

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION	PRESENTED: December 15, 2021
TITLE: 1802-1902 Pankratz Street - Addition to Existing Building for Isthmus Montessori Academy Located in Urban Design District (UDD) No. 4. 12th Ald. Dist. (68727)	REFERRED: REREFERRED: REPORTED BACK:
AUTHOR: Kevin Firchow, Acting Secretary	ADOPTED: POF:
DATED: December 15, 2021	ID NUMBER:

Members present were: Cliff Goodhart, Chair; Tom DeChant, Lois Braun-Oddo, Craig Weisensel, Christian Harper, Rafeeq Asad, and Jessica Klehr.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of December 15, 2021, the Urban Design Commission **RECEIVED AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** for an addition to an existing building located at 1802-1902 Pankratz Street in Urban Design District (UDD) No. 4. Registered and speaking in support were Jim Olson and Brian Schuster, representing Iconica.

The project is in the early design phase for an approximately 48,000 square foot addition to an existing learning facility building on 3 acres. The new building will house classrooms, a new gymnasium, a new entry and a curved theater complex, as well as create a new courtyard area. Significant screening for the greenspace is provided between this parcel and the adjacent former Ale Asylum parcel.

The Commission discussed the following:

- As you develop this project, segmented it's fine but together it's a lot that doesn't work well together. Some of the shapes might be competing with each other. The way this building approaches the parking and drop-off ramp, I don't know that this complements it. The shape of the courtyard should bring you in.
- When I look at the different elements, you have the curve on the east side but then you have the rectangular portion on the south, it doesn't seem to be a uniform design in the new area. You want symmetry or rhythm as you go through there. The challenge is trying to bring consistency there and not have it be too stark. A breezeway connecting the two may be more successful.
- I'm having the same reaction. Could the curved new theater slide back so its façade is continuous without the jog, making one singular curve? Overall the design of the building is handsome. Configuration with the courtyard is not working.
- How the light comes in on the theater from the south and west can be pretty harsh. It might want to rotate and bring itself in to the other side, reorienting the entrance for more cohesive massing.

- There's too many ins and outs. That large blank wall on the eastern side is really ugly. Having a smoother curve coming into a straight edge is possibly a nicer, more elegant solution.

ACTION:

Since this was an **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** no formal action was taken by the Commission.