

From: [Julie Del Fava](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda item 8
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:18:13 PM

Dear Council Members,

I want to express my full support for finding a way to make a new theater in Los Altos.

Theater is a wonderful way to experience live art. And the Los Altos Stage Company has always been part of Los Altos. It's been a gift to our community and has always been a nice local venue for both patrons and the people who put on the shows. It's ok for you to not enjoy live theater but why would you want to take that away from the other people in the community who do enjoy it?

Our world is being taken over by franchises, screens and virtual everything. To be able to go to a small venue theater experience and see a show like Dear Sugar, Blithe Spirit and the very popular fundraisers they hold is something that can't be replaced.

Please consider all of the Los Altos and surrounding communities when you are deliberately this matter.

Break a leg!

Kathleen Reilly

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

From: Cathy Lazarus <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:07 AM

To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>

Cc: Steve Lazarus <[REDACTED]>; Andrea Chelemengos <achelemengos@losaltosca.gov>

Subject: Agenda Item 8: Theater Feasibility

Good Morning,

We support the initiation of a feasibility study to fully understand the opportunities and constraints of a theater in the downtown. Without more analysis it is difficult to understand the full scope of such a project. Based on the preliminary work of the Task Force, a theater would be a long term benefit to the entire community.

Sincerely,

Cathy and Steve Lazarus
2062 Cynthia Way
Los Altos, CA 94024

From: [Bill Hough](#)
To: [Public Comment; City Council](#)
Cc: [Andrea Chelemengos](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8 for November 9, 2021
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:12:19 AM

I am agnostic on having a theater downtown, as long as it is privately funded and no city resources (including land) are given to the project.

I must note, however, that the existing Bus Barn theater is close enough to downtown that replacing it is duplication of effort. Perhaps an upgrade is in order?

Additionally, has any consideration been given to working out an arrangement with Foothill College and/or LA High for use of their theaters?

But there should be no public resources devoted to any theater.

From: [M Satterlee](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External Sender]Fwd: Theater Proposal
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:09:17 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **M Satterlee** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tue, Nov 2, 2021 at 3:21 PM
Subject: Theater Proposal
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>

Hi,

I am struggling with the theater proposal. What is included is so different from details that have been published in NextDoor which included promises of a parking garage and one poster stating the City would garner increased property taxes.

This actual written proposal doesn't appear to offer either.

It appears to be asking for the Council to agree in Principle:

- 1) City will lease land to the Los Altos Theater Group at minimal lease (what is minimal?);
- 2) Ongoing subsidy to the Los Altos Theater Group to operate the building: " It is common for municipal performing arts centers to require an annual operating subsidy to help cover maintenance and utilities." (is this subsidy then paying for the ground lease?);
- 4) A waiver of any net new parking to support the theater;
- 5) Agreement to a net loss of parking where the building footprint eliminates parking or fund any replacement parking through some other means; and that
- 6) The City wants a 'municipal performing arts center'

And then they want \$50K to continue down this path.

I believe the cart is clearly in front of the horse.

First, does the City want a 'municipal performing arts center'? While I have heard the concept of a new theater, this is the first time I am aware it has been called a municipal performing arts center.

Second, before investing any City money, I believe the Los Altos Stage Company, proposed operators of the building, should be submitting their financial feasibility study showing the operating costs and assumed revenues.

I have tried to search out that sort of information, but have had no luck. I only have newspaper articles to go on that the Mountain View Performing Arts Center is heavily subsidized and San Jose Theater is in the red.

Los Altos is a smaller community. What level of subsidy will the City be on the hook for?

Los Altos funds are depleted. Rosey statements about budget surpluses have evaporated, necessitating the City to take out a \$10M loan and freeze 6 positions which the City staff note are 'critical to accomplishing the Mission of the City.'

This is the wrong time to be funding this study.

Let's do the right homework and then consider whether the budget can or should support both the Feasibility Study and presumed subsidy.

Sincerely,

Megan Satterlee

From: [nancy.ell](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Andrea Chelemengos](#)
Subject: Downtown Theatre Proposal
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 1:10:36 PM

Hello Council Members,

I am concerned that my name has been included (without my permission) in two different public presentations regarding the downtown theatre proposal (in the October 16 and November 9 Council meeting presentations).

These presentations imply that: 1) I was in favor of a theatre in our downtown business district and 2) I was speaking on behalf of the Los Altos Public Arts Commission, which I chaired until September 2021.

First, I am not in favor of a theatre in our downtown. However, I would be open to a community discussion about remodeling or rebuilding the existing Los Altos Stage Company facility—keeping it next to the new Community Center.

The above referenced presentations also implied that I was speaking on behalf of the Los Altos Public Arts Commission—which I was not. This topic has never been on an Arts Commission agenda.

Thanks for the opportunity of setting the record straight.

Sincerely,

Nancy Ellickson
Los Altos Resident