

Community Impact Statement

To: The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor
Los Angeles Council District 14

We express our support for the preservation of the Unique Theatre, at 3645 E. 1st Street in the neighboring community of East Los Angeles.

The Unique Theater is a rare surviving example of an independently operated neighborhood theater, motion picture, and live entertainment house, opening around 1922 and getting a major remodel in 1935. The theater closed in the mid-1980s, but many of the original decorative features were retained. It still boasts its towering neon blade sign, with its marquee transformed to advertise the Unique Dollar Store that was the most recent retail tenant.

On September 16, 2020, a major fire at ELACC's El Nuevo Amanecer Apartments construction site gutted that unfinished development, and caused serious damage to the Unique Theatre building's roof and interiors, displacing retail and residential tenants.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis has responded to requests from concerned preservationists and community members to nominate the Unique Theatre building as a Los Angeles County landmark, with the aim of retaining the facade and neon sign as part of a new adaptive reuse project.

We support the preservation, landmarking and adaptive reuse of the Unique Theatre, and look forward to seeing this significant cultural and architectural treasure celebrate its centennial as a beloved icon of our neighboring community of East Los Angeles.

Respectfully submitted,

The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council