

Delft, 9 May 2023

**Subject: The Guatemala Civic Center complex, Miguel Angel Asturias Cultural Center**

To whom it may concern,

Docomomo International is a non-profit organization dedicated to documentation and conservation of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of the Modern Movement. For over thirty years, our organization has promoted the conservation of architectural sites of the Modern Movement, and has opposed destruction and disfigurement of many significant works around the world.

It has come to our attention that the Guatemala Civic Center complex, including Miguel Angel Asturias Cultural Center, are undergoing some changes. The Civic Center, created by visionary Guatemalan architects between 1954-1964, was inspired conceptually by Mayan pre-Hispanic principles with complex special organization, all the while being integrated into the immediate surroundings. The muralist pieces in the Center tell the history of the people of Guatemala. Additionally, the Center was created under the principles of the 8º CIAM "The Heart of the city."

Based to the abovementioned architectural and cultural significance, and after the initiative of Docomomo Guatemala, the Ministry of Culture of Guatemala created the Technical Committee for the preservation of this important urban complex. As a result, the Civic Center was declared National Cultural Heritage of the Nation (Ministry Agreement 882-2012).

Despite this status and the decision to preserve the complex, the creation of a new dance institute in the Cultural Center complex is underway. We support Docomomo Guatemala's appeal for a revision of the construction plans with more open involvement from conservation experts to achieve a proposal that will better showcase the particularities of the National Theater. A project that would not alter or hide the unique characteristics of the Complex is highly desirable.

Docomomo International calls upon all relevant authorities to consider revising the construction project. An expertise-based and diligent plan will benefit this monument and preserve the modernist cultural heritage for future generations.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Uta Pottgiesser  
Chair



Dr. Wido Quist  
Secretary General