

Jomsky, Mark

From: Elaine Adams [info@americanlegacyfinearts.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2007 8:19 PM

To: Gordo, Victor; Bogaard, Bill; Holden, Chris; Kurtz, Cynthia; Haderlein, Steve; Streater, Joyce; Jomsky, Mark; Little, Paul; Bruckner, Richard; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Madison, Steve; Tyler, Sid

Subject: Desiderio - Lists of Pasadena SUPPORTERS for adaptive reuse

NOTE: Please include the attached files for the City Website and Councilmembers' packets for the April 9, 2007 hearing.

Dear City Council:

RE: Desiderio Property

To document local community support of adaptively reusing the Desiderio Buildings for the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment, I have attached 3 excel files. The first file includes comments taken from our earlier Petition (totaling approximately 1,200 names) focusing on residents of the 91105 area. The following 2 files (91105 & 91103) represent rosters of more recent supporters, as of April 1. We have been able to document more than 400 Pasadena residents in support of the adaptive reuse of the Desiderio Buildings for the Arroyo Center.

We believe that all of these supporters would be in favor of the City Staff's Recommendation of April 5, 2007.

We thank you for considering this information when making your judgment.

Most sincerely,

Peter Adams

President

California Art Club, est.1909

4/9/2007

04/09/2007
4.A.

Jomsky, Mark

From: Elaine Adams [info@americanlegacyfinearts.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2007 10:00 PM

To: Gordo, Victor; Bogaard, Bill; Holden, Chris; Kurtz, Cynthia; Haderlein, Steve; Streater, Joyce; Jomsky, Mark; Little, Paul; Bruckner, Richard; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Madison, Steve; Tyler, Sid

Subject: Adaptive reuse of Desiderio -Pasadena Star News

Dear Pasadena City Councilmembers:

RE: Desiderio

I thought it would be helpful to bring to your attention the March 16 article by Larry Wilson published in the Pasadena Star News endorsing the adaptive reuse of the Desiderio Buildings. The article is attached, but here are some key excerpts:

“After actually going there [Desiderio Army Reserve Base], which I recommend to all who believe they have an opinion....From the inside, they [buildings] are unexpectedly magnificent....These buildings are a cultural resource of Pasadena and should not be torn down.”

Thank you for your attention to this testimonial.

Sincerely,

Peter Adams

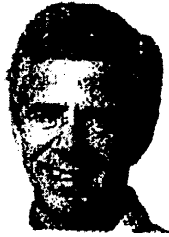
PASADENA STAR-NEWS

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LOCAL NEWS

FRIDAY
MARCH 16, 2007

pasadenastarnews.com



Larry WILSON

Desiderio due grand opening

I had not until this week ever been on the actual property of the Desiderio Army Reserve Center beneath the Colorado Street Bridge.

Most of us in-mufti types would be in that boat. While the large site, with its government-issue buildings both large and small and acres of empty asphalt, looks disused, a visitor finds it is not.

In its own way, it is teeming with military activity. A number of uniformed Army personnel are in residence, in camouflage, writing memos, requisitioning supplies, thanking God for their delightfully dull posting.

All the current action at Desiderio revolves around its future, not its present.

As most readers know, the Pasadena City Council ordered that the baby be split when awarding the site to Habitat for Humanity for future use as home to nine new bungalows of affordable housing.

But that's OK. It was a good call. As is the point of that fable, no babies were actually split.

Yes, the council directed Habitat to negotiate with its arch-rival proposers, the California Art Club/Arroyo Seco Foundation. And that is as it should be. The bungalows are to be set back close to the Arroyo banks beneath the looming former Vista del Arroyo Hotel.

There is clearly room galore for Desiderio to host as well the modest proposal of the combined art and environmental entities, both a century old, both doing the Lord's work.

After actually going there, which I recommend to all who believe they have an opinion on this subject, that is one of my three clear findings.

The second is that, believe it or not, the big buildings on the site are worth saving — important, even, to save. From the outside, they are no oil paintings, as they say. A little non-G.I. sprucing up, some clinging vines, will take care of that. From the inside, they are unexpectedly magnificent.

The view of the arches of the Colorado Street Bridge from the north wing through clerestory windows is gorgeous. It is a voluminous, solidly built, perfect space for art and environmental exhibits. These buildings are a cultural resource for Pasadena and should not be torn down.

Third finding: After the bungalows are built, and with some sheds and outbuildings razed, there will still be acres and acres of fine open space at Desiderio. The asphalt will be jackhammered away. The native plants will return. Bunnies, no doubt, will frolic.

Bickering factions, pay heed to "Admiral" Steve Madison here. "Cancel all shore leave," the councilman said, until successful compromise is reached. He's right. Desiderio will be happiest with all four tenants: Habitat, the California Art Club, the Arroyo Seco Foundation — and all that wonderful plain outdoors.

larry.wilson@spsvn.com

Larry Wilson is editor of the Pasadena Star-News.

Jomsky, Mark

From: Elaine Adams [info@americanlegacyfinearts.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 9:28 PM
To: Gordo, Victor; Bogaard, Bill; Holden, Chris; Kurtz, Cynthia; Haderlein, Steve; Streator, Joyce; Jomsky, Mark; Little, Paul; Bruckner, Richard; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Madison, Steve; Tyler, Sid
Subject: Desiderio Site - Expert Testimonies

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Pasadena City Council Members,
I am writing just to remind you that the following 34 diverse experts have each sent individual letters over the last few months to the City Council supporting the adaptive reuse of the Desiderio Buildings for the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment.

Best regards,
Peter Adams

1. Art Center College of Design, Richard Koshalek, President
2. Art Center College of Design, Heidrun Mumper-Drumm, Adjunct Associate Professor
3. Art Center College of Design, Patricia Belton Oliver, AIA, Senior Vice President, Educational Planning and Architecture
4. The Audubon Center at Debs Park, Elva Yañez, President
5. Autry National Center, John L. Gray, President and CEO
6. Brandow & Johnston Associates, President; and Executive Director, Los Angeles Tall Buildings Structural Design Council, Dr. Gregg E. Brandow
7. California State, Aileen Adams, Former Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency
8. Carnegie Art Museum, Suzanne Bellah, Executive Director
9. Commerce Construction, Joel Tkatch, Senior Designer
10. Descanso Gardens Guild, Inc., David R. Brown, Executive Director
11. Eaton Canyon Nature Center, County of Los Angeles, Mickey Long, Natural Areas Administrator
12. Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University, Michael Zakian, Ph.D., Executive Director
13. Friends of the Pasadena Playhouse, Patrick Oliva, Membership Chairman

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14. Gamble House, Ted Bosley, Executive Director
15. Greenform Sustainable Design Architect, Christine S. E. Magar, RA, AIA, LEED AP, and Project Manager
16. Highland Park Heritage Trust, Carmela Gomes, President
17. The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, James P. Folsom, Director of the Gardens
18. The Irvine Museum, Jean Stern, Executive Director
19. Kidspace Children's Museum, Stephen H. Bauman, Executive Director
20. La Casita Foundation, Leelee Doughty, President
21. Linda Vista - Annandale Association, Sharon Yonashiro, President
22. Melburg & Rossetto Architects, Les L. Melburg, Senior Partner
23. Pacific Asia Museum, Joan Marshall, Executive Director
24. Pacific Asia Museum, David Kamansky, Emeritus Executive Director
25. Pasadena Arts Council, Terry LeMoncheck, Executive Director
26. Pasadena Audubon Society, Laura S. Garrett, Conservation Chair
27. Pasadena Garden Club, Chris Benter, President
28. Pasadena Museum of California Art, Wesley Jessup, Executive Director
29. Pasadena Museum of History, Jeannette L. O'Malley, Executive Director
30. The Ratkovitch Company, Los Angeles, Wayne Ratkovitch, President and CEO
31. RTKL Architects, Randy H. Shortridge, Vice President (working for Habitat and the Arroyo Center)
32. Segil Fine Art Source, Laura Segil, Director

33. Serrurier Architects & Assoc., Santa Monica, David A. Serrurier, Partner

34. Sierra Club, Pasadena, Don Bremner, Director

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Jomsky, Mark

From: Kurtz, Cynthia
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2007 10:21 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: Desiderio Recommended Plan

Could you please add this to the correspondence for Monday night

Thanks

C

From: Elaine Adams [mailto:info@americanlegacyfinearts.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2007 10:02 PM
To: DeWolfe, Stephanie
Cc: 'Sonja L. Yates'; Kurtz, Cynthia; Bruckner, Richard
Subject: RE: Desiderio Recommended Plan

Dear Stephanie,
We are pleased with the staff report and recommendations. We thank you very much for all your hard work!

Most sincerely,

Elaine Adams

Executive Director

California Art Club, est. 1909

www.californiaartclub.org

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

From: DeWolfe, Stephanie [mailto:sdewolfe@cityofpasadena.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2007 4:37 PM
To: Sonja L. Yates; Elaine Adams
Subject: Recommended Plan

Attached is the site plan recommended in the staff report. Please let me know if you have any questions.

See you Monday!
S.

Jomsky, Mark

From: Elaine Adams [info@americanlegacyfinearts.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2007 10:33 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: Desiderio Property-Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

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

From: Arcinue, Edgardo [mailto:EArcinue@coh.org]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 2:53 PM
To: bbogaard@ci.pasadena.ca.us; smadison@ci.pasadena.ca.us; jstreator@ci.pasadena.ca.us; plittle@ci.pasadena.ca.us; cholden@cityofpasadena.net; shaderline@cityofpasadena.net; vgordo@ci.pasadena.ca.us; styler@ci.pasadena.ca.us; sdewolfe@cityofpasadena.net; rbruckner@cityofpasadena.net; ckurtz@ci.pasadena.ca.us; mjomski@cityofpasadena.net
Cc: arcinuesmd@hotmail.com; info@americanlegacyfinearts.com
Subject: Desiderio Property-Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

April 6, 2007

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Pasadena City Council, Ms DeWolfe, Mr. Bruckner, Ms Kurtz and Mr. Jomski,

Recently, I had the wonderful opportunity to tour the Desiderio Army Reserve Buildings and site. I wish to recommend to the city to save as much of the building as possible. Having served for 23 years on the Board of Trustees of the Pacific Asia Museum and as Chairman of their Buildings and Facilities Committee, I believe that these buildings are perfectly suited for the Arroyo Center's intimate museum and learning center.

It would not be cost effective to demolish a large portion of their building and then, after recognizing a critical need for more museum collection storage, to build that portion at a later date-either on site or somewhere else.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Edgardo L. Arcinue, MD
Pediatric Intensive Care Specialist
City of Hope National Medical Center
1500 E. Duarte Rd.
Duarte, CA 91010
626-351-8111 ext 64399

Residence:
1145 Hillcrest Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91106
626-792-4572

"EMF <COH.ORG>" made the following annotations.

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4/9/2007

Jomsky, Mark

From: Geoffrey Baum [glbaum@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 12:19 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Cc: Madison, Steve; Bogaard, Bill
Subject: Desiderio vote

Dear Members of the City Council:

I recently learned that my colleagues on the board of the West Pasadena Resident's Association are planning to submit a letter in favor of demolishing the existing buildings at the Desiderio Army Reserve Base.

Unfortunately, my service on the board of Pasadena City College often conflicts with the meetings scheduled for the WPRA board and I was unable to attend the most recent WPRA board meeting.

I have toured the buildings and want to convey to you--as an individual--my opposition to their complete demolition. As both an educator and an arts advocate, I believe these public buildings would be better suited--and our community would be better served--if they were converted to an educational and exhibition center as proposed by the Arroyo Center for the Arts & the Environment.

I know members of the Council have visited the base and have seen its potential as a community resource that would not add significant negative impacts to our West Pasadena neighborhoods.

If a satisfactory partnership may be arranged between the Arroyo Center and Habitat for Humanity, I encourage the Council to approve it.

Sincerely,

Geoff Baum

--

Geoffrey Baum
563 Laguna Road
Pasadena, CA 91105
Phone: 626-799-5920
Fax: 626-441-2689

Jomsky, Mark

From: MartynBelmont@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2007 9:18 AM
To: Haderlein, Steve; Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Desiderio

I hope you will read this letter and look at the neighborhood map before the Council Meeting tomorrow night. Thank you. Martyn Belmont
500 La Loma Road

See what's free at AOL.com.

April 6, 2007

To: the Pasadena City Directors

PLEASE READ!!! – IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE DESIDERIO PROJECT

I cannot believe I am writing one more letter in support of the Arroyo Center's combined project with Habitat for Humanity at the Desiderio site. I was thrilled to see on the City's web site, the City Manager's recommendation for the combined project to "save" the buildings at Desiderio (reduced by 75 feet) and to allow Habitat their court yard housing. I have spoken directly to the Arroyo Center supporters and they are very excited too. But there always seems to be this little problem nagging away at the spirit of cooperation that the City asked for and that is the unrelenting behavior of the Open Space supporters led by Ann Scheid and Mary Dee Romney to defeat the Arroyo Center's ability to participate in this project.

The Arroyo Center has made it clear from the beginning that they could not afford to build from scratch and the space allowed by the planning commission's original proposal did not allow enough space for the programs the Center wants to offer. The Open Spaces group were told early this week that they were too late to "get rid" of the Arroyo Center and that the joint project between the Arroyo Center and Habitat was the choice of the City and the majority of citizens interested in this issue, as evidenced by a large number of letters.

Still, this was not enough and the next ploy was to push through the board of WPRA, who had refused to take a stand in support of the Arroyo Center all these months, even though the Arroyo Center was the clear "winner" at their own informational meeting, the support for Plan A from the planning commission, which calls for the demolition of the buildings. Let's call a spade a spade. WPRA has done this because they know that the Arroyo Center cannot afford to go forward if the buildings are being demolished. In fact, Habitat almost became a victim of these people as well because they convinced Habitat they did not have to cooperate with the Arroyo Center in the first place, which led to Councilman Little's very pointed remarks about cooperation at the March meeting of the Council.

You have received a map (attached) which shows the area closest to the Desiderio Project. This map was done in February, and while there are some neighbors who have changed their minds in favor of Open Spaces, there are other neighbors not on the map who have come out in support of the Arroyo Center/Habitat proposal. This survey was done by me (La Loma Road), Sally White (Arroyo Blvd), Veronica Terry (California Terrace) and Cynthia Benton (Westbridge Place) with every attempt to be accurate. We walked the neighborhood and talked to many people,

and feel, while there has been some flip-flopping, it is a pretty good representation of what people who live there want.

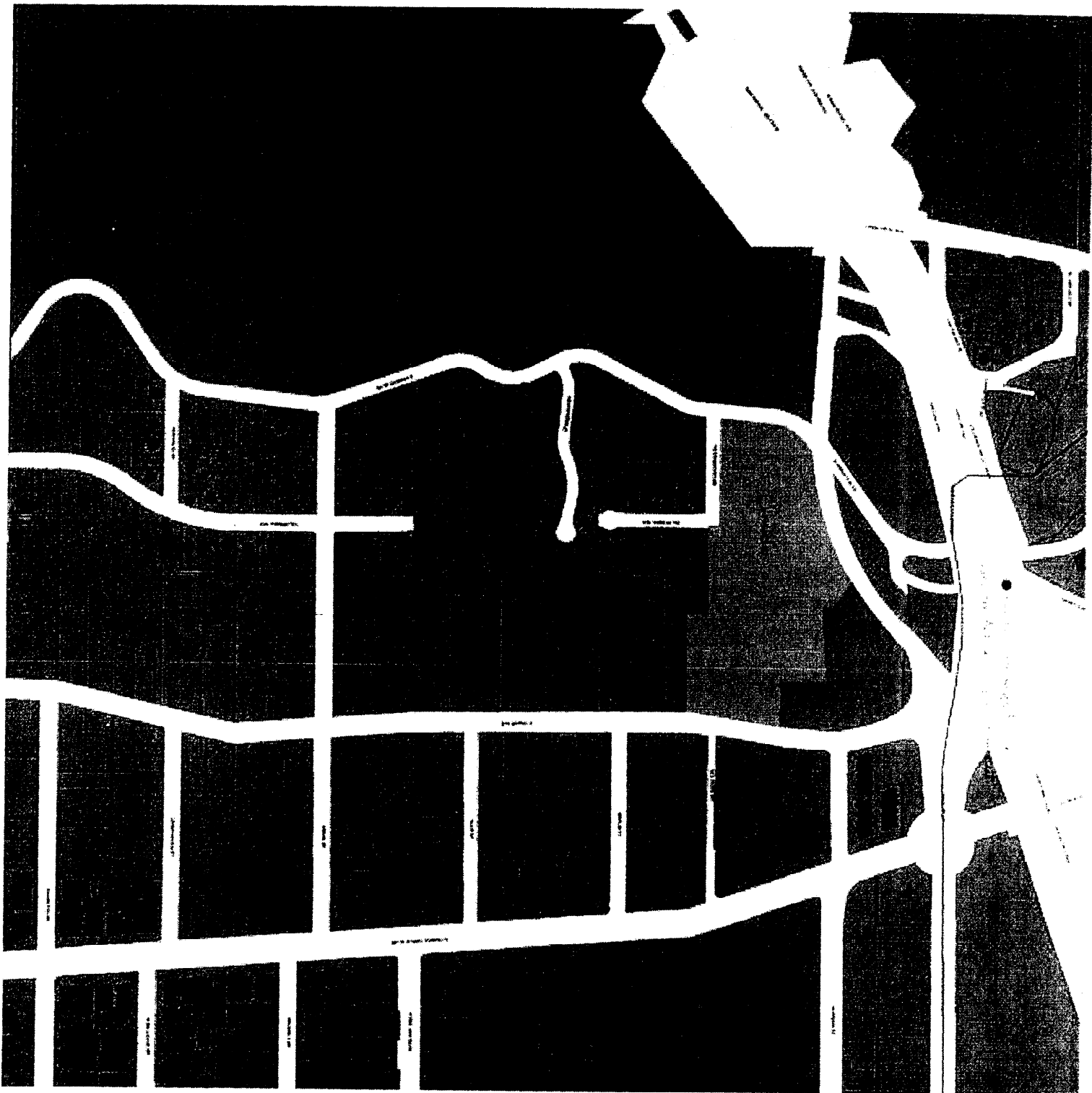
I do not intend to get into a cat fight with WPRA or the Open Spaces supporters. Their spokesperson, Ann Scheid, appears to have self-servingly gone through the Arroyo Center Web site and decided who is legitimate and who is not in terms that support her agenda. There is some sort of statement about people who own houses in 91105, but do not live there. Please!!! The very tone of her letter is not about cooperation at all and is full of innuendo and erroneous information. It is clear that these people will stop at nothing to get their way.

This is a long winded way of saying that the supporters of the Arroyo Center” heard” the City Council and have been trying to reach a cooperative compromise with the Habitat Community. Please do not allow these gadflies from the WPRA Board and Open Spaces to derail this exciting project. Not one of the Open Spaces supporters or members of the WPRA Board of Directors have been inside the buildings, despite numerous offers from the Arroyo Center to take them through.

I urge you to adopt the plan recommended by the City Manager’s Office for the Desiderio site.

Sincerely,

Martyn Belmont
500 La Loma Road



Jomsky, Mark

From: chrsbenter@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2007 3:51 PM
To: Kurtz, Cynthia
Cc: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Fwd: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

Dear Cynthia,

I am writing today in support of the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment. The Desiderio Army Reserve Base is the perfect location to focus on the arts and the unique environment of our beloved Arroyo Seco. The Desiderio building can be effectively adapted to meet the needs of both the Arroyo Seco Foundation's educational programs and of those of the California Arts Club. It is a wonderful opportunity that will benefit the entire community. Habitat For Humanity should be able to find a site within the property for their homes and still allow the building to stay in tact or be shortened slightly. Think how lucky those families will be to have the nature of the Arroyo and the educational opportunities in their own backyard. I urge you to support this program which will truly serve the overall Pasadena Community and maintain the natural environment of the Arroyo.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris and George Benter
840 Bellefontaine Place
Pasadena 91105

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

Jomsky, Mark

From: Elaine Adams [info@americanlegacyfinearts.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 1:52 PM
To: 'Sonja L. Yates'; tdoud@crowellweedon.com
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Bogaard, Bill; Holden, Chris; Kurtz, Cynthia; Haderlein, Steve; Streator, Joyce; Jomsky, Mark; Little, Paul; Bruckner, Richard; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Madison, Steve; Tyler, Sid
Subject: Desiderio Meadows Plan
Importance: High

Dear Sonja and Tom,

We have left several messages since April 4th to try to connect with you before the April 9th City Council meeting, but, have been unsuccessful at reaching you. We realize that this is Easter weekend, but we would really appreciate a call back or a reply to this email ASAP. We wish to go into the Monday night hearing with the reassurance that we are all happy to accept the City Staff's recommendation for the "Desiderio Meadows" plan. This is truly a wonderful opportunity for both Habitat and the Arroyo Center to realize our dreams in a magical part of Pasadena. We are looking forward to a quick and pleasant experience at our last city meeting where we are all in agreement.

Sincerely,
Elaine and Peter Adams and Tim Brick

Jomsky, Mark

From: Bruckner, Richard
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2007 9:45 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: The Desiderio Project

From: BishSusie@aol.com [mailto:BishSusie@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 5:03 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Streater, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Tyler, Sid; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia; elaineadams@earthlink.net
Subject: The Desiderio Project

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Councilmembers and Staff,
I live along the Arroyo and am in favor of the adaptive reuse of the existing buildings. I am glad that Habitat and the ACAE are reaching a compromise. Thank you for your continued efforts to bring this great project to fruition. The new homes and the ACAE will be a good fit just as other historical preservation projects have been. The Fenyas Mansion at the Pasadena History Museum, the Greene and Greene House, the Old Mill, and the Blinn House have all succeeded in living harmoniously in residential areas.
Sincerely, Susan Bishop

See what's free at <http://www.aol.com>.

Jomsky, Mark

From: Rodriguez, Jane
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 8:22 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: Letter for Mayor and members of City Council

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

From: Alison Bloom [mailto:bloom.girl@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2007 9:43 PM
To: Rodriguez, Jane
Subject: Letter for Mayor and members of City Council

Please distribute the following message to the mayor and members of city council.
Thank You,
Alison Bloom

5 April 2007

To: Pasadena City Council

Re: Desiderio site

Dear Members of the City Council,

As a resident of Pasadena, 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: Alison Bloom

Address: 460 California Terrace
Pasadena, CA 91105

Jomsky, Mark

From: Tink Cheney [tinkcheney@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 11:19 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Arroyo Center & Habitat for Humanity

Dear City Directors:

Despite my e-mail "signature," I am writing as an ordinary Pasadena citizen to urge you to conserve the Desiderio buildings at the U.S. Army Reserve Training facility in the Arroyo in Pasadena. Last week, I had the opportunity to tour the buildings with the Pasadena Garden Club who had arranged for Sergeant Nevers to walk us through. The interior of the buildings is full of potential for the exhibition of plein air art, but more importantly, the site is particularly appropriate since the history of art in early Pasadena began right there. The clerestory windows with views of the historic Colorado Street Bridge are fantastic. The Arroyo Center has plans to enhance the exterior of the buildings, currently rather nondescript, to be worthy of the project. Starting from scratch would take untold and unknown amounts of time and money.

The public service afforded by the exhibition space would provide a long overdue recognition and designated monument to the artistic heritage of Pasadena.

The garden plan for the Arroyo Center would be a tremendous visual improvement as the current asphalt of the site would be transformed back to Arroyo native planting.

It seems like a "No Brainer"! Scraping these buildings would be a crime.

Catherine "Tink" Cheney
President's International Premier
Previews Estates Director
Coldwell Banker
388 South Lake Avenue, Pasadena CA 91101
office: 626/356-8129, cell: 626/233-2938
fax: 626/440-0455
www.tinkcheney.com

Rodriguez, Jane

From: NRCHOMSKY@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2007 1:04 PM
To: Rodriguez, Jane
Subject: City Council Meeting of 4/9/07 -- Agenda Item 4.A. -- Desiderio Reuse

Please distribute to the Council prior to tonight's meeting -- Thank you.

Mayor Bill Bogaard and Council Members:
C/O Pasadena City Clerk Jane Rodriguez

Re: City Council Meeting of 4/9/07 -- Agenda Item 4.A. -- Desiderio Reuse

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Council Members:

The following comments summarize my personal views on this matter only, in that I am active in several organizations with differing views on the matter.

I support the Planning Commission recommendation which was originally accepted and adopted by the Council, and urge you to reaffirm your adoption of this recommendation. Therefore, please reject that portion of the Staff Recommendation which reduces the amount of natural Open Space on the site to about 50% in place of 75%.

The Planning Commission recommendation stressed two key points which should take top priority in your decision process: 75% natural Open Space, and the Bungalow Court design for the Habitat houses.

Reducing the natural Open space to about 50% or so of the site in order to save some portion of the existing building degrades the Open Space aspect of the site and leaves the site overdeveloped. Further, the community is left with a significant portion of an unsightly building which is out of character with the Arroyo -- an approach specifically rejected by the Planning Commission.

Further, more attention should be paid to siting the Arroyo Environmental and Nature Center primarily in Hahamongna, not here. Certainly, there can be a small Environmental and Nature Center annex incorporated into the Art Center on the Desiderio site, but, in my view, providing so much space to an Environmental and Nature Center on the Desiderio site means that the Nature Center that is so desired by the community adjacent to Hahamongna may never happen.

The Bungalow Court design best sites the houses adjacent to the existing public street, and, best reflects and incorporates Pasadena's architectural and cultural history. The alternative design for the houses presented at the last Council discussion should be rejected.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.

Nina Chomsky

See what's free at AOL.com.

4/9/2007

Jomsky, Mark

From: Slydavis@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2007 12:37 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Streater, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Tyler, Sid; Bruckner, Richard
Cc: Jomsky, Mark; ddavis@gjmb.com; elaineadams@earthlink.net
Subject: support for the Desiderio property

Dear Mayor Bogaard, City Council Members and City Officials,

We support the adaptive reuse of the existing buildings for the Arroyo Center for Arts and the Environment. We are a neighbor of the Desiderio property.

**Best Regards,
Holly and David Davis
470 Bradford Street
Pasadena CA 91105**

See what's free at AOL.com.

Jomsky, Mark

From: Elaine Adams [info@americanlegacyfinearts.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2007 9:24 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Please POST Letter - SAVE THE DESIDERIO BUILDING

Importance: High

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

From: Leelee Doughty [mailto:nodoughts@dslextreme.com]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 1:53 PM
To: Steve Madison; bbogaard@ci.pasadena.ca.us; shaderlein@ci.pasadena.ca.us;
cholden@ci.pasadena.ca.us; jstreator@ci.pasadena.ca.us; plittle@ci.pasadena.ca.us;
vgordo@ci.pasadena.ca.us; bwilliams@ci.pasadena.ca.us; ckurtz@ci.pasadena.ca.us; Sid Tyler
Subject: Desiderio Site - the buildings

Dear City Council Members, the City Manager and other staff members:

The entire Foundation Board of La Casita has been in favour of the Arroyo Center for Art and Education once we heard about the project. We find it incredulous and unnecessary that the Council wishes to demolish any bit of the two large buildings on the site. Once you have been through them, (I suggest those of you who haven't, do so), it is easy to see they can be re-used/remodeled aesthetically at a much more economic and environmentally friendly manner, than to be torn down or reduced significantly. I understand you are thinking of granting Habitat's demand of removing 100 feet from the large building to make room for Habitat's circular housing design. This doesn't need to happen at all, and we encourage you to reject this. Why they want a circle is beyond me, as I wouldn't want to be looking into _/all/_ of my neighbors' front yards, but would rather have an uninterrupted view of the bridges and my own front yard. If Habitat insists on having their courtyard plan, there is plenty of unused land on the 5 acre site to move the houses to the north, closer to the bridge and those views, and closer to the other bungalows and condos next door under construction, including them in that small neighborhood (which I understand is one of their goals).

There is plenty of room there, and their houses won't be butted up right against the Arroyo Center.

I encourage you to take another look at keeping those buildings in their entirety, and either move Habitat's circular plan to the north, or spread the houses on a more linear plan.

I am also concerned about your plans to control re-sales on these homes, should you wish to maintain this site for low-income families. It is not enough for Sonya, the representative of Habitat, to say to the Council "the home owners won't own the land, so it is not a problem".

Not owning the land does not preclude re-selling the homes for neighborhood market prices, as you see in leaseholds all over the world. I mentioned this to Chris Holden, who says the homeowners will have to agree to covenants, most of which will expire in 20 years. Any family who own a home close to that 20 year expiration date will become instant millionaires and your goal of low-income housing disappears.

There are ways to mitigate this, and I am happy to discuss this further with you.

Thank you for your attention.

Leelee Clement Doughty, President, Pasadena La Casita Foundation

Rodriguez, Jane

From: Robert Doyle [bobdoyle@pacbell.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2007 4:37 PM
To: Rodriguez, Jane
Subject: Desiderio

I support the current plan for the demolition of the Guard structures and the construction of the Habitat cottages and the ACAE building. Thanks for your support.

Robert L Doyle
885 So. Orange Grove Blvd. # 14
Pasadena 91105

Jane -Please forward to Council Members and other interested parties.

Rodriguez, Jane

From: jfavre@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2007 8:16 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Desiderio

Dear Jane,
Please distribute to all City Council members for April 9th meeting.
Thank you,
Joan Favre

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Following is an email that John and I sent to Steve Madison regarding the Desiderio project.

I did sign the original petition for the Environmental/Art space because at the time it appeared to be one of the best choices amongst the many others. However, since that time, Habitat reduced its footprint and was approved by the Planning Commission and Council and actually is very compatible with the neighborhood. So I definitely supported that decision. I do wonder how many people signed the original petition for Art Club as I did, but now are not supportive of that expanded project or if they know how the project has expanded since the Feb. meeting at Council. Nine bungalow units with a courtyard recommended by Planning and Council fit into the neighborhood much more than the expanded use now proposed by the Calif Art Club.

I thought at the Feb. council meeting your suggestion for Habitat to work with Cal. Art Club to see if there was compatible use seemed to be generous, and the recommendation for the Art Club to build a smaller building seemed as though it would be feasible. But now it appears that the Art Club project has overshadowed the proposal for Habitat. Their new proposal is for a museum, gallery, teaching space, and an environmental teaching/learning space. I support all of those things in general, but am not in favor of all of that in a residential neighborhood. It just seems to be too much to add to S. Arroyo Blvd., and would force Habitat to change its plan for locating the 9 bungalows. What happened to their idea of a small environmental/art space?
Isn't the property zoned for residential?

I also think that our neighborhood is bearing the burden of poor planning with the Polyzoides project reaching under the bridge all the way down to Arroyo Blvd. I am now fearful that another large scale project which appears to be incompatible with the neighborhood will once again bring much more traffic. We now have an opportunity to enhance this space with affordable housing and more open passive space for use by all residents of the community.

I ask that the Council review its original intent for small bungalows at the site and leave the remaining space open.

Also, having been on the Board of the Armory Center for 20 years, I know that once an organization moves into a space there is continual operating costs and I do wonder how the care and upkeep of so many buildings and programs can be sustained.

Joan and John Favre

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