

You don't often get email from womensportshelpsociety@protonmail.com. Learn why this is important

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Dear City of Madison Planning Commission

With the recent CapTimes article where Track alums urge UW-Madison athletics to reconsider Shell replacement, we are reaching out again to express our concern regarding the demolition of the Shell and subsequent current design of the proposed \$285M facility. The Camp Randall 5 Center (CRSC) current design plans fail to fulfill UW's Letter of Intent to "close the gaps...to remain competitive with peer institutions" for all programs impacted by the demolition. With this \$285 million project, UW argued that the current indoor track facility was outdated (The She the demolition and we build was paramount for UW to remain competitive mining top tier Student Athletes, especially in a norther climate. The Letter of Intent pledged an 'on-par with peer institution' track and field facility, which is critical for the six team's dive and large roster. Yet, the current design compromises essential track elements, threatening six programs existence with the largest roster of female and diverse athletes.

This design misalignment not only grossly under-delivers on UW's stated intent but diverges from our university's tax-payer funded mission to support "diverse social, economic and ethnic backgrounds" and foster full physical and human development. The plan's downgrades directly counter UW and City's responsibility to provide top-tier opportunities to all student-studetes, including the large number of underrepresented groups on the track and field/cross country rosters, by prioritizing aesthetics over equity.

We urge you to advocate for a revision that aligns with both the Letter of Intent and UW's mission, ensuring that the new CRSC building design serves all student-athletes needs to perform at the highest levels of excellence and preserves the legacy of these storied six Track and Field/Cross

representative to advocate for what was promised to voters and tax payers who are helping fund this new facility. Help us hold the building designs accountable to deliver on the Letter of Intent and for the continued (and storied) existence for one of the large We'd appreciate your voice as a female and most diverse rosters a

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Many of your Madison voters and dedicated advocates for equity in sport

For Reference - Previous Track Facility:

Peer Institution Facility Comparison:

Pre-Demolitor, facility has flat track and event space for all track/field and cross country events but he Letter or Intent stated the part of the remedy to solve for in the \$285M build adequate space to house an information track suitable for competition And, "A property sized and functional indoor pracked facility is a necessity for Division 1 northern climate...; programs"

University of Michigan with banked track where every event for both track and field has an adequate place to train and compete. If other Big Ten schools have figured out how to keep their footall learns in the top 25 without sacrificing opportunities with the largest rosters of diverse & female athletes, why should we not expect the same of Wisconsin?



Proposed Plan for \$285%: A large step backwards for women & diverse Track & Field athletes - on par with a health cub jogging track above a football facility. Does not deliver equitable facility improvements for Track & Field and instead cuts the program at a sevene disadvantage relative to peer institutions and pushes the program towards non-existence. The winningest coach in UW history with 26 Big Ten Championships and 22x. Coach of the Year, E Nutkycomb, was quoted in the Cao Times. "Being very honest, what they're putting up in the rafters — to call it a track practice facility... It's a recreational running path."



On Monday, September 16th, 2024 at 9:50 AM, Women SportsHelpSociety <WomenSportsHelpSociety@protonmail.com> wrote:

Dear Madison City Planning Commission,

We write to you today not only as advocates for women's altiletics but as stewards of justice, equity, and opportunity. As alturni, altiletes, parents and citizens, we believe in the transformative power of sport to shape character, build leadership, and drive social committed to upliciting the values entreduced in the University of Wencomins-Hardington is maiors. To character, and transmit altile social values and we are unable of the social values and the social of the comment of uplicities of the social values and the social values and the social values and the social of the comment of uplicities of the social values and the social of the comment of uplicities of the social values and the social of the comment of uplicities and the social values and the social of the comment of the social values and the social of the comment of the social values and the social of the comment of the social values and the social of the comment of the social values and the social of the comment of the social values and the social of the comment of the social values and the social values and the social values and the social values and the social of the social values and the social values

Given you help represent important decisions related to the planning and facilities in our great city with accountability to such questions as "Who benefits? Who is burdened? Who does not have a voice at the table? How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?" we wanted to bring to your attention the decisions regarding the \$285 million rerovation at Camp Randall Stadium at this critical moment. The decisions on facility design will determine the future of countiess athletes, particularly women, and diverse student-athletes, and they will define the legacy of the state tax dollars and public education's commitment to equity under your watch. Because as you know better than anyone, building and city plans far outlive any Athletic Administration or Coach. And with that, you carry a grave responsibility to STOP these unintended consequences for female and diverse athletes for generations to come.

We upg you to ritically examine the current plans one more time. In addition to the current renvelop plans (b)T aligning with UW. We addition's mission of feating inclusive excellance and improving the quality of life for all, these current plans jeografica over 50 years of pograss. The additional distribution of the current plans the excellance legislation control and the current plans in addition of the two addition of the two addition of the current plans in additing in addition of the current plans in additing in addi need your h

This is not just about sports. It is about opportunity. The message this current facility plan sends is clear: football's needs are paramount - as it should be as it funds many opportunities for other sports - but that during this stage of NCAA disruption, the UW Athletic De University of Wisconsin is willing to sacritice the future of women's athletic opportunities in support of men. UW Mathletic De aniversary of Tiles. X. And this is where we need YOUR VOICE at the table to prevent unintended consequences to society and to our great Chy of Matlaon. ing UW's 50

Decisions about how to best utilize the largest ever capital investment in this facility will live for another 60 + years and while we acknowledge the significant disruption in college sports today, we cannot be silent as we watch a beloved public institution, and our tax dollars, make de that will conclude its conclustrations for demain and our tax dollars, make de that we acknowledge the significant disruption in college sports today, we cannot be silent as we watch a beloved public institution, and our tax dollars, make de that will conclude the company of the building's activation.

A Storied Legacy and Opportunities at Risk

For over 00 years, 76 Shell has been the home of UW-Madison's Track & Field team, one of the most successful combined programs in the University's and Big Ten's history. Yet, the current architectural plans for the demolition and nerovation threaten the very future of this legacy by ignoring the needs of the Track & Field program, sepecially for women. The current design laws an adequate space for pole studing, high jump, or throwing events like shot put, discus, and harmore throw. Rather than aiming to preserve a competition-ready facility for attracks, the regular current in the two results of a health of but han a BT on inversity.

The Athletic Department has well-worded public relations messages on how this is progress and good for the program, but when you peel back the layers and critically examine the actual plans for what they are, it's clear it's only a PR campaign. In the recent CapTimes Article, The winningest coach in UW history with 26 Bg for Championships and 22x Coach of the Year, Ed Nutrycombe was quoted. *Being very honest, ushat they're putting up in the rafters — to call it a track practice facility. — is very misleading to say the least... It's hardly a track practice facility. It's a recentional running publ.*

How can the University and State call the current plan 'progress' when over half of the events that define the "field" part of track and field are being neglected? The current plans inside this new \$285M facility pale in comparison even to current Division 3 Schools like UW Whiteware or LaCrosse, and leaves the UW haldson program at a severe disadvantage for recruiting and retaining top ter talent in the Big Ten. The consequences are clear: without proper facilities, the track and field program will deteriorate, and with it, opportunities for athletes—central intervalues and the sevent and the sevent and the sevent and with it, opportunities for athletes—central intervalues are clear: without proper facilities, the track and field program will deteriorate, and with it, opportunities for athletes—central intervalues are clear: without proper facilities, the track and field program will deteriorate, and with it, opportunities for athletes—central intervalues are clear: without proper facilities, the track and field program will deteriorate. And with it, opportunities for athletes—central intervalues are clear.

In an environment where over \$300M of recent football and basketball facility investments underscore that top tier facilities are the backbone of programs, the current plan for Track & Field is unjustifiable.

What is also agregious to hear is that there were renderings and plans that met all of the needs for a longer indoor football field and higher celling for pursing that ALSD included a top tier competition and training track facility. And while it was included in options for the proposed \$285M project, it was likely rejected for reasons related to limiting 'the visual impact of the weight room' as football staff pointed ou it would not have the preferred level of natural light in the space. And that the 'noise-vibration created from track activities' could be distucting to the other athletes and it.

We trust that as leaders, you recognize the broader implications of decisions that extend beyond dollars and cents or noise and natural light in a weight room. Title IX was not just a legal milestone; it was a moral one, ensuring that young women would have equal opportunities in sport. Yet today, the largest capital project in our state university's history is poised to undermine one of the largest rosters and opportunity creators for diverse female athletes.

This isn't just a moral issue: it's a matter of practical consequence.

We are asking for you to stand up for what you represent on behalf of this city and the <u>dire unintended consequences</u>. Critically examine this plan one more time and hold the \$285M investment to truly improve quality for all - including equity for the women in track and field and cross country to receive the resources that ensures a top for program remains competitive in the Big Ten. Because without it - perhaps unintended or perhaps by design - women's programs and opportunities will go away. We need your help to hold these plans.

The current plans are a massive step backwards for women. This is not the legacy any of us want to leave behind

Why do we believe that without changes in the current plan to also include a top tier facility for Track & Field that these programs will go away and leave the University of Wisconsin on the wrong side of history?

Facilities Matter—For Everyone

Facilities withstand moments of time of NCAA disruption or a single administrator or coach's terure - and the decisions you make today related to adequate facilities for women's programs will impact generations to come. Without proper facilities to train towards competitive excellence, the athletes will kere. The recruits will not come. The Coaches will find other Universities that denoistrate their commitment to providing broad-based opportunities without sacrificing the facilities that deliver competitive excellence from their programs. The track & field orocarms will be one within 5-10 versa and the cross country corear will be in commarison to the stored histor.

What does that really mean? It means that many of the Badger Track Athletes competing in the Olympic Games came back from Paris with no place to train this fall and no future prospect for them to train at the highest levels in their field events on the other side of the newly erected facility. That the best talent in the world - cultivated at the University of Wisconsin - will go elsewhere to pursue achieving athletic excellence.

The proposed facility would eliminate competition-grade spaces for track athletes, making it almost impossible for UW-Madison to altract or develop top-ler talent in the same way that peer institutions will. Even with the ability to pay student athletes with NL money, couprogram ever pay enough to compete with institutions that have far superior facilities (and retained takent and coaches according)? Football and baskeball have made it clear with the recent \$300M+ capital investments in this disrupted NCAA environment. facilities are affected, programs all ability to the prior top. And when tabilities are farmed, programs and ability to the facilities are affected, programs all ability to the form. The same holds the for track and field.

In this disrupted NCAA environment, regulation is continually charging and there is a likely scenario where the NCAA turns more into a professional sports model. In that case, facilities matter even more as the NIL amounts would be governed with elements similar to salary caps that help pay athletes market rates rather than just going to the top bidder with a Collective's largest NIL deal. This is why it is even more critical to ensure Track & Field does not take a step backwards with facilities with this \$258M renovation during this stage of NCAA disruption.

We ask that you uphold the University's Mission and critically examine these plans to ensure the values we all hold true do not get derailed by a moment in time or one Athletic Department's Administration's tenure. This is about generations and centuries. For a state flagship institution that prides itself on competitive excellence, how can we reconcile a plan that leaves its track and field athletes with substandard resources that has implications for decades to come?

This new plan is an untenable step backwards for female athletes everywhere and we cannot idly stand by. We need your support and voices as our elected officials.

The True Cost: Women and Diverse Athletes Left Behind

The most founding aspect of this plan is its long-turn impact on women. Historically, tack and field has provided one of the largest and most diverse rosters in collegiate athletics. The removal of adequate facilities not only threatens these programs but risks the future of women's opportunities in sport and bycon, its fact, this design could regular the loss of 60+ roster stols for women-were \$3 athletes each year and likely thousands of women over the latterest and likely thousands of women aver the literation of a women's opportunities, when it is a binary barries that the latterest of the latterest and likely thousands of women over the latterest and likely tho skills

Let us not forget the diversity of women who participate in track and field. Historically, it has been one of the few sports that consistently attracts the largest number of women of color. By neglecting this sport we are compounding systemic inequilies. We risk creating and advocating for a system where sports like women's hockey and volleyball, which historically attracts more white athletes, and has significantly smaller rosters (aka "opportunities") receive increased funding, while sports that historically attracts more white athletes, and has significantly smaller rosters (aka "opportunities") receive increased funding, while sports that historically attracts more white athletes, and has significantly smaller rosters (aka "opportunities") receive increased funding.

This is more than just a loss for the university. A recent EY and espriV survey found that 94% of women in the C-suite played sports, and over half played at the collegiate level. Sport is a direct pipeline to leadership, and to limit participation in a program that attracts some of the most diverse female athletes is to limit Wisconsin's ability to develop future leaders.

A Flawed Justification

What is even more troubling is that the decision to exclude a top-lier track facility appears to be based on cosmelic and non-essential concerns. This is not an adequate justification for sacrificing six successful athletic programs. One would think that with \$285M and one of the best pipelines of creative minds in the world coming from the Engineering school, we could come up with a plan that met the needs of football and track and field to the highest level of excellence. These are not just facilities. They are a reflection of our values and commitment to equity. The current plan sends a message: that revenue sports - men's sports - can and should be prioritized AT THE EXPENSE of women's opportunities. This is not a legacy of progress—It's a stan backward

A Call to Action: Revisit and Revise

We urge you to revisit the current renovation plans and hold the Athletic Department accountable to do better. The largest capital project in UW-Madison's history should reflect the university's commitment to all its athletes and the incredible progress achieved in the last 50 years to advance opportunities for women, not just those in revenue-generating sports. This is a pivotal moment in time. The decisions you make today will determine whether the university uphoids its legacy of equality and opportunity or whether it sacrifices progress for aesthetics and inductivement and many and the incredible progress achieved in the last 50 whether it sacrifices progress for aesthetics and inductivement and many and provide its legacy of equality and opportunity or whether it sacrifices progress for aesthetics and inductivement and many and provide its legacy of equality and opportunity or whether it sacrifices progress for aesthetics and inductivement and many and provide its legacy of equality and opportunity or whether it sacrifices progress for aesthetic and inductivement and many and provide its legacy of equality and opportunity or whether it sacrifices progress for aesthetic and inductivement and many and provide its legacy of equality and opportunity or whether it sacrifices progress for aesthetic and inductivement and the increase of the sacrifices progress for aesthetic and inductive many and provide its and the increase of the sacrifices progress for aesthetic and the sacr

We are not asking to reduce football's resources ables and the couple-for the same commitment to competitive excellence in track and field hat football receives. Without a proper, practice and competition-grade facility for track and field, the program will decline, and with 1. coordinative provides ables and and the program will decline, and with 1. coordinative provides ables and and the program will decline.

As leaders and representatives for so many of us in this great State, you have the power to ensure that our public education, including UW-Madison, remains a beacon of excellence and equity and that \$265M inclusive of our tax dollars does not take women's sports opportunities backwards in this state. We are confident that with your leadership, we can chart a path forward that honors the intent of Title IX, supports diversity, and provides opportunities for all athletes to thrive here. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working together to make the right decision for Wisconsin's future—and to ensuring that our tax dollars supporting our beloved University remains on the right side of history

Sincerely,

Generations of advocates for women's athletics, equity, and opportunity



Proposed Plan for \$285M: (a large step backwards for women & diverse athletes)

IPF/TRACK HYBRID - ELEVATED TRACK



Letter of Intent Daily Cardinal Article on The Shell's demolition negatively impacting the community