

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Janice Segall
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 6:21 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Earthquake Retrofit and Repair Measure to be discussed by Pasadena City Council
Monday, July 19, 2024

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To Pasadena City Council Members:

On behalf Of The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library I wish to urge the City Council to continue to strongly support the Retrofit and Repair Measure of the Central Library as discussed last week on July 22.

This is a pivotal moment in the story of our city, which saw fit to erect this beautiful building over 100 years ago, and now needs to re-dedicate energy to support the love of learning for our fellow citizens. We should not fail the future of our community. We should have this building waiting for everyone to walk through its doors and resume their discovery of the journeys waiting for them in books and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support,

Janice Segall
President
The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Mike Cowan
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 9:34 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Central Library Bond Measure

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CC members,

I am a member of the Friends of the Pasadena Public Library and a library patron. Please vote in favor of this bond measure.

Thank you,
Mike Cowan
District 3

Sent from Mail for Windows

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Paula O'Dowd
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 8:54 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: In Support of the Library Retrofit

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Hello,

I am writing in support of the measure to retrofit our beautiful iconic heritage building of the Central Library. I hear there is a City Council meeting discussing this on Monday the 29th. I hope my letter reaches you in time to be counted as a "pro" voice for this measure to fund the library renovation.

I grew up within walking distance of the Central Library and some of the happiest and most wonderful memories of my childhood took place in the courtyard, or in that beautiful high-ceilinged, tapestried entrance space, or perusing through the stacks of the children's section. When I got older I loved rambling through all the levels of the library, making discoveries, studying, enjoying. It was with such sadness I heard that this space has been unsafe for earthquakes and had to be closed. And for some years now its absence as a community locus has been palpable not just to me but to many of my friends and acquaintances!

Though I am a proud US citizen and voter, I am also an immigrant from the Old World, and I have to be honest, in my impression not a lot in the California with which I am familiar really inspires a person with a love of beauty or history. (Some- but not a lot!) The overall philosophy of architecture here seems to build very functional, "postmodern" and even ugly buildings ready to tear down and replace. The Central Library building has seemed to me a luminous, towering exception. It is so sad that it has been closed for so long, and it would be *devastating* to close it forever.

There is something absolutely irreplaceable about this beautiful building. If we were to allow it to decay, stand unused, and perhaps even eventually tear it down, it would be a tragedy. I am not the only person feeling this way. As a volunteer with the Friends of the Pasadena Public Library, I have encountered so *many* people asking about when the Central Library will

open! It commands a place in our imagination not just as a repository for books or even as a social hub of some kind (a "third space" however necessary in our frenetic times). These things are so important, but even they are just a *small* part of its importance! It is a source of pride for our city, an anchoring in an identity that we people in modern times are in my impression in danger of letting slip through our fingers. We should not! We should preserve and build on our heritage! Imagine if we were to replace this beautiful building with its legendary architecture, inscriptions, history, and lore! It would be terrible. Since I was a kid gaping up at the words "The assembled souls of all that men hold wise," and the names of all those amazing thinkers and writers, (who nowadays even THINKS of Pindar?! we need a reminder!), I was granted access to a *whole world* of expansive possibilities I might never otherwise have encountered. The cultural, spiritual, civic benefits of such a building simply cannot be overstated. To be deprived our city of this beautiful building would be to deprive the coming generations of what we owe them far more than we owe them even material comfort and convenience. We would be depriving them of soul!

Nobody wants to see a rise in their taxes and honestly this is why I have been hesitant to say anything. It is so easy to be cynical! I am probably not the only person who is a combination of very naive and very cynical (sounds contradictory, doesn't it!?) to politics, to how money is raised and allocated and spent in our bustling California democracy!

But there are noble, vital causes for which we ALL would make sacrifices, and one of these would definitely be to preserve this absolutely iconic building.

I would respectfully urge everybody on the City Council to be unanimous in urging this measure to land on our ballot in November! When the people have a choice and are aware of the full import of this decision, I absolutely cannot imagine that anybody would begrudge even the huge sum (195 million or so I am told) to do right by this piece of iconic architecture which is no less than an instantiation of the beating heart and living soul of our city. To do right by it would be quite honestly to do right by our future generations. Let's leave a Pasadena behind us of which we can be proud - one open for *all* to access the wondrous expansiveness of possibilities, based on history and looking into the future with hope.

Although I've been advised to be brief, I simply couldn't resist, so I thank you for reading and I hope for a wise outcome!

Yours sincerely,
Paula O'Dowd

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Christy Bradley
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 1:55 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Yes to retrofit the Pasadena Central Library

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Please vote to retrofit the very important, beautiful and much needed Pasadena Central Library.

Thank you!
Christy Bradley

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Marilee Tobin
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 10:11 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Support for retrofitting and restoration of the Pasadena Central Library

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Dear Pasadena City Council Members,

I am a long time (1989) Pasadena resident, a former PUSD parent volunteer, a Friends of the Pasadena Public Library (FPPL) bookstore volunteer since 2010, and a recent FPPL board member.

I fully support the library retrofit, repair and restoration project. Our beautiful Central Library is an essential cultural landmark that SGV residents enjoy and appreciate. Please prioritize the funding for the restoration and preservation of this architectural gem.

Many thanks to my district councilman Gene Masuda for his support on this issue.

Sincerely,
Marilee Tobin

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: V JEAN NEELEN- SIEGEL
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 5:35 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Pasadena Central Library Essential Earthquake Retrofit and Building Updates

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Monday, July 28,2024

Dear Pasadena City Council,

I'm writing in support of the much needed campaign to have the Pasadena Central Library restored to be the future information and literary center of Pasadena. This will enable the residents of Pasadena to appreciate the Library's historic status long into the future. Much needed is the City Council to UNANIMOUSLY support the efforts to have the Library retrofitted to prevent earthquake damage. Additional support is requested to have necessary building repairs, such as, a new roof, air conditioning, improvements to the Wright Auditorium and much needed, updated, technology in meeting rooms and public service departments. A circulation desk foyer that is open to both the North and South entrance is a much needed improvement. Please, work toward ALL City Council members expressing support FOR the reopening the fabulous Pasadena Public Library. Please, make this support obvious, through well written easy to read voter information. Please, write all campaign information in English and Spanish.

Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely,
Valeri Siegel

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Marion
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 7:12 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Central Library retrofit

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I wish to commend the council for allowing the democratic process to prevail with regard to the decision of the retrofit of the central library. Central library belongs to the citizens of Pasadena and therefore it should be up to the voters of Pasadena to decide whether or not to pass a bond to finance this project. Our library, our \$, our decision.

Thank you,

Marion Gomez

Library Commissioner District 4

From: [Susan Mossman](#)
To: [PublicComment-AutoResponse](#)
Cc: [Markarian, Kris](#); [McDonald, Tim](#)
Subject: Special Council Meeting of July 29 - Library - Comment
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 1:05:03 PM

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Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the City Council:

As a member of the Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) for the Central Library seismic retrofit project, I would like to add my voice of support for the ballot measure you are considering this evening.

I have been proud to serve on the TOC and contribute to the effort to save and restore the Central Library. I have been consistently impressed with the knowledge and expertise of my fellow TOC members - an incredible group - and have been greatly honored to serve with them.

After a very thorough and lengthy process, the Public Works Department, Design Team, peer review consultants, and TOC members concluded that the seismic strengthening approach and other needed improvements have been thoroughly studied and vetted and that the best alternative has been put before you.

I understand there are others who believe that a different seismic solution might be better and, perhaps, less costly, but I am convinced that those ideas were carefully considered, studied and re-studied, and did not prove to be superior. Throughout the process, all members of the team were focused on finding the best approach, considering effectiveness, protection of the building's historic fabric, future needs, functionality, longevity, and cost.

I believe the project that the Council approved is the best solution and urge you to go forward with the ballot initiative and let the voters decide. I truly love the Library for its historic and architectural significance and also for the critically important community benefits and services it provides. I hope the voters will support this funding request as they have in the past.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Susan N. Mossman
Pasadena, California
TOC Member
Past Executive Director of Pasadena Heritage (retired)