[INSERT DATE HERE]

Ernest C. Wong, Chair

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

Historic Preservation Division

121 North LaSalle Street, Room 905

Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Wong and the Commission on Chicago Landmarks,

*[EXAMPLE SENTENCES IN ITALICS]*

*I write to you today to support a landmark designation of the Kogen-Miller and Glasner Studios at 1734 N. Wells St.*

**[IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE PROPERTY]**

*The Kogen-Miller Studios and the Glasner Studio are located at 1734 North Wells Street, on the eastern edge of the Old Town Triangle Historic District.*

*In recent years, the property has been identified as one of the most prestigious “mid-century modern” buildings in the Old Town Triangle.*

*The Studios are well deserving of individual landmark status and meet five of the seven criteria for Chicago landmark designation.*

**[IN YOUR OWN WORDS, STATE WHY EDGAR MILLER’S WORK AND/OR WHY THE KOGEN-MILLER/GLASNER STUDIOS ARE SPECIAL TO YOU]**

*Edgar Miller’s work/The Kogen-Miller and Glasner Studios are important/special to me because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**[IN YOUR OWN WORDS, STATE WHY YOU BELIEVE THE BUILDING MEETS TWO OF THE CRITERIA FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION, CHOOSE AT LEAST TWO EXAMPLES, OR USE UP TO ALL FIVE OF THE APPROPRIATE CRITERIA AS LISTED BY THE CITY BELOW.]**

**CRITERIA #1 (Critical Part of City’s Heritage)** Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States. **EXAMPLES BELOW**

*The property represents a critical part of the City’s heritage. The building is one of the few remaining “artist colony” structures extant in the City of Chicago.*

*The building was part of the movement of artistic renovation begun by Sol Kogen and Edgar Miller in 1927. This area would become known as Old Town and became a cohesive geographical enclave for artists through the 1970s.*

*The significant cultural history extends through the 1970s when the building was owned by a prominent social activist, Lucy Hassell Montgomery.*

**CRITERIA #3 (Significant Person)** Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the development of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States. **EXAMPLES BELOW**

*The property is associated with several significant people who are important to Chicago, Illinois, and the United States.*

*Edgar Miller is a significant person associated with the property. Miller became one of the most well-known Chicago artists of his era and contributed substantially to Chicago’s modern art movement of the 1920s, ‘30s and ‘40s. In 2009, Miller’s story and work was brought to wider attention through the publication of Edgar Miller and the Handmade Home, by Richard Cahan and Michael Williams.*

*The building was also owned in the 1970s by a prominent social activist, Lucy Hassell Montgomery, who used the Glasner Studio as an organizing space for numerous human rights causes.*

**CRITERIA #4 (Important Architecture)** Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship. **EXAMPLES BELOW**

*The building represents a truly unique aspect of early modern urban architecture in Chicago that is unrivaled anywhere in the United States.*

*The architects and artists who renovated the Kogen-Miller Studios created a bohemian, creative community with a unique character based on radical transformations of 19th century buildings blending original architecture with modern artistic expressions.*

*After work on the studios in the original structure was completed, the artists erected two additional buildings at the front and back of the property, hiding the internal courtyard.*

*Artistic flourishes, such as interesting brick and tile work, mosaics, plaster and ceramic reliefs and wood carvings, enhanced the aesthetic impression of the structures.*

**CRITERIA #5 (Important Architect)** Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States. **EXAMPLES BELOW**

*The building had many important creative practitioners involved.*

*Sol Kogen, was the artist and developer who conceived of a plan to develop these Parisian-style artist studios in Chicago.*

*Edgar Miller is generally credited with the general design of the buildings, and he hand-made most of the individual art installations in the property.*

*Since neither Kogen nor Miller had sufficient knowledge of structural principles of architecture, they often relied on Miller's friend Andrew Rebori as a consulting architect.*

*Jesus Torres was a Mexican-American artist and craftsman who immigrated to Chicago in the 1920s, went on to become Miller’s apprentice during the artist colony years, and would go on to achieve a notable reputation in his own right.*

**CRITERIA #7 (Unique Visual Feature)** Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Chicago. **EXAMPLES BELOW**

*The building’s massing is distinct, coming up to the eastern edge of the property line, dominating the streetscape.*

*In the rear of the lot, the four-story coach house, known as the Glasner Studio, is a modernist edifice that towers above the historic neighborhood.*

*The building has many unique visual features that define it as a true landmark in the Citym which include:*

* *The eastern elevation and privacy wall facing Wells Street, made of Chicago common brick and elaborately decorated with tile fragments by Edgar Miller.*
* *The handcrafted stained glass windows by Edgar Miller, and other unique windows.*
* *The ornately carved red entry door by Edgar Miller.*
* *The corrugated brickwork at the cornice and roof-line.*

**[IN YOUR OWN WORDS, STATE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION TAKE UP THIS ISSUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE]**

[SIGN OFF],

[YOUR NAME]

[TITLE, AFFILIATIONS, CREDENTIALS]

[YOUR ADDRESS]\*

***\*Please include your address especially if you live in the Chicago area.***