## Land Use and Design Review Committee Old Town/Chinatown Community Association

January 25, 2016

Portland Landmark Commission c/o Grace Jefferies Bureau of Planning and Sustainability 1900 SW Fourth Avenue Portland, OR 97204

**Dear Chair and Commissioners:** 

The Land Use and Design Review Committee of the Old Town Chinatown Community Association has reviewed and discussed the proposed Skidmore/Old Town Historic District Design Guidelines and we are very supportive of their immediate adoption. Our Community Association, along with many neighbors and stakeholders, is working hard to revitalize and bring Old Town back to life. One critical component of that revitalization work is ensuring that future development is compatible with the existing historic fabric of our neighborhood and, to do that, we desperately need historic design guidelines in place.

We appreciate revisions made to the previous draft, particularly the guideline change that replaces natural materials with historically compatible, high quality materials and the guideline change for new construction that requires developers to integrate the design of new buildings with the "cast iron character" as opposed to "Italianate" character of the Historic District. We feel that these changes more clearly express the neighborhood's desire for compatibility with Italianate and Cast Iron buildings rather than requiring developers to replicate a style that may not always be appropriate.

Once again, we enthusiastically endorse the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District Design guidelines and urge their immediate adoption.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stevenson

Co-Chair

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