

Takeda, Michi

From: Nina Chomsky <nrchomsky@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:09 PM
To: Takeda, Michi
Subject: Design Commission Meeting 8/11/2020; Agenda Item 3.A, B of A Building; 101 S. Marengo

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PLEASE DELIVER TO THE DESIGN COMMISSION MEMBERS FOR TODAY'S MEETING -- THANK YOU.

Re: Design Commission Meeting 8/11/2020; Agenda Item 3.A, B of A Building; 101 S. Marengo

Chair Toro and Design Commissioners,

I have the following comments made in my personal capacity. I am a former Design Commissioner, and also a preservation advocate. The appropriate solution for this iconic building is of great importance to me and others.

It is not clear to me why this iconic building is not an eligible historic resource, but, if this is a correct determination, then at a minimum, the Commission should consider the iconic nature of the building and its design, as well as the importance of its architect and architectural context and setting, in reaching a decision on the best approach to adaptive reuse.

My understanding is that the prior use of the building included administrative offices, and that there is or was some sort of sky light providing light and, maybe, air, to the office area. In any event, it seems to me that the creative use of the roof is the answer to preserving the most visible of the iconic and beautiful facades -- the North and East facades along Green and Marengo. The other two facades are not that visible, and if the applicant must include some windows, then these facades can be utilized. As to the roof, where is the appropriate design study and consideration of the use of the roof through sky lights and other technical innovations to let in light and air and enable the introduction of internal courtyards and landscaping? "Opening" the building from the "top", along with some windows in the West and South facades, would provide a startling and unique design and adaptive reuse experience while preserving the essential nature of the original architecture and its place in Pasadena. Please give this point of view consideration in reaching your determination.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Nina Chomsky