



Detroit Area Art Deco Society

September 13, 2022

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

Dear Commission Chairperson Franklin,

The Detroit Area Art Deco Society is writing regarding the Parade Company's proposed redevelopment of the historic R. Thornton Brodhead Armory at 7600 East Jefferson.

The Detroit Area Art Deco Society is a Michigan non-profit organization founded thirty-three years ago by collectors and enthusiasts interested in the design and preservation of the Art Deco Style. The Deco Society is an all-volunteer organization operated by a group of highly committed volunteers, and dating back to 1998, we began supporting the restoration of the Brodhead Armory.

We believe that the Parade Company's Brodhead Armory project is missing key elements of this historic property. Removal of the plaster Works Progress Administration (Treasury Section) murals to another location is wrong-headed. We are opposed to this plan to move the plaster work and frescoes. The frescoes were designed for the Brodhead Armory and not for another location, or a museum.

This project has the potential to transform the Brodhead Armory for years to come. **However, demolition of the entire south block of the building is a mistake.**

The Detroit Area Art Deco Society is opposed to this plan as presented. Demolition of the entire south block of the building and saving only the drill deck is not historic preservation, but demolition. **Please reconsider this plan, and begin with a plan for the preservation of the historic Brodhead Armory.** Our nonprofit group's main purpose is to promote the preservation of the Detroit area's historic Art Deco architecture. The Brodhead Armory is one of Detroit's most significant Art Deco buildings, and it deserves to be preserved **in its entirety.**

If the **historic Brodhead Armory** were in any other major U.S. city, its historic significance would be recognized; demolition would not be a consideration - it would be restored and preserved.



The Brodhead Armory is featured in the book, *Art Deco in Detroit*, and it is one of the most significant historic Art Deco properties in Detroit. Please reconsider this partial restoration, and its demolition plan.

Sincerely,

Deborah Rumley
Board Member
375 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48216-2215