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**Submitted electronically**

Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission  
Office of Historic Resources  
Department of City Planning  
200 North Spring St, Room 559  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 6, 2016

**RE: Tom of Finland House, Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM)  
nomination**

Dear members of the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission:

I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy regarding the Tom of Finland House and the Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) nomination submitted by the Tom of Finland Foundation. As many of you are aware, greater Los Angeles has long been at the forefront of creating and shaping a collective, yet diverse LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning and/or queer) identity. The City's outstanding SurveyLA LGBT Context has been extremely helpful in shining the light on this part of our collective history, and so deserving of the Conservancy's 2016 Preservation Award.

Raising the profile, building awareness, and protecting significant LGBTQ places is important, and why the Conservancy recently launched the microsite, "Curating the City: LGBTQ Historic Places in L.A.," in which we feature the Tom of Finland House. This two-story Craftsman home in Echo Park reflects Los Angeles' contributions to the evolution of gay erotic art, given its association with noted artist Touko Laaksonen (Tom of Finland).

Laaksonen adopted the pseudonym "Tom of Finland" in 1957 when he submitted samples to photographer Bob Mizer's magazine *Physique Pictorial* under the name "Tom." Not only is Laaksonen important to Los Angeles but internationally for his



body of work. This house is integrally associated with him and his evolving work over time.

It is critically important for these places and their stories to be fully understood and brought to light. The Los Angeles Conservancy is very pleased to offer our support for this important historic place and we encourage your full consideration of this HCM nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Scott Fine". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Adrian Scott Fine  
Director of Advocacy

cc: Ken Bernstein, Office of Historic Resources, Department of City Planning

