

From: [Andrew Moskalik](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for the retention of Detroit Waldorf School Outdoor Shelters (2555, 2508-2484 Burns)
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 9:06:08 PM

Dear Detroit Historic District Commission,

As a parent at the Detroit Waldorf School and a resident in a city of Detroit Historic District, I would like to advocate that the Commission issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the outdoor classroom structures located on the grounds of the Detroit Waldorf School in the Indian Village Historic District.

As noted in the staff report, these structures are actively used by students and the school and by neighboring community and city-wide organizations. They are unadorned, unpainted outdoor structures that fit into the surrounding landscape and blend with the weathered finish of the school.

However, I disagree with the staff's conclusion that the number and overall size of the structures has diminished the park-like environment of the playground and garden areas. Rather, quite the opposite: the structures have been designed and located on the site in a way that maintains and enhances the open central park-like area, and the siting was planned to ensure important view corridors were carefully preserved. The open design of the shelters harmoniously blends the shelters into their surroundings, smoothly transitioning between the "inside" of the shelters and the surrounding outdoors.

Historically, the Detroit Waldorf property has always been a school, and like any other school, the exterior yard has expanded and changed over the years as the student body, pedagogical needs, and community engagement have changed. If the property is to continue to be used for its historic purpose as a school, it should be expected that the exterior landscaping will change over time, rather than remaining static.

These structures are a great example of a thoughtful, harmonious, integrated, outdoor addition to the landscaping that maintains the character-defining features of the site while ensuring the property is able to remain useful for its historic educational purpose. I sincerely hope that the Detroit Historic District Commission will grant permanent status to these outdoor classroom structures.

Thank you,
-Andrew Moskalik

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