

Dear PEC Committee:

## **McCormick's Factory**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed redevelopment of McCormicks factory on Dundas St E.

"The ACO finds the proposed redevelopment of the McCormick's site in the Smokestack District to be a significant step forward in the recognition of industrial heritage in London. The 1914 structure, designed by London architects Watt & Blackwell, ranks among the finest examples of early twentieth century industrial architecture in the London area and a rare local example of glazed terra cotta design. We are extremely pleased that the Dundas façade of the building is going to be retained. Sierra Construction has taken on projects like this before, most notably in the Harvey Woods development in Woodstock, and their track record is one they can deservedly be proud of. On the whole this is an excellent adaptive re-use heritage plan, well-scaled to the neighbourhood's existing streetscapes.

We are deeply concerned however about the potential demolition of the iconic smokestack and urge both the City and Sierra Construction to strive for innovative ways that it can be conserved in situ. The structure is an important London landmark that - more than any other in the Smokestack District - will prompt future generations of Londoners to reflect on the significance of the city's industrial past, especially as the neighbourhood takes on a new character in the coming years.

The conservation of structures like this has been successfully accomplished in instances as varied as the Reid's Mill Smokestack in rural New Brunswick and the Canadian Packers smokestack in Edmonton, Alberta. The incorporation of industrial smokestacks into developments has been a crucial element of both the Distillery District and Liberty Village in Toronto to great effect.

Thank you for your attention.

Maggie Whalley, President, ACO London Region