

November 22, 2022

Kathleen Irvine, Chair  
Cultural Heritage Commission  
City of Long Beach  
411 W. Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, California 90802

Re: Property at 2749 Ocean Blvd.

Dear Commission Chair Irvine, Vice Chair McGuan, and Commissioners Grisafe, Hinds, Hunter, and Ramos:

I would like to ask you to support the request made by the **Bluff Park Neighborhood Association** regarding the property located at 2749 Ocean Blvd. This home, which was built by the “father of modern architecture”, Irving Gill, deserves to be preserved for posterity. Sadly, Long Beach has not always preserved such historic homes and I hope that the Cultural Heritage Commission will focus on preservation and not approve this plan that will be before you on November 29, 2022.

It is my understanding that the Board of the Bluff Park Neighborhood Association has put forth a suggestion to the Commission to allow the ADU, as presented by the owner, and I request that you do so and that you disallow the plan to remove walls and historical features of the 1918 home. It is completely inappropriate to remove walls and historic details of a significant architect's historic home. As Commissioners, I believe it is your duty to protect this home. Leadership at this time will insure that significant historic homes will be preserved in Long Beach.

I would hope that the owners of this home would be willing to preserve the integrity of their home. Alternatives and a positive outcome can be forthcoming but it is up to the Cultural Heritage Commission to exert your preservation goal and support the Bluff Park Neighborhood's request.

I live in the Bluff Heights neighborhood and as a close neighbor, I am concerned that historic preservation may not always be the strong focus that it should be. Every historic neighborhood in Long Beach has significant residences and I believe that the plan before you for 2749 Ocean, if approved, will set a terrible precedent. If we do not save such a treasure as an Irving Gill home, what chance do the simple craftsman homes in our local neighborhoods have to be preserved? I would hope that the owners of this property could apply for a Mills Act and or Landmark status so that they may find a financial incentive to alter their plans to demolish the back of the house and to alter significant features of the house. That would be advantageous to all and would preserve this Irving Gill home in Long Beach. Please follow the advice of the Bluff Park Neighborhood Association and other preservationist in Long Beach that have written to you and preserve this architectural treasure.

Thank you,

Donna Sievers

cc via email: Christopher Koontz, Director, City of Long Beach Development Services  
Alison Spindler-Ruiz, Acting Manager, City of Long Beach Development Services  
Gina Casillas, Planner, City of Long Beach Development Services  
Alejandro Plascencia, Historic Preservation Planner, City of Long Beach  
Development Services Planning Bureau  
Cindy Allen, Councilwoman, City of Long Beach 2nd District  
Chris Hogan, President, Long Beach Heritage  
Michelle Arend-Ekhoff, Lead, Long Beach Historic Districts Leaders Group  
Jeff Mallin, President, Bluff Park Neighborhood Association President



November 20, 2022

Kathleen Irvine, Chair  
Cultural Heritage Commission  
City of Long Beach  
411 W. Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, California 90802

Re: Property at 2749 Ocean Blvd.

Dear Commission Chair Irvine, Vice Chair McGuan, and Commissioners Grisafe, Hinds, Hunter, and Ramos:

Coming before you on November 29, 2022 is a proposal for the property located at 2749 Ocean Blvd. The Board of the Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association is deeply concerned about this property and the owner's proposal that will be before you. The home on this property was designed by Irving Gill who has been designated as the "father of modern architecture." When I googled Irving Gill's name, the first picture associated with him on the google search, is the property at 2749 Ocean. That is a significant point as it delineates the importance of this house in the history of architecture.

This house is a concrete cubist home built in 1918 for Dr. Samuel Raymond. It is noted in *An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles*, that this significant home is one of only a few of homes designed by Irving Gill remaining in LA. What a terrible shame if Long Beach allows this historical home to be torn apart.

As the Board of the adjacent historical neighborhood, Bluff Heights, we believe that this property is such a significant historical part of Long Beach that we now appeal to you to save this house from being deconstructed. We believe the owners of the home may not realize how important it is to not remove walls and other original features of any Irving Gill home. It is of utmost importance for the Commissioners on the Cultural Heritage Commission to recognize the significance of the Irving Gill home and to therefore stop the owner of the home from tearing the home apart which will thereby destroy yet again, another historic home in Long Beach.

One may argue that an owner of a home can do as they please or that a back wall will not impact the historic significance of the home. We absolutely disagree with those arguments. The owner of the home paid approximately three million dollars for this home and certainly had to be aware of the historic value of the home. Taking down walls and the original features of the

house is an architectural travesty. By all historical guidelines, the original features of the house must be maintained.

We hope the Commissioners will carefully evaluate the letters sent to you from the Bluff Park Neighborhood Association and from other leaders in historic preservation in Long Beach. Your decisions are vital to the historical preservation of our City and your responsibility as Commissioners is to preserve the integrity of historically significant homes like this home from a master architect, Irving Gill.

Thank you for your time and expertise.

Donna Sievers  
President of Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association

Board Members:

Rick Shank  
David Clement  
Maria Kootsikis  
Theresa Marino  
Debbie Davis  
Lee Apel  
Shonnie Spina  
Frank Gnipro

cc via email: Christopher Koontz, Director, City of Long Beach Development Services  
Alison Spindler-Ruiz, Acting Manager, City of Long Beach Development Services  
Gina Casillas, Planner, City of Long Beach Development Services  
Alejandro Plascencia, Historic Preservation Planner, City of Long Beach  
Development Services Planning Bureau  
Cindy Allen, Councilwoman, City of Long Beach 2nd District  
Chris Hogan, President, Long Beach Heritage  
Michelle Arend-Ekhoff, Lead, Long Beach Historic Districts Leaders Group  
Jeff Mallin, President, Bluff Park Neighborhood Association