

**From:** [Michael Bridgeman](#)  
**To:** [Plan Commission Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Downtown Height Map (File #65918)  
**Date:** Friday, July 9, 2021 12:11:12 PM

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I enthusiastically support the amendment to the Downtown Height Map (File #65918) that the Plan Commission will consider at its July 12 meeting. It is a key recommendation made in the Lamp House Block Ad Hoc Plan Committee which was submitted in 2014.

I attended all of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee and their report is a reasonable and thoughtful response to the special circumstances and opportunities presented by Frank Lloyd Wright's Lamp House in downtown Madison. It is the earliest extant work by Wright in the city and was designed very deliberately to meet the needs of Robie Lamp. (That story is told very well in *Frank Lloyd Wright in Madison*, the book that accompanied the Elvehjem/Chazen exhibition.) The views to the lakes are an integral part of that design.

The immediate surroundings of the Lamp House have changed considerably in the last decade. It is important to protect the view to Lake Mendota, the last fragment of what was a much grander panorama. Those views, and what remains of them, are critical to understanding the house fashioned by Lamp and Wright.

Michael Bridgeman

**From:** [Michael Bridgeman](#)  
**To:** [Plan Commission Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Downtown Height Map-Lamp House  
**Date:** Friday, July 9, 2021 12:08:48 PM

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My name is Jack Holzhueter, and since 1961 it has been my privilege to work on behalf of preserving Frank Lloyd Wright's Lamp House, doing everything from stripping paint from the woodwork on the second-floor rooms that I occupied then, to writing the successful National Register nomination in the 1970s and the history of the house in the 1980s for the exhibition at is what is now the Chazen, to advocating for the recommended changes in Madison's official downtown plan several years ago. I heartily support the official inclusion of those changes into the city's official plan.

The story and architecture of the Lamp House hinge on the story of the views from its roof. Its site determined the dwelling's height, its basement elevation, its entrances' configuration, its porch, and, of course, its original roof terrace—an exotic, vine-covered pergola with a view of both lakes so Robert Lamp could watch boat races from the highest natural elevation of the isthmus. Miraculously, all these years after the house's erection in 1903, its view of Lake Mendota is still intact in 2021. Please vote to ensure the continued integrity of that view and of Wright's splendid design for his best friend, Robie Lamp. I am glad to have lived since moving into the Lamp House on February 1, 1961, and to age 86 to make this plea.

I plan to attend the Plan Commission meeting virtually and will be available to answer questions.