

BOSTON PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

February 23, 2017

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Gregory J. Galer, Ph.D.

Mr. Antoine Wilmering
The Getty Foundation
1200 Getty Center Drive
Los Angeles, California 90049
VIA EMAIL: keepingitmodern@getty.edu

Dear Mr. Wilmering,

The Boston Preservation Alliance is Boston's primary, non-profit advocacy organization that protects and promotes the use of historic buildings and landscapes in all of the city's neighborhoods. With 40 Organizational Members, 98 Corporate Members, and a reach of 35,000 friends and supporters we represent a diverse constituency advocating for the thoughtful evolution of the city and celebration of its unique character.

I write today to enthusiastically support the application to the Getty Foundation Keeping it Modern program by the City of Boston for Boston City Hall. The Alliance has long been an advocate for preserving, rehabilitating, and featuring for the City of Boston this unique, mid-century-modern icon. For many years our efforts to bring positive attention and focus to the vast opportunities of this Kallman, McKinnel, and Knowles and masterpiece fell on deaf ears. We are now thrilled that the current administration of Mayor Marty Walsh and his skilled team of facility managers within the city and its hired consulting team have righted the ship and are now focusing on giving this building and its plaza the attention it deserves.

The Alliance has been regularly consulted by the team working on City Hall, including being part of the dialog that has led to some limited but impactful incremental interventions, such as enhanced exterior lighting. We not only believe, but we see that the change in tone and mindset within the administration toward city hall has led to a new level of interest and engagement in the building by residents and visitors, important first steps toward building a local constituency who are finding a new appreciation for and therefore a growing level of support for this building and its many needs.

Early phase work by the planning team has revealed much of what advocates such as the Alliance have been claiming, that this fascinating structure has much to offer, not only as a world-class modernist structure but as a unique and informative place about the city and its history but also the evolution, rationale, motivations, and execution of the Brutalist Movement.

Yet there is much work to do. The city team has welcomed the guidance of the Alliance and prominent local members of DOCOMOMO, but the support and

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assistance of the Getty will be critical in supporting our mutual efforts to assure that the conservation strategies put in place to protect this landmark are done so with the highest level of care and the most current best practices and knowledge from other modernist sites considered here in Boston.

While too many in Boston under-appreciate the importance of our City Hall, we know that others such as the Getty fully recognize its significance. We see a new perspective on Boston City Hall growing within Boston and a changing dynamic, but are certain support and attention from the Getty will enhance the renewed appreciation from Bostonians. The expertise and support you can offer cannot be understated. Furthermore, we recognize that many of the challenges faced at Boston City Hall share commonalities with other structures of this type and are confident that lessons learned here will be applicable elsewhere.

I urge the Getty to support this worthwhile project. Your recognition and support would be significantly meaningful to the ultimate success of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'GA', is positioned below the closing 'Sincerely,'.

Greg Galer

Executive Director

