

Amber Allen
Historic Preservation Office
City of Austin

August 16, 2023

**RE: State Theatre (719 Congress Avenue),
request to consider initiation of historic zoning**

Dear Ms. Allen,

I'd like to express my support to include the historic State Theatre, located at 719 Congress Avenue, on the Historic Landmark Commission's September agenda for consideration of initiation of historic zoning. To my knowledge, this proposed agenda item has owner support and is also supported by Commissioner Kevin Koch.

For decades, the State Theatre, and its neighbor, the Paramount Theatre, have anchored Austin's main street, Congress Avenue. The building owners have worked meticulously to ensure that both theatres can function for another hundred years as key landmarks for cultural and entertainment tourism. Historic zoning for the State Theatre and potential tax benefits would help the owners preserve the historic structure and strengthen protections for a significant resource on this downtown block. Located in the Congress Avenue National Register Historic District, the State Theatre retains a good degree of integrity, as its exterior character defining features are mostly intact. Proposed changes recently approved by the Historic Landmarks Commission were determined to be acceptable modifications and included reconstructing exterior elements to be more compatible with the historic façade. Thank you for your consideration and feel free to reach out regarding any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan Raymon Rubio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Juan" being the most prominent.

JuanRaymon Rubio, Associate AIA
Historic Landmark Commissioner, District 2

708.743.8148
BC-JuanRaymon.Rubio@AustinTexas.gov