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November 7, 2023

Rosanne Foley, Executive Director  
Boston Landmarks Commission  
20 City Hall Avenue, Third Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Foley:

On behalf of Docomomo US, we are writing to express our certainty that Boston City Hall merits designation as a Boston City Landmark. Docomomo US, the nation's leading advocate for buildings of the Modern Movement, sees that there is no doubt that Boston City Hall is one of the most important of the many municipal and county buildings constructed in the 1960's.

Boston's City Hall, designed by Kallman, McKinnell and Knowles, and constructed in 1968, was designed as a keystone for the city's urban renewal efforts. The building reflects the political movements and social unrest of the time, representing the democratic attitudes of powerful civic expression - authenticity, honesty, directness, and strength. It is notable for its masterful craftsmanship using cast-in-place concrete and brick from many local manufacturers.

Architecturally, Boston's City Hall is also considered a bold and prime example of "Brutalism" - a global movement in architecture from the 1950s to the 1970s that has been broadly reevaluated in recent years in a number of publications and exhibitions. The term (coined as a humorous epithet by British critic Reyner Banham in the 1950s) refers to buildings with exposed concrete ('béton brut'), evocative sculptural forms and often grand spaces inside. Boston's City Hall has since been recognized as the city's most significant 20th Century Building, and as an exemplar of outstanding modern architecture in the United States and the world. As the headquarters for the municipal government, the building represents the city's commitment to democratic governance and civic engagement.



While Boston City Hall is not currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), it is eligible under Criteria A and C at the local, state and national levels as the building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

This letter follows our colleagues from Docomomo US/NE and the local preservation community to encourage the Boston Landmarks Commission to designate Boston City Hall as a Boston Landmark.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TG", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd Grover  
Vice President Advocacy  
Docomomo US

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Waytkus", written in a cursive style.

Liz Waytkus  
Executive Director  
Docomomo US