

Garland Alliance, Inc.

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

April 8, 2019

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to offer our professional assistance as landscape architects about best-practice stewardship of the grove of horse chestnut trees at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

On April 1, 2019, the City of Milwaukee's Historic Preservation Commission granted permanent Historic Designation status to this property, which includes the Harry Weise-designed building and Dan Kiley-designed grounds. We applaud this designation and recognition of this civic site as the culturally and historically significant work of two internationally renowned masters of their profession. The public performing arts center is also an important symbol of Milwaukee's mid-century ideals and the ongoing commitment of our community to the arts. The center has been valued by Greater Milwaukee residents and visitors since it opened 50 years ago.

However, we have great concerns about the future of this grove -- this iconic landmark -- in the heart of downtown Milwaukee.

A Certificate of Appropriateness was granted that allows removal of four trees. We are well aware of the dangers that may be present if hazardous tree limbs are allowed to remain. However, we do not believe that complete removal of four trees, including their root balls, is the most prudent measure at this time. Such complete removal would potentially damage surrounding trees. This, in turn, could seriously undermine the grove's integrity, structurally and formally, in both tree health and design.

At a public hearing last month, the City of Milwaukee's chief forester, David Sivyer, recommended further study of the trees and stewardship options before undertaking wholesale removal.

Before irrevocable damage is done, we urge you to consult professionals who have deep knowledge and expertise with legacy landscapes and mature trees. This will help ensure that the most responsible action is taken to protect public safety -- and to allow time to develop a long-term management plan.

Bottom line: We want to help. We want to offer our knowledge of best practices to facilitate the best possible decisions are made to this renowned public space.

Sincerely,

Tim R. Garland, RLA, President Garland Alliance, Inc.

Metro Milwaukee, Southeast Wisconsin and Areas Beyond









April 12, 2019

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Before further work or potential irrevocable damage is done to the tree grove, we urge the parties involved to consult professional landscape architects who have deep knowledge and expertise with legacy landscapes and mature trees. This will help ensure that the most responsible action is taken to protect public safety – and to allow time to develop a long-term management plan.

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Respectfully

Christopher R. Miracle, PLA, ASLA

LandWorks, Inc.

I support the recommendations made above:



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