

BRad Myers

Esteemed Board members,

I am here today to ask you to help preserve our Milwaukee Museum as it is today. It is too wonderful of a place to just be done away with.

Everyone that I know is against this deconstruction. They're all lamenting that wonderful and fantastic exhibits like The Streets of Old Milwaukee, the European Village, and the Buffalo Hunt are said to be going away. There is no reason for this and it needs to be stopped.

One of the reasons we were told that we needed a new museum was that supposedly the current building was in a state of disrepair. I don't know that I completely believe that and I would like to see that verified by an independent party. One of the reasons I find this claim hard to believe is that The Streets of Old Milwaukee had a major renovation in 2015. They shut down the exhibit for four months. That is a big

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investment of time, effort and money. So, doesn't it seem strange and short-sighted on the part of the Museum to go from making that kind of investment to then saying less than ten years later that the building is in a state of disrepair; so much so that we need a new building?~~But~~ Another thing I find strange is that every year, MPM Inc gets a budget. I guarantee you that part of that budget every year is ear-marked for maintenance. So, my next question becomes, "Where is that money?" It obviously wasn't used for maintenance because the building is supposedly in a state of disrepair.~~But~~ When MPM Inc started to realize there was a problem why didn't they start sending up the red flags and let our County Government know, "Hey we need more money or we need more staff, or we need more materials?" Also, if the current building is in such disrepair, then the bulk of responsibility for that

should be laid at the feet of MPM Inc. Why would they let that happen? I guess they wanted it to happen. Can they really be entrusted with a new building?

^{START} At this time, I would like to remind the board that every item, exhibit,

and collection that is in the current Milwaukee Museum building is

owned by the taxpayers of Milwaukee County and not MPM Inc. Trying

to use semantics and words like components does not change this.

And ~~as~~ as a tax paying member of Milwaukee County I do not endorse or

consent to the deconstruction and closing of our current beloved

Milwaukee Museum. ~~STOP~~ STOP

Not only is our current museum a treasure in general, it is also a great

asset and venue. You can hold your wedding reception there and have

access to all of the first floor minus the butterfly exhibit. They have a

great reception hall on the second floor by The Buffalo Hunt. One of my friends had his wedding reception there. It was the most fun I ever had at a wedding; and aside from the bride and the groom, it had everything to do with the venue. Our museum is truly a magical place. They had at least one more wedding reception there this last weekend. I was just there this last Sunday. The bride walked by me as I was exiting. And I could walk away knowing that she and her party were going to have the time of their lives that night.

START

There is a new museum coming. I realize that. However, I think there is *AN* avenue of thought that has not been considered or explored yet.

Perhaps, we could have both. Many cities in this country have more than one museum. Yes, I know our city already has more than one museum now; for example, the Betty Brinn, Discovery World, and the

Art Museum just to name a few. But many cities have more than one museum that cover similar subjects such as Natural History, Geology, Astronomy, Environmentalism, Ancient Civilizations, Indigenous Studies, historical eras, archeological excavations, Paleontology, and I could go on. My point is, perhaps, we could explore new horizons without losing what we already have? Our Milwaukee Museum is truly a great treasure. If I may speak plainly and simply for a moment, I want to say that our Museum was too well done. IT WAS TOO WELL DONE. It was too well done to just let it be scrapped and done away with. I don't know which of you previously voted to move on from the current museum or those who voted to restore it; but I am asking this Board to revisit and reconsider the future of the current museum. Our Milwaukee Public Museum is truly unique and special. I am here today

to ask for you to support our efforts to support and preserve what we already have for those of us here today, and the generations to come. I thank you for your time. Take care.