

## Google Groups

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### The Comedy Union

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**susan hecht** <shecht@prodigy.net>

Jan 26, 2019 6:08 AM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear Members of the Planning and Land-Use Management Committee:

- The Cultural Heritage Commission voted unanimously in support of Historic-Cultural Monument designation for this building.
- Constructed in 1930, The Comedy Union embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Art Deco architectural style, making it inherently valuable for a study of 1930s architecture in Los Angeles.
- The Comedy Union is the first Black owned and operated Comedy Club in Los Angeles and has been in business since 2001.
- **As a constituent of CD10**, I urge PLUM to support the designation of 5040 West Pico Boulevard as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Susan Wolfe Hecht  
30 year Wilshire Vista resident

## Google Groups

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### Support for 5040 West Pico Blvd. HCM; Council File: 18-1240, The Comedy Union

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**Marilouise Morgan** <sierramorg@sbcglobal.net>

Jan 26, 2019 11:10 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear PLUM Committee Members,

I wish to voice my support for designating the Comedy Store as a Historic-Cultural Monument. Not only is this building architecturally important for its art deco features, but the building, built in the 1930s, was the first Black owned and operated comedy club in our city. This building is an important part of the history of our area.

Sincerely,

Marilouise Morgan  
Carthay Square

## Google Groups

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### Support for 5040 West Pico Blvd HCM; Council File: 18-1240, The Comedy Union

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[catscmalbums@earthlink.net](mailto:catscmalbums@earthlink.net) <[catscmalbums@earthlink.net](mailto:catscmalbums@earthlink.net)>

Jan 26, 2019 1:29 AM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear Members of the Planning and Land-Use Management Committee:

Los Angeles has taken steps to preserve some of its heritage architecture instead of foolishly bulldozing it, and we are so happy that our city council listens and cares what we think is important. There is widespread community support for this nomination.

This is a rare example of small scale Art Deco architecture, a style most associated with skyscrapers.

- The Cultural Heritage Commission voted unanimously in support of Historic-Cultural Monument designation for this building.
- Constructed in 1930, The Comedy Union embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Art Deco architectural style, making it inherently valuable for a study of 1930s architecture in Los Angeles.
- The Comedy Union is the first Black owned and operated Comedy Club in Los Angeles and has been in business since 2001.
- As a constituent of CD10, I urge PLUM to support the designation of 5040 West Pico Boulevard as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Cathleen Sweeney

[catscmalbums@earthlink.net](mailto:catscmalbums@earthlink.net)

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### Support for 5040 West Pico Blvd HCM; Council File: 18-1240, The Comedy Union

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Deborah Chalfie <dmchalfie@yahoo.com>

Jan 26, 2019 9:19 AM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear LA Planning and Land Use Management Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the designation of 5040 West Pico Boulevard as a Historic-Cultural Monument. I am not a resident of LA but I am a decophile who maintains memberships in the Art Deco Society of LA, the Chicago Art Deco Society, and the Art Deco Society of Washington (DC), because I think it is vital to preserve wonderful buildings such as the Comedy Union building. Landmark status is an important step toward preservation.

Many preservation efforts focus on large buildings, and these are important. Across the country, however, there are also a multitude of strip malls and small-scale buildings such as the Comedy Union building (and the theater next store). These buildings are also works of art, and bring character and a sense of history that enrich neighborhoods. Please support the ADSLA's nomination of the Comedy Union building as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Chalfie  
Takoma Park, Maryland

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### Support for 5040 West Pico Blvd HCM; Council File: 18-1240, The Comedy Union

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Dana Slawson <slawson.dn@gmail.com>

Jan 26, 2019 12:30 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear Members of the Planning and Land-Use Management Committee:

I am writing today to express my strong support for the designation of The Comedy Union building, located at 5040 Pico Boulevard, as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

Writing as a resident of this Pico neighborhood and as a historic preservation professional, I cannot overstate the importance of the Comedy Union to the Pico Boulevard corridor, where it acts as an anchoring historical element along a portion of this "Great Street" which is still host to numerous Period Revival, Art Deco, and Streamline Moderne buildings from the 1920s and 1930s. It also embodies significant cultural importance to the surrounding community as the first Black owned and operated comedy club in Los Angeles, in business since 2001.

Constructed in 1930, the building is an exceptional example of a small scale (one-story) Art Deco style commercial structure. Art Deco is an architectural style most associated with skyscrapers, but small scale Deco buildings were a major component of the Jazz Era historical development of the Pico commercial corridor. Unfortunately, the stock of buildings of this type along Pico Boulevard is rapidly diminishing.

It should be noted that the Cultural Heritage Commission voted unanimously in support of Historic-Cultural Monument designation for this building. Further, the nomination of the building for HCM designation enjoys broad-based popular support within the surrounding community.

I urge you to act in the best interest of our community and this important historical resource by supporting The Comedy Union's designation as an Historic-Cultural Monument.

Sincerely,

Dana N. Slawson, MArch  
1512 S Curson Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
323.939.6045

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### Support for 5040 West Pico Blvd HCM; Council File: 18-1240, The Comedy Union

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**Naomi Himmelfarb** <naomihimmelfarb@yahoo.com>

Jan 26, 2019 12:54 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear Members of the Planning and Land-Use Management Committee:

I live in Council District 10, on South Genesee Ave. I'm writing to urge PLUM to support the designation of 5040 West Pico Boulevard as a Historical-Cultural Monument. The Wilshire Vista neighborhood in which I live is very much in favor of preserving architecturally and historically significant buildings such as this one. Further, the Cultural Heritage Commission just voted unanimously to support Historic-Cultural Monument designation for it.

The Comedy Union embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Art Deco architectural style, making it valuable for a study of 1930s architecture in Los Angeles. It is also the first black owned and operated Comedy Club in Los Angeles and has been in business since 2001.

As a constituent of CD 10, I ask you to support the designation of 5040 West Pico Boulevard as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Thank you.

Naomi Himmelfarb  
1088 S. Genesee Ave.  
Council District 10

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### Support for 5040 West Pico Blvd HCM; Council File: 18-1240, The Comedy Union

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**Barbara Kroll** <krollaway@yahoo.com>

Jan 26, 2019 1:03 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear Members of the Planning and Land-Use Management Committee:

I am a homeowner and voter in CD 10. One of the things that makes our neighborhood special is the many buildings of architectural beauty, displaying the history of LA in its many Art Deco structures.

I understand that the Cultural Heritage Commission unanimously voted to support HCM status for the Comedy Union. Not only is it a beautiful structure in and of itself, but its history as the first Black owned and operated Comedy Club in LA makes it very special indeed.

I urge the members of PLUM to support the designation of 5040 West Pico as a Historic Cultural Monument.

Sincerely yours,  
Barbara Kroll

Resident of Wilshire Vista

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### Support for 5040 West Pico Blvd HCM; Council File: 18-1240, The Comedy Union

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David Dahlke <dadadahlke@gmail.com>

Jan 26, 2019 9:29 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear Members of the Planning and Land-Use Management Committee:

It was nearly twenty years ago that I and a few other community members began to look at improving our stretch of Pico Boulevard from La Brea to La Cienaga. We recognized early that we had an architectural gem and a source of community pride in the Comedy Union building. We were able to obtain funding from the CRA (as part of the Mid-City Recovery Plan from the 92 riots) with support from Council District 10 to improve to spruce up the facade of this building working closely with Ens Mitchell who just took the ownership of the comedy club which he renamed *The Comedy Union*. This was one of many nice buildings in the stretch of Pico to Cochran Avenue that we were able to focus on to help revitalize our commercial corridor.

Nearly 15 years we were happy to find that it was recognized by Survey LA as a historically significant building. They found the building has distinguishing characteristics of the Art Deco architectural style of 1930's single story building.

Shortly afterwards, we had learned of a development adjacent to this site which was looking to develop a very tall building adjacent to this site. Since this building had such an architectural presence we worked with the developer's architect to have the building show respect with a contemporary version of Art Deco and to lower the scale of their building in relationship to the Comedy Union.

In this process, we reached out for support from the Art Deco Society to help us understand this building and we were pleased that this group recognized the architectural purity of this Art Deco building. They ultimately offered to help our community and the City of Los Angeles work to designate this as a Historical Cultural monument. We were then pleased to see an unanimous approval in support of a Historic-Cultural Monument designation for this building. In this process, we worked with the P.I.C.O. Neighborhood Council for their support.

I wanted to give your committee a sense of initial recognition of this building and community pride from some local constituents building to experts like Survey LA, the Art Deco Society and to the Cultural Heritage Commission of an architectural gem. As a constituent of CD 10 and someone active in my community within the heart of Los Angeles, I urge PLUM to support the designation of 5040 West Pico Boulevard as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Best Regards,

David Dahlke



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David Dahlke