

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

**On the Proposed Demolition of a closed Detroit Public Schools Building,
Southwestern High School (formerly known as “John Nordstrum High School”)**

**CITY OF DETROIT
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
MICHAEL E. DUGGAN, MAYOR**

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS

The City of Detroit has proposed to demolish a closed Detroit Public Schools building using Economic Development Initiative – Special Project (EDI–SP) Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The building is identified as follows:

Southwestern High School,
formerly known as “John Nordstrum High School”
6921 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan, 48209

The use of EDI–SP funds requires the City to document compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (hereafter: “the Act”) and the implementing regulations found in Title 36, Part 800, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Act and the implementing regulations require the City to engage the public on any project which may adversely affect culturally- or historically-significant structures, properties or resources.

HISTORIC REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

Under the authority of the “Programmatic Agreement between the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and the City of Detroit...,” the City of Detroit has determined that Southwestern High School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Southwestern High School is locally significant under National Register *Criterion C* for architecture. Southwestern High School is an early example of the Collegiate Gothic style that would come to dominate Detroit school design in the mid-1920s, while the preceding Nordstrum High School building displays the Arts and Crafts influence that was prevalent in the designs of the 1910s. Both buildings exemplify the respective styles in public school design. Furthermore, the site is locally significant under *Criterion A* for its historical association. With the construction of the adjacent Southwestern High School building, the Detroit Board of Education converted Nordstrum High School building into one of the first intermediate schools in the City at a time when public education systems began to refine and expand upon secondary education in the State.

The City of Detroit has also determined that the proposed demolition constitutes an adverse effect upon this structure, per 36 CFR 800.5(a)(1). An adverse effect is one which would alter any of the characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. A

project that results in the physical destruction of a property is explicitly recognized as an adverse effect, per 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(i).

Upon request and by appointment, interested parties may review any of the available documentation related to the subject property at the offices of the City of Detroit Planning and Development Department. The offices of the Planning and Development Department are located at the address listed below (See "PUBLIC COMMENT" Section). Anyone interested in setting an appointment to review any of the available documentation may send an e-mail to rschumak@detroitmi.gov or call 313.224.1508.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The City of Detroit invites all interested agencies, groups or persons to submit written comments for consideration. The City is particularly interested in comments concerning one or more of the following topics: 1.) the historic significance of the buildings and/or the site, 2.) an objection to or support for the demolition of the buildings, 3.) the effect of the proposed demolition on the surrounding neighborhood and community, 4.) an alternative use for the existing structure, 5.) a proposed future use for the site should the City proceed with the demolition, or 6.) ways in which the City could minimize or mitigate the adverse effect of the demolition.

The City of Detroit will accept comments by mail or personal delivery at the following address:

City of Detroit
Planning and Development Department
Attention: Ryan Schumaker
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 808
Detroit, Michigan, 48226

The offices of the Planning and Development Department are open on Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The City of Detroit will accept comments by e-mail at rschumak@detroitmi.gov. The subject line of the e-mail should read "Southwestern Demolition Comments."

The City of Detroit will accept and consider all comments so received up to and until **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23rd, 2015.**

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The City of Detroit does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, handicap, national origin, race, sex or sexual orientation. Persons or groups with discrimination complaints may file those complaints with the City of Detroit Human Rights Department, 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1026, Detroit, Michigan, 48226.