

**From:** [Dianna Guldi](#)  
**To:** [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]In Support of DWS Outdoor Structures  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:26:17 PM

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Dear Detroit Historic Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for permanent approval of the outdoor classrooms at the Detroit Waldorf School. I am currently the Administrative Chair and was also a DWS class teacher for fifteen years. I can fully attest to the invaluable benefits that the outdoor classrooms bring to many facets of the school and wider community:

- The structures were not only professionally designed, but every decision towards landscaping was made with the intention of enhancing the beauty of the outdoor classrooms, which will only continue to grow.
- The structures are vital to the pedagogical mission and exceptional curriculum provided for students. The Early Childhood Center is able to fully experience the seasons and the natural world around them within the outdoor classrooms. Fifth graders experience botany by observing their surroundings within the outdoor classrooms. Those are but two of the countless examples that the structures provide for an engaged place-based curriculum.
- The shelters have already provided greater opportunity to connect to the community with festivals, camps and much more. The Storytelling Festival, which included local organizations, is one exemplary example.

I am blessed and grateful to serve in the role of Administrative Chair at DWS, which has allowed me to be involved in all of the aspects noted above since the beginning of construction in 2020. It is exciting to now be a part of the innovative ideas for the future and continuously enhance the surroundings, the curriculum, and the expansion of community opportunities that the outdoor shelters will bring.

Thank you for the consideration and strong request to approve the outdoor structures.

Best,

Dianna Guldi  
Administrative Chair

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