

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Elsen, Nikki  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 2:19 PM  
**To:** Craig, Sondra  
**Subject:** FW: Fish Hatchery to become Wedding Venue and Air-BnB

**From:** nancy green <riversidehatchery@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 2:15 PM  
**To:** Reynolds, Mitch <reynoldsm@cityoflacrosse.org>; Elsen, Nikki <Elsenn@cityoflacrosse.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fish Hatchery to become Wedding Venue and Air-BnB

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Philip's Charter Account <zincioxide1976@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Aug 18, 2021 at 9:12 AM  
**Subject:** Fish Hatchery to become Wedding Venue and Air-BnB  
**To:** [Riversidehatchery@gmail.com](mailto:Riversidehatchery@gmail.com) <[Riversidehatchery@gmail.com](mailto:Riversidehatchery@gmail.com)>

My wife and I recently relocated to La Crosse. We choose this city and location for our retirement years for many reasons. One reason included the retention of and thoughtful repurposing of historical buildings.

The news of the old Fish Hatchery building being repurposed into a Wedding Venue with an Air BnB is unsettling. The decision to turn that building into a "business" based on very trendy business ventures currently taking place in the market, points directly to short-term, profit-margin thinking vs. long-term sustainability of historic sites.

<https://www.cityoflacrosse.org/home/showdocument?id=1358>

This City's own 2020 plan, along with other documents on their website, show the Riverside Festival grounds (*aka Octoberfest Grounds*) being revitalized. This includes a **Museum** being built just to the west of the turn around on the north end of Front Street where the walking and bike paths exist. It also includes a new Farmers Market along 2<sup>nd</sup> – the area used recently for the sheep herding demonstration during Irish Fest.

Rather than the City looking to place a business venture – for profit – into that building, why don't they turn that historic building into the **Museum**?

It would provide historical information for visitors to the area. Being next to the International Gardens, Riverside Park, and next to the new Docking Sites (*being built for the Viking cruise ship to begin docking within a year or two*), it would provide all river visitors a positive “first impression” of La Crosse.

Having travelled in Europe via river cruises half-a-dozen times, and docking at river towns, those that impressed the most were those towns and villages who worked hard to maintain and enhance the historical aspect. Imagine, a river cruise on the Rhine, docking in Rudesheim, and very near to where the ship docks is a Wedding Venue, Air BnB, etc. Please note: their beer gardens are under many shade trees – and are not part of such trendy businesses – they stand alone.

Why would the City try to make short-term profit off of this historic building knowing the risk of investing in trending business ventures is higher than other, more stable ventures? Why then also would the City spend additional money to build a new museum about a block away?

The fear is that the trendy Wedding Venue and BnB concepts will soon lose their interest to potential customers in less than 5 years. At that point, the City would need to revisit this again. The City needs to seriously reconsider the current, trendy concept being proposed.

As new residents to La Crosse, and as having previously stated, choosing La Crosse after very extensive research as our retirement location, we are now concerned that we may have made the wrong decision to move to La Crosse to enjoy our retirement.

Kind regards,

Philip Venzke

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La Crosse, WI 54601