

March 7, 2012

To: Urban Design Commission
Regarding: Block 100
From: Franny Ingebritson

Dear Urban Design Commission Members:

I greatly admire the generosity of Jerry Frautschi and Pleasant Rowland. They have stepped up to the plate many times to help cultural and charitable organizations. Their generosity doesn't always make it into the papers.

It is true that many of the properties have been neglected by their owners. However, the properties that are registered landmarks or have been recognized as being contributing buildings to a State Street Historic District are ripe for rehabilitation and adaptive reuse.

If I were standing in the lobby of the Overture Center looking across Fairchild Street, I would prefer to see the street scape as shown in the drawings commissioned by the Madison Trust. The modern design of the Overture Center with the historically and culturally significant buildings across the street is a view that brings Madison's past and present together.

If the Block 100 Foundation is allowed to proceed with their current plan, historic buildings will be demolished and others will be stripped of their authenticity. We would be left with a generic view that lacks a sense of place. It would set a terrible precedent for the future of other historical buildings on State Street and in surrounding neighborhoods. For these reasons, I oppose the Block 100 Foundation's development plans.

Thank you for your time.



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