



November 14, 2017  
By electronic transmission

James Golde  
Real Estate Services, City of Oakland  
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4314  
Oakland, CA. 94612

Dear Mr. Golde,

Oakland Heritage Alliance was one of the key participants in the various efforts that worked on the Lake Merritt Master Plan and then brought Measure DD to the ballot, and has participated in the planning and monitoring of Lake Merritt improvements for our entire existence, since 1981.

We are writing you today because we are very concerned about the installation of two sheds at the historic Municipal Boat House now occupied by the Lake Chalet restaurant. These sheds were apparently constructed without city permission, review by the historic staff at the Planning Department, nor a hearing at the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board.

As a historic building, it is probably not permissible to block the arched windows or to place structures close to the historic building. This is a distinguished structure which absorbed a very large amount of public DD bond money in its restoration. It should not be defaced with utilitarian storage sheds added on without advice from knowledgeable staff or consultants.

We value the tenancy of the Lake Chalet, and many of our members patronize its restaurant. But modifications or additions should be designed with the historic resource in mind, with a competent historic architect on board, with approval by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, and with completed approvals from the city planning and zoning staff.

We expect your department will inform the Lake Chalet that the situation must be rectified, and that Oakland cares about its city-owned landmarks. Can you please keep us informed of your progress?

Thank you so much for your help,

Sincerely,

Alison Finlay  
President  
Oakland Heritage Alliance

cc: William Gilchrist, Robert Merkamp, Matt Weintraub, Betty Marvin, Lesley Estes, City of Oakland Landmarks Board