



AIA
California

Debra Gerod, FAIA
President

June 5, 2020
California Preservation Foundation
101 The Embarcadero, Suite 120
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Members of the Jury:

AIA California is a strong supporter of historic preservation projects and the work done by the California Preservation Foundation (CPF) to encourage more preservation and adaptive re-use of buildings. To this point, we are writing in support of the nomination of the Bel Vue Apartment building in Sacramento for a CPF Award for Outstanding Rehabilitation of a Significant Historic Structure.

The Bel Vue Apartment building, listed in the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources, the California Register of Historical and Cultural Resources, and the National Register of Historic Places, is one of Sacramento's significant architectural treasures. The dramatic design with a highly ornamental cornice projecting above the sidewalk, angled bay windows, and decorative brick façade, makes it one of the most outstanding buildings in downtown Sacramento. Not only is the building architecturally significant, it is also important that it was designed in 1909 by California's first State Architect, architect George Sellon. One of the first mixed-use buildings in Sacramento, with apartments above a street level mix of retail products, its dwelling units housed legislators and local business leaders, and the restaurants provided their dining.

Recently rehabilitated to federal historic standards, the Bel Vue continues to contribute as one of the City's rich architectural treasures. It also returns 22 units of much needed affordable housing to the City's inventory. Buses and light rail stations are within a short walk, and there is bicycle storage in the basement. The Bel Vue project returns live-work units to an important central district of downtown Sacramento.

We encourage you to honor this building and the dedicated effort made in its restoration with an award for its outstanding rehabilitation.

Sincerely,

Debra Gerod, FAIA
2020 President