

**From:** [Ben Linstrom](#)  
**To:** [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]In Support of Outdoor Classroom Permanence at Detroit Waldorf School  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 1:43:33 PM

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Dear Historic District Commission,

I have been a teacher at the Detroit Waldorf School and I have been living in Indian Village on Seminole Street for most of a decade.

Just yesterday I talked to a neighbor who has been living in Indian Village for over 40 years who stopped me as I walked home to talk to me about how proud he was of Detroit Waldorf School for building the amazing outdoor classrooms. "We love them", he noted. He had just been in conversation with our other neighbors about the outdoor classrooms.

This experience has happened again and again in this neighborhood. Certainly families of the school are in support of keeping these outdoor learning spaces and as a teacher, I can attest to their usefulness. But also, they have been utilized by our neighbors for festivals and events, and organizations from in and around Detroit, who are beginning to use them for outreach, education, and performances.

Of course, classes are not held full time in these spaces throughout the winter, but the outdoor classrooms do serve as landing places for recess times during the colder months. During warmer days in the fall, spring, and summer, the spaces add the opportunity for myself and my colleagues to engage in outdoor education.

For many students, the balance between the small classrooms inside and the large classrooms outside allow for more engaging school experiences. I have taught botany, physics, math, and language arts classes in these outdoor classrooms to students who are able to spread out and enjoy the fresh air and sun.

It was a brave choice to take on this project and I believe these spaces will benefit students for many years to come. They enhance our learning environment and connect our small school with more of our neighbors in the city we love.

In years to come, I imagine that these will be cherished and utilized, adding to the unique history of our school.

I note that the mission of the Historic District Commission is to preserve historically and culturally significant areas of our city and it is clear to me that these outdoor classrooms should be preserved in order to ensure that mission in this space.

Thanks for your support and consideration.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Linstrom  
Detroit Waldorf School

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*With appreciation*  
Benjamin Linstrom

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