

**CITY OF CHICAGO
COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS**

April 2, 2026

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF CHICAGO THAT
CHICAGO LANDMARK DESIGNATION BE ADOPTED FOR THE**

**ROGER BROWN HOME AND STUDIO
1926 N. HALSTED STREET**

Docket No. 2026-05

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago:

Pursuant to Section 2-120-690 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago (the “Municipal Code”), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the “Commission”) has determined that the Roger Brown Home and Studio (the “Building”) is worthy of Chicago Landmark designation. On the basis of careful consideration of the history and architecture of the Building, the Commission has found that it satisfies the following two criteria set forth in Section 2-120-620 of the Municipal Code:

1. *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.*
3. *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.*

I. BACKGROUND

The formal landmark designation process for the Building began on October 9, 2025, when the Commission approved a preliminary landmark recommendation (the "Preliminary Recommendation") for the Building as a Chicago Landmark. The Commission found that the Building meets two of the seven criteria for designation, as well as the integrity criterion, identified in the *Chicago Landmarks Ordinance* (Municipal Code, Section 2-120-580 *et seq.*). As part of the Preliminary Recommendation, the Commission preliminarily identified the “significant historical and architectural features” of the Building 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

Also, as part of the Preliminary Recommendation, the Commission adopted a Designation Report, dated October 9, 2025, the most current iteration of which is dated April 2, 2026, incorporated herein and attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the “Designation Report”).

At its regular meeting of November 6, 2025, the Commission received a statement from Ciere Boatright, Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Development recommending approval of the designation of the Building as a Landmark.

On November 10, 2025, the Commission officially requested consent to the proposed landmark designation from the owners of the Building. On November 19, 2025, the owner requested a 120-day extension of the request-for-consent period, an extension provided for in the Municipal Code. The extension was granted, and the owner was notified that the expiration of the request-for-consent period was extended until April 23, 2026.

On March 24, 2026, the Commission received written consent to landmark designation of the Building in a form dated March 24, 2026, and signed by Alexandra Holt, representing the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the owner of the Building.

II. FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-120-690 of the Municipal Code, the Commission has reviewed the entire record of proceedings on the proposed Chicago Landmark designation, including the Designation Report, the Hearing Transcript and all of the information on the proposed landmark designation of the Building; 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,

THE COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS HEREBY:

1. Incorporates the preamble and Sections I and II into its findings; and
2. Adopts the Final Designation Report, as revised, and dated this 2nd day of April 2026; and
3. Finds, based on the Designation Report and the entire record before the Commission, that the Building meets the two criteria for landmark designation set forth in Sections 2-120-620 (1) and (3) of the Municipal Code; and

4. Finds that the Building satisfies the "integrity" requirement set forth in Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code; and
5. Finds that the significant historical and architectural features of the Building are identified as follows:
 - 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.

6. Recommends the designation of the Building a Chicago Landmark.

This recommendation was adopted unanimously (7-0)


Ernest C. Wong, Chair
Commission on Chicago Landmarks

Dated: April 2, 2026