

RECEIVED

'07 APR -4 P4 :03

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

1 April 2007

To: Pasadena City Council

Re: Desiderio site

Dear Members of the City Council,

As a resident of the neighborhood closest to the Desiderio site, I support the Planning Commission's recommendation for the demolition of the existing buildings on the site. I also support the construction of the Habitat for Humanity proposal of a 9-unit bungalow court, with 75% of the site retained for Open Space, as stated in the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Signed: 
Carol Anne ECOM

Address: 695 Arbor St. Pasadena, CA 91105

Comments:

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Signed: _____

Mary Berry

Address: _____

450 S. Arroyo Blvd

Comments:

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CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

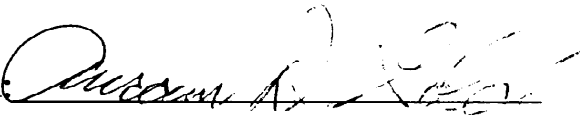
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Signed: 

Address: 687 ARBO ST.

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Signed: Linda Hall

Address: 640 La Loma

Comments: Pasadena CA 91105

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'07 APR -4 P 4 :04

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CITY OF PASADENA

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To: Pasadena City Council

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Signed: Laila Muderzspach Hilliard

Address: 492 So. Arroyo Blvd

Comments:

We have lived here for 15 years and are raising our family here. Open space is very important to Pasadena's future. It is also important to support other needs consistent with neighborhood sensibilities and this is ^{the} a Habitat for Humanity proposal.
Thank you

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Signed: Nils-Erik Hilliard

Address: 497 South Arroyo Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91105

Comments:

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Signed: Anthony D. Macaulay and Nancy Macaulay

Address: ~~514 S. Arroyo Blvd~~ 514 S, Arroyo Blvd

Comments: The buildings are not appropriate for the neighborhood.

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Signed: *Ethel & Marvin Schachter*

Address: *300 California Terrace*

Comments:

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CITY OF PASADENA

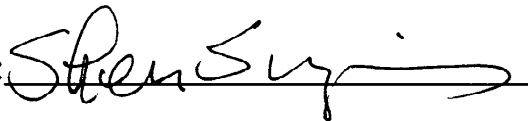
2 April 2007

To: Pasadena City Council

Re: Desiderio site

Dear Members of the City Council,

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Signed: 

Address: 490 S. Arroyo Bl. Pas. 91105

Comments:

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CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

1 April 2007

To: Pasadena City Council

Re: Desiderio site

Dear Members of the City Council,

As a resident of the neighborhood closest to the Desiderio site, I support the Open Space Alternative. I believe that demolishing all existing buildings, reclaiming the entire site as Open Space, and restoring it to native habitat as an extension of the Lower Arroyo, is the best solution for the entire community, for the existing habitat of the Lower Arroyo, and for the neighborhood.

Signed: Ingenie Schueler

Address: 487 California Terrace Pasadena

Comments:

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Signed: Ann Scheid

Address: 500 S. Arroyo Blvd

Comments:

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Signed: John Scheid

Address: 500 S. Arroyo Blvd.

Comments:

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Signed: John - John Tauve

Address: 530 S. Arroyo Blvd.

Comments:

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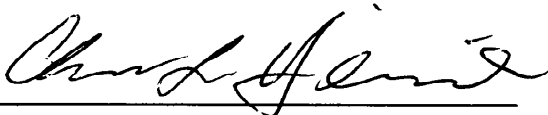
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Signed: 

Address: 492 S. Arroyo Blvd.
Pasadena, 91105

Comments:

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Signed:

Kuick Zuni

Address:

390 S Arroyo Blvd.

Pasadena

Comments:

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CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

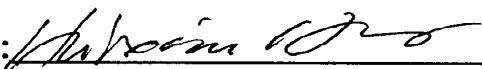
2 April 2007

To: Pasadena City Council

Re: Desiderio site

Dear Members of the City Council,

As a resident of the neighborhood closest to the Desiderio site, I support the Planning Commission's recommendation for the demolition of the existing buildings on the site. I also support the construction of the Habitat for Humanity proposal of a 9-unit bungalow court, with 75% of the site retained for Open Space, as stated in the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Signed: 

Address: 490 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91105

Comments:

Jomsky, Mark

From: Bruckner, Richard
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 2:20 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: Desiderio Project

-----Original Message-----

From: Suzanne Bellah [mailto:Suzanne.Bellah@ci.oxnard.ca.us]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2007 6:22 PM
To: Bruckner, Richard
Subject: Desiderio Project

Dear Pasadena City Council and City Officials:

I have been intrigued to follow the news about the Desiderio Army Reserve Base and the proposed plans of the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment.

Over many years, I have worked with the California Art Club on many projects and have always found them to be an honorable, reputable, and very professional organization.

I understand that the city is proposing to demolish a portion of the building that will house the Arroyo Center. It has been my experience, as Director of the Carnegie Art Museum for the past 10 years, that museums are usually designed with too little space for storage of art work, gallery and classroom equipment such as easels, chairs or tables. National standards for art centers and museums verify that proportionally more space is required for non-exhibit uses than for exhibits.

I would ask you to consider not to cripple the Arroyo Center by slicing off too much of the existing building. Not only would this negatively impact the space configuration needed to produce educational programs of service to the community, but would diminish the California Art Club's capacity to generate operating funds from earned class revenues. Thank you for considering these factors in creating a laudatory and creative reallocation of building and land use.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Bellah
Director
Carnegie Art Museum
Oxnard, California

March 29, 2007

Subject: Desiderio and Open Space

Dear City Councilmember:

I am an advocate for pure open space on the Desiderio site. The City should not miss this opportunity to reclaim 5 acres of land, adding it to the Lower Arroyo and preserving the open arches and vista of the Colorado Street Bridge.

This 5-acre site is the ideal place for open space comprising an oak grove, native plantings, paths connecting to the Lower Arroyo, with some discreet signage explaining the native habitat and the history of the Colorado Street Bridge. The open space alternative has the greatest popular support in the community. It is also the easiest to implement and the only alternative which does not require the City to maintain additional buildings or streets.

I urge you to support open space as the best use for this site.

Sincerely,

Nancy Covington
514 S. Arroyo Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105
626-844-7526

Jomsky, Mark

From: Bruckner, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2007 5:22 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

-----Original Message-----

From: plglover@aol.com [mailto:plglover@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2007 2:48 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Streater, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Gordo, Victor; Tyler, Sid; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia
Subject: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I e-mailed the City Council earlier on March 12th regarding my opposition to demolishing the Desiderio building. Thank you for considering the retention of the structure.

I further wanted to reiterate my point that the "courtyard" concept proposed by Habitat for Humanity does not seem to be in keeping with the ambiance of the existing neighborhood. The alternate site proposal prepared by the Arroyo Center for Art & The Environment (Center) for a street that follows the natural curved path of the property, ending in a cul-de-sac, would invite residents to walk their dogs, jog, or begin a bike ride through the Arroyo, allowing neighbors to meet and socialize without feeling as if they live on top of each other. This would be aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the character of the neighborhood and would also allow the residents in the Habitat homes to take full advantage of the magnificent views of the Arroyo, the Colorado Street bridge and the Vista del Arroyo building towering above.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patricia Glover
143 California Terrace
Pasadena, California

AOL now offers free email to everyone. Find out more about what's free from AOL at AOL.com.

=0

Jomsky, Mark

From: Bruckner, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2007 4:59 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

-----Original Message-----

From: David Kamansky [mailto:dkamansky@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 4:52 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Streater, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Tyler, Sid; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia
Subject: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

Dear Mayor Bogaard, City Council members and Officials:

After spending two hours in the Desiderio Buildings recently, I am further convinced that the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment and their vision for this unique property is the most appropriate use for this site.

The adaptive reuse of older buildings has a proud and proven history in Pasadena and is the environmentally responsible thing to do. Personally, I would not remove anything from the building. I believe it is perfectly suited for the use of the California Art Club and Arroyo Seco Foundation.

However, if houses are to be constructed on the site, they should be reconfigured away from the building.

I believe that the two historic and local organizations, the California Art Club and Arroyo Seco Foundation, have formed a wonderful marriage between art and the environment and will create an institution that will serve southern California for generations to come.

Furthermore, after renovation, I believe the museum gallery may well become internationally renowned as both an environmental model for adaptive reuse, as well as for aesthetic design.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or further comments.

Sincerely,

David Kamansky
Director Emeritu
Pacific Asia Museum

Can't afford to quit your job? - Earn your AS, BS, or MS degree online in 1 year.
<http://www.classesusa.com/clickcount.cfm?id=866145&goto=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.classesusa.com%2Ffeaturedschools%2Fonlinedegreesmp%2Fform-dyn1.html%3Fsplovr%3D866143>

Jomsky, Mark

From: DeWolfe, Stephanie
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2007 4:19 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Wednesday, April 04, 2007 12:00 AM
Flag Status: Red

From: LACRA [mailto:Lacra@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2007 3:50 PM
To: DeWolfe, Stephanie
Subject: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

Dear Ms. Dewolfe-

I would like to urge you to support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment at the Pasadena City Council hearing this evening. Preservation of any existing, well-built building in the form of reuse should always be the first plan choice, as it makes the most sense economically and ecologically. Spending city funds to destroy the Desiderio Army Reserve Base would be irresponsible, especially when such a positive community plan option is being presented.

Having a combination of Habitat for Humanity, the California Art Club, and the Arroyo Seco Foundation work together to take over the existing property is an EXCELLENT option, and would preserve our wonderful Desiderio Army Reserve Base. It is the best option for the entire Pasadena community.

In reviewing the two plan choices for the site, Scheme A.1, which requires demolition of the existing building and construction of a new building will be costly and unnecessary, when Scheme D.1 provides an intelligent solution in preserving our original building, and would be a "greener" choice for the environment.

Leisa B Vander Velde
Executive Director

Los Angeles Commercial Realty Association
790 E. Colorado Blvd., 9th Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101
Phone: 626.577.5414
Fax: 626.577.5415
lacra@earthlink.net

4/5/2007

Jomsky, Mark

From: Mickey Long [mlongbird@charter.net]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2007 10:50 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve
Cc: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Wednesday, April 04, 2007 12:00 AM
Flag Status: Red

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Councilman Madison:

I urge the City of Pasadena to demonstrate its commitment to continuing to green the City and provide more undeveloped open space for its residents.
I support the recycling and refurbishing of the existing buildings at Desiderio site and the maximum amount of space for an Arroyo Center and native plant landscaping, restoration and open space.

Mickey Long
Natural Areas Administrator
County of Los Angeles
Eaton Canyon Nature Center

4/5/2007

Jomsky, Mark

From: Peg Rahn [prahn@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 1:34 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Streater, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Tyler, Sid; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia; Jomsky, Mark
Cc: elaineadams@earthlink.net; prahn@earthlink.net
Subject: reusing the 50-year old structure, and realigning the Habitatq for Humanity house along eastern border, not configured courtyard style

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Pasadena City Council and City Officials,

Two important points we would like you to consider:

1. adaptive reuse of Desidero Building

Regarding the future use of the Desiderio Army Reserve Base, we believe that The Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment is a worthy vision that supports the uniqueness of our Arroyo Seco culture including its history, art, environment and natural habitat. Furthermore, the Arroyo Center's proposal is a wonderful model for the adaptive reuse of a 50-year old structurally sound building. We also believe that the new use of the Desiderio Building will become an invaluable institution that will serve the overall Pasadena community for generations to come.

2. reconfiguration of Habitat for Humanity houses, not in courtyard style:

In order to make the best use of the Desiderio site, as well as taking into account the spirit of the neighborhood, we urge you to consider aligning the Habitat for Humanity houses along the eastern border and not have them configured in a courtyard style. The aligned format will provide more respectable space between both projects and create a feeling of more open space.

Thank you for your consideration. We were 91105 residents for over 30 years. Lee still works in town and we remain active in Pasadena events.

Lee and Peggy Rahn
350 W. Colorado
Pasadena 91105

Subject: clarification of land use concept for reuse of the Desiderio Army Reserve Center.

Name: Kathleen Saxton

Address: 475 S. Los Robles #7

City: Pasadena

State: CA

Zip: 91101

Email: k.saxton@sbcglobal.net

Comments:

I (a resident of district 6) was in attendance at tonight's clarification of land use concept for reuse of the Desiderio Army Reserve Center. When I heard mayor Bogart state it was not a public hearing, I incorrectly assumed no public comment cards would be accepted, and decided to take my infant home to sleep without interruption from applause. I did watch the rest of the proceedings live online. I was disappointed that I had missed the opportunity to publicly state my concerns with plan D. I appreciate the city's efforts to mediate and endeavor to reach a reasonable compromise and would like to point out a value that I consider primary and to my knowledge has been left unstated.

I believe that it is supremely important that the Habitat Project i.e. the poor not be in any way marginalized. The proposed alteration to the land use could give the appearance of valuing money and convenience over people. The courtyard proposed by Habitat is key to the success of this small community (a community which has already been surrounded in controversy, and may not receive and thus far has not received the warmest of welcomes by its neighbors.) It is not only about the view from the front yard, but most importantly providing a community that in its very shape and plan provides community connection and support. A courtyard configuration provides a protected region where children can play partially enclosed and easily observed. Such a courtyard also encourages practical and naturally occurring and uncontrived opportunities for connection the building of strong supportive relationships-something that all socio economic groupings need, but especially the poor who have otherwise limited resources. I believe that this configuration must not be compromised on. I ask that for this time for this project, for once, priority be given to the poor, may they not be forever pushed to the side. I believe that with some creativity (something the Art Club by nature is well endowed with) the interests of both parties could be addressed adequately.

I ask that you please do your part to see to it that the Habitat For Humanity side of the project not be marginalized and that a design is created that supports natural uncontrived connection, some measure of security, and promotes a supportive community.

Thank you,
Kathleen Saxton

P.S. I live in such a courtyard configuration and have found it superior to other living situations as well as assistive to a naturally occurring environment of support.

Date: 3/20/2007 1:43:52 AM

Jomsky, Mark

From: Ann Scheid [alund.ann@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 10:13 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Desiderio site

Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council,

A number of people, residents of the neighborhood and of the city as a whole, have advocated open space at the many meetings held regarding the future of the site. As Commissioner Terry Tornek noted at the January 24 Planning Commission meeting, open space had been ruled out as a possibility at the beginning as the result of an internal decision by City staff, without input from either the citizens or their elected officials. Despite this, many of the proposers began to include open space in their proposals, and the Planning Commission clearly considered it in its recommendation supporting the Habitat proposal with the allocation of 25% of the land to Habitat and 75% to open space. The Habitat proposal for a nine-unit bungalow court linked to the existing neighborhood is compatible in scale and style with the neighborhood, does not create unmanageable traffic impacts, and re-interprets a housing form that is part of Pasadena's heritage.

Now we are faced with a significant reduction in the open space component of the site plan, because of the insistence by the Arroyo Center proposers on retaining the existing buildings, or constructing a new building of almost equal size. A petition circulated in the neighborhood has garnered the support of 50 people in favor of demolition of the existing buildings.

The Arroyo Center supporters have been urged, from the earliest meetings up to the present, to cooperate with other possible users of the site. At the January Planning Commission meeting and again at the February City Council meeting, they were again asked to cooperate with Habitat on a site plan based on Scheme A. It is my impression that the board and officials of Habitat have gone out of their way to cooperate with the Arroyo Center in trying to reach agreement on a site plan.

I believe that it is time for the City Council to say no to the Arroyo Center for the following reasons:

1. The Arroyo Center's project, whether in the existing buildings or in a new building of as yet undetermined square footage, will diminish the amount of open space on the site and will bring additional traffic, noise and pollution to the surrounding neighborhood, to the Lower Arroyo Seco and to the Lower Arroyo Seco National Register District along Arroyo and California Boulevards.
2. The uses proposed by the Art Club component of the Arroyo Center (museum, art academy, children's classes, public library, lecture hall, offices) are more suited to the urban center of Pasadena than to the residential neighborhood and park setting of the Desiderio site. Buildings such as the historic Home Laundry building on Arroyo Parkway should be actively considered for re-use by the Art Club.
3. The Arroyo Seco Foundation has already been promised the Hahmongna site for an interpretive nature center. The historic Lummis House along the Pasadena Freeway also has space that could potentially accommodate the ASF.
4. The need for affordable housing and the need for open space are compelling issues in Pasadena. Is there really a compelling need for another museum? According to a 2006 survey published by the California Association of Museums, visits to museums have declined by 22% in the previous 5 years, and this is a continuing trend. Pasadena has many wonderful museums. We need to support the museums we already have.
5. Arroyo Boulevard is already a high-traffic collector street with around 2000 daily trips and many more on weekends, when there are special events at the Rose Bowl.
6. The Arroyo Center supporters have failed to negotiate in good faith with Habitat or with any other of the proposers. They seem to believe that they must have it their way.

The Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment has claimed the support of over 1200 plus signatories to their online petition. I have conducted a detailed analysis of this petition and found the following:

3/29/2007

Only 348 of the signers list Pasadena as their residence. Most of the signers are not Pasadenans and come from the greater Los Angeles area, northern California and as far away as Canada and England. Their neighborhoods are not affected by this project.

Only 176 of the signers list 91105 as their residence. Many of them OWN property in 91105, but do not RESIDE in 91105.

Only 27 of the signers live in the affected neighborhood, north of California and west of Grand.

Of the signatures of Pasadenans that include comments about the project, most made comments such as "site should stay natural," "protect the Arroyo," "keep property in the public domain," "increase amount of open space," "preserve the view," "limit urbanization."

I understand that the Arroyo Center is conducting a massive letter-writing and petition campaign to support their point of view. I urge you to evaluate these submissions carefully, in light of the above information about the previous petition. I urge you also to carefully consider the petition from the residents of the immediate neighborhood, who feel strongly that the existing buildings should be demolished in order to protect the neighborhood and its quality of life.

Sincerely,

Ann Scheid

Jomsky, Mark

From: Veronica Terry [bridgeviewcottage@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 11:49 AM
To: Bogaard, Bill
Subject: Desiderio

Dear Mayor Bogaard, City Council Members, and City Officials,

Thank you for taking the time to consider this Desiderio Property matter.

Having lived on California Terrace since 1960, down the street from this project, I will be directly impacted by this project since me and my neighbours can only enter our street from Westminster Drive. (We are on a Cul-de-Sac.)

Sonja Yates (Habitat for Humanity) has repeatedly assured me from day one that their housing project would not have any entrances or exits, from or onto Westminster Drive because of its existing traffic and parking problems. (Richard Yee with TAC has already investigated this problem.)

She publicly acknowledged that promise to me while giving her presentation to the Transportation Advisory Commission meeting on January 12, 2007 when they too became aware of this problem. That their scheme with the bungalow court, and two streets into Westminster Drive. (Was not acceptable with us adjacent neighbours.) she emphasised Habitats willingness to respect, and cooperate with the neighbourhood about our concerns, indicating to us all at the meeting that the scheme she presented was not set in concrete, that it was all she had for this presentation, that their architect hadn't had the time to take out the two streets on the scheme, but promised us all that it would be changed. Am I too trusting to expect what I believed was a responsible person representing Habitat for Humanity to keep their word these days? Our neighbourhood would like to feel you listen to us also, because we are the ones that will be directly impacted.

All the neighbours with whom I have spoken agree that in this day and age, that courtyard is completely out of harmony with this neighbourhood. The configuration, and the traffic would be an eyesore for us to endure daily.

Scheme D1, aligning the houses on the eastern border is more harmony, integrating it nicely into the neighbourhood, giving these families a wonderful feeling of open space, and unobstructed views of the Arroyo Seco, and the Colorado Street Bridge. There would be only one street at the far eastern edge of Westminster Drive to alleviate some of the traffic problems, and again nicely integrating the new housing with a flow into the neighbourhood, and allowing us also the use and enjoyment of the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment.

We sincerely hope you will listen to us immediate neighbours that will be directly impacted by these changes forever.

Sincerely

Veronica Terry
160 California Terrace
Pasadena, CA 91105

626-793-8504

4/5/2007

April 4, 2007

To whom it may concern:

As a passionate admirer of the Amoyo Seco on which I live, I am naturally in favor of the more open space the better. I am convinced that the Habitat scheme for the development of the Desiderio Project preserves this invaluable asset to the citizens of Pasadena as well as to me. Habitat's work is noble and their plan is intelligent.

Robert Winter

626 South Amoyo Boulevard

Author of The Amoyo Culture

CITY OF PASADENA
CITY CLERK

07 APR -4 P4:03

RECEIVED

Jomsky, Mark

From: Michael Zakian [michael.zakian@pepperdine.edu]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 10:50 AM
To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Madison, Steve; Streater, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Tyler, Sid; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia; Jomsky, Mark
Cc: elaineadams@earthlink.net
Subject: Space for Arroyo Center for Art

Dear Pasadena City Council and City Officials:

I am pleased to write you to support the proposed plans for the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment at the current Desiderio Army Reserve Base.

As a museum curator and director with over twenty-five years of experience in the field, I can say with confidence that one of the greatest needs of museums and cultural centers is adequate space. Most projects overlook these practical requirements with the inevitable result that the center's ability to serve the community is severely diminished

The public exhibition galleries of a museum constitute only a small fraction of the space required to run the institution. Space is needed for general storage for art and equipment; for preparing the art for exhibition (framing, etc); as well as for packing, receiving and shipping works for new exhibitions. This is in addition to office space and space necessary for public events such as lectures, meetings and the like. An important facet of the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment is educational classes. The classroom space required to serve the community is considerable.

My involvement with the California Art Club is long and considerable. I have worked closely with their officers and staff since 1999, organizing three exhibitions of CAC artist members at the Weisman Museum at Pepperdine. In addition, I have often given lectures and served as a juror for their exhibitions on numerous occasions over the years. The organization has the highest ideals and functions with an outstanding level of professionalism and sense of responsibility to the community. They are an asset to Pasadena and to the state.

To conclude, it is very important that the size of the building housing the Arroyo Center not be compromised. I am sure that the City Council can arrive at a solution that will allow the Arroyo Center to function adequately and best serve the people of Pasadena.

Sincerely,

Michael Zakian, Ph.D.
Director
Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art
Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90263
310 506-7257 voice
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