



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future

June 22, 2015

Mr. James A. Pardo, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Chautauqua Institution
2660 Peachtree Rd NW
Apt 14H
Atlanta, GA 30305

Dear Mr. Pardo,

I am writing to you today in the spirit of increasing communication between our two organizations.

As you may be aware, the National Trust for Historic Preservation is deeply concerned with the Chautauqua Institution's plan to demolish the historic Chautauqua Amphitheater. In January we named the Amphitheater a National Treasure, one of only 55 National Treasures across the country. On June 24, we will name the Amphitheater to our 2015 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. With this listing, we are again calling on the distinguished Board of Trustees at the Institution to abandon its plans for demolition and instead, to work with local and state preservationists to embrace a preservation-based rehabilitation plan.

Prior to the National Trust's Treasure listing, I communicated our plans by letter to the Institution's President, Thomas Becker, alerting him to the announcement and offering the National Trust's assistance and resources in examining alternatives to demolition. I reiterated our offer of technical assistance to help explore alternatives to demolition in a letter dated March 6, 2015.

As I wrote to Mr. Becker in March, the National Trust believes that buildings do, and must, change and adapt over time to remain relevant. We understand that the Amp needs to be rehabilitated. Our experience with hundreds of rehabilitation projects, including dozens of theatres and auditoriums across the country leads us to believe that a preservation-based plan is viable. We also strongly believe it is the preferable option for this iconic National Historic Landmark.

Stephanie K. Meeks | PRESIDENT

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I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about the future of the Amphitheater further, and would be pleased to schedule a call at your convenience. I can be reached at 202-588-6105.

Sincerely,


Stephanie K. Meeks

Cc: Thomas Becker

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