

#### Editors Note:

In our [September issue](#) we published an open letter to the neighborhood from Aaron Betsky, President of The School of Architecture at Taliesin. (formerly the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture).

The below letter from an Arcadia resident is being published in response to Mr. Betsky's previous letter.

(Any opinions expressed are those of the respective authors and not necessarily those of ACMNA or the Board.)

## Letter to my Arcadia Neighbors

Dear Neighbors,

We have all read the narrative and, by now, have heard how terribly important the preservation of the David and Gladys Wright House (DGWH) is to our cultural survival. We have been preached to, cajoled, and scolded into believing that we are absolutely philistine if we don't throw out the welcome mat for each plan that portends to save it. The developer's unstoppable penchant for utilizing the long vacated home and grounds for an event venue, remains to this day, a continuing nuisance and distraction from what was once a predictably quiet and private area.

The pain of living with these events has provided an ominous forecast of things to come if the developer has his way. The DGWH has now partnered with the Arizona Community Foundation, (ACF), to help with philanthropy. According to Mr. Steve Seleznow, President and CEO of the ACF, their "role now is to establish the philanthropic structure and foundation for the FLW School of Architecture, the DGWH and the funds raised to support it, and provide the administrative and investment management systems to make the foundation viable over the long term. A board will be established to govern the new foundation and related assets, and the School of Architecture will determine the vision, and how the house will be used to support its graduate architecture curriculum and community-related programs."

In order to make this plan viable, \$7,000,000 must be raised, so the logic is really very simple: any venue, including the current plan to turn the 6 acre parcel, with the 2200sf house into some sort of adjunct campus, operated under the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture moniker will require a revenue stream. That revenue stream cannot be sustained solely from tuition fees, tours, and

souvenirs sales. There has already been a "purchase ticket" event on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 6 to 9 pm. Let us not be fooled; this is a *commercial* endeavor and what takes hold in one neighborhood sets the precedent and becomes fair game for neighborhoods all over the valley.

Arcadia is and always has been a residential community. The residents intend to keep it that way. The community at large, has a zero tolerance for any commercial use of any residential property in the neighborhood. The DGWH is a residence, and should remain as such, as both father and son intended it to be. In 1921, a grant deed was recorded setting forth the following restriction: "No sanatorium, hotel, apartment, rooming or boarding house, place of amusement or entertainment, or mercantile or other commercial business, shall ever be conducted, erected or maintained thereto"... "and all said covenants and restrictions run with the land...". Any proposed use, other than a residential one, is not only inconsistent with the Arcadia lifestyle, but is illegal and will be met with vehement opposition by the entire neighborhood with the leadership of the Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association (ACMNA).

As a cohesive community, we will accept nothing other than a single family dwelling on this property, with no revenue producing capabilities or uses, just as the deed restrictions state. The peace and tranquility of this neighborhood has been disrupted for long enough. We want this issue to come to an end. Mr. Rawlings, the developer, should accept the offers that have been presented to him by outside parties to purchase the real estate and live in the home as it was intended to be, solely a residential property. Mr. Betsky, from the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture and Mr. Seleznow, of the Arizona Community Foundation must respectfully bow out and find a commercial venue to further fund their endeavors and leave this home to remain a private residence.

Patricia Koslow  
Arcadia Resident