

From: [Justin Trombly](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for Detroit Waldorf Outdoor Classrooms
Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 11:11:04 AM

To whom it may concern,


I am writing in strong support of granting permanent approval for the beautiful outdoor classrooms built by the Detroit Waldorf School. As a parent and teacher at the school, I have seen the tremendous benefit to the school community and the wider community that these structures provide. Though built in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is clear that these classrooms offer a tremendous boon to the community moving forward.

- The shelters are professionally designed and sited, built by parent volunteers with quality materials, and are an appropriate addition that integrates into the school's outdoor environment through the use of natural materials and transparency. Not a single tree or shrub was affected by the work, and important view corridors were carefully preserved.
- The property has always been a school, and like any other school, has always had an active, busy, and child-focused exterior landscape. The property has expanded and changed many times over the years to introduce new play equipment, welcome a larger student body, and fulfill our Detroit-based mission, and has never been frozen in time.
- The school takes great care in the maintenance of its exterior landscape, and has slowly transformed the former vacant lots on the east side of Burns into a beautiful enclave called Quietland. Though charming and beloved by our children, this is not a rigidly preserved historic landscape, nor is it either historically or currently a park-like setting, but instead is and will remain an active area for education, growth, and outdoor play.
- Waldorf is a school focused on developing children who are deeply connected to the natural world, as such these structures have become central to accomplishing our educational mission
- 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.
- The shelters have maintained the school's enrollment, and thus broadened its ability to serve the children of Detroit. The school offers robust accessible tuition programs, in which nearly half its students participate.
- The shelters have provided opportunities for community celebration, growth and engagement, through hosting of festivals, plays, day camps, scouting groups, garden tours, art shows, and many other activities that attract Detroiters to the district.

Thank you for your consideration and I encourage you to vote in approval of permanent status for the DWS Outdoor Classrooms.

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Mr. Justin Trombly
Grades Teacher
Detroit Waldorf School



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