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November 13, 2020

Terri Myers, Chair
City of Austin
Historic Landmark Commission

Re: Proposed Historic Design Standards

Dear Ms. Myers,

Preservation Austin exists to empower Austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation. We write today to respectfully support Austin's Historic Preservation Office's proposed Historic Design Standards. We commend the time-intensive and community-focused efforts of the working group and the Historic Preservation Office staff.

We believe that the design standards will increase equity and accessibility in Austin's local historic district application process. Preservation Austin has adopted Underrepresented Heritage as an FY21 Advocacy Priority. We see the citywide design standards as an encouragement to many groups who would not have the time or money to develop unique standards for their proposed district. We are optimistic the design standards will encourage new local district applications.

At the same time, these design standards will streamline the Historic Landmark Commission process for city staff and advocates alike by providing clear and consistent standards. We believe this will create a more efficient and effective process for the benefit of all.

We also believe the standards support the preservation of our city's diverse heritage, for the people of Austin, in a way that's compatible with increasing density. Preservation Austin knows how crucial density is for Austin's future and appreciate that the standards do not discourage density but rather recognizes that it can occur alongside preserving our historic neighborhoods.

Preservation Austin encourages the Historic Landmark Commission to support the proposed Historic Design Standards. We know they will be an asset to our city for years to come. We again recognize the dedication that went into creating these standards and hope to see them adopted.

Thank you for your service to the community,

Clayton Bullock, President