

ORDINANCE

Roger Brown Home and Studio

1926 N. Halsted Street

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Municipal Code of Chicago (the “Municipal Code”), Sections 2-120-620 through -690, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the “Commission”) has determined that the Roger Brown Home and Studio (the “Building”), located at 1926 N. Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois, as more fully described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein, satisfies two criteria for landmark designation as set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1) and (3) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, Roger Brown was a founding member of the Chicago Imagists, and his home and studio are where he created his own Imagist work and where he displayed artwork of other painters working in this movement; and

WHEREAS, the Building is significant to Chicago’s cultural heritage as a place associated with the Imagist movement, a Chicago school of painting that attained national significance between the 1960s and 1990s; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Imagists began as a group of young, idiosyncratic painters who came out of the School of the Art Institute in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Imagists rejected Conceptualism and Minimalism, mainstream art movements in the 1960s and sought new directions in art by embracing personal experience, memory and emotion in art; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Imagists contested New York as the center of the contemporary art world and succeeded in elevating Chicago’s place in the production of fine art; and

WHEREAS, the Building is culturally significant as the place where nationally significant artist Roger Brown created much of his work from 1974 to 1995; and

WHEREAS, Roger Brown is one of Chicago's best-known twentieth century artists, and a founding member of the Chicago school of American art known as Imagism that emerged in 1966 and flourished through the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, examples of Roger Brown’s work are held in the permanent collections of major American museums and abroad; much of this work was conceived of and created in the home and studio; and

WHEREAS, the Building meets two criteria for landmark designation set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1) and (3) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has significant historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council.

SECTION 2. The Building is hereby designated a Chicago Landmark in accordance with Section 2-120-700 of the Municipal Code.

SECTION 3. For purposes of Sections 2-120-740 and 2-120-770 of the Municipal Code governing permit review, the significant historical and architectural features of the Building are identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building visible from the public rights-of-way.
- The historic Daily News sign painted on the common brick north elevation of the Building

Additional Guidelines—General

Pursuant to Section 2-120-740 of the Municipal Code, on February 5, 2026, the Permit Review Committee (P.R.C.) of the Commission approved, with conditions, a pre-permit submission, including drawings, for a conversion of the two-story studio and gallery Building to residential use, including replacement of the outer wythe of non-historic brick at the parapet, replacement of the exterior stair door at the front elevation, a new roof deck with stair access, and interior work (the “P.R.C. Project”). Notwithstanding the foregoing significant historical and architectural features listed above, the proposed scope of work contained in the P.R.C. Project shall be permitted.

SECTION 4. The Commission is hereby directed to create a suitable plaque appropriately identifying the Building as a Chicago Landmark.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and approval.