

From: Ljiljana Grozdanic [mailto:theljljana@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 3:29 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Gordo, Victor; De La Cuba, Vannia; Kent, Judy; district1; Fuller, Margo; McIntyre, Jacqueline; Stone, Rhonda; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; vchima@cityoifpasadena.net

Cc: Ljiljana Grozdanic

Subject: Support for the historic Washington Theater ...

Honorable Mayor Bogaard and Members of the Council:

As a member of the Community, I am writing to lend my support for the proposed designation of the historic Washington Theater as a cultural landmark.

The Washington Theater, designed in 1924, was one of the first projects of its type in the northern part of Pasadena, and is an early example of a development that incorporates a theater, retail shops, and apartments within a single structure. Its location on a prominent corner provides it tremendous visual appeal as an anchor to the neighborhood. But in its current condition the theater detracts from the substantial efforts made by the City, merchants and surrounding neighborhood associations to revitalize this important neighborhood commercial district. Over the last two decades the building has suffered from neglect.

To highlight the significance of the Washington Theater and provide incentives for a rehabilitation project, Pasadena Heritage has submitted a landmark nomination for the building to the city. I support the efforts of Pasadena Heritage and other community groups that are deeply concerned by the poor condition of the building and the degradation of its historic fabric. We believe that preservation and adaptive reuse of the structure present the best opportunities for the property to be used in a manner that is both economically viable and serves the larger interests of Pasadena.

I appreciate the tremendous efforts made by the City to invest in the North Lake/Washington Boulevard Village, and believe that the benefits of a landmark designation - including the application of the State Historic Building Code and availability of incentives applicable to historic properties could spur the conversion of this structure from a perceived threat to a jewel. I urge residents of Garfield Heights, Orange Heights, Washington Square and Bungalow Heaven to support this designation as another step in the ongoing revitalization of our neighborhood commercial district, and respectfully request that the Council favorably consider this landmark designation for the many benefits it offers our community.

Respectfully,

Ljiljana Grozdanic