

From: [Chris McInnis](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for permanent status for outdoor classrooms
Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 9:14:00 AM

Friends of the Historic District Commission-

I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Detroit and a parent of the Detroit Waldorf School. It has come to my attention that the Commission is considering whether or not to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the outdoor classrooms constructed during the Covid-19 pandemic in the summer of 2020.

It is my opinion that these classrooms were carefully designed with the natural grounds of the school campus in mind every step of the way. These structures to my eye fit in seamlessly with the trees, shrubs and landscaping of the school grounds. They were carefully crafted in an unobtrusive style that does not detract from the beauty of the Albert Kahn-designed building before which they rest. Every window, roofing tile and tree was considered in their design.

From the perspective of one member of the community of faculty, parents, children and friends that all pitched in to design, build and beautify these structures to provide a safe place for our children to learn and the teachers to work, I think it would be short-sighted to have them dismantled and tossed to history. To me, I see not only outdoor classrooms to provide safety should another wave of pandemic visit us; I see monuments to the care of our community, the strength of the people who worked tirelessly on them and the love for our children. This was an unprecedented time in which countless people pitched in to forge a possible solution to having the DWS faculty and children get away from remote learning and back together safely to learn and teach. It was, in my opinion, a resounding success. I think this speaks volumes about the incredible community of caring souls we have in this Detroit community.

When I see these structures tucked beneath the oak branches, children learning intently beneath their natural, angled roofs as I ride by the school, I am filled with pride to be a member of this community. I think it would be a shame if those monuments were dismantled. I think permanent status should be granted for each of these structures. I believe this is a unique Detroit story that should be told for a long time to come.

I thank you for your time.

Authentically,
Chris McInnis
Detroit resident and DWS parent

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