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AVNC Officers: Co-Chairs: Torin Dunnivant; Courtney Morris • Treasurer: Julia Mewbourne • Secretary: Karen Knapp

April 14, 2016

Hon. Jose Huizar, Chair, PLUM Committee
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Hon. Gilbert A. Cedillo
Hon. Mitchell Englander
Hon. Filipe Fuentes
Office of the City Clerk, c/o Ms. Sharon Dickinson
Attn: PLUM Committee
200 North Spring Street, Room 395, LA, CA 90012

Case Number: CHC-2015-4255-HCM
Albert Van Luit Complex
4000-4010 E. Chevy Chase Drive

Sent via email to:

sharon.dickinson@lacity.org

cc: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, christine.peters@lacity.org, amy.ablakat@lacity.org, CHC@lacity.org, shannon.ryan@lacity.org, lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, atwatervillagealways@gmail.com

Dear Chairman Huizar and Councilmembers,

The Atwater Village Neighborhood Council (AVNC) has previously written in support of preserving the Albert Van Luit Complex for its architectural significance (see letter November 12, 2015 attached hereto). The purpose of this additional letter of support is two-fold. First, we wish to commend the Cultural Heritage Commission's unanimous decision on February 4th to designate the Van Luit Complex a landmark for the City of LA. And second, we want to highlight why preserving the Van Luit Complex is culturally important to the City of Los Angeles, and especially to Atwater Village.

For Atwater Village, the Van Luit Complex is culturally significant because it is where Van Luit revolutionized the wallpaper industry in the United States. Not only did he work and innovate in Atwater Village, but he also lived in Atwater Village directly behind his factory. As a resident, Van Luit created a community with his neighbors, kept horses in his back yard barn, and went horseback riding with friends on our historic bridle trails. As a leader in his industry, and an Atwater Village resident and horse-owner, Van Luit carefully situated his factory to create 30 - 40 foot buffer zones between it and its equestrian and residential neighbors, while also maintaining 25 foot height limits on the factory. This is significant because neighbors who still live in the area today continue to appreciate his considerations; some still remember what Van Luit said of his Complex during the planning phase, that it would be the "jewel of the neighborhood."

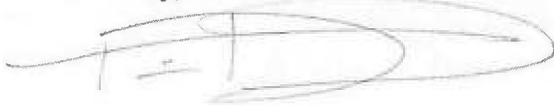
The Van Luit Complex signifies a transition from residential and equestrian use, to manufacturing and industrial use in Atwater Village along the LA River. We are proud of our working-class heritage that has historically populated our Village, and we value our industrial and manufacturing district. Thus the preservation of the Complex is symbolic both for our past history and our future.

Not only did Albert Van Luit make his mark in the design, film & television industries, but he was also known for the work environment he created. He was a champion of minority workers, attracting Latin American, European, and even Egyptian immigrants as skilled workers in his factory. It was known that he paid workers very well, and that he promoted from within, at times promoting workers to supervisory or design positions, and enabling many to discover careers.

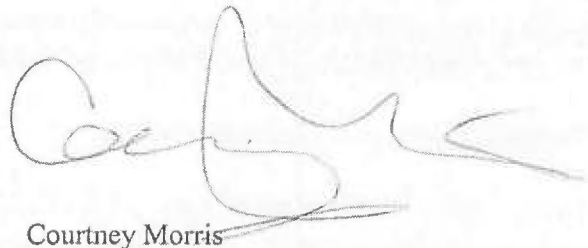
As a man who privately identified with the LGBT community, he created a safe haven and workplace for the LGBT community during a period of post-war heightened homophobia. We are excited the Cultural Heritage Commission specifically recognized that the Van Luit Complex should be preserved as a significant LGBT landmark. The Commission found that the Complex satisfied SurveyLA's LGBT eligibility standards for properties that are directly associated with LGBT persons who made significant contributions to the history of art, including Commercial Art, such as Van Luit's wallpaper. Albert Van Luit's contributions to wallpaper design and production were significant, as evidenced by having been awarded the 1962 National Wallcovering Wholesalers Association's *Justin P. Allman Award*. Van Luit's contributions to the industry are further evidenced by the enduring popularity of his wallpaper designs, still in production today.

For these reasons, Atwater Village is especially proud to preserve the legacy of Albert Van Luit - a talented and ingenious man, who was also inclusive and open to diversity in the early 1950's. The AVNC would like to see his work and his values honored as a beacon to look toward, not only for our community, but for every community in Los Angeles. We urge you to support the Cultural Heritage Commission's determination, by voting to preserve the Albert Van Luit Complex, and thereby allowing the past to influence the future of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Torin Dunnavant
Co-Chair



Courtney Morris
Co-Chair



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To: Richard Barron, AIA, Chair
The Cultural Heritage Commission
c/o Shannon Ryan, Planning Associate
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 620
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination: Albert Van Luit Complex

Date: November 12, 2015

Dear Mr. Richard Barron, AIA

On behalf of the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council, we urge you to support the designation of the Albert Van Luit Complex, located at 4000 E. Chevy Chase Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90039, as a Historical-Cultural Monument to the City of Los Angeles.

The Albert Van Luit Complex ("Complex") has particular historic significance to the City of Los Angeles. Albert Van Luit was well-known for his innovations in the wallpaper industry in the period following World War II. Moreover, important historic resources make up the Complex, comprised of a Post-War Daylight Factory designed by renown architect JR Wyatt (1950) and an International Style office-showroom designed by multiple award-winning Edward Killingsworth and his colleague Jules Brady (1965).

Killingsworth utilized the International Style to highlight Van Luit's innovative wallpaper designs, integrating interior and exterior space to create a more unified whole, and to allow a more natural way to view the various wallpaper designs on display.

Daylight factory-type buildings have also been identified by the City of Los Angeles's Office of Historic Resources as a significant property type. Daylight factory designs feature large unobstructed floor spaces and exposed concrete exterior frames, which can be filled with large windows to admit light and air. The windows are a key element for allowing natural light to come into the building, saving energy use.

Given the historic and architectural significance of the Complex, we submit this letter requesting the Council's support of designating this site as a Historical-Cultural Monument.

Sincerely,

Torin Dunnivant
Co-Chair

Courtney Morris
Co-Chair