

From: John Yust <jhyust@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 1:49 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Council <Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Boulware, Christine (CI-StPaul) <christine.boulware@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; rojeanrada@gmail.com; **Subject:** Cass Gilbert's Loras Hall

Dear Saint Paul City Council Members:

I am writing as a past-President of the Cass Gilbert Society. I listened carefully to the University of Saint Thomas' case for demolition of Loras Hall when they testified before the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission. The Saint Thomas representative stated that Loras Hall was not an important historic building. I disagree. Three of Saint Paul's most historic individuals are each connected to this building: architect Cass Gilbert who designed Loras Hall, railroad titan James J. Hill who funded it, and Archbishop John Ireland who established the Seminary. Demolishing Loras Hall sets a precedence for Saint Thomas buildings that could be in jeopardy because they do not have the protection and oversight of being listed on the National Register: Cass Gilbert's Cretin Hall, Emmanuel Masqueray's Grace Hall, and Cass Gilbert's Power Plant Building. I believe there is ample land on Saint Thomas' campus for the new STEAM Building to be built on other locations. I trust that you will deny this demolition permit application.

Sincerely, John H. Yust, Architect

From: Saura Jost <saura.jost@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:27 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: City Council meeting 1/20 Item #28 - Appeal by UST to HPC on demolition of Loras Hall

Dear Councilmember Nelson,

My name is Saura Jost and I live in Ward 3 in the Mac-Grove neighborhood. I also serve as a representative on the Macalester Groveland Community Council. I am reaching out to you regarding the University of St. Thomas' appeal to the Heritage Preservation Commission's decision on Loras Hall.

I wrote a letter in support of the demolition of Loras Hall primarily from my perspective as a professional and educator in the engineering industry. I think the STEAM building is the best use of monetary resources for UST to provide the most benefit to students rather than to preserve Loras Hall. In addition, my letter describes why I think it is best to move on from this building.

My neighbor and fellow Macalester Groveland Board member, Cathy Plessner, also wrote a letter in support of the demolition of Loras Hall that brings up important points around diversity and inclusion suggesting that preserving history can sometimes preserve whiteness and promote exclusion.

I am asking for your support for the STEAM project and the demolition of Loras Hall. I appreciate your time and consideration on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Saura Jost

Mac-Grove resident

saura.jost@gmail.com

From: Noelle Jacquet-Morrison <quinnford01@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 4:16 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; ward4@ci.st.paul.mn.us; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Loras Hall, St.Thomas university

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Mitra,

As a Merriam Park resident, a University of St Thomas neighbor, and a co-chair of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee, I am supporting the demolition of Loras Hall to make way for the new STEAM building. I do not take this position lightly. Preservation is an important tool that allows us to ensure that history is present and helps guide us in making decisions for the present looking into the future.

While residents and both Union Park District Council and Macalester District Council supported the demolition of Loras Hall, the Heritage Preservation Commission opposed such action in the name of preservation, thus ignoring the voices of the people. So, the question is why save a building with no notable features, that is expensive to maintain and restore, and whose construction does not allow it to be transformed from cramped quarters into open spaces. The only argument against its demolition is because Cass Gilbert's name is attached to it.

Preservation should be mindful, with the understanding that not all can be saved from the wrecking ball. Preservation has the power to reflect a time in history, its impact on yesterday and to be used as a teaching tool for future generations. But preservation should be calculated, and not stand in the way of positive changes, With the proposal of the STEAM complex it will continue to help grow the area intellectually, financially with the mission of educating future leaders. The University has made it clear that it did not have the funds to move, restore or repurpose the building. Its board of regents have indicated that they will not approve additional funds to be dedicated for any initiatives directed to Loras Hall. The only option mothballing the building will serve no purpose and will make no statement in the name of preservation.

There are many ways to keep Cass Gilbert's work alive and well but preserving a building with no purpose is in my view not one of them. Keeping an outdated building, requiring constant maintenance, and saddling the University with costs that will not yield any returns is short sighted and is not preservation. As an elected official who represents the will of the people in Ward 4, where the building is located, I urge you to support the University of St. Thomas's request to remove Loras Hall and to vote as such. I am asking you to not only consider my voice, but those of the Union Park District Council and Macalester Groveland Community Council, which overwhelmingly recommended for the demolition of Loras Hall to make way for the STEAM building — a community-focused and sustainability-oriented structure that will be an asset to our neighborhood .

Respectfully,

Noelle Jacquet-Morrison

Quinnford01@gmail.com

From: jackfei@aol.com <jackfei@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:23 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-

StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: UST STEAM Building Action

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Chris Tolbert / Mitra Jalali

Earlier, the St Paul HPC failed to do the right thing, voting 5 to 1 to preserve Loras Hall, a "divisive nostalgia that supports and validates racism and exclusion".

I'm asking the St Paul City Council to do what the HPC could not do: respect broader community wishes and demonstrate it's commitment to equity and social justice. Say no to perpetuating a white male imposed design legacy structure. Please vote 'yes' for the transformational STEAM Building; 'yes' to affirm the future needs of the diverse student body. And yes to bend the arch of a moral universe toward greater justice.

Thank you for listening,

Jack Fei

1359 Sargent Avenue

St Paul, Mn 55105

651-698-1691

-----Original Message-----

From: jackfei@aol.com

To: george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us <george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: cathyplessner@me.com <cathyplessner@me.com>

Sent: Tue, Dec 8, 2020 5:24 pm

Subject: Feedback on Loras Hall Meeting Dec 14

I'm asking the St Paul HPC support the Mac Groveland Community Council recommendation: "supporting the University of St Thomas's plan to remove Loras Hall so that the new STEAM Building can be built on the site".

1. The MGCC represents the community where the proposed change would take place. Further, UST makes a compelling case the "optimum use" the property is constructing a STEAM building for a diverse student population. The wishes of the community and the property owner should carry strong weight..

2. J.J. Hill "was intimately involved with Gilbert and Archbishop Ireland in working out nearly every aspect of the design and construction of the seminary. [It may not be] possible to determine how much .. Loras Hall is attributable to Gilbert's design sensibilities and how much was dictated by Hill. Gilbert despised the experience of working with Hill. Never again, he vowed, would he be coerced into subservience by a powerful client".

ref: UST, Seminary, and Historic Summit Ave: Assessment of Cultural Resources p.34.

The preservation of Loras Hall does NOT honor Cass Gilbert. Rather, it perpetuates a building design imposed by a powerful, wealthy and elite white man. In short, not a structure worthy of preservation....

3. "Preservation can be essentially an elitist, class, and racially divisive activity whose result is a form of economic bias and segregation. History sites can perpetuate a divisive form of nostalgia that supports and validates racism and exclusion."

ref: <https://twistedpreservation.com/2020/06/02/systemic-racism-of-preservation/>

I'm asking the St Paul HPC respect broader community wishes and demonstrate it's commitment to equity and social justice..

Thank you for listening,

Jack Fei

1359 Sargent Avenue

St Paul, Mn 55105

651-698-1691