

May 9, 2022

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of the outdoor shelters at the Detroit Waldorf School and urge you to grant permanent status.

I am a resident of the Berry Subdivision and a former Detroit Waldorf School ('DWS') parent. When COVID took hold in the city of Detroit, many schools and other organizations looked inward and took activities on-line. Understanding that on-line learning is much less than ideal for elementary and middle schoolers, the community at DWS looked outward and sought ways to keep the children learning safely in person.

The DWS parent community, which includes architects, engineers, and construction experts, came up with a solution; outdoor classrooms. These parents worked with the staff at DWS to professionally design and build outdoor classrooms that could be used year round (yes, even in the winter). The classrooms were built by parent volunteers with quality materials. They integrate with 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. Simply put, they are beautiful and align with the mission of the HDC.

These classrooms have become central to accomplishing the DWS education mission, as the curriculum focuses on developing children who are deeply connected to the natural world. Moreover, the classrooms provide opportunities for engagement with the greater community hosting scouting groups, festivals, garden tours, art shows, and even live entertainment (for example, the Mosaic Youth Theater recently used the classrooms for performances).

The classrooms have been well received in the community and have reflected well on DWS, the Indian Village Historic District, and the greater east side. They have garnered accolades in the local press and in national media.

Finally, as a former parent, I know the importance of supporting DWS so that it can remain a viable option for excellent education within the city of Detroit. These outdoor classrooms made it possible for the school to thrive during these past 2 difficult years and will continue to serve a vital role for the school and surrounding community in years to come.

Therefore, I urge you to vote to give permanent status to these outdoor classrooms! I am available if you have any questions.

Thank you,



Vicki Myckowiak
510 Lodge Drive
Detroit, MI 48214
313-402-5116
vicki.mycklaw@gmail.com