

**From:** [Abajian, Suzie](#)  
**To:** [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sears Building  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:45:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2022-12-06 at 10.58.08 AM.png](#)

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**From:** Ely Lester <elylester@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 1:02 PM  
**To:** Kassakhian, Ardashes <AKassakhian@Glendaleca.gov>; Asatryan, Elen <EAsatryan@Glendaleca.gov>; Najarian, Ara <ANajarian@Glendaleca.gov>; Devine, Paula <PDevine@Glendaleca.gov>; Brotman, Daniel <dbrotman@Glendaleca.gov>  
**Cc:** Abajian, Suzie <SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov>  
**Subject:** Sears Building

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Dear Mayor Kassakhian and City Council,

My question, and the question future generations living here will doubtless ask is, where are Glendale and annexed Tropicó's Old Towns? The answer then will be the same as it is now: we allowed their near-complete destruction because of an inability or unwillingness to make certain vital distinctions and value judgements when it comes to redevelopment. Bad decisions were made in the past. But are those regrettable decisions a thing of the past?

I want to know how the Sears building can be considered a candidate for demolition when it is described in the city's packet as an "Art Deco architectural treasure" and compared favorably with GCAT? A thin layer of stucco and plywood and investment in restoration appear to be the main difference between what we consider "treasured" and doomed buildings (see image).



**Grand Central Airport**

Jazz Moderne



**Sears Building**

Classical Moderne

## **Narrative Inspiration - Art Deco**

The diagram above highlights the unique collection of Art Deco era architectural treasures throughout Glendale's city limits. Art Deco buildings began to appear in Glendale during the late 1920s during a period of considerable business expansion caused by the population growth. Art Deco as an architectural style is an umbrella term and encompasses several different variations, but can be generally categorized in three categories: Jazz Moderne, Classical Moderne and Streamline Moderne. We intend to celebrate all three styles in the landscape as a simple nod to what historically was once here.

The Sears Building and the lot it occupies is not a parking lot, drive through, or some other place type suitable for infill development. Rather, it is a part of our city's urban and architectural patrimony. A building of this stature and location should have many suitors (especially restoration minded ones), but according to Google, the last tenant of the Sears building was a temporary holiday retailer. This brings up an important related issue. It may be that while Glendale's remaining historic high street buildings are struggling in the shadow of the malls, eventually all American malls become unfashionable. In 100 years, Old Town Pasadena and DTLA will still exist, maintaining or even exceeding their current economic and place value - it's unlikely the same can be said for the region's theme malls, no matter how many fountains or animated advertising billboards they happen to have. If there is any way within your power, please act to save our Sears building now!

Sincerely,  
Ely Lester