

**Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** Alan Hess <ALHess@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 9:20 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Cc:** Regina O'Brien  
**Subject:** re: City Council vote on Ambassador Buildings  
**Attachments:** Pasadena.AmbassadorBldgs.12.01.30..pages

**ALAN HESS**  
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January 30, 2012

Pasadena City Council  
Pasadena, CA

re: vote on Ambassador campus buildings

To the City Council:

I am writing to urge the Council to vote tonight to preserve the Art and Science Building on Orange Grove Blvd., and the Hall of Administration on Green St., on the Ambassador College campus site.

These buildings are strong examples of an architectural style that is just now being recognized as an important facet of our Southern California architectural history. Their bold designs reflect an era of expansion and confidence in our region.

The trend toward wider appreciation of these buildings' style is clear today. Of course, Pasadena understands the need to protect types of architecture that are threatened. The Craftsman Bungalow style was also, at one point, considered unimportant and even ugly; fortunately far-sighted citizens of Pasadena worked to protect them just at the point when they were vulnerable to demolition.

And as with the beautiful Craftsman neighborhoods that Pasadena enjoys today, these preserved examples of architecture help to create the distinctive and livable character of the city. Saving these Ambassador buildings is much more than an academic exercise; saving them and keeping them a lively part of the city's life through re-use will also help to create a stronger Pasadena in the future.

I am an architect and architectural historian. I've written eighteen books on the history of Southern California, the West, and Modernism in the twentieth century. The significance of the aesthetic of these buildings is well-documented. Their value as historic architecture cannot be successfully disputed.

I support your effort to protect the strong heritage of Pasadena. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan Hess

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Sarah <sarah@ideabomb.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Ambassador College

Mr. Jomsky and the City of Pasadena,

The modern resources on the campus of Ambassador College have long been on the Preservation Watch List of the Los Angeles Conservancy and its Modern Committee. As the Commercial Chair for the Modern Committee, I would like to express my concern for these threatened structures and ask you not to renew or extend the entitlements for this property.

Both the Hall of Administration and the Fine Arts and Sciences buildings are designed by noted architect Peter J. Holdstock. The character-defining features of these buildings, including but not limited to the honeycomb facades, make these structures unique to the architectural history of Pasadena. As they approach 50 years of age, they are also considered by many to be irreplaceable resources in your community.

The entitlements were first granted for development of this property more than 7 years ago. Since that time, 1960s architecture has started to gain recognition in our communities and nationally, through such programs as the Sixties Turn Fifty, a partnership between the Los Angeles Conservancy and the National Trust. The modern resources at Ambassador College were highlighted as part of that program and ranked in our Top Sixty of the Sixties online poll.

All eyes are on Los Angeles County, home of a high concentration of cultural and architectural treasures from this decade, to set a precedent for saving 1960s structures such as these on the Ambassador College campus that contribute to our architectural heritage. We ask for an opportunity to provide further evidence that these structures have gained historical significance since last evaluated. Please do not extend the developer's entitlements and threaten the future of these modern resources.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Gilbert  
LACMC Commercial Chair

**01/30/2012**

**Item 11**