

Architects decry plan to destroy building

Palm Springs High wants to tear down Wexler-designed structure to make way for new performing arts center

By Maricar Mendoza
The Desert Sun

PALM SPRINGS — The pending demolition of a local school building has garnered significant opposition, including objections from nearly two dozen valley architects.

The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation sent an Architects' Open Letter — signed by 22 local architects — to the Palm Springs Unified School District on Tuesday.

The letter requests that the district “abandon its plans” to level the Palm Springs High School Administration Building designed by renowned midcentury modern architects Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison.

The demolition is slated for this summer to make way for a new

9,000-square-foot Performing Arts Building.

The project is estimated to cost \$4 million.

“The administration building is an excellent example of the modernist architecture for which the city of Palm Springs is known throughout the world,” according to the letter.

Julie Arthur, executive director of Facilities Planning for the Palm Springs Unified School District, told The Desert Sun that the new Performing Arts Building is necessary for the school's growing program, which currently has nearly 200 students participating in the band program alone.

The idea is to also have it designed to fit the style of the façade facing Ramon Road, which make

Please see BUILDING, B6