

Craig, Sondra

From: City of La Crosse Notices - No Reply
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 11:01 PM
To: Craig, Sondra; Elsen, Nikki; Janssen, Barb; Kahlow, Chris; Sleznikow, Larry; Trost, Jennifer; Mindel, Mackenzie; Dickinson, Tamra; Goggin, Erin; Steele, Annette; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel; Weston, Lisa; Newberry, Aron; Bedford, Crystal; Padesky, Gary; Stine, Olivia; Northwood, Rosanne
Subject: City Council Contact Form: Uphold Historic Landmark Designation For Professional Arts Building

Submitted on: 4/8/2026

Name: David Riel

Email Address: driel1974@gmail.com

Is this related to a legislative agenda item: Yes

Agenda item number: 26-0322

Subject: Uphold Historic Landmark Designation For Professional Arts Building

Dear City Leaders,

I just read the Mayo Clinic's written appeal of the decision to designate the Professional Arts Building a Local Historic Landmark. I'd like to state some reasons why you should reject their appeal. When a structure is nominated to be a Local Historic Landmark, the nominator is required to provide evidence to support their claims. That same standard should apply to Mayo Clinic's appeal.

They claim a historic designation would limit their ability to plan for and timely deliver advanced health care treatment options. How exactly would a historic designation do that? A historic designation only regulates major alterations to the exterior of a building, not the interior spaces where actual healthcare is delivered.

They claim it would limit any work done on the exterior, but provide no examples in their written appeal. If proposed changes (like expanding vestibules, adding entrances, making safer entrances, changing windows, etc.) requires them to go to City Hall to get a building permit, then the HPC would potentially be involved as well - but it's no different than the requirements to appear before other commissions for certain actions.

They claim it will mitigate efforts to improve energy efficiency of the building envelope. Multiple city entities(including the HPC and the Climate Action Plan Steering Committee) want to see historic buildings become energy efficient - but there's ways to do it without destroying the historic integrity of the structure, and HPC is there help provide guidance, not be a hindrance.

On that point, Mayo also claims they value historic preservation, as well as local partnership and trust. The HPC meeting minutes from February 26th are evidence that HPC is sympathetic to their concerns, and willing to work with them in good faith.

Thank you for your time and consideration...

-David Riel-