

James Van Nuys Gallery
516 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-343-2449

September 22, 2010

Legal and Finance Committee of the City Council
300 Sixth St.
Rapid City, SD 57701

To whom it may concern:

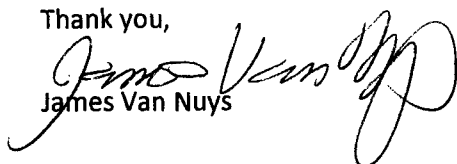
We are requesting that the City Council review and hopefully override the State Historic Commission's recent finding that removing the aged and decrepit stained glass in the building at 516 Sixth Street, owned by Brian Bade and currently housing James Van Nuys Gallery, would have an adverse historical effect. Worth noting is the fact that the State Commission was acting on a recommendation by only one member of the Rapid City Commission. The other nine members had voted that there would be no adverse historical effect.

While old and deemed "historical" by virtue of its age, the glass is not original to the building. It has several holes in it, through which rain and snow blow into the store. Four glass contractors have told us it is structurally unsound and dangerous. These factors, of course, makes it an energy drain as far as heating and cooling are concerned, and, more importantly, make it a potential liability should glass fall out onto the sidewalk (or on passing pedestrians) below.

Any historical or aesthetic value it may have had has already been destroyed by having a large vent cut through it, panes replaced by non-matching panes, and by the fact that it is divided into three asymmetrical sections that don't match the divisions of the store-front. The whole effect is very unsightly.

The artisans consulted by the State Commission seem to have reached the same conclusion that we have: restoring this glass--even when combined with potential grants--would be prohibitively expensive. The window has simply deteriorated beyond the point where it makes sense to restore it. At present we would like to replace it with three panels of clear glass, to be divided in line with the lower windows and door. (See photo B) In addition to the aforementioned advantages, this design will better match the other half of our building and will be closer to the architect's original intent.

Thank you,


James Van Nuys