



January 25, 2024

(By electronic transmission)

City of Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
Fatema Crane
Land Use Planning Division
fcrane@berkeleyca.gov

Subject: Regal UA Berkeley Theater

Dear Ms. Crane and Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commissioners,

Oakland Heritage Alliance, our 33-year old nonprofit historic preservation organization, appreciates the opportunity to comment.

We urge you to designate the United Artists Theatre building as a landmark. At your meeting on February 1, please vote to landmark the *entire* exterior of the building, as is supported by local law.

The UA Berkeley is an excellent example of Art Deco architecture that, if destroyed, can never be replaced. It was found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and it is on the California Register of Historical Resources. The city of Berkeley recognizes it as an “architecturally significant” building and a “structure of merit.”

If we may give examples, Oakland’s Paramount and Fox Oakland theaters were each seen as expendable before people recognized their merit. In each case, restoration has proven an excellent and economically valuable effort, and they are now recognized widely as great assets, important architectural landmarks, well-used and cherished elements of the Bay Area past.

In your role to protect, preserve, and recognize buildings of high historic and architectural value, we urge you to protect the Regal UA theater, a key landmark in Berkeley. It will be well worth it to preserve this magnificent Art Deco movie palace from Hollywood’s golden era.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Daniel Levy, President