



March 22, 2018

Toronto Preservation Board
c/o Lourdes Bettencourt
2nd Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2
c/o
lbetten2@toronto.ca
teycc@toronto.ca

RE: PB32.3 Inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register-College Street Properties (Ward 20)

Chair and Members, Toronto Preservation Board

I am writing as President of ACO Toronto, the local branch of Architectural Conservancy Ontario, to express our strong support for the City's initiative in bringing forward a large group of College Street properties for inclusion on Toronto's Heritage Register. The collection represents foreground, architecturally significant buildings as well as many representative background supporting buildings. Collectively the buildings support a widely varied pattern of independent businesses, residences, commercial and institutional operations that give the street its distinctive, diverse character and liveliness.

More recent development has neither respected the street's scale nor been able to provide places for diverse independent entrepreneurs. In January, the building at the south-east corner of College and Huron was lost. Even though there was awareness of its value, the system was not able to act in time to save it. Heritage protection will preserve the buildings and in so doing, preserve the opportunity for the variety of traditional activities the buildings support.

ACO Toronto has long been interested in this stretch of College Street and has conducted a great deal of research into its history. We published *College Street: Loft Buildings on the South Side*, authors Alec Keefer and Steve Russell, which received an honourable mention from Heritage Toronto in 2013. We have also photographed and researched many of the buildings along this stretch for inclusion in our city-wide data base, *TO Built* as a way of drawing attention and protection to these significant buildings. We trust that our work has contributed to this important initiative.

On a more personal note, I live in nearby Kensington Market so College Street is part of my neighbourhood. I served on the resident's steering committee for the College Street study, and was also the consultant for the two Harbord Village Heritage Conservation Districts. Those studies identified the need for protection of the companion commercial buildings along Harbord Village's edges, Harbord, Spadina, Bathurst and Bloor Streets.

Congratulations on this great step forward. We hope it is followed by many more like it.

Catherine Nasmith

OAA FRAIC CAHP
President ACO Toronto

401 Richmond Street West, Suite 206, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8
T 416.367-8075 ext 204 F 416.367.8630 E info@acotoronto.ca

www.acotoronto.ca

The past. Our present. Your future.