

From: Linda Brazill [mailto:lbrazill@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 10:02 AM
To: Martin, Al
Subject: 100 Block of State Street

Dear Mr. Martin and members of the Urban Design Commission:

I am writing in opposition to the current plan to demolish buildings that have the potential for restoration and re-use in a fashion that will benefit our entire community. The idea of creating an essentially private winter garden is undemocratic and not the type of project that Madison should be considering.

When I was a member of The Capital Times editorial board and an editorial writer, I supported keeping the facade of the Yost's building as part of the Overture Center. It is clear to me now that that option was a mistake, both in terms of setting a precedent and aesthetics. I do not wish to see the city repeat that mistake.

I grew up in Buffalo, New York — a city with a rich architectural heritage — which just hosted the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In the 40 years I have lived in Madison, I have continually witnessed the loss of our unique character and history via the demolition of architecture which can never be replaced. The 100 block of State St. needs to look appropriate to its function as the gateway to State St., but tearing down historic buildings that are still sound and useable is not the solution.

I am providing a link to a video that Buffalo produced to introduce the Trust to the city's architectural treasures. It is worth watching to understand the positive effect such historic buildings have on a community.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT11IdWPvfc>

Sincerely,

Linda Brazill

Blog: Each Little World
<http://eachlittleworld.typepad.com>