the the trees. As I am sure you can appreciate, raising money for a public place is difficult.

Please support the preservation of this beautiful and historic grove of trees.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Missy Levit

Telephone: 262-240-1988 Mobile: 414-467-6897

Mary Webster Levit Suite 1800 250 East Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53202 NOTE: Only mailing address above. Do not use Mequon residential address for mail please.

## Elmer, Linda

---

**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

---

**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

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Sarah Schramm <schrammsarahs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 8:46 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Dan Kiley Tree Grove

I am writing because I cannot attend the meeting today. I wanted to express what a huge loss this would be to not only me but also this city to get rid of the Dan Kiley tree grove. Over the years I have enjoyed thinking of this grove as an oasis. It's beauty, peacefulness and quiet is rare in the heart of downtown. We deserve to have places like this in our city that allow us to sit, breathe, take in nature.

Thank You,

Sarah Schramm

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Caressa Givens <caressagivens@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 9:22 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Re: UPDATED VERSION Dan Kiley Chestnut Grove

Hello,

I am messaging to express my deep concern over the potential loss of the Dan Kiley chestnut grove.

I recognize that this issue is not cut and dry but we must look for a solution that keeps the grove maintained.

This is one of the most beautiful places in downtown. American cities should treasure these gifts from renounced creatives. It would be a great loss when Milwaukee is hitting a renaissance with a new Complete Streets policy, green policy and an street car.

Please reconsider.

Thank you!

On Mon, Apr 1, 2019 at 9:12 AM Elmer, Linda <[elmer@milwaukee.gov](mailto:elmer@milwaukee.gov)> wrote:

I will add your e-mail to the file.

I have attached information on today's meeting relating to this issue (both the building and the trees are scheduled for the same time).

**From:** Caressa Givens [<mailto:caressagivens@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 9:10 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Dan Kiley Chestnut Grove

Hello,

I am messaging to express my deep concern over the potential loss of the Dan Kiley chestnut grove.

I recognize that this issue is not cut and dry but we must look for a solution that keeps the grove maintained.

This is one of the most beautiful places in downtown. American cities should treasure these gifts from renounced creatives. It would be a such a great loss when Milwaukee is hitting a renaissance with a new Complete Streets policy a green policy a street car.

Please reconsider.

Thank you!

Caressa Givens

The City of Milwaukee is subject to Wisconsin Statutes related to public records. Unless otherwise exempted from the public records law, senders and receivers of City of Milwaukee e-mail should presume that e-mail is subject to release upon request, and is subject to state records retention requirements. See City of Milwaukee full e-mail disclaimer at [www.milwaukee.gov/email\\_disclaimer](http://www.milwaukee.gov/email_disclaimer)

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Anthony Janis <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; 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

### Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by **Mimecast Ltd**, an innovator in Software as a Service (SaaS) for business. Providing a **safer** and **more useful** place for your human generated data. Specializing in; Security, archiving and compliance. To find out more [Click Here](#).

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Tom DiSalvo <tom.disalvo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 10:56 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda; Historic Preservation Commission; rjbauman@milwaukee.gov  
**Subject:** The Kiley Grove should be preserved

Good morning. I want to voice my support for preservation of Dan Kiley's Chestnut Grove at the Marcus Center.

Dan Kiley's career as a modernist landscape architect is significant in the history of open space design. His work contributed to development of the distinct classical modernist style which he co-authored with other historically-significant landscape architects including Garrett Eckbo & Thomas Church. The classical modernist style has continued forward through today, advanced by world-recognized practitioners such as Lawrence Halprin, Hideo Sasaki, Peter Walker, John & Philip Simonds and many others.

The basic design tenets of classical modernism remain relevant today: regularly geometric spaces, mathematical order & precision, repetition as a means to create understanding and the idea of 'slippage' where design elements extend beyond project boundaries to engage adjacent spaces.

I don't think this debate is about the trees themselves, their upkeep (or lack thereof) or the Marcus Center's need to expand their donor space. Instead this is about recognition and culture. Our city is not a collection of buildings alone; critically-acclaimed structures cannot exist without a framework of open space around them. Open spaces (and the landscape architects who author them) are key to the development of open space frameworks that support good architecture. Open space in general has a great and underappreciated impact on society, and this dialogue is one small piece of the greater conversation.

A final thought on historical significance and the importance of preservation. There is great need to protect open spaces which are representative of excellence. Consideration of Kiley's grove should be no different than discussing demolition of a structure designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Louis Sullivan or Eero Saarinen.

I appreciate your efforts and the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,  
Tom DiSalvo, PLA, ASLA



## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Michael Koch <claudiamike@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 9:38 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda; Coggs, Milele; Historic Preservation Commission  
**Subject:** preserve and revitalize Kiley Grove

Dear Alderwoman Coggs

I am writing to let you know that my family and I support the designation of the Kiley Grove next to the PAC as historic.

Michael Koch  
1815 N. 2nd Street

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Ron Henderson <rhender1@iit.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 11:17 AM  
**To:** Historic Preservation Commission; Elmer, Linda; Hatala, Carlen; Askin, Tim; Bauman, Robert; mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org  
**Subject:** Don't replace the Marcus Center Kiley Grove with a "Wal-Mart Park"

Dear colleagues,

I use the term "Wal-Mart Parks" to refer to the kind of project that is proposed to replace the durable and elegant Kiley Grove. "Wal-Mart Parks", like the proposal by the architect, Jim Shields, are mass-produced, low investment, and cheap suburb-derived spaces with short shelf-lives. The rigorous design and spatial richness of the Kiley Grove has endured through decades of vicissitudes in Milwaukee's downtown and remains a mature, resilient, and popular setting for private quietude and lively civic events. The local public support for keeping and restoring the grove is augmented by an array of national voices that attest to the widely held admiration of Milwaukee's most important landscape of the mid-twentieth century.

It has been determined that the Marcus Center is a strong exemplar of "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. As is known, designation requires only one of these four criteria. That the Kiley Grove significantly contributes in four categories is unassailable criteria for preservation. Does the grove need restoration? Yes, of course, as trees are living things.

The Kiley grove of hawthorns at the Art Institute of Chicago's South Garden have seen periodic replacements on individual basis by careful curation of heritage and preservation. The chestnuts in the Kiley Grove can be similarly curated under attentive leadership. The landscape architect, Jen Current, reminds us that "there are protocols in place for Milwaukee County to deal with dying/deceased plants in planned landscapes. A preservation plan and treatment approach should be created. "

Long live the chestnuts of Milwaukee!

Respectfully,  
Ron Henderson

--

Ron Henderson FASLA  
Professor and Director, Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program Illinois Institute of Technology  
<http://arch.iit.edu/study/mla-introduction>

Founding Principal, L+A Landscape Architecture [www.lplusa.net](http://www.lplusa.net) Senior Fellow, Dumbarton Oaks Garden and Landscape Studies Creative Artist Fellow, Japan-US Friendship Commission Artist-in-Residence, National Park Service

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 11:15 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Green+ Shade = Compromise

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

**From:** Barb Paulini [<mailto:barb@studiopaulini.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 1, 2019 11:10 AM  
**To:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Subject:** Green+ Shade = Compromise

We've got to embrace the responsibility of caring for public art and its intentions... no matter how much money is thrown at a space. I'm certain another design could be considered.

Sent from my iPhone

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 11:15 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: P A C Trees

---

**From:** CG [<mailto:darkroadout123@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 1, 2019 11:11 AM  
**To:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Subject:** P A C Trees

If the trees are healthy, why destroy them?  
Please do not destroy the trees in the grove just south of the PAC building.  
Thanks.

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Meagan Schultz <meaganbschultz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 12:44 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** I support the trees!

Hello,  
Just a quick note to extend my support for saving the trees in the Dan Kiley Grove.  
Thank you!  
Meagan

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Jennifer Current <Jennifer@quorumarchitects.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 1:08 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** email forward

My email was not able to be delivered, hopefully you can forward to active address.  
Thank you.

--

*As a species, we are hardwired to nature from cradle to grave*

*At Garland Alliance, Inc. we understand this relationship and we help our clients reconnect with nature and rediscover the wild*

Kind Regards,

Tim R. Garland, President  
Garland Alliance, Inc.  
414-688-1641  
[garlandalliance@gmail.com](mailto:garlandalliance@gmail.com)  
[www.garlandalliance.com](http://www.garlandalliance.com)

Follow us on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/garlandalliance/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/garlandalliance/?ref=br_rs)

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/garlandalliance>

Check us out on Houzz: <http://www.houzz.com/photos/query/GARLAND-ALLIANCE>

To whom it may concern:

I am a board certified Landscape Architect and on the State Board of examiners for Landscape Architects, Architects, Surveyors, and Engineers.

Please preserve the iconic civic space created by Dan Kiley at the Marcus Center. Although it needs some attention it is of major significance to the City of Milwaukee's history and the field of Landscape Architecture. It can be creatively addressed to solve some of the issues that exist and still honor the initial design intent of this Iconic Landscape Architect- Dan Kiley.

I have reviewed the proposed plan for the new plaza and find it uninspiring and mundane in design intent and approach. It lacks Nature which the current condition has and provides a therapeutic evidence based quality to the Urban environment. The proposed plan is very stark and dehumanizing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

*As a species, we are hardwired to nature from cradle to grave*

*At Garland Alliance, Inc. we understand this relationship and we help our clients reconnect with nature and rediscover the wild*

Kind Regards,

Tim R. Garland, President  
Garland Alliance, Inc.  
414-688-1641  
[garlandalliance@gmail.com](mailto:garlandalliance@gmail.com)  
[www.garlandalliance.com](http://www.garlandalliance.com)

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 1:11 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: for the Marcus Center file today

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

From: James Rowen [mailto:jer45y@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 1:05 PM  
To: Historic Preservation Commission  
Subject: for the Marcus Center file today

I am unable to attend today's hearing, but for the record kindly accept this link of opinion along with my support for the Center's proposed historic preservation designation status. Thank you. James Rowen. 3107 N. Hackett Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211.

<https://thepoliticalenvironment.blogspot.com/2019/04/downtown-grove-art-center-footprint-on.html>



# The Political Environment

A forum, news and archive begun in February, 2007 about politics and the environment in Wisconsin. And elsewhere.

**Monday, April 1, 2019**

## Downtown grove, arts center footprint on key City agenda Monday

You may remember that the Marcus Center for The Performing Arts downtown wants to alter its plaza and remove a grove of chestnut trees installed there decades ago. Preservationists say that would be big mistake and are moving in City Hall to stop it.



The City of Milwaukee's Historic Preservation Commission takes up a move today at 3:00 p.m. in Room 301-B in City Hall where commissioners could move forward a legally-binding status to the Center which would prevent the removal of the trees.

Here is [a link to the meeting location and agenda](#), and for those wanting more information, the item's complete public file, #181570:

**"Resolution relating to the Permanent Historic Designation of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts at 929 North Water Street in the 4th Ald. District"**

One blog post about the issues is [here](#), and also a strong, updated reflection on the entire matter by Mary Louise Schumacher who [initially sounded the alarm](#) about the plan when she was the Journal Sentinel's arts and architecture expert and has again raised the level of discussion with a more recent post, [here](#):

**This is *public space*.** Let's not forget who owns the Marcus Center. The art center's officials are stewards of a resource that belongs to our community. While the art center conscientiously surveyed its patrons about what they wanted and needed from the arts center, it also appears they were blindsided by the public backlash that they are obliged, as public servants, to consider. Again, I offer these thoughts as a means to address the confusion that's been stirred up by recent discussion, and I recommend my original column to you, which presents my broader argument. I plan to be present for Monday's public hearing. This is our last opportunity to show up and support the proposal filed by landscape architect Jennifer Current and architect Mark Debrauske. The historic designation would, in turn, provide some protections for the site. If you cannot be present, you can send a letter to the commission: [hpc@milwaukee.gov](mailto:hpc@milwaukee.gov).

Frankly, I can't envision the designation being tabled or denied, nor can I imagine the full Council not approving an historic preservation status for the complex.

Why would Milwaukee show itself to tens of thousands of new visitors, opinion-makers and the world media during the 2020 Democratic National Convention while having enabled the degradation some of the most cherished tree-lined public space in the downtown?

Posted by James Rowen at 12:45 PM \_

**Elmer, Linda**

---

**From:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2019 1:11 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Dan Kiley Grove

---

**From:** Steven Shea [[mailto:cashelguy\\_59@yahoo.com](mailto:cashelguy_59@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 1, 2019 12:34 PM  
**To:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**Subject:** Dan Kiley Grove

Dear Committee

Please save the Dan Kiley grove from destruction. It is a Milwaukee jewel designed by a world class landscape architect.

Sincerely,  
Steven Shea