



Dear Little Rock Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Quapaw Quarter Association Board of Directors, I encourage you to deny the resolution to amend Resolution No. 11,369 to permit the Junior League of Little Rock to make changes to the windows in the Women's City Club. Historically known as the Benevolent Order of the Elk's Club, it was built in 1908 and individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The City of Little Rock Board of Directors holds a Historic Preservation and Conservation Easement on the Women's City Club, executed February 6, 2003. The easement was enacted because both the Junior League of Little Rock and the City of Little Rock recognized the historical, cultural and architectural value of the building and wished to preserve it.

The Junior League of Little Rock desires to replace all of the windows except the transom window. This is in violation of the conservation easement, is not consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and would result in the possible de-listing of the Women's City Club from the National Register of Historic Places. The historic red oak wood windows are original to the building and appear to be in good condition. They are a character-defining feature of the building and described in detail in the National Register of Historic Places nomination form.

A common misconception is that historic windows are inefficient; this is simply not true. An energy audit often shows that more energy is lost through other parts of a building. It is well documented that functional wood windows with storm windows are just as efficient as any replacement product available. This also takes much less time to recover the cost of replacement and prevents the unnecessary addition to our landfills. The QQA can provide information on storm windows and contractors who have experience repairing historic wood windows.

Since the building is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, certified rehabilitation work (including the repair of windows) is eligible for rehabilitation tax credits, which are transferrable. The building may also be eligible for Historic Preservation Restoration Grants through the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

The Women's City Club has a Quapaw Quarter Historic Structure plaque. These were awarded from 1963 to 2004 to a maximum of four buildings per year that met strict standards for high quality preservation, rehabilitation or restoration practices. Additionally, the Quapaw Quarter Association presented the Junior League of Little Rock with the 2005 Jimmy Strawn Award at our annual membership meeting. The Jimmy Strawn Award is bestowed upon someone whose efforts on behalf of the preservation of Greater Little Rock's architectural heritage are an inspiration to the entire community. The award was in recognition of the preservation and stewardship of the Women's City Club, as well as the Junior League's history of stewardship and work on Trapnall Hall.

I hope this project will prove to be an opportunity for the Junior League of Little Rock, the City of Little Rock, and the Quapaw Quarter Association to work together toward an appropriate solution. The repair, rather than replacement, of the windows in the Women's City Club would not violate the conservation easement, would be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, maintain the National Register status, and continue a tradition of good stewardship by the Junior League of Little Rock. Please let me know if the QQA can be of assistance, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rhea Roberts  
Executive Director