

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