



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

April 18, 2016

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

Sent via email to: [sharon.dickinson@lacity.org](mailto:sharon.dickinson@lacity.org)

Dear Chairman Huizar and Councilmembers,

On behalf of Friends of Atwater Village, we write this letter in support of designating the Albert Van Luit Complex as an Historic-Cultural Monument.

We formed Friends of Atwater Village as part of a preservation movement with respect to saving the Van de Kamps Bakery building, which stands today. Our preservation efforts led to writing a book about Atwater Village, Images of America, ATWATER VILLAGE (Arcadia publishers), and its rich history, including its unique equestrian area.

The Van Luit Complex is a well-hidden jewel, fitting seamlessly into the surrounding equestrian landscape. The Complex is a wonderful example of the way Atwater Village commercial buildings were designed -- with respect for the adjacent residences, and in harmony with the equestrian roots of the area. This area, after all, was originally the Santa Eulalia Rancho, owned by the Verdugo Family and subsequently, in 1868, purchased by W.C.B Richardson. This area was run as a ranch until it was annexed to Los Angeles in 1910.

We urge you to approve the findings of The Cultural Heritage Commission, recognizing the rich history of the Van Luit Complex. The Complex is architecturally significant, and is also historically important as the site where Van Luit revolutionized the wallpaper industry. In addition, within the Complex, Van Luit, who privately identified as part of the LGBT community, created a safe industrial workplace for the LGBT minority during the 1950's, and made significant contributions to the history of LGBT commercial art through his wallpaper design and manufacturing.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to approve the designation of the Van Luit Complex as a landmark.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Caravella, Netty Carr, Luis Lopez and Ann Lawson  
Board Members, Friends of Atwater Village