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To: Detroit Historic Commission

November 6, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed renovation and addition to the historic Stanley Hong's *Mannia Café* in Detroit, designed by END Studio. The project, called *Stanley's*, will revitalize a renowned Detroit venue and important modernist building in Detroit, while creating a new social destination for the local community.

The design for this project celebrates the original design while making necessary and wonderfully complimentary renovations for the added programs. The stunning modernist façade will be restored and remains the most prominent aspect of the building, while adding new visibility to the swooping central pier. This treatment of the pier is at once fitting to the original Googie design, where the bold architectural form is integrated into its own signage, as well as befitting to its new role as a world class performing arts venue for Detroit.

The addition behind this façade is both deeply integrated and establishes a new, refreshed presence for the building. Lowering the floor level allows the addition to sit slightly lower on the building and not overpower the original façade. The new perforated metal façade is also set back from both sides, hovering above and behind the main façade while creating a new, enlivened character to the whole building. The addition feels deeply thoughtful in the way it provides a vibrant but complementary backdrop to the original facade while also anchoring the building's presence on the site. The integration of food and performance also brings together the original program of a restaurant with its later function as a hip hop music venue, and will keep the building active and accessible daily.

Any addition to this important building is challenged to respect the historical character of the building while offering a thoughtful, integrated and well-designed addition that speaks to its exciting future. END Studio's design for *Stanley's* strikes this balance beautifully. The project is in great hands with END Studio behind it, they are a fantastic design- and community-focused firm in Detroit and I can't wait to see their proposal complete.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to discuss further.

Kind regards,

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