

May 9, 2022



Email: hertpb@toronto.ca

RE: PB34.3 – 508 and 510 Church Street - Notice of Intention to Designate a Property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

To the Chair and Members of the Toronto Preservation Board,

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Toronto Branch (ACOTO), has been engaged in preserving Toronto's architectural heritage since 1933. In January 2020, ACOTO supported Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam's Member Motion 14.8 (Protecting LGBTQ2S+ Small Businesses and Cultural Space). As it is in ACOTO's interest to ensure that heritage buildings continue in active use, contributing to the vibrancy of their communities. We also recognize that the occupation by independent small business of the fine grained small properties along our Main Streets is an important tradition that not only contributes to Toronto's economic and cultural vitality, but also has associated historical value.

ACOTO supports the Designation of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. Built between 1856-58 and in the Romanesque Revival style, this building is representative of some of the earliest developments in the Church-Wellesley Village. This building has become a local landmark, housing LGBTQ2S+ entertainment venues since the early 1990s and currently home to *Crews and Tangos* — one of Toronto's most well-known and longest running LGBTQ2S+ night club and performance spaces.

In March 2020, Graywood Developments proposed a 14-storey mixed use building at 506-516 Church Street. It is our hope that the designation of 508-510 Church Street will foster more conversation about the site's future and for the site to be development in a manner that could appease both the developers and the wider community, as the loss of these small-scale, quality buildings in our neighbourhoods erodes the very nature of what makes Toronto's neighbourhoods inviting and great places to explore, not the mention the potential loss of important LGBTQ2S+ cultural venue.

Thank-you,

Matthew Zambri, Toronto Branch President

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