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PLUM mtg 10/25/16- 8150 Sunset Items #12,13 and 14 (Council files: 16-1011, 16-1011-S1, 16-1074)

1 message

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Dear honorable members of the PLUM committee,

In the words of Ada Louise Huxtable, a venerable architecture critic and journalist:

“We will probably be judged not by the monuments we build, but by those we have destroyed.”

Huxtable was a staunch advocate for the preservation of New York City's beloved original Penn station- an architectural gem that fell prey to the development boom of the 1960s-and the loss of which continues to be mourned to the present day, and which gave rise to the architectural preservation movement and local and national landmarking laws which we have to identify and protect our architectural and cultural landmarks.

Los Angeles finds itself at the epicenter of another development boom. And we, citizenry and elected officials, must recognize that we have a responsibility to future generations of Angelenos, as we are the stewards and the protectors of this city's architectural legacy. We must look at the decisions we make now through the lens of what people 100 years from now would say about those decisions.

It is in that spirit that I ask you to give great consideration to the architectural and cultural significance of the Lytton Savings bank designed by renown architect, Kurt Meyer- the designation of which is before you today. I ask you to please recognize its significance, as it has been well documented in its application and by the testimony of the public and comments made by the Cultural Heritage Commissioners, when they unanimously voted in favor of historical designation. I ask you to consider this designation, independently of the proposed project for the site, because the clout of the developers and architect behind that project should not obfuscate the merit of this historical designation.

As we move into the future, it is critical that we do not pit new against old in a continual either/or scenario, but rather, that we recognize the opportunity for historical structures to be adapted into new development projects. According to the EIR for the proposed project at 8150 Sunset, there were two proposals that would allow for inclusion of the historic Lytton Savings structure into the new development that were not fully investigated. The architectural value that this accordion-shaped modern structure already holds in present day is significant...what will future generations say when they find out that there could have been a way to preserve the building and incorporate it into a new development, but that we simply chose not to?

This is a compelling example of the possibility that exists when there is good will. “Where there is will, there is a way”. We already know there is a way. Now we just need the political will. I ask the members of this committee to add your support to that of Councilmember Ryu, and please vote in favor of the historical

designation of Lytton Savings bank at 8150 Sunset and recommend that the project applicant and planning department work to put forward a proposal that incorporates and protects this architectural gem for future generations to appreciate.

Respectfully,
Sylvie Shain