

Public Comment for 2147 and 2149 Ellsworth St

From: [Nathan Osburn](#)
To: [Alexander Till](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment (written) for Historical Commission Committee on Historic Designation
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 2:34:09 PM

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission's Committee on Historic Designation:

Last August, I noticed that the We the Youth Keith Haring mural in my neighborhood of Point Breeze had fallen into disrepair and raised some funds along with several friends to help restore it, through a fundraising link from Mural Arts. We were hopeful that it might be restored by the 250th anniversary given the mural's title but I was also told it would likely take longer than that.

I'm hopeful that the recent historic designation nomination aligns with such efforts, and that the funds can soon be put to use.

Assuming that the Historic Designation will support the near-term restoration and long term maintenance of the mural, I want to voice my strong support for the nomination by Alexander Till.

In particular, it's clear that the mural is indeed a "material thing" of "aesthetic, cultural and historic value" that is "related to a specific setting and environment," as required. It's also clear that this collaborative mural has immense global value as the only one of its kind that remains in its original location in the entire United States, as the application attests.

In addition to the two criteria Till selected in the nomination...

[(a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; and,

(e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation]

... I believe that the mural also meets additional criteria:

(b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation - **the mural was intended to be celebrated as part of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution and also Haring's art is strongly associated with the HIV/AIDS epidemic (and subsequent efforts to address it)**

(f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation - **Haring's design is globally renowned and has become immediately recognizable to millions of people**

(h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City

(i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history

(j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community

Thank you for your consideration,

Nathan Osburn

Point Breeze resident