**Talking Points in Support of the Roundhouse Nomination**

* **The Roundhouse is an internationally acclaimed masterpiece of midcentury modern architecture.** 
  + Designed by the esteemed Philadelphia firm Geddes Brecher Qualls Cunningham, the building is a prominent example of the Philadelphia School of architecture.
  + The Roundhouse's curvilinear form is made possible by its innovative use of precast concrete and post-tensioning engineering.
  + This design evokes comparisons to other mid-century classics, such as Eero Saarinen's TWA Terminal and Dulles Airport and Jørn Utzon's Sydney Opera House.
* **The building embodies a pioneering construction method.** 
  + The Roundhouse was one of the first buildings in the United States to showcase the potential of architectural precasting.
  + The precast concrete panels were manufactured using the Schokbeton process, a technique that flourished during the mid-twentieth century.
    - This method was also employed in notable Modern architecture projects by renowned architects like Louis Kahn, Minoru Yamasaki, and Philip Johnson.
* **Preserving the Roundhouse offers a unique opportunity to address its complicated past.** 
  + The building has become associated with destructive urban renewal initiatives that negatively impacted Chinatown. The building is also associated with police brutality, particularly during the era of Frank Rizzo.
  + The Roundhouse became a symbol of aggressive policing, representing a dark chapter in the city's history. Repurposing the building for community benefit could begin to rectify these past wrongs.
* **The Roundhouse has strong potential for adaptive reuse.**
  + The building is structurally sound and in remarkably good condition for its age.
  + Its large size—125,000 square feet spread over multiple floors—could be adapted for various uses.
  + The parking lot to the south provides opportunities for new construction that would benefit Chinatown and the city.
* **There is a strong community desire to preserve the Roundhouse.** 
  + A community engagement effort from August 2022 to February 2023 highlighted the community's interest in saving the building.
  + The resulting report, [*Framing the Future of the Roundhouse*](https://www.phila.gov/media/20230402105359/REPORT-English-Framing-the-Future-of-the-Roundhouse.pdf), emphasizes the desire to preserve the building, acknowledge its history, and repurpose it for community use.
    - The community also expressed interest in incorporating green space and creating walkable areas.
* **Demolishing the Roundhouse would be a waste of resources.** 
  + The building's sound condition, size, and unique construction make demolition an unwise choice.
  + The embodied energy and materials within the existing structure represent a significant investment that would be lost through demolition. Reusing the building aligns with sustainability principles.

The nomination presents a compelling case for the significance of the Roundhouse, emphasizing its architectural and historical significance, the potential for repurposing, and the community's desire to see it transformed into a positive asset. The Roundhouse should be preserved to serve the community while acknowledging its complex past.