

Katherine D. Seale

5500 Chatham Hill Road

Dallas, TX 75220

Dear Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of Adjustment:

Much of my education has dealt with the preservation of historic landmark houses, both in this country and abroad. The story of the Aldredge House is quite like many other historic houses that are open to the public. These houses require a continually creative approach to preserving them.

Historic Preservation is not accomplished by any one act or at any given point in time, but rather is a process requiring constant and continual work to protect and enhance it. That process never ends, and is always changing. In the case of the Aldredge House, its stewards must always be committed to not only maintaining the property as a historic landmark, but also, and equally important, the house must remain relevant. Else it will cease to be an asset to its neighbors and the community it serves.

Has the Aldredge House ceased to be a public asset that serves its neighborhood, the non-profit community, the citizens of Dallas, and the thousands of tourists that patron it? No, is the short answer. The Aldredge House continues to be an asset for the public through educational tours, lectures, and programs open to the public and FREE of charge. The Aldredge House provides free meeting space to the neighborhood and other non-profits. And, it's charming architecture and interior continues to inspire and teach us as we enjoy its beauty and timelessness.

Every public asset must be carefully managed. The Aldredge House is no different. Their steward, the Medical Alliance Foundation, is and has been over the past several months re-imagining how to once again be an asset to their immediately surrounding neighbors. Every relationship has its ups and downs and when they are able to work it out, both sides come out stronger. The differences creating the conflict are important but how the parties involved handle that issue and make it out on the other side defines their relevance to one another.

Declaring the Aldredge House a public nuisance in the face of resolve will "rob" the neighborhood and the greater Dallas community of a public good that has served us all well for nearly 40 years. It must continue to have a chance, or else the public will lose the asset. This is a defining moment for the members of the Board of Adjustment. Please vote NO to the public nuisance charge against the Aldredge House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine D. Seale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Katherine D. Seale

Current Positions: Mayor's appointment and Chairman of the Dallas Landmarks Commission; Chairman of the Dallas Preservation Solutions Committee under City Manager's Office

Former Positions: former chairman of the Downtown Dallas Historic Preservation Task Force; immediate past executive director of Preservation Dallas

Education: MA in Architectural History, University of Virginia; Attingham School alumni (study program for the private and public houses in the United Kingdom); graduate of Thomas Jefferson's Popular Forest Retreat House Program; BA in Art History, Southwestern University.