



## FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDING CONSERVANCY

July 20, 2021

City of Madison, Common Council  
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**Subject:** July 20, 2021, Meeting Agenda Item regarding Amend Downtown Height Map

Dear Members of the Common Council:

In the past, we have written to the City of Madison in support of the city's adoption of the 2014 Lamp House Block Ad Hoc Plan Committee Report, and have expressed our concerns about the height of the buildings surrounding Frank Lloyd Wright's Robert Lamp House. Most recently, last week we wrote the Plan Commission in support of the proposed amendment to the downtown height map in the City of Madison's Zoning Ordinance.

**However, tonight we ask you to postpone the vote to provide more time for the plan commission to convene a variety of stakeholders to discuss the recommendations of the 2014 Lamp House Block Ad Hoc Plan and to consider possible redevelopment schemes that could make the future of the Robert Lamp House more viable than how it currently sits landlocked in a well of higher buildings.**

The most significant loss to the integrity of this building is the long-ago obliteration of its original view shed, which was paramount to Wright's design, and the more recent loss of open space by new, taller structures to the south that now envelop and over-shadow the property. The ongoing preservation goal for this building will be finding a sustainable use that supports restoration and continued preservation in an area of ever-increasing density.

We urge the planning commission and the city of Madison to consider a larger, sustainable vision for the future of this important house that provides a holistic development scheme for all of the parcels in play, and considers sensitive and appropriate development on the block and in the surrounding area. This should balance the preservation and economic viability of the house and surrounding properties with desired development objectives for the area.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy stands ready to work with the City of Madison and the owner to find a solution to the sustained future of this house. In keeping with the preservation and enhancement of the cultural and historical assets of Madison and its downtown area, we urge you to take additional action to safeguard this unusual work by America's most prominent architect.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gordon  
Executive Director