

ORDINANCE

Ramova Theater

3508-3518 S. 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 Ramova Theater, (the "Building"), located at 3508-3518 S. 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 (4) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS; the Building, completed in 1929, is an excellent example of a historic motion picture theater, a novel building type that emerged in the early twentieth century designed to entertain its patrons through the new medium of cinematic art, and

WHEREAS; with its practical combination of commercial storefronts with a theater, the Building is a fine example of a "theater block," a historic building type found in Chicago's neighborhood commercial districts combining entertainment and commercial storefronts in a single building, and

WHEREAS; the Building represents the contributions of newcomers to Chicago's cultural and economic heritage as the theater was built by Jokūbas (Jacob) Maskoliūnas, a Lithuanian immigrant to serve the immigrant neighborhood of Bridgeport, and

WHEREAS; with its twisted columns, cartouches, scallop shells, scrolls, pinnacles, niches, and swirling, naturalistic plant forms, the façade of the Building exemplifies the Spanish Baroque style of architecture examples of which are rare in Chicago, and

WHEREAS; the elaborate decoration of the façade is rendered in glazed terra cotta which was formed in hand-carved molds requiring a high degree of design and handcraftsmanship, and

WHEREAS; the scale and ornate quality of the Building's architecture reflect the ideals of historic movie theater design to use architecture as advertisement and to attract customers with a promise of luxury and escape from the ordinary, and

WHEREAS; The Building is representative of a practical building type that developed in the late 1920s. The theater block was characterized by a traditional commercial block anchored by a prominent theater visually tied together through exterior architectural detailing, and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has a 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; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2024, the Commission adopted a resolution recommending to the City Council of the City of Chicago (the "City Council") that the Building be designated a Chicago Landmark; 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, including the blade sign and marquee from 1944.

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.