



**DOWNTOWN  
MINNEAPOLIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

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*The DMNA Land Use Committee works to promote a safe, active, and welcoming public realm; a stable, civically engaged residential neighborhood; and architecturally distinctive urban design.*

January 29, 2020

John Smoley  
City of Minneapolis CPED  
250 South 4th Street, Room 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Mill City Museum – 704 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. - Certificate of Appropriateness application

Dear John:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association regarding the Minnesota Historical Society's Certificate of Appropriateness application for the Mill City Museum. Valerie Heider from MNHS and Angela Wolf Scott from MacDonald & Mack Architects have provided updates on the treatment solution for the East Wall of the Ruin Courtyard to the DMNA Land Use Committee on December 3, 2019, and most recently on January 7, 2020.

Heider and Scott have explained that the East Ruin Wall is in worse shape than other walls. The top two floors are in incredibly poor condition, because they were severely thermally shocked during the fire. The wall comes apart very easily with bare hands. The top of the window lintels where the floor beams were located are in particularly bad condition. They explained that there is a high risk of debris falling into the courtyard below. They emphasized that continued use of courtyard is important moving into the future, but they need a treatment solution in order to keep the space safe and accessible.

After explaining the condition of the East Ruin Wall, Heider and Scott laid out the treatment solution. They stated that the scope of work will be similar to what has been done in the past with regards to masonry, but this new work will have a much bigger visual impact. Realistically, they will not be able to shore up the top of the wall. They will need to remove some of it. They indicated that the condition of the interior Wythe stone, and how it aligns with the exterior stone, will dictate how much needs to be removed. They displayed images of what the completed project could look like.

After some questions and discussion, the DMNA LUC recommended support for the Certificate of Appropriateness application. The committee appreciates that the MNHS is doing its best to retain the character of the Ruin Courtyard, while protecting the public's safety.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at [christie@thedmna.org](mailto:christie@thedmna.org), or 320-583-4573.

Kind regards,

Christie Rock Hantge  
DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator

CC: Valerie Heider, MNHS  
Angela Wolf Scott, MacDonald & Mack  
Council Member Steve Fletcher  
Pam McCrea, DMNA Board Chair  
Kevin Frazell, DMNA Board Liaison to the Land Use Committee  
Tom Schmid, DMNA Land Use Committee Chair  
LB Guthrie, DMNA Land Use Committee Vice Chair