FOR MARCH 19, 2007 COUNCIL MEETING

From: Kurtz, Cynthia

Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 12:13 PM

To: Jomsky, Mark

Subject: FW: Habitat Needs our help on Monday evening!

Mark

Another letter for the Council on the Army Center proposals

С

From: SSL [mailto:steve_lamb57@sbcglobal.net] **Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2007 12:10 PM

To: Jill S. Shook

Cc: JJ; Bogaard, Bill; Paul little; Gordo, Victor; steve haderlein; Holden, Chris; Kurtz, Cynthia; Madison, Steve; Tyler, Sid

Subject: Re: Habitat Needs our help on Monday evening!

"Marriages of political convieniance make for terrible Urban Planning and dreadful Architecture"

Steve Lamb

Jill-

What exactly is the "vision" of the Arroyo Center for Art? It must be pretty grand and awfully traffic intense if they need all that space in those hideous old Army buildings. I was contacted by someone last week who wanted me to help save these "historic" buildings and I couldnt stop laughing! I actually thought they were joking at first. I mean OK they are old, but have no architectural distinction at all, being WW2 era Army basic bad. I suspect they dont meet earthquake standards and are probably just full of asbestos and would be more expensive to legitimatly rehab than to replace. If they were a Greene & Greene or a Schindler or Wright or Myron Hunt, or just a unusually good building by somebody no one knows about, that would be an acceptable cost, but they are awful poorly designed souless utilitarian junk eyesores that have been an example of what a Architect should NEVER do since the day they were built. What "artist" would want them?

I'd be happy to help Habitat talk to these folks, since afterall I'm an Artist, practicing designer and very familiar with Urban Planning. I'd think a ground hugging gable roofed arts building could be built of stressed skin panels could be built very inexpensively, be energy efficient, made full of light and have studio, office and exhibit space and fit in with the Bungalow Court and also the work in the lower Arroyo neighborhood, while being true to both local history and modern times.

Or maybe you just go back to the City Council and say "Hey we cant work with these folks, they lack reason and concern for the issues important to the neighborhood"

As to the bungalow court and Frank Lloyd Wright, Mr. Wright never had a thing to do with one at all. Wright's Apprentice, R.M Schindler built a lovely one, Pueblo Rubiera in La Jolla. The Bungalow Court seems to have been invented by the Heinemann Bros.(contrary to the recent and bad book by Stephanos Polyzeides who is so Eurocentric that he doesnt even cover the most important but very American Courts that were built in Pasadena and Glendale, showing mostly the ones of bad neo Euro design) here in Pasadena. They were contemporaries of the Greenes who went on to invent the Motel and were active into the 1950's as Architects.

The Bungalow Court is the now almost entirely abandoned, yet brilliant, child of Pasadena, while row housing is the very slum of Europe that Americans fled here to avoid- why would Artists favor building a slum?

A good model for a starting point to mixed project could be the still extant Bowen court. 35 small units (400 - 1100 Sq Ft units- quite a range) that at one time had a communal laundry room with a tea room on top. Perhaps nine units (or more, lets build some more small units) and a integration of the art center together would be and idea, perhaps with some kind of preference for known local Artists who are being forced out of the area now by high rents.

Steve

P.S. I'm sending this along to the City Council members I have email for, as I cant attend the meeting and these would basically be my comments.

"Jill S. Shook" <jshook1@juno.com> wrote:

To: PAHA, Peacemakers, and my Spanish class,

Thanks to all who came to the city council last Monday in regard to the appeal on the quota of affordable units the city is required to plan for.. more on this later. But, yesterday I met with Sonja Yates, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity. When Habitat won the use of the Army Base property under the Colorado Street Bridge, they were given a charge by the City Council to figure out a possible partnership with the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment. So far in their meetings wit the Arroyo Center they have been unable to come to an agreement on how to partner. Scheme A of the 9 unit Bungalow Court was approved by the City Council, which involved demolishing the existing military buildings. This plan was well supported by the community, especially those living in the vicinity who ago made it clear in their approved Specific Plan that the buildings would need to go to create open space to create a view of the historical Colorado Street Bridge -- a bridge which the city has he heavily invested in to keep it preserved. But the Arroyo Center is so far is adamantly opposed to anything that would destroy these buildings. They feel that financially and environmentally they need to keep the buildings to carry our their vision, even though Habitat has offered to partner with them on the fund raising and they have until 2011 to come up with the funds. The Arroyo Center wishes Habitat to change to a scheme that would no longer involve a Bungalow Court, instead the homes would be in a row--destroying the sense of community you get with a court and historical aspects in keeping with the history of Bungalow courts that were birthed in our city and made famous by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Dr. John Perkins says "Justice is eternal vigilance".. Well put Dr. Perkins! PLEASE, PLEASE PRAY AND COME AGAIN ON MONDAY TO MAKE SURE ALL OUR HARD WON EFFORT TO APPROVE THIS PROJECT WILL NOT BE JEOPARDIZED. This Monday is a review of the progress on the partnership will be taking place AT THE CITY COUNCIL, MONDAY, MARCH 19TH. Let me know if you can attend.

Jill

Jill Suzanne Shook, Catalyst with Mission To The Americas
Author/Editor Making Housing Happen: Faith Based Affordable Housing Models
Books can be purchased though Amazon or local major book stores
jshookl@juno.com www.makinghousinghappen.com
(626) 797-4072 or cell (626) 675-1316

From: Rodriguez, Jane

Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 11:12 AM

To: Jomsky, Mark

Subject: FW: Save the buildings at Desiderio

From: Bogaard, Bill

Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 11:09 AM

To: Rodriguez, Jane

Subject: FW: Save the buildings at Desiderio

From: Elaine Adams [mailto:elaineadams@earthlink.net]

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2007 10:20 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Streator, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Tyler, Sid; DeWolfe, Stephanie;

Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia; Jomsky, Mark **Subject:** FW: Save the buildings at Desiderio

RE Desiderio - Save the Buildings

I am forwarding this letter written to Councilman Madison for you to include with the Arroyo Center's proposal to adaptively reuse the Army Building.

Thank you, Elaine Adams

From: Tink Cheney [mailto:tinkcheney@earthlink.net]

Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 1:34 PM

To: Madison, Steve

Subject: Save the buildings at Desiderio

Dear Mr. Madison:

I am writing to urge you to support the retention of the Desiderio buildings for the sake of the community. The cost of taking them down (@ \$600 - \$800 K) plus the cost of replacing them is prohibitive. Utilizing what is there is much more sensible and fiscally responsible.

Further, I am a great believer in the Law of Unknown Results: Deciding to remove the buildings without a specific, approved plan to replace them (environmental impact, design, costs, etc.) could result in a major fiasco.... a situation much worse than retaining the current structures.

Please, please support the retention of the buildings for the center for art and environment.

Thank you,

Catherine "Tink" Cheney 640 Landor Lane Pasadena, CA 91106 (626) 233-2938

From: Adamsaileen@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2007 5:41 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Streator, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Tyler, Sid;

DeWolfe, Stephanie; Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia; Jomsky, Mark

Subject: The Desiderio Site

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Honorable Members of the Pasadena City Council, and Other City Officials:

The purpose of this communication is to urge you to allow the California Art Club and the Arroyo Seco Foundation to utilize the main building on the Desiderio Army Reserve Base, as well as perhaps other reusable buildings, to locate the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment. There is no reason to demolish structurally sound buildings that can be modified for a new and useful purpose and achieve many of the LEED criteria for green buildings. The advantages of modifying the main building, instead of tearing it down, are obvious:

- (1) Not demolishing the building(s) would allow the site to be utilized without waiting for the city to arrange public funding to clear the site of existing buildings.
- (2) Utilizing the main building on the base would dramatically decrease costs, and its very attractive features -- which could not be duplicated -- would benefit the new center.
- (3) From an environmental perspective, it would be better not to demolish a structurally sound building that can be refurbished beautifully and achieve many of the LEED criteria.

During five years as the Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency in the Governor's cabinet, I oversaw most of the state's building projects. Some of the ones of which we are most proud are ones that were "adaptively reused." I congratulate your efforts to form partnerships with important local groups and hope that you will support the proposal which allows for a sensible reuse of an old structure, which could not be duplicated.

I urge you to give every consideration to the proposal that the main building on the Desiderio Army Reserve site be refurbished, saving both tax and private partnership dollars, as well as benefiting the environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

All the best,

Aileen Adams
Former Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency

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

From: Elaine Adams [info@americanlegacyfinearts.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2007 9:28 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Streator, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Tyler,

Sid; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia; Jomsky, Mark; Suzuki, Takako

Cc: 'Wayne Ratkovich'

Subject: Wayne Ratkovich RE: Desiderio Property - Letter in SUPPORT of Arroyo Center

Importance: High

March 14, 2007

RE: Desiderio Army Base – In support of Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment's plan to adaptively reuse the Army building

Dear Esteemed Members of City Council and City Officials:

Thank you, everyone, for your sincere interest regarding the Desiderio site. Peter and I are very grateful to those of you who have taken time from your busy schedules to personally tour the site or to telephone us with your genuine interest in our plans.

I have attached a letter written by Mr. Wayne Ratkovich, President and CEO of The Ratkovich Company, in support of saving the main Army Building for the Arroyo Center's adaptive reuse. Although the attached letter is addressed to me, I would like to share it with you and to have it included in our latest proposal for your consideration.

I am happy to answer any questions. Also, if you or anyone you know would like to tour the Desiderio Army Reserve Base, please contact me or Peter and we will be happy to arrange it. You me reach me at (626) 577-7733.

Very warm regards,

Elaine Adams

Executive Director

California Art Club, est. 1909

www.californiaartclub.org

March 14, 2007

Ms. Elaine Adams
Executive Director
California Art Club
75 S. Grand Avenue
Pasadena. CA 91105
Transmitted Electronically and by U.S. Mail

Dear Ms. Adams:

Our company has been involved in the restoration and redevelopment of a number of buildings in Southern California including eight local and/or national landmark buildings. On a personal basis, I am a Trustee of the Urban Land Institute and an Emeritus Prustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

I greatly admire the work that you and your husband have done to perpetuate Pasadona's longstanding history as an arts leader among Southern California cities. It is particularly appropriate for that history to live on in the Arroyo

Thank you for inviting me to tour the building and its surrounding property today. I was adelighted to learn that your organization and the Habitat for Humanity group have teached a compatible understanding on the joint use of the Desiderio property. It appears that a final agreement among the parties on the land use arrangement is well within reach

Eagree that the adaptive reuse of the Desiderio Army Reserve Building is both financially and environmentally appropriate. Leannet see any reason to demolish existing structures that present a great deal of opportunity to new users. Lam sure that any remaining issues and concerns can be allayed with some imaginative site planning and thoughtful architectural design. As I suggested, it may be interesting to have an architectural competition among several Pasadena architects.

My best wishes are with you.

Sincerely.

THE RAIKOVICH COMPANY

Wayne Ratkovich President ChO

From: Elaine Adams [elaineadams@earthlink.net]

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2007 9:46 PM

To: DeWolfe, Stephanie; Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia; Jomsky, Mark

Subject: FW: Desiderio - What happened to "green cities?"

RE: Desiderio Site - SAVE the Building!

From: Michele Zack <michelez@sbcglobal.net>

Date: March 12, 2007 10:17:27 AM PST

To: cholden@cityofpasadena.net, plittle@ci.pasadena.ca.us, Bill Bogaard bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net, Joyce Streator at net streator@cityofpasadena.net, smadison@cityofpasadena.net, shaderlein@cityofpasadena.net

Subject: What happened to "green cities?"

Dear Mayor Bogaard and City Council,

I am writing in support of the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment (ACAE), and to encourage you to back the compromise that in fact the council suggested between Habitat and this proposal. Please let's reuse the buildings and put resources toward programs that benefit and educate the public, and not waste them on demolition and needless construction. I was surprised to note Councilman Madison's comment in the Star News saying he had not heard lots of people asking to keep the buildings. This seems amazing, considering that more than 1300 signed the petition supporting ACAE and many showed up at the council and other public meetings supporting this proposal that called for reuse. A lot of time and work went into illustrating how the buildings could be rehabbed and made attractive, yet many in the audience could not fail to notice that the council did not seem attentive when they were presented, as if a decision had already been made.

By backing the Green Cities initiative, the City signed on to principles of conservation such as adaptive reuse, recycling, and saving energy. We heard no comments on such important principles at the meeting when the decision was made on the Habitat/ACAE proposal, instead an endless and fruitless discussion on the definition of passive v active recreation. Also inaccurate was Ms Streator's comment that the city had already committed to a "nature center" at Hahamongna, or to compare the falling down, moldy, and otherwise unsuitable collection of small buildings there with what exists at Desiderio. As one who has followed and been directly involved in Hahhamongna's public process, I'd like to remind that no plan has yet emerged, and certainly no promise of a watershed center despite months passing since the charrette that was supposed to lead to a plan was held.

Environmental education is not a frill. I'm sorry that not a single City council member was able to accept either of the two invitations extended so far to see the film *Eaton's Water* which tells the story of Pasadena's early water development in the Arroyo Seco. PUSD, Altadena Foothills Conservancy, and Art Center College of Design have worked together to try to be part of the solution by educating the public on our environment. That's the spirt of leadership many of us are yearning to see from the City Council. Again, I offer to bring the film (13 minutes) to any public meeting to show it to you, or to arrange a private showing. Perhaps some basic education would be helpful in bringing this issue into sharper focus for council members.

Respectfully, Michele Zack

From: Elaine Adams [elaineadams@earthlink.net]

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2007 10:20 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Streator, Joyce; Little, Paul; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Tyler, Sid; DeWolfe,

Stephanie; Bruckner, Richard; Kurtz, Cynthia; Jomsky, Mark

Subject: FW: Save the buildings at Desiderio

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Thank you, Elaine Adams

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Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 1:34 PM

To: Madison, Steve

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Further, I am a great believer in the Law of Unknown Results: Deciding to remove the buildings without a specific, approved plan to replace them (environmental impact, design, costs, etc.) could result in a major fiasco.... a situation much worse than retaining the current structures.

Please, please support the retention of the buildings for the center for art and environment.

Thank you,

Catherine "Tink" Cheney 640 Landor Lane Pasadena, CA 91106 (626) 233-2938

March 6, 2007 136 S. Arroyo Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91109

Hon. Bill Bogaard 100 N. Garfield Ave., Rm. 237 Pasadena, CA 91105

Subject: Desiderio Army Reserve Center

Dear Bill:

I am a homeowner on the block adjacent to the Desiderio Center; I participated with great interest in the various public hearings by the Planning Commission, the City Council, and the other city entities as the land use for that site has been debated and reviewed.

The City Council made a reasonable decision to select Habitat for Humanity's scheme "A". But now, the California Arts Club and the Arroyo Seco Foundation, who received a full hearing in the public process, and who lost out to the Habitat proposal, seek to nullify this decision, with city staff's acquiescence. In an greedy effort to grab more space, these elitist organizations will bring back to the Council a plan to retain the huge, hideous eyesore of the two-story, 42,000 square structure on the army reserve site.

The unanimity of the Planning Commission in recommending to the council Habitat's conceptual scheme "A" was premised on a strong sense of the commissioners and of the neighbors that the existing structures at the army reserve center are totally inconsistent with the residential neighborhood adjacent to the site, and inconsistent with the principles of the West Gateway Specific Plan. Retaining a two-story 42,000 square foot structure across the street from the Arroyo and next to a quiet residential neighborhood is <u>NOT</u> the land use that the Planning Commissioners recommended. Scheme "A" was selected by the Commission specifically because it included the <u>demolition</u> of all the existing structures, and provided a reasonable compromise between providing open space, adding affordable housing stock, and implementing a new, SMALL arts facility (less than 5,000 square feet).

As a neighbor, I found Habitat's scheme "A" to be an acceptable approach (not my first choice), especially because Habitat's leadership is willing to work with the immediate neighbors to mitigate concerns we have with the plan. In contrast, the Arts Club and the Arroyo Seco Foundation have demonstrated the massive arrogance of their elitist sponsors in ignoring the neighbors and the Planning Commissioners, and pursuing an obvious endrun around the unanimous vote of the Council that approved scheme "A". As in past meetings, they will bring a large and vocal turnout of nonresidents to the city council meeting later this month. The impunity of these greedy, arrogant nonprofits is breathtaking.

Frankly, if an arts organization should be the city's lessor in the park that is to be created on this site, there are far more deserving nonprofits (such as the Armory Center) that serve all the diverse Pasadena community and provide arts education for <u>youth</u>. The Arts Club serves only a narrow niche of the moneyed elite. Please reject their proposal to retain this hideous eyesore of the neighborhood for the benefit of an undeserving few.

Sincerely.

Lewis K Hashimoto

3/13/07 RECEIVED

To Whom It May Concern:

Or MAR 14 P1:49

Os an ordent advocate of organizations— especially in the Cennyo Seco — I would like to see the desiruction of the Id buildings at the Deviderio site.

Sey are ugly and have no distoric ment except that they are old. Naturally, I like the Hatutat project since it, as of now, proposes ofen space in the right places.

Sincerely:

Sencerely. Robert Winter 626 Lo. anoyo Blood. Pasadora 91105

RECEIVED

14 March 2007

'07 MAR 14 P1:48

To: Members of the Pasadena City Council

CITY CLERK CITY OF PASADEL A

Re: Future of the Desiderio Site

Attached is a petition with 50 signatures supporting the demolition of the existing buildings on the Desiderio site. Almost all of the signatures are from residents of the immediate neighborhood of the site. The circulators of the petition focused on the neighborhood north of California Boulevard, including the following streets: Arroyo Boulevard, California Terrace, Westminster, Westbridge, Arbor, and Norwood.

Among the signatories are neighbors who have supported the Arroyo Center proposal, the Habitat for Humanity proposal, the Moule/Polyzoides proposal, and the alternative of 100% open space. However, the neighbors are united in our very strong preference that the existing structures be demolished.

RECEIVED

PETITION 107 MAR 14 P2:35

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL

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TO: MEMBERS OF THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL

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TO: MEMBERS OF THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL

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TO: MEMBERS OF THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL

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Desiderio Property Page 1 of 1

Jomsky, Mark

From: Dave Davis [ddavis@GJMB.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 2:31 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Streator, Joyce; Little, Paul; cholden@ci.ca.us; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Tyler,

Sid; Kurtz, Cynthia; Bruckner, Richard; DeWolfe, Stephanie; Jomsky, Mark

Subject: Desiderio Property

This past Wednesday, I had the opportunity to tour the Desiderio Army Base for the very first time. My reaction was that utilizing the main building has exciting and practical possibilities. It would seem that the building is very structurally sound and that it is far more economically sensible to leave the building intact than it would be to demolish the building and then erect a new structure. I understand that it is most likely that the size of the building may be reduced to accommodate the nine bungalows to be constructed and to also provide sufficient parking. However, the resulting structure should happily accommodate the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment.

In addition, in my opinion, it is more environmentally responsible to find a way to utilize an existing structure as opposed to removing it and erecting a new building. The plan that was explained to me calls for softening the appearance of the building by using some attractive architectural features to the exterior and through extensive landscaping.

I understand that this topic is to be discussed at the Pasadena City Council meeting on March 19. I urge you to carefully consider the practicality of adapting the existing structure rather than removing it. Finally, I would request that any of you that have not visited the property to please do so, prior to making a final decision, in order that you might see first hand the potential that it posses.

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