

Public comment for 1910 Chestnut Street

Preserve Boyd Theatre marquee

From joe cesa <joe1phillypa@gmail.com>
Date Thu 5/21/2026 6:58 AM
To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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It's been recently reported that Pearl Properties--owners of the apartment built on the ruins of the Boyd Theatre, wish to withdraw from their agreement to preserve the historic theatre's marquee--one of the few remaining elements of the theatre. Here is the article:

https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/commercial/boyd-theatre-marquee-historical-preservation-pearl-properties-20260520.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawR7wjtleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEei7n77VcHEnda1piaqBtsYhWuFKVqYneupzyLRRc0RhWA9s-hjy-5jTaqSS0_aem_KfuM0FUz9Ou216TwBdKU9g

They made an agreement, they should be held to it. In my opinion, they made a meagre attempt to "restore" the marquee; now they wish to back away from even this poor gesture. When is America's most historic city going to live up to its title and preserve the remaining bits that make it unique from big box bland majority?

Joseph Cesa
citizen, taxpayer, voter


Boyd Theater, 1910 Chestnut St - Proposed Facade Redo for May 26

From Karen Colizzi Noonan <karencolizzinoonan@gmail.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 10:34 AM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

Cc Howard B Haas <HowardBHaas@aol.com>

 2 attachments (531 KB)

MacArthur CVS Washington DC.jpg; State Thr Target Ann Arbor MI.jpg;

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Please acknowledge receipt of this email:

Dear Ms. Chantry,

I've become aware of the proposal to remove the marquee and vestibule walls of the former Boyd Theater, located at 1910 Chestnut St. in Philadelphia. Please allow me to speak to the detriment of such a move:

As a theater architecture historian with 30+ years of experience there is strong precedent for reusing the facade and incorporating it into any new business that eventually occupies the space. In my 10 years as a former President of Theatre Historical Society of America, this situation has presented itself where former theater buildings are re-used following the end of their public performance era. I visited the Boyd in person and am aware of its particular importance to the community.

While the current marquee "only" dates back to a 1950s reconfiguration, it is still an important piece of Chestnut Street's history and should be retained to support 20th century architectural history. Philadelphia is steeped in early American history, yet that story does extend into the more "modern" era as well.

A retained facade, honoring the building's history, can be a tribute to the past as well as a useful modern advertising method.

Attached are two photos that show successful incorporation into existing facade development. Many others exist, but they do serve to illustrate the creativity and respect that these projects demonstrate.

I urge your commission to consider the historical importance of the streetscape of Chestnut Street and retain the facade including the marquee and the vestibule walls to be incorporated into any reuse plan.

Karen Colizzi Noonan
Former President, Theatre Historical Society of America (2003-2013)
Current Theater Historian & Consultant
147 High Street Geneva, New York
Contact: 315-945-7445

c.c. Howard Haas/Friends of the Boyd

MACARTHUR

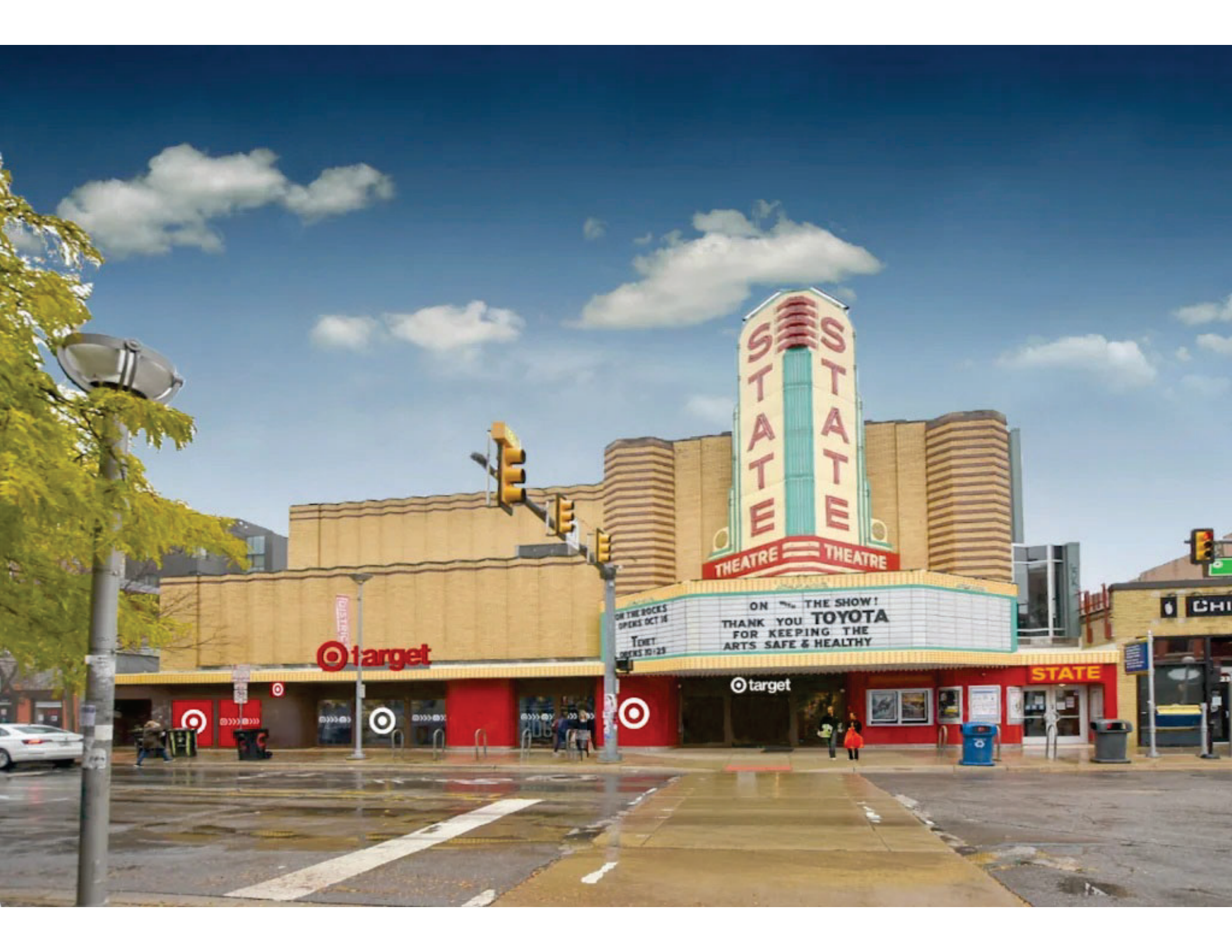
CVS/pharmacy

1HourPhoto
\$6.99

4923

NO PARKING
ANYTIME
ON THIS STREET





STATE THEATRE

ON THE ROCKS OPENS OCT 16
THEATRE OPENS 10-23
ON THE SHOW!
THANK YOU TOYOTA
FOR KEEPING THE ARTS SAFE & HEALTHY

target

target

STATE

1910 Chestnut St, for May 26

From howardbhaas@aol.com <howardbhaas@aol.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 11:17 AM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>; psteinke@preservationalliance.com <psteinke@preservationalliance.com>; jayfar@jayfar.com <jayfar@jayfar.com>

 8 attachments (3 MB)

Photo Eight, Boyd ironwork at Vestibule.JPG; Photo Five, Boyd 1928, Athenaeum of Philadelphia.jpg; Photo Four 1405 Locust, 2023-07-15 H Haas.jpg; Photo One, Boyd 1957, Friends of the Boyd.jpg; Photo Seven, Boyd Vestibule Walls.JPG; Photo Six, Boyd 1971 Friends of the Boyd.jpg; Photo Three, 1519 Chestnut, 5-21-26 H Haas IMG_8614.jpg; Photo Two 1529 Chestnut, 7-22-21 H Haas.jpg;

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Dear Ms. Chantry and the Architectural Committee of the Philadelphia Historical Commission::

Friends of the Boyd, Inc., the nonprofit organized in 2002 to save the Boyd Theater, **asks the Philadelphia Historical Commission to deny the property owner's request** regarding 1910 Chestnut St, to remove the marquee and vestibule walls.

A marquee is always a defining characteristic of a historic movie palace. In 1953, the support beams of the original 1928 marquee were reused for the current "Cinerama" marquee, designed by prominent architect William H. Lee. The Boyd was famous and popular as the only theater in the region for Cinerama films, and the marquee remained in use until the theater's 2002 closure. When IPIC Theaters obtained a demolition permit, they stipulated at PHC they would keep the Boyd's front and restore the marquee to 1928. The current owner used the demolition permit to demolish the auditorium, but obtained PHC approval to keep the current marquee, which they beautifully refurbished pursuant to the 1950's photo we shared, attached Photo One.

A grandfathered, heritage marquee is viewed as an asset, for advertising purposes, to commercial tenants, including at the two former movie theaters on the 1500 block of Chestnut, Arcadia (1915 to 1978) now Five Below 1529 Chestnut St, and Trans-Lux later Eric's Place (1934 to 1993) 1519 Chestnut St, now Foot Locker. The Fox Locust (1927 originally for movies, to 1980) 1405 Locust St is now Estia restaurant. Attached photos Two thru Four. Bankroll did not fail at the Boyd because of the marquee!

Lists by Andy Molholt, Philadelphia, PA of Philadelphia former movie theaters with non religious tenants and retaining their marquee, and by Ken Roe of London UK of same that he recalls in California are below my signature. As PHC notice was provided right before the Memorial Day holiday, our efforts for Tuesday's hearing are hampered, but we may provide more in the future.

The 1928 **Vestibule walls**, designed with the rest of the Boyd, by prominent architects Hoffman-Henson, **are elegant**, iron with decorative features, glass, and granite. They are an iconic, original look of the Boyd. **They stretch further into the building** than the applicant's

photos show. Attached are 1928 and 1971 photos, and closeups, Photos Five thru Eight except the decorative glass has been replaced. **When the current owner obtained permission from the PHC to add new doors and glass to enclose most of the Boyd's vestibule, the PHC stipulated at the hearing that despite the new entry, the exterior vestibule walls remained Exterior legally protected!** The vestibule walls were originally for very small retail stores in both sides of the Boyd's entry, and Bankroll did not fail because of those walls. The vestibule also has the original beautiful Art Deco terrazzo floor, which protected, also should stay. Please visit the Boyd and view the Vestibule area and see how a commercial tenant won't refuse to lease the huge Boyd space due to these features!

The recent PHC approval to cut larger windows at the Drexel building at 15th & Walnut seems minor in comparison. **The Boyd's marquee is integral to its facade and its removal would be like removing a nose from a person's face, a butchered look!** The Boyd's marquee has also been a feature that has distinguished Chestnut St since 1928.

Friends of the Boyd continue to have many supporters in Philadelphia and the region. We respectfully ask you to deny the application to remove the Boyd's marquee and vestibule walls. Please leave 1910 Chestnut St intact.

Kim- can you please email me receipt of this public comment?

Sincerely,
Howard B Haas, Esq.
President, Friends of the Boyd, Inc.

LIST BY ANDY MOLHOLT OF FORMER PHILADELPHIA MOVIE THEATERS RETAINING MARQUEE, EXCLUDING RELIGIOUS REUSES

*Bromley Theater
5810 Old York Road
[Bromley Theatre in Philadelphia, PA - Cinema Treasures](#)
Currently, Precious Baby Learning Academy

*Esquire Theater
5717 N Broad Street
[Esquire Theatre in Philadelphia, PA - Cinema Treasures](#)
Currently, Dollar Tree

* Hollywood Theater
2846 N 22nd Street
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/40848>
Currently operating as Best Nail Beauty Supply.

* Holme Theater (AKA The Pennypak)
8045 Frankford Avenue
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/9141>
Currently operating as a Dollar General.

* Jeffries Theater
344 Conarroe Street
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/14750>
Currently operating as Roger Ross Plumbing.

* Lancaster Theater

4545 Lancaster Avenue
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/65407>
Currently operating as Quickie Radiator & Storage.

* Lawndale Theater (AKA The Abbey)
6613 Rising Sun Avenue
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/20822>
Currently operating as Early Learning Children's Academy.

* Locust Street Theater (AKA The Fox Locust)
1411 Locust Street
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/22730>
Currently operating as Estia, a Greek restaurant.

* President Theater
2304 Snyder Avenue
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/9679>
Currently operating as the Grand Yesha Ballroom.

* Rio Theater
2011 Frankford Avenue
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/26878>
Currently operating as Stationary Engravers.

* Tyson Theater
7043 Castor Avenue
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/23294>
Currently operating as LN Flooring Corp.

Hopefully this is helpful!
Let me know what else I can do to help!!!
- Andy
267 342 3498

-Andy Molholt
<https://ambymoho.website>

LIST BY KEN ROE OF LONDON, UK, of US former movie theaters in California he recalls that retain their marquee. He edits the worldwide cinematreasures.org website

Email 5-21-26 from Ken:

There must be quite a few which have retained their marquee's.
From the top of my head.....
In California,

Los Angeles
Downtown on Broadway there is:

Rialto Theatre, now Urban Outfitters clothing store with neon retained and used.
Roxy Theatre, Retail
Cameo Theatre, Retail
Arcade Theatre, Retail

Tower Theatre, Apple Store

Studio City

Fox Studio City Theatre, Bookstar store

There must be quite a few which have retained their marquee's.

From the top of my head.....

In California,

Los Angeles

Downtown on Broadway there is:

Rialto Theatre, now Urban Outfitters clothing store with neon retained and used.

Roxy Theatre, Retail

Cameo Theatre, Retail

Arcade Theatre, Retail

Studio City

Fox Studio City Theatre, Bookstar store (I think the neon is still in use?)

San Diego

Loma Theatre, Barnes & Noble book store (again I think the neon is used)

Santa Monica

Mayfair Theatre, Shoe Palace store

Oxnard

Vogue Theatre, Discount Store

Ken

San Diego

Loma Theatre, Barnes & Noble book store (again I think the neon is used)

Santa Monica

Mayfair Theatre, Shoe Palace store

Oxnard

Vogue Theatre, Discount Store

Ken



LOWELL THOMAS PRESENTS
SEVEN WONDERS
OF THE WORLD
CINERAMA

The Boy
CINERAMA

HURNT
CONDITIONED

1918

THE BOY
CINERAMA

SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

AIR COND

DUNHOTT



PHILLY STYLE. SPORTS. TECH. ROOM BEAUTY.
PLAY. PARTY. NOW.
CREATE CANDY. DRINKS.
five BELOW

five BELOW
hot stuff. cool prices.

Gianni's
BAR & GRILL

LOADING ONLY
2-HR PARKING

1527.



Foot Locker



Foot Locker

NO PARKING
AUTHORIZED
OCCUPANT
VEHICLES
ONLY



Estia

NEW YORK 2016 888-591-3636
PASSENGER VEHICLE
LOADING ONLY
30 MIN LIMIT
MON-SUN
→

PARKING
LOADING ONLY
1 HR LIMIT
6:00AM-4:00PM
←

LOADING ONLY
30 MIN LIMIT
4:00PM-12:00AM
8:00AM-12:00AM
←

UNLAWFUL TO STOP AND WAIT TO
LOAD OR UNLOAD PASSENGERS



Photo by: E. C. LUKS #

BOYD THEATRE PHILADELPHIA PENN. ~ from IRVIN R. GLAZER Collection # PA

"Fiddler
on the Roof"

Sam Eric

Sam Eric

"Fiddler on the Roof" UA Reserved Seats G "Fiddler on the Roof"

3 ACADEMY AWARDS

"FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"
TODAY 8 30

NOW PLAYING

Poster for "Fiddler on the Roof" featuring the text "WINNER 3 Academy Awards" and a picture of the cast.

BOX OFFICE
OPEN
12-00
9-00

NOW PLAYING

Poster for "Fiddler on the Roof" featuring the text "WINNER 3 Academy Awards" and a picture of the cast.



B732



Oppose Pearl Properties' Request to Remove the Boyd Theatre Marquee — 1910 Chestnut Street

From N Diamond <navdiamond1@gmail.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 7:33 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

>

> I am writing as a concerned Philadelphia resident and advocate for our city's historic built environment to urge you to deny Pearl Properties' application to remove the marquee and alter the Chestnut Street facade of the former Boyd Theatre at 1910 Chestnut Street.

>

> The Boyd Theatre opened on Christmas Day 1928 and stood for nearly a century as Philadelphia's last great Art Deco movie palace — and the last of its kind on Chestnut Street. The fight to save it catalyzed one of the most important chapters in Philadelphia's preservation history, ultimately spurring the expansion of the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places to protect additional buildings and entire neighborhoods. What remains of the Boyd today — its Chestnut Street facade, its grand lobby, and most critically, its iconic marquee — is not merely a remnant of a lost theater. It is a symbol of what this city's preservation movement fought for and what the Historical Commission exists to protect.

>

> Pearl Properties has already taken a great deal from this site. The auditorium was demolished in 2015. The Foyer to Sansom Street was lost. The Bankroll restaurant that briefly occupied the lobby space closed in 2023, leaving the building vacant. Now, Pearl is seeking to remove the marquee entirely and install a new, flush storefront — a move that the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia has rightly described as something that would "drastically degrade the historic character of the building."

>

> I respectfully ask the Commission to consider the following:

> 1. The marquee is not incidental to the building's historic character — it is central to it. Any prospective retail or commercial tenant stands to benefit from, not be burdened by, one of Center City's most recognizable architectural features. As the Preservation Alliance has noted, other former theaters along Chestnut Street have successfully leveraged their historic marquees as business assets.

>

> 2. The Commission must hold the line on what was explicitly preserved through prior agreements and rulings. The surviving Chestnut Street facade and its marquee represent the negotiated minimum — the floor of protection, not a ceiling. Permitting Pearl Properties to now undo that is a breach of the spirit of those earlier preservation commitments.

>

> 3. Allowing further alteration sets a dangerous precedent for every other building on the Philadelphia Register. If a developer can return years later to chip away at what was specifically preserved, the Register loses its meaning and the public loses trust in the process.

>

> Philadelphia is a city that takes pride in its history. The Boyd Theatre's story is part of that history — as are the thousands of residents, advocates, and preservationists who fought for decades to save what they could. I urge you not to let the remaining fabric of this landmark be further erased in the name of expediency for a developer that has already received extraordinary latitude at this site.

>

> Please deny Pearl Properties' application and uphold the historic integrity of the Boyd Theatre.

>

> Thank you for your time and service to this city.

>

> Respectfully,

> Citizens and lovers of Philadelphia

>

>

Boyd Theater

From Tyler Forst <tylerjforst@gmail.com>
Date Thu 5/21/2026 7:37 PM
To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing to urge the Commission to deny the request to remove the historic marquee from the Boyd Theatre. The marquee is one of the last remaining visible architectural elements of a building that holds significant cultural and preservation history in Philadelphia.

The Boyd Theatre played an important role in the city's historic preservation movement, and the marquee continues to contribute to the character and identity of Center City. Removing it would erase another piece of Philadelphia's architectural heritage and further diminish the historic integrity of the site.

I strongly encourage the Commission to protect and preserve the marquee for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Tyler Forst
267-746-1506



1910 Chestnut St. marquee

From Matt H <wndsofchng06@gmail.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 3:55 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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Hello,

As a citizen of Philadelphia who appreciates our history and architecture, I'm writing to ask that we keep the original marquee at Boyd theatre.

Thanks

Matt Herman

101 Tasker Street

919-949-1436

1910 Chestnut St.

From Jason Lempieri <jl@rethinktankdesign.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 5:42 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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Ms. Chantry:

I'm writing to express my concern over potentially losing the marquee at the former Boyd's on 1910 Chestnut Street.

The marquee is an historical vestige that additionally serves a purpose as an entrance indicator and inclement weather canopy.

We have lost many historically worthy structures in what is supposed to be a city rooted in the founding fabric of American architecture.

The proposal further removes any indication of what the building was and further diminishes the stature of the structure.

Thank you for your time,

Jason Lempieri

RETHINKTANK

RETHINKTANKDESIGN.COM

1023 FITZWATER STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147 USA

267.205.0244

TOMBINO

WWW.TOMBINO.SHOP

1910 Chestnut St

From MARK MAKURATH <mrm600@msn.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 5:12 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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I am writing to request that you deny the request to remove the Boyd's beautiful marquee and the Vestibule walls. It is a shame that this is all that is left of this landmark. Please do the right thing to preserve the historic architectural integrity of what is left of this beloved former movie palace!

Mark Makurath

324 S. 3rd Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Sent from my iPhone 15Pro

1910 Chestnut Street

From Earl Marsh <earlmarsh57@gmail.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 10:02 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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Dear Ms. Chantry,

I am writing to ask that the proposed modification of the facade of the remains of the historic Boyd Theater be denied. The replacement of this intact Art Deco marquee and canopy with a generic, flat storefront would be a terrible loss to the character of the street and city.

Thank you,
Earl Marsh
2130 Pine St.
Philadelphia, PA

The Boyd Facade

From Michael McGettigan <mcget@outlook.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 9:45 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>; paul@preservationalliance.com <paul@preservationalliance.com>

Cc isaffron@phillynews.com <isaffron@phillynews.com>; Kenyatta Johnson <Kenyatta.Johnson@Phila.gov>;
Stephanie Farr <sfarr@inquirer.com>

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The BOYD MARQUEE is important in multiple ways.

- 1) The city crafted an agreement with Pearl Properties. Pearl execs signed it; such clear, signed agreements with the city must be respected. This is especially important because Pearl was granted many breaks in exchange for demolishing most of the Boyd. Now they “Want egg in their beer” as my mom would say. If Pearl can break their word, why should other in this city respect agreements, the law, our government?
- 2) The idea that a wealthy, powerful development firm like Pearl can claim hardship is dishonest, non-factual and must be rejected.
- 3) Most importantly: Citizens and visitors to Philadelphia orient themselves to a city by more than street signs or GPS cues. Physical landmarks are important. They make up our “habitat” and if we destroy enough of them, it’s disorienting and can lead to population loss, and all sort of other decisions against a city, many made unconsciously. We don’t know why we need them, but **these buildings serve the same function as the stars do for sailors, for migrating birds: The Furness Building at Penn, the Robinson Building on Market Street, and so many others make up our cityscape. We navigate by them, we attach our memories to them.** This is not a precious, “preservationist” issue. It affects all of us.
- 4) Just as other property owners have done when push comes to shove, Pearl Properties’ directors need to adjust their rental expectations and get a deal done, not cry poor to break their agreement. More importantly, they need to be educated as to the value of this marquee. The vibe here is that a couple of ignorant corporate clients are telling Pearl, “Lose that marquee, give us a K of P mall front – and we can stick up our bland flat sign logo and do a deal.” Then, some years later, REI or Five Below or whoever folds up or moves and that marquee is lost forever. Hard nope. **Stand up for preservation on this one!**

Sincerely,

— Michael McGettigan / Trophy Bikes PHL

1910 Chestnut St.

From TomBABOS <tomboston2@gmail.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 5:29 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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Dear Mayor Chantry,

Please do not allow the destruction of this once beautiful building again. They ruined the interior when they tried to open this "Bankroll" mistake that closed within months of opening. We didn't need that kind of establishment in the city and certainly few all want to preserve any/all of the historically beautiful old buildings still standing in our city.

Enough demolition was done to hundreds of beautiful old buildings (many by the celebrated architect Frank Furness) and everything that could possibly be done to save any other old buildings in the city should be done to preserve the culture and beauty of our city.

Thank You
Tom Nulty

1910 Chestnut St.

From susie perloff <myunclesusie@gmail.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 7:28 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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Please deny the request to remove the Boyd's beautiful marquee. We old-timers love this building.

--

Susie Perloff

myunclesusie@gmail.com

215-985-1001

1910 Chestnut St.

From Gina Renzi <gina@therotunda.org>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 8:32 PM

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hello

I'm writing to ask that you protect the marquee of the old Boyd Theater, at 1910 Chestnut Street. Please deny the property owner's request to remove the marquee and vestibule walls. We have nothing left like this in Center City. Please save what little is left of movie palaces in this area of the city that used to have so many. A marquee is always a defining characteristic of a historic movie palace. In 1953, the support beams of the original 1928 marquee were reused for the current "Cinerama" marquee, designed by prominent architect William H. Lee. The Boyd was famous and popular as the only theater in the region for Cinerama films, and the marquee remained in use until the theater's 2002 closure. When IPIC Theaters obtained a demolition permit, they stipulated at PHC they would keep the Boyd's front and restore the marquee to 1928. The current owner used the demolition permit to demolish the auditorium, but obtained PHC approval to keep the current marquee, which they beautifully refurbished.

A heritage marquee is viewed as an asset, for advertising purposes, to commercial tenants, including at the two former movie theaters on the 1500 block of Chestnut, Arcadia (1915 to 1978) now Five Below 1529 Chestnut St, and Trans-Lux later Eric's Place (1934 to 1993) 1519 Chestnut St, now Foot Locker. The Fox Locust (1927 originally for movies, to 1980) 1405 Locust St is now Estia restaurant. Bankroll did not fail at the Boyd because of the marquee! The recent PHC approval to cut larger windows at the Drexel building at 15th & Walnut seems minor in comparison. The Boyd's marquee is integral to its facade and its removal would be like removing a nose from a person's face. The Boyd's marquee has also been a feature that has distinguished Chestnut St since 1928.

Friends of the Boyd continue to have many supporters in Philadelphia and the region. I am one of them. I respectfully ask you to deny the application to remove the Boyd's marquee and vestibule walls. Please leave 1910 Chestnut St intact.

Thank you!

gina

--

Gina Renzi

Director

The Rotunda

4014 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

gina@therotunda.org

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.therotunda.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728326297%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=w209ZkhpmHYaBY3ZeybcQ%2BSNsSw%2BwcaTQuxE4MMa6mU%3D&reserved=0)

[url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.therotunda.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728326297%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=w209ZkhpmHYaBY3ZeybcQ%2BSNsSw%2BwcaTQuxE4MMa6mU%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.therotunda.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728326297%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=w209ZkhpmHYaBY3ZeybcQ%2BSNsSw%2BwcaTQuxE4MMa6mU%3D&reserved=0)

Facebook: [https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Ftherotundaphilly&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728358336%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YiPKbmWYRVgclYCZuLe5ort5k3d9wsMtC2Mx5aTaKGY%3D&reserved=0)

[url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Ftherotundaphilly&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728358336%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YiPKbmWYRVgclYCZuLe5ort5k3d9wsMtC2Mx5aTaKGY%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Ftherotundaphilly&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728358336%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YiPKbmWYRVgclYCZuLe5ort5k3d9wsMtC2Mx5aTaKGY%3D&reserved=0)

Instagram: [https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Finstagram.com%2Fthe_rotunda_philly&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728377297%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=g092%2BZG1ppaRUUZDZGZEgvDkjsw%2BEZNQLMJLnXG94xY%3D&reserved=0)

[url=https%3A%2F%2Finstagram.com%2Fthe_rotunda_philly&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728377297%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=g092%2BZG1ppaRUUZDZGZEgvDkjsw%2BEZNQLMJLnXG94xY%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Finstagram.com%2Fthe_rotunda_philly&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728377297%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=g092%2BZG1ppaRUUZDZGZEgvDkjsw%2BEZNQLMJLnXG94xY%3D&reserved=0)

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Land Acknowledgement: We recognize and acknowledge that The Rotunda and related programs stand on the Indigenous territory known as "Lenapehoking," the traditional homelands of the Lenape, also called Lenni-Lenape or Delaware Indians. Their descendants today include the Delaware Tribe and Delaware Nation of Oklahoma; the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Ramapough Lenape, and Powhatan Renape of New Jersey; and the Munsee Delaware of Ontario. These are not only nations of the past, but are indeed living, thriving people today. Learn much more about these and other communities at Native American and Indigenous

Studies at Penn: [https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnais.sas.upenn.edu%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ckim.chantry%40phila.gov%7C8d2f29a41739479df61e08deb79979ec%7C2046864f68ea497daf34a6629a6cd700%7C0%7C0%7C639150067728393455%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2xcO3nylaZNnuc%2FwVliHQgehu%2F4Y1ljOES%2Bh0pOS94%3D&reserved=0)

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1910 Chestnut St.

From Sol Siegel <solouisiegel@gmail.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 2:36 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Chantry,

I support the request of the Friends of the Boyd, Inc., to deny the property owner's request to remove the marquee and vestibule walls from 1910 Chestnut St., the former Boyd Theater. As Friends of the Boyd have already pointed out, the previous tenant did not fail because of these historic features, dating back almost a century, and when they're gone, they're gone forever.

Thank you,
Sol L. Siegel

1910 Chestnut St. - don't allow removal!

From Nancy Sokolove <nancysokolove@gmail.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 6:41 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

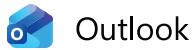
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It would be more than sad to lose the beautiful, historic marquee at the Boyd's building. Philadelphia's diverse architecture should be celebrated, and removal of this would continue a sad tradition of sometimes not seeing the beauty and uniqueness of our great city.

I really hope that this removal is denied.

Thanks for your consideration and allowing me to express my opinion.

Sincerely,
Nancy Sokolove



Subject: 1910 Chestnut Street

From movie01@aol.com <movie01@aol.com>

Date Thu 5/21/2026 4:37 PM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the Philadelphia film community, I'm writing in hopes of preserving the historic marquee at the Boyd. Enough bad stuff has already happened to that theater. Here's hoping this last vestige can remain.

Thank you.

Alan Cylinder

1910 Chestnut Street

From Todd Schwartz <toddpschwartz@gmail.com>

Date Fri 5/22/2026 8:01 AM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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Greetings: I want to express my profound objection to the removal of the beautiful marquee currently located at the subject property.

Philadelphia is a unique American city because of our preservation efforts that showcase our past while educating our future. To demolish the wonderful marquee would not only be a disservice to the neighborhood but it will deny generations of an important historical narrative.

Thank you for your indulgence.

Best,

Todd Schwartz
South Philadelphia

1910 Chestnut St.

From John Wilson <jgwilson3@gmail.com>

Date Fri 5/22/2026 7:24 AM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Chantry and Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Commission to deny the pending request to remove the marquee and vestibule walls of the former Boyd Theatre, located at 1910 Chestnut Street.

The Boyd's marquee is among the most recognizable remnants of Philadelphia's once-vibrant movie palace era. It is not merely a decorative feature, it is a defining architectural element that speaks to the building's historic identity and its place in the cultural memory of this city. The vestibule walls similarly represent irreplaceable original fabric that, once removed, cannot be authentically restored.

I understand that the property is undergoing redevelopment, and I respect the legal processes that govern that work. My concern is solely with the preservation of these specific architectural elements, which carry significant historic and aesthetic value for Philadelphia and its residents.

The Philadelphia Historical Commission exists precisely to safeguard features like these from permanent loss. I trust the Commission will weigh carefully the irreversibility of their removal and act to protect what remains of this landmark's original character.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Philadelphia's architectural heritage.

Respectfully,

John Wilson

Sent from my iPhone

1910 Chestnut Street

From rabanth@aol.com <rabanth@aol.com>

Date Fri 5/22/2026 12:04 AM

To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; Paul Steinke <psteinke@preservationalliance.com>

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I am writing to urge the Historical Commission to preserve both the marquee and vestibule of the old Boyd Movie Theater.

These are the two most important items in identifying this building as an old theater. So much has been removed from this important landmark

that the Commission fought and eventually won a PA Supreme Court battle to save. The Commission has already sacrificed so much over time on this building,

These important items are the exterior elements that convey the significant history of the building. Please don't give up these important elements.

Randal Baron



PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

for greater philadelphia

May 21, 2026

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Members of the Historical Commission,

The Preservation Alliance writes in opposition to the proposal to remove the Boyd Theater marquee and vestibule walls and replace them with a conventional storefront system.

The Boyd Theater's 2008 Philadelphia Register nomination describes its distinctive façade, noting "The Boyd Theater, by virtue of its Art Deco façade including the recessed lobby, is a familiar landmark on Chestnut Street... The theater presents its principal façade to Chestnut Street, which is further enlivened with shop fronts, the ticket booth, recessed vestibule for easy ingress and egress, lighted marquee, and elaborate façade and fenestration."

Although the marquee dates to a 1950s-era alteration, the Historical Commission has repeatedly recognized it and the recessed vestibule as integral components of the building's architectural identity and historic significance. The current proposal represents a substantial departure from prior Commission approvals that required the retention and restoration of these features.

In June 2015, the Historical Commission approved redevelopment plans that included "the restoration of the extant marquee, which dates to the 1950s, when the theater was modified for Cinerama." The motion also clarified that the "newly enclosed vestibule remains within the Historical Commission's jurisdiction."

Earlier approvals similarly centered on preservation of the Chestnut Street headhouse, arcade, and marquee as part of the framework that justified extensive demolition under hardship provisions. In 2014, preservation advocates, including the Preservation Alliance and Friends of the Boyd, agreed to withdraw legal challenges, in part, on assurances that the Chestnut Street headhouse, including the theater experience embodied by the façade, arcade, and marquee, would be rehabilitated and preserved.

The staff report correctly acknowledges that removal of the marquee and vestibule walls "does not comply with a strict reading of Standard 9." In reality, the proposal conflicts more broadly with the intent of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards because it removes highly visible character-defining features.

The Boyd Theater has already lost the majority of its historic fabric through earlier hardship approvals. The surviving headhouse, marquee, and vestibule are what remain to communicate the building's history and identity to the public realm. Their preservation was repeatedly promised, reviewed, and approved by this Commission and should not now be reversed.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Historical Commission to deny the application to remove the marquee and vestibule walls at 1910 Chestnut Street.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Steinke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Paul Steinke
Executive Director

1910 Chestnut St.

From Janice Baker <janicebaker@ymail.com>

Date Fri 5/22/2026 10:27 AM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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Please preserve the beautiful facade of this building. It is unique and adds to the amazing historical architecture of our city.


Janice Baker

1910 Chestnut

From howardbhaas@aol.com <howardbhaas@aol.com>

Date Fri 5/22/2026 10:30 AM

To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>; psteinke@preservationalliance.com <psteinke@preservationalliance.com>; ingasaffron@gmail.com <ingasaffron@gmail.com>; jayfar@jayfar.com <jayfar@jayfar.com>

 1 attachment (569 KB)

1910-Chestnut-Street-Boyd-Theatre-Brochure_Site-Plan-MSJ.jpg;

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Hello, Kim,

Friends of the Boyd need to add one additional item into the public record, regarding the application to remove the Boyd's Vestibule walls. Attached.

As the property owner's application does not have any rendering which so specifies, attached is a map diagram from the past from a realtor for the property owner. The **Vestibule walls** are for what is labeled in the map diagram as **Arcade Area**, which stretches quite a bit of a distance and all of which was for decades previously outside, which is why it is Exterior legally protected. No matter what front enclosure currently exists or may exist in the future, the Vestibule walls for the two small retail stores that were on each side of the Boyd's entry, are protected by the Exterior designation.

We hope this diagram map will be helpful to clarifying what's at stake.

Thank you most kindly.

Howard B. Haas, Esq.
Philadelphia, PA
President, Friends of the Boyd, Inc.



Rittenhouse Square • Philadelphia, PA

1910 CHESTNUT STREET

Ground Floor Site Plan

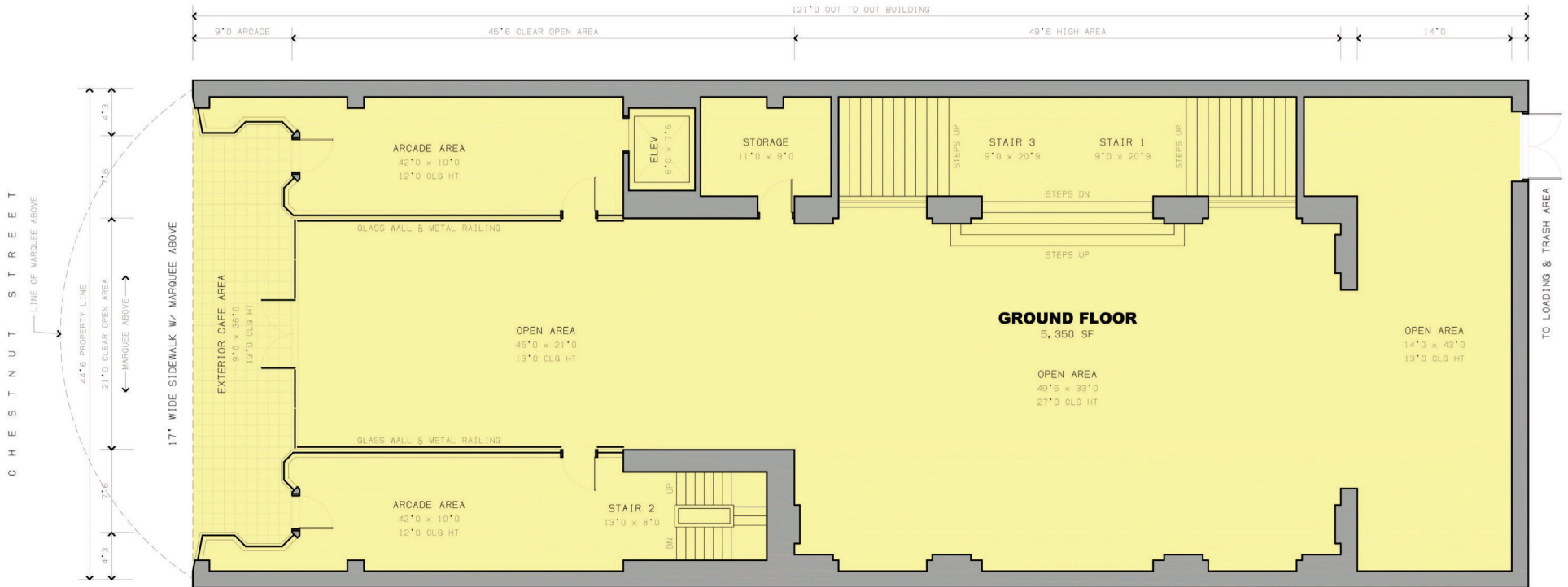
For more info, please contact:

BRITTANY GOLDBERG

bgoldberg@MSCretail.com
215.568.2600 x723

JACOB COOPER

jcooper@MSCretail.com
215.568.2600 x714



1910 Chestnut St

From Paul Black <pvwb@att.net>
Date Fri 5/22/2026 10:38 AM
To Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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Hello Kim,

I am writing to ask you to deny the request to remove the Boyd's current marquee and vestibule walls. Both are important historical elements of the Boyd's entry and should be preserved.

Regards,

Paul

Paul Black
100 N. 22nd Street, #115
Philadelphia PA 19103

1910 Chestnut Street

From Katherine Dowdell <kdowdell@farragutstreet.com>

Date Fri 5/22/2026 11:03 AM

To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Cc Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>; Paul Steinke <psteinke@preservationalliance.com>; Hanna Stark <hstark@preservationalliance.com>

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To the Philadelphia Historical Commission/Architectural Committee:

I strongly encourage the Architectural Committee to deny the proposal to significantly alter the façade of 1910 Chestnut Street, the former Boyd theater. The removal of the marquee, and the flattening of the front wall with glass, will destroy two very distinctive features of the building – features specifically called out in the nomination:

“The Boyd Theater, by virtue of its Art Deco façade including the recessed lobby, is a familiar landmark on Chestnut Street. The Boyd was designed to take full advantage of its Chestnut Street address. The theater presents its principal façade to Chestnut Street, which is further enlivened with shop fronts, the ticket booth, recessed vestibule for easy ingress and egress, lighted marquee, and elaborate façade and fenestration. The recessed, open, outer vestibule of the Boyd Theater is a unique feature along Chestnut Street and in Center City in general.”

By any definition, the marquee and the recessed entrance are character-defining features of this building. While it is true that the original marquee was replaced, the current marquee dates from 1955 – well within the period of significance, and certainly a distinguishing feature in its own right. The recessed entrance is likewise significant to the building, and should not be eliminated by creating a flat glass entry.

Please deny this application – thank you.

Kathy Dowdell

1910 Chestnut Street - Boyd Theater (*sp Theatre)

From Jay Farrell <jayfar@jayfar.com>

Date Fri 5/22/2026 11:59 AM

To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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May 22, 2026

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To all concerned at PHC and its committees:

I strenuously insist that the application for façade alterations of The Boyd Theater (*sp Theatre) at 1910 Chestnut Street — including removal c. 1950s CINERAMA-era marquee — must be DENIED.

The marquee — as it was spectacularly re-worked from the original 1928 marquee — is a vital visual feature marking the Cinerama-chapter of the Boyd's nearly 100 year history. The original two small shops flanking the vestibule space are also vital character-defining elements of the exterior that must be preserved.

What's more, the applicant giving the rapid failure of Bankroll as their prime example of why they consider the property non-viable for leasing with the marquee intact is a very weak argument. A PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT BANKROLL FOUNDER PAUL MARTINO RAN IT INTO THE GROUND BEFORE IT EVEN OPENED. Clearly Bankroll was a flawed concept that failed largely due to Martino's chutzpah and incompetence.

Please DENY the application to remove the marquee and vestibule walls at 1910 Chestnut Street.

Thank you.

Jay Farrell

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[Philadelphia Industrial & Commercial Heritage](#)

A public Facebook group to promote appreciation of Greater Philadelphia's industrial and commercial history and advocate for historic preservation and adaptive re-use.