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May 9, 2022

City of Detroit
Historic District Commission
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward, Suite 808
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Historic District Commissioners:

This letter is in regards to the outdoor shelters at the Detroit Waldorf School (DWS) and your consideration to allow them to stay permanently. As a DWS parent, Detroit resident, and trained architect and urban designer, I am in full support of the shelters. The shelters were professionally designed and sited, built by parent volunteers with quality materials. No trees or shrubs were affected by the work, and view corridors were carefully preserved. The shelters have become integrated into the landscape through the weathering and use of their natural materials and have become central to accomplishing our educational mission by creating an active, busy, and child-focused exterior landscape—one that is not rigidly preserved but has evolved over the years needs per the needs and mission of the school. The shelters are truly loved and used daily as educational facilities set within our well-maintained landscape.

Additionally, the shelters have been well received in the community and have reflected well upon the school and the Indian Village Historic District both locally and in national media. They have provided opportunities for community celebration, growth and engagement, through the hosting of festivals, plays, day camps, garden tours, art shows, and many other activities that attract Detroiters to the district, such as the recent inaugural Storytelling Festival held on April 30th.

Importantly, the shelters have maintained the school's enrollment, and thus broadened its ability to serve the children of Detroit during these challenging and uncertain pandemic years. The school offers robust accessible tuition programs, in which nearly half its students participate. For these reasons, I am honored advocate on behalf of the school for the shelters and their benefits to both the community and Pre-K-8 learning. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Virginia Stanard
Detroit Waldorf School parent
Detroit resident
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