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Dear Jean,

An unanswered question frequently encountered these days is “why is it necessary to destroy or diminish something of value in order to create something of value?”

When did we become so myopic, mono-focused and egocentric that the needs and desires of an individual or group trumps the needs of all others.

It is my understanding that the Symphony Hall is scheduled for expansion. This is admirable and those responsible, administrator and specifically designers should do so without having to be destructive of the real or implied property of others.

Peavy Plaza was conceived as the companion piece to the Symphony Hall. The intent was to create a public place for all residents and visitors of Minneapolis to celebrate the beauty and values of their city. It was a humanistic gesture in recognition that the city was to be enjoyed by all its residence. As a public space in the heart of the city it has served that purpose admirably. By impinging or modifying it for the benefit of a specific interest group the use and value is diminished to all others.

Peavy Plaza was a seminal piece of urban landscape architecture based on the emerging values of the time. Values that suggested the public required places within the city to celebrate and recreate. It is rewarding to see that the Plaza still functions providing for the needs of the public. For this reason alone it should not be touched. Rehabilitated yes as it has been long neglected.

Additionally the past informs the future and the success of Peavy therefore is a model to be preserved for the present and the future.

I shall be honored and pleased to provide any assistance required for the preservation of Peavy Plaza.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Paul Friedberg', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

M. Paul Friedberg