

November 23, 2015

Mr. William P. Thompson
President and CEO
SSM Health
10101 Woodfield Lane
St. Louis, MO 63132

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I am writing on behalf of The St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The members of our chapter appreciate the decision by SSM Health to build a new St. Louis University Hospital in the City of St. Louis. We recognize that the historic Desloge Hospital Tower could be a challenge to renovate for hospital-related use. This iconic landmark, however, is a valued symbol of health care in the St. Louis Region.

The most effective use of energy and sunk costs in construction are achieved by reusing existing buildings. Reuse could also be an opportunity for SSM Health to further display how to responsibly use the resources of the earth as you set an example for the St. Louis region.

You have embarked on the programming phase of this project. We urge you and your board of directors to instruct your programming consultants and architects to objectively and carefully explore the feasibility of renovating and reusing the Desloge Tower and chapel as part of the new hospital complex.

Creative efforts to explore the reuse or repurposing of the tower may benefit SSM Health in unexpected ways, both economically and in your relationship with the community. We hope that you will make this commitment to the exploration of sustainability and preservation of an iconic landmark. We appreciate your consideration of our concern and our suggestion.

Sincerely,

Michelle C. Swatek
Executive Director