

Communication from Public

Name: Dorothy Fue Wong

Date Submitted: 11/03/2019 04:27 PM

Council File No: 19-1145

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the PLUM Committee to approve the LA City Monument designation for Tokio Florist/Sakai-Kozawa Residence because this site represents the important role that the Japanese Americans have contributed to the history and cultural life of Los Angeles City for almost a century.

Communication from Public

Name: Michael G Okamura

Date Submitted: 11/03/2019 06:45 PM

Council File No: 19-1145

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Clerk, Attached is the Little Tokyo Historical Society letter of support for the Sakai-Kozawa Residence/Tokio Florist and Pole Sign (CHC-2019-3774-HCM) for the PLUM Committee hearing on November 5, 2019. Sincerely, Michael G. Okamura
President

November 3, 2019



LITTLE TOKYO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

319 E. 2nd St., Suite 203
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee
City Clerk
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CHC-2019-3774-HCM

Dear PLUM Committee members:

On behalf of the Little Tokyo Historical Society, I am writing in support of a City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument (HCM) designation for the Sakai-Kozawa Residence/Tokio Florist and Pole Sign, which is located in Council District 4 at 2718 Hyperion Ave. in the Silver Lake neighborhood.

From 1960 to 2006, this site was the long-time location of Tokio Florist as well as the residence of proprietors, Yuki Sakai, her daughter Sumi (Sakai) Kozawa, and son-in-law, Frank Kozawa. The site is representative of the agricultural and horticultural sectors of Los Angeles, which were integral to the region's commercial and early industrial development. The buildings and components of this site related to flower growing remain intact in a neighborhood of northeastern Los Angeles where flower stands and nurseries once dominated the landscape. Additionally, it is exemplary of a multigenerational Japanese American residence and family-owned and operated floral business.

The long history of the business that operated at this property for decades anchors several integral themes to Los Angeles's past. It also reflects the contributions of Japanese Angelenos to agriculture and horticulture. Moreover, the history of Tokio Florist highlights the contributions of women to the region. For these reasons, this site exemplifies significant broad cultural, economic, or social history of the city and local community.

If designated, Tokio Florist would become the eighth—of more than 1,100 City of Los Angeles HCM designations—that outwardly reflects the rich history and contributions of the Japanese American community in the region, which established roots beginning in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

We hope that you also share our appreciation for the significance of Tokio Florist in conveying the larger history of our city and region, and that you will support the proposed HCM designation for the Sakai-Kozawa Residence/Tokio Florist and Pole Sign.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Okamura
President

Communication from Public

Name: Cindy

Date Submitted: 11/03/2019 08:31 PM

Council File No: 19-1145

Comments for Public Posting: Members of the PLUM Committee, I urge your support of the "Sakai-Kozawa Residence/Tokio Florist" at 2718 North Hyperion Avenue for designation as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. I am a 27 year resident of Silverlake and I recognize the importance of this unique property to the history of a Japanese American Business Woman operating a floral shop and maintaining a home during a time of great discrimination. The Los Angeles Conservancy states, "Sumi and Frank Kozawa were responsible for the landscaped grounds, which include a Japanese garden featuring rare plantings, koi ponds, wooden bridges, rocks, and circular pathways. The Sakai-Kozawa family members planted fruit trees, poppies, and vegetables in the upper terrace for personal and business use". The multi generational owners have an intertwined history with the neighborhood of Silverlake, Hollywood, and Los Feliz. The Silverlake area of LA, with no laws restricting minorities from owning homes, has been unique in accepting Asian Americans. The U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service 2017 Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study notes that "place is rarely provided the significance it deserves in the contemplation or commemoration of historic events/people/ideas in the narratives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders within the histories of the United States." We must not lose this opportunity to designate this unique property a City of Los Angeles Historic- Cultural Monument. Cindy Abrams Silverlake Resident and Board Member Little Tokyo Historical Society 2446 Moreno Drive Los Angeles, CA 90039