



## Comments APHAR Agenda No. 2-CF 14-0588 Griffith Park Crystal Ballfields Project and Agenda No. 3-CF-14-0589 Performing Arts Center Project

Joyce Dillard <dillardjoyce@yahoo.com>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 2:03 PM

Reply-To: Joyce Dillard <dillardjoyce@yahoo.com>

To: Adam Lid <Adam.lid@lacity.org>, The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>

Cc: Gerry Hans <gerryhans51@gmail.com>

The City cannot have it both ways-LA River ecosystem restoration and a built Griffith Park environment. Approve the Appeals overriding the decision of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners.

On or about May 28, 2014, US Army Corps of Engineers USACE approved the RIVER-Alternative 20 of the LA River Ecosystem Feasibility Study.

USACE LA River Ecosystem Feasibility Study, Volume I, states:

### ***ES.3 Los Angeles River Study Area***

***The Glendale Narrows stretch of the river, in contrast, features a non-concrete bottom or natural bed (due to the high groundwater levels), which has robust patches of vegetation—important habitat for birds and other wildlife—and free-flowing water that supports aquatic species. In addition, this area offers an opportunity to connect to existing large habitat areas of importance. It is situated along and within Griffith Park, the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains, and includes connections to key tributary confluences—the Verdugo Wash, which connects to the Verdugo Mountains, and the Arroyo Seco, which connects to the San Gabriel Mountains and another USACE Feasibility Study area further upstream on the Arroyo Seco. The area also directly connects large open spaces either used as publicly-accessible parks with habitat areas or intended for this future use: USACE Headworks Feasibility Study area, California State Parks' Bowtie Parcel, the Taylor Yard, Río de Los Angeles State Park, and Los Angeles State Historic Park (formerly known as the Comfields), which allows a west bank connection to Elysian Park. Three of the five key opportunity areas of the City's Plan are located within the Study area: River Glen, Taylor Yard, and Comfields/Chinatown, and restoration within the study area would assist with the goal of transforming the river corridor into the "green spine" of the City. Existing habitat and perennial surface flow in the ARBOR reach provide a base for restoration and maintain the most diverse assemblages of wildlife on the river today. Alternatives for restoration are thus focused in the ARBOR reach, from Griffith Park to downtown Los Angeles***

And

***Final Array Comparison: Resource Significance  
Habitat Connectivity***

*With regard to regional habitat connectivity, all alternatives would improve habitat connectivity (both aquatic and terrestrial) to the Santa Monica Mountains at Griffith Park. In addition, the restoration at the Arroyo Seco confluence provided by Alternatives 13 and 16 creates a nodal connection to the San Gabriel Mountains. Alternative 20 would provide restoration of regional aquatic habitat connectivity through tributaries by restoring the Verdugo Wash confluence to provide a nodal connection to the Verdugo Hills. Alternative 20 would also connect to the Elysian Hills through the Cornfields site restoration.*

And

## **1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED**

### **1.2 1.1.2 Need**

*Despite its degraded condition, the ARBOR reach has the greatest potential for restoration along the River because it includes the Glendale Narrows, one of the few reaches in the River with a non-concrete bed and natural flows fed by underground sources. **This portion of the River also has connections to the Verdugo Wash and Arroyo Seco tributaries that can eventually link to significant habitat areas, as well as to Griffith Park, the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains. Habitat within the Glendale Narrows area continues to be nourished by treated effluent discharges, which supplement the remaining natural flows in the River.** Although wildlife use is primarily by species adapted to urban environments, habitat continues to degrade due to both the establishment of invasive species, such as giant reed (*Arundo donax*), and inflows from storm drain runoff. The existing habitat and perennial surface flow in the ARBOR reach provide a base for restoration and support the most diverse assemblages of wildlife on the River today. **This reach is adjacent to state and local parks and natural areas.** Some of the railroad facilities have been abandoned or removed from the channel corridor, providing opportunity for widening the channel while maintaining existing flood risk management levels. The ARBOR reach, therefore, provides the backbone for restoring significant habitat and reconnecting the River to other vital habitat areas. Expansion of riparian and marsh habitat along this portion of the River and at the confluences of key tributaries is a first step in putting the portions of the once vast riverine ecosystem back together*

And

## **3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

### **3.5.6 Significant Ecological Areas**

*The City of Los Angeles, through its General Plan, established Significant Ecological Areas that include a wide variety of ecological communities (City of Los Angeles 1995). **Within the study area, Griffith Park is the only Significant Ecological Area. This park, located at the east end of the Santa Monica Mountains along Reaches 1-4, supports coastal scrub, chaparral, riparian, and oak woodland habitats. The area also includes the Hollywood Reservoir. Griffith Park is considered an important habitat island for migrating birds, as well as a reservoir for native species. Though the highly urbanized cities of Burbank and Glendale separate Griffith Park from the Verdugo Mountains, Griffith Park is an important extension***

*of the Santa Monica Mountains and offers the nearest natural habitats to the Verdugo Mountains, which are adjacent to the much larger expanse of native habitats in the San Gabriel Mountains. Birds and larger mammals in particular utilize this area as a corridor. The Department of Recreation and Parks manages a portion of Griffith Park as a bird sanctuary.*

LA River Ecosystem Feasibility Study Draft APPENDIX G Habitat Evaluation (CHAP) states:

## **6.2 BASELINE: FIFTY YEAR FUTURE WITHOUT PROJECT**

*The habitat evaluation team discussed a reduction in the number of fish and wildlife taxa present within the project area over time. However, in this case, it was the consensus of the habitat evaluation team that the current highly urban landscape conditions would prevail over time. **Despite intense development pressure along certain areas of the river corridor, large swaths of existing open space (especially at Griffith Park) were expected to be conserved, consistent with long-established land use policies.** Furthermore, it was assumed that native species are already severely depressed, to nearly the maximum extent, given the impacts from urbanization.*

***Therefore, it is assumed that the fish and wildlife species currently identified in the Study area, even under continued pressure from such stressors as invasive species, homeless encampments, horseback riding, and other urban uses, would likely prevail in the future. Thus, there were no adjustments made to the species list over the 50-year period.***

And

### **6.2.1 Baseline: Future Without Project Methods**

#### *Adjusting Species, Habitat or Functions*

*The habitat evaluation team met to generate projections for the 50-year future without project conditions. The rationale used by the habitat evaluation team, including logic and decision points, is included as follows.*

*1. Potential non-viable wildlife populations – The habitat evaluation team discussed the possibility of reducing or modifying the species list, **however the team concluded that the current taxa, which are adapted to the highly urban environment surrounding the River, would most likely persist. It was assumed at the time of discussion that despite development pressure on the River, large open space areas, such as Griffith Park, were expected to be conserved due to high demand by the residents and established land use policies.***

*7. Proximity to Other Natural Areas – The Study area is in close proximity to other **natural areas, most notably Griffith Park, which is the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains (Figure 6.2.1-5). It was expected that these substantial nearby open space areas and habitat connections would persist in the future.***

LA County General Plan 2035 has proposed Significant Ecological Areas, included is Griffith Park. Reports are attached and can be found at:

ruling\_on\_june\_20\_matters-7-14-14.pdf

Joyce Dillard shared from Dropbox

View on [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)

Preview by Yahoo

REPORT\_CARD\_INFRASTRUCTURE\_2010\_2011.pdf

Joyce Dillard shared from Dropbox

View on [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)

Preview by Yahoo

<http://planning.lacounty.gov/sea/proposed>

The LA County Draft EIR General Plan 2035 states:

*5. Environmental Analysis*  
**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**  
**Metro Planning Area**

*The Metro Planning Area contains the **eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains in Griffith Park**, as well as the south face of the eastern reach of the Verdugo Mountains (San Rafael Hills). This part of the Verdugo Mountains is a largely natural area which is not included in any SEA, but which figures importantly in connecting the Altadena Foothills and Arroyos SEA with the Verdugo Mountains SEA. **The Metro Planning Area contains a large reach of the Los Angeles River, most of it channelized, but natural habitat has developed in the Glendale Narrows section which lacks a concrete bottom.***

And

*5. Environmental Analysis*  
**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**  
**Metro Planning Area**  
**SEAs and Regional Wildlife Linkages**

***Griffith Park SEA** is the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains, and is located in the Metro Planning Area. With much urban development interspersed with some natural areas and interruption by two freeways, the Santa Monica Mountains is connective here to the Santa Monica Mountains SEA. **Griffith Park SEA** is two miles distant from another urban SEA, the Verdugo Mountains SEA that is in the San Fernando Valley Planning Area. **This gap in connectivity is crossed by the Los Angeles River, which has a riparian natural habitat in this area because the concrete channel has no concrete floor in the Glendale Narrows. Trees and other native plants are able to grow here, and the area is naturally restoring itself. This area has great potential for connectivity in providing links to the two mountain***

## ***ranges and the Los Angeles River.***

Consideration must be given to the PACIFIC FLYAWAY, and its relationship to the Public Health and Welfare including infectious diseases.

City of Los Angeles FRAMEWORK ELEMENT states:

### ***OUTDOOR RECREATION***

#### ***Objective 6.2***

*Maximize the use of the City's existing open space network and recreation facilities by enhancing those facilities and providing connections, particularly from targeted growth areas, to the existing regional and community open space system.*

*6.2.2. Protect and expand equestrian resources, where feasible, and maintain safe links in major public open space areas such as Hansen Dam, Sepulveda Basin, **Griffith Park**, and the San Gabriel, Santa Monica, Santa Susanna Mountains and the Simi Hills.*

City of Los Angeles GENERAL PLAN states:

### ***CHAPTER 6 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION***

#### ***GOAL 6A***

*An integrated citywide/regional public and private open space system that serves and is accessible by the City's population and is unthreatened by encroachment from other land uses.*

### ***RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT***

#### ***Objective 6.1***

*Protect the City's natural settings from the encroachment of urban development, allowing for the development, use, management, and maintenance of each component of the City's natural resources to contribute to the sustainability of the region.*

#### ***Policies***

***6.1.4*** *Conserve, and manage the undeveloped portions of the City's watersheds, where feasible, as open spaces which protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources*

Hollywood Community Plan Update was set aside by the courts (BS138580).

Please note the deficiency in the city infrastructure in the Department of Public Works Infrastructure Report Card 2010-2011 and lack of execution for the Public Health and Safety of its citizens.

Framework Element Policy No. 3.3.2 is the monitoring aspect of CEQA for the General Plan. It reads:

*3.3.2 Monitor population, development, and infrastructure and service capacities within the City and each community plan area, or other pertinent service area.*

*The results of this monitoring effort will be annually reported to the City Council and shall be used in part as a basis to:*

- a. Determine the need and establish programs for infrastructure and public service investments to accommodate development in areas in which economic development is desired and for which growth is focused by the General Plan Framework Element.*
- b. Change or increase the development forecast within the City and/or community plan area as specified in Table 2-2 (see Chapter 2: Growth and Capacity) when it can be demonstrated that (1) transportation improvements have been implemented or funded that increase capacity and maintain the level of service, (2) demand management or behavioral changes have reduced traffic volumes and maintained or improved levels of service, and (3) the community character will not be significantly impacted by such increases. Such modifications shall be considered as amendments to Table 2-2 and depicted on the community plans.*
- c. Initiate a study to consider whether additional growth should be accommodated, when 75 percent of the forecast of any one or more category listed in Table 2-2 (see Chapter 2: Growth and Capacity) is attained within a community plan area. If a study is necessary, determine the level of growth that should be accommodated and correlate that level with the capital, facility, or service improvements and/or transportation demand reduction programs that are necessary to accommodate that level.*
- d. Consider regulating the type, location, and/or timing of development, when all of the preceding steps have been completed, additional infrastructure and services have been provided, and there remains inadequate public infrastructure or service to support land use development. (P42, P43)*

Joyce Dillard  
P.O. Box 31377  
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Attachments  
AppGHabitat (USACE)  
8\_Griffith\_Park\_SEA\_Spring\_2012\_GP (LA County SEA)  
Criteria\_Table\_8 (LA County SEA)  
ruling\_on\_june\_20\_matters-7-14-14  
REPORT\_CARD\_INFRASTRUCTURE\_2010\_2011

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**3 attachments**

 **AppGHabitat.pdf**  
22336K

 **8\_Griffith\_Park\_SEA\_Spring\_2012\_GP.pdf**  
202K

 **Criteria\_Table\_8.pdf**  
80K



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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**SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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Laura Ann Tull <tull.laura@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 3:16 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - Mixed. Part for part against.

I've lived in Los Feliz since February of 2006. I started seeing Independent Shakespeare plays in 2007 when they were located at Barnsdale. I'm originally from DC where the Shakespeare Company does one show in the park for free every year. I talked to David about this in 2007. I've also studied Shakespeare with David in the Winter of 2007.

I'm an actress and a resigned lawyer. My bar number is 207690. I have a short running on Direct TV this month. I have a theater degree, a Masters in Performing Arts Management from American University where I also studied Film acting, and a Law Degree from CUA in Washington. I've also taken classes at UCLA in script coverage and am currently a digital arts Student at SMC with the goal to be both an actor and work production on sets. I am not practicing law. My goal is to work in film and TV. I worked 200 productions over 5 years until I complained about a man who violated me and had a bad accident on set, so bad I could not bend my legs for a week. Disney who my understanding David Melville works for blacklisted me 8 months after that accident, in particular Grays Anatomy that shoots in Los Feliz. I don't hold that against the ISC but I have experienced some odd treatment by Disney employees who attend ISC events.

I own the domain Artistichope.com I created because the arts are so important to me.

Mental and environmental health are important to Los Angeles. I've met 20 year olds who don't know what "The Tale of Two Cities" is.. Shakespeare is crucial to the culture development of California. I've been cyberbullied by someone on line claiming actors don't need an education, they just do. Most great actors trained somewhere. A better education would help young people gain the knowledge that it takes more than looks to be successful. Shakespeare is a medium to educate and enlighten, and the ISC provides multicultural events and showcases.

At the same time a stage in the old zoo should be built to both withstand natural disaster, use sustainable power, and recapture water. California is in a drought. In addition how much more damaging is it to build and take down and rebuild a stage. The Halloween hay ride uses the same area and they also had a stage they built last year. If it is built it should be built right. Use solar power and recapture resources.

Who will own the stage and have rights to use it if built? It seems to me the Friends of Griffith Park could use the stage as a place to educate students about the park when the ISC is not using it. Other groups like the Haunted hay ride as well should have access. It should be a public resource.

As to the baseball diamond, I don't like baseball. However, again use what you have. If there is a diamond there that can be fixed, fix it or remove it completely so nature can reclaim the area. Do you need two if the one is not being used?

Sincerely,

Laura Ann Tull

[Www.artistichope.com](http://www.artistichope.com)

[Www.womenlovepeace.artistically.com](http://www.womenlovepeace.artistically.com)

[Www.lauraanntull.artistically.com](http://www.lauraanntull.artistically.com)



<http://m.imdb.com/name/nm1913224/>

P.s. Kenny Inouye the son of the Senator of Hawaii is on my Facebook and knew me back in DC. He can attest I really am who I say. My abusive father is also a former Customs Agent and was in charge of Nogalis, AZ. I'm a registered Democrat and the black sheep of the family as I support the arts and civil rights but I also believe the Constitution still gives me the right to say No, I will not work in politics or law. I can't. Peace.



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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balletpink5678@aol.com <balletpink5678@aol.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 12:13 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

The Arts belong in Griffith Park. Outdoor theatre is a truly wonderful and enriching way for handicapped and able-bodied people alike, to enjoy both the beautiful park environment and a sense of real community. The public toilets are long overdue for renovation. Handicap access is vital. A simple permanent stage is both practical and financially beneficial to the longevity of Independent Shakespeare Company's FREE "Shakespeare in The Park", an event enjoyed by THOUSANDS, each Summer.

My position is against the proposal before the board.

August 11, 2014

Sincerely,

Holly Ferguson



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Bob Ferguson <rlfilm@aol.com>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 12:36 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

Upgrading the bathrooms in this area of the park is long over due. The lack of handicap access to this area, (the Old Zoo picnic area) currently open to all of the public is long over due, and also constitutes alack of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Handicapped people, of which my uncle is one, are not currently able to reach these public facilities in this part of the park. This a very beautiful part of Griffith Park and should be able to be enjoyed by everyone.

The addition of a permanent stage and the handicap access to this area will give the park broader appeal and make it more useful and accessible to more of the citizens of Los Angeles. Independent Shakespeare Company's FREE "Shakespeare in The Park", is an event enjoyed by THOUSANDS, each Summer.

Better and more diverse usage of the park should be embraced by the council not rejected.

**My position is against the proposal before the board.**

August 11, 2014

Sincerely,

Robert Ferguson



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Ref: Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Kathryn Louyse** <fauxnov1@charter.net>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:53 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members

Ref: Council File #14-0589

It would seem that far more scrutiny has been done on projects other than the Performing Arts Center Project ((W.O #E170202A) which will eventually include a large ADA bridge to Griffith Park's Old Zoo area. Placing structures the size and magnitude of these projects will destroy both the aesthetics and the historic value of the area. Additionally, since the Old Zoo is a wilderness transition zone and wildlife corridor used by a number of species, it's an ecologically sensitive area. Yet these points seem lost in the race to build this project.

The Old Zoo area falls within LA's Historic-Cultural Landmark #942 (According to the Office of Historic Resources, "A Historic-Cultural Monument designation is reserved for those resources that have a special aesthetic, architectural, or engineering interest or value of a historic nature").

I will echo what others have said about the process... the scope of this project should have dictated a far larger level of scrutiny, yet from all documentation presented by the city, it would seem this project was simply rubber-stamped.

Will Los Angeles ever understand the value of the gift presented to the City in 1896 by Col. Griffith? Griffith Park is a precious resource which once lost, will never be replaced. Col. Griffith's intention was and still is... preservation of the park... not privatization to serve the needs of merely a few.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Louyse



**Old Zoo Performance Stage.pdf**

484K



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589 Shakespeare in the Park**

1 message

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**Sara Kenney** <skenny100@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:40 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

August 8, 2014

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - I am AGAINST the appeal

Please allow the Independent Shakespeare Company to move forward with their plans! Upgraded facilities at the festival site would enable the Independent Shakespeare Company to present the Griffith Park Shakespeare Festival and serve the public for many years to come. They are such a joy, and have been a crucial part of our family's and the city's summers for so long!

Sincerely,

Sara Kenney



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Donald Marshall** <profdon43@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:34 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Cc: Melissa Chalsma <chalsma@iscla.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

**POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

I'm a professor of English who retired in 2011 from Pepperdine University. I've been going to productions by the Independent Shakespeare Company for many years, since it was performing in Barnsdall Park. I welcomed the move to Griffith Park—it's quieter, more spacious, ample parking, a perfect venue for families for these FREE productions. When I learned of plans to build a permanent stage to accommodate the Shakespeare plays and the symphony orchestra, I enthusiastically supported the idea. I've attended at least four meetings in Griffith Park as these plans were discussed and finalized. These Shakespeare productions are now of the most outstanding cultural events in the city. I look forward to them every year. I attend and bring friends (including city residents who hadn't been aware of them). I support the company with donations.

I urge the Committee to support the building of the arts center and to reject this last minute obstacle in the form of an appeal.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Marshall

10000 Imperial Highway, Apt. G-302

Downey, CA 90242

cell: 310 460 8201

e-mail: profdon43@gmail.com



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## CF #14-0589 Griffith Park Performing Arts Center

1 message

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**Marian Dodge** <smdodge@earthlink.net>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:32 PM

To: "Health & Aging Comm. Arts Parks" <Adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Adam,

Please add my letter to the file on the Griffith Park Performing Arts Center, CF #14-0589, Item #3 to be heard on Monday, August 11, 2014 by the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee. Thank you very much.

Best regards,

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### 2 attachments



Marian Dodge  
Director  
Friends of Griffith Park

**Marian\_Dodge.gif**  
7K

**2014 08 Marian's letter re Old Zoo stage.pdf**  
77K

Marian Dodge  
2648 N. Commonwealth Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

August 8, 2014

Re: **CF#14-0589 Griffith Park Performing Arts Center for Children**

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Committee Members:

I support the appeal. The Performing Arts Center for Children proposed for the Old Zoo area of Griffith Park is in a designated historic area in the Historic-Cultural Monument 942. The Old Zoo is also located in the Los Angeles County designated Significant Ecological Area. Therefore an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be completed, as required by state law, for this project, in order to fully evaluate the impact of the project and examine alternatives.

City Council needs to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to avoid a repeat of the ruling handed down by Superior Court Judge Allan Goodman on July 14, 2014 regarding the City's actions on the Hollywood Community Plan Update. (Case No. BS138580)

On page 13 of the decision the judge states that it

“makes it clear that Respondents [the City] expressly and unequivocally adopted the change to “overrule and supercede” this Court’s Judgement and Writ.”...Respondents appear also to have omitted from their consideration in adopting this questioned resolution certain provisions of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, requirements of state law – as well as Respondent’s’ long-standing practice of including monitoring elements in other community plans.”

On page 15

[The Plaintiff] “La Mirada correctly (and generously) characterizes City’s action as a “semantic sleight of hand... It is *state law* that establishes the requirement for monitoring; the City Charter requires “substantial conformance...”

On page 16

“The Court elects to address this matter at this time because Respondents’ actions strongly indicate their view that they do not intend to comply with state law or the Orders issued by this Court...”

City Council must respect the requirements of state law and its own City Charter in order to avoid losing costly lawsuits in court. The loss of the Hollywood Community Plan case is just one example of such a loss. I urge you to surprise the judge and comply with state law.

City Council’s failure to comply with state law in this case cost the taxpayers \$1,750,000.

Sincerely,

*Marian Dodge*

Marian Dodge





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**William Elsman** <williamelsman@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:28 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

Please allow ISC to continue their plans for a building permanent stage in Griffith Park. Their free performances have given the people of Los Angeles the gift of world class theater. They have come so far and have built this company from nothing but a dream, and thousands of people flock to them every summer to have their hearts lifted by their extraordinary work. Let's reward them with a stage we can all be proud to call the home of ISC.

Sincerely,  
William Elsman



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

1 message

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**Marilyn Bush** <marilynbusch@roadrunner.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:25 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

To: The Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee

Attn: Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: Committee Administrative Assistant Adam Lid Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Subject: Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

Dear Chairman O'Farrell & Committee Members:

I would like to emphasize **as strongly as possible my support and that of my family** for the completion of the GriffithPark Performing Arts Center project.

The cultural enriching programs without cost are rare and unique benefits to all who attend. This City and especially this great Griffith Park are very well served by a project that is available without any significant impact on current use of this space.

I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Bush  
4411 Los Feliz Blvd., PH1  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT -- Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Tim McGarry** <mcgarryti@gmail.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:23 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT – Council File #14-0589 Performing Arts Center

POSITION – AGAINST the appeal

The benefits of building a small permanent stage in Griffith Park's Old Zoo are clear and will be widely felt. The ability of thousands of Angelenos – adults and children alike – to enjoy Shakespeare under the stars will be greatly facilitated. What a gift!

I have attended performances of the Independent Shakespeare Company for many years now and made it a point to bring my young daughter, who graduated from high school here in Los Angeles just a few weeks ago. I believe the experience of seeing these wonderful plays – presented in the beauty of a natural setting and in a manner similar to Shakespeare's own day – has helped her develop an appreciation for her cultural heritage that will last a lifetime.

I think it's a shame that selfish interests want to minimize utilization of Griffith Park by the people of Los Angeles. That's clearly the objective of the group behind this appeal, the so-called "Friends of Griffith Park," in opposing a small scale project like the proposed stage. They cloak their aims with environmental justifications, but these justifications are clearly hollow and I urge you to reject them as such.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by City departments is a more than adequate review for a low-impact project like this one. Again, I urge you to reject this appeal and move forward with this small but valuable addition to the cultural infrastructure that makes Los Angeles a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Tim McGarry

303 S. Norton Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90020



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Ormenyi, Sara** <sara.ormenyi@medtronic.com>  
To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:02 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

**POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

**Please keep this facility open and in the same spot. It has been here for years and is an exceptional venue for an extraordinary troupe. The city is better for this group performing and educating the public here so please keep it open.**

Sincerely,

**Sara Ormenyi**

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Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Public Comment on Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Scott Hanlon** <wscotthanlon@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:51 PM

To: Adam Lid <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Council Members:

Public Comment on the matter of Council File #14-0589--Performing Arts Center

Position: AGAINST the Appeal

This project has been rather completely vetted in an exhaustive, multi-step approval process, which is what one would expect. Advocates of the appeal have introduced nothing new that merits further consideration. It is time to move ahead with this unique infrastructure investment in the performing arts in Griffith Park.

Many thanks for your attention,

William Scott Hanlon



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message.

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**Scout Raskin** <scout@sonicbunnyproductions.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:54 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

I have been enjoying Shakespeare In The Park for the last 3 years and attended all of the shows, sometimes twice for the same show during the season. It is by far the best Shakespeare in the Park I have ever seen. The company is fantastic and the venue in Griffith Park is absolutely perfect. The sloping hill allows for a natural amphitheater and watching 400+ year old plays outside is one of LA's most unique experiences. It is my favorite summer activity. Every year, I watch as the company struggles to put together the funds necessary to reseed the lawn and build the stage. Having a permanent structure would be amazing, not only for Shakespeare, but for musicians and other performers. It could bring in good revenue for the park and further enhance the activities Griffith Park provides year round. I am sure a compromise could be reached where a stage could be erected and also provide suitable accessibility for the disabled. To move Shakespeare from this location would mean a huge loss to the park but also to the thousands of people who have enjoyed seeing the shows there every summer.

Sincerely,

Scout Raskin  
Producer - Comedy Central's TripTank  
August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Ann Champion** <horsedrawn@mindspring.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 5:03 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members:  
PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center  
POSITION - **AGAINST the appeal**

I have seen a lot of productions of Shakespeare by a number of different companies around the country, and I have never seen Shakespeare done better than by the Independent Shakespeare Company. Its work is world class, and the fact that it is presented free so that it is accessible to everyone is an incredible gift to the City of Los Angeles.

The present setting in front of the Old Zoo is lovely. A permanent stage that would be of use to other groups and better disabled access will only enhance the Park. When Griffith J. Griffith donated the land to the City, he said, "It must be made a place of recreation and rest for the masses, a resort for the rank and file, for the plain people." The proposed Performing Arts Center is certainly in keeping with his vision.

Please make sure that this permanent home for this world class company goes forward.  
Sincerely,  
Ann Champion



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Michelle Simon** <michelle.elise.simon@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 5:10 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

### **POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

What The Independent Shakespeare Company does is so important as it allows people who may not otherwise be able to learn about Shakespeare to be exposed in a fun and accessible way. The Old Zoo is a perfect location for this, with the slope of the ground creating a natural amphitheater. It is incredible what The Independent Shakespeare Company manages to achieve, and I am so happy that the Cultural Affairs Department of LA has been so supportive of their mission, but I can only imagine how much better the festival could be with upgraded facilities. I truly hope that this is approved, as I look forward to attending their performances for years to come. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michelle Simon

August 8, 2014





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## MND Hearing File #14-0589

1 message

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**Stewartangl@aol.com** <Stewartangl@aol.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 5:23 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: adam.lid@lacity.org

Subject: Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Committee Members:

I support the Griffith Park Performing Arts Center project. I have attended free performances in that space and feel that a permanent open-air stage at the Old Zoo would have little impact on the current public use of that spot or the natural setting. My family and I look forward to having this project moved forward.

Please do what you can to move the project forward.

Thank you,

**Angela Stewart**

Angela Stewart  
Los Angeles, 90027  
323-665-7840  
stewartangl@aol.com



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Manfredo Aguilar** <manfredo.aguilar@gmail.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 5:27 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - AGAINST

I wholeheartedly support the building of a stage and upgrades to existing facilities to the area in question near the old zoo.

This measure would only extend to a small permanent installation and the overhaul of existing facilities.

To argue against the part of the measure that would make the site accessible to people with disabilities would be gross and I don't believe the proponents of this appeal actually believe in that, or would choose to exclude a great portion of the citizen of this city and the surrounding areas from this park.

The people who bring this appeal cite the environmental review process already performed, but they call it inadequate. I wonder if the only review they would find adequate is the review that agrees with their point of view.

In voting to support the installation of a permanent stage, the Los Angeles City Council has voted to promote the arts and culture for everyone, from every walk of life. The Los Angeles City Council has done a great thing. We cant let their work be stifled now.

DATE 8/8/14

Sincerely,

Manfredo Aguilar



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## Reference: File # 14-0588 and 14-0589

1 message

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Miguel <ordenana@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 5:09 PM

To: "adam.lid@lacity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Mr. Lid and Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I would like to express my concerns regarding the Old Zoo permanent stage and Crystal Springs Youth Baseball Fields. However, first I would like to remind you that this argument is not Shakespeare vs. no Shakespeare, ADA access vs. no ADA access to free Shakespeare, Youth baseball vs. No Youth baseball. At the first hearing, I believe the supporters of these projects made it seem as if they were up against a group of old stubborn local residents against baseball and Shakespeare. As a result, project supporters kept preaching to the choir and provided poor arguments against the real issue, which has to do with the locations of these projects and long term effects that reach well-beyond the dimensions of the proposed constructions.

### Ecological Value of Griffith Park:

One argument that was used many times was Griffith Park's size and the history of use in these locations.

Griffith Park is definitely a big park and the biggest municipal park in the country. However, L.A. as a whole is not only park poor but in even worse shape with regards to wildlife habitat and connectivity for local species.

Therefore, Griffith Park is a delicate and rare habitat oasis with many endemics that I am afraid most people in Los Angeles have a poor grasp on. One big reason for this lack of knowledge about L.A.'s natural history is because the city of L.A. does not have a biologist on staff and our park rangers are so under-staffed that they have no environmental outreach programs.

Fortunately, local biologists, like myself, have stepped up to the plate and surveyed this understudied park in order to support more informed and responsible management of the park. One of the most important results of these studies is providing information about species and human impacts that are nearly impossible to notice based on casual observations, especially by non-scientists. Please do the responsible thing and use objective scientific surveys and responsible environmental stewardship to guide your decision making.

### Old Zoo Permanent Stage:

The Old Zoo picnic area seems like another altered green space that is meant for picnic use. Yes the Old Zoo used to have many visitors visit it in the past and has many picnickers visit it during the day. However, the removal of zoo animals and reduction in daily visitation to this area has given the surrounding habitat the opportunity to recover. Daily picnics or passive recreation allows for human-wildlife sharing of habitat because most of the species of concern are nocturnal. Therefore, even heavy daytime use is something wildlife are used to avoiding. Consistent human activity at night during an entire season is a little disruptive but year-round nocturnal disturbance effectively disrupts any hopes of ecological balance and coexistence.

I would like to stress that the stage does not go up against just any random barren canyon, trail system or habitat type. The stage's "footprint" reaches into critical habitat that many sensitive species depend on for habitat because the footprint reaches well beyond the dimensions of the stage. Trained biologists have detected gray foxes, a very sensitive species dependent on riparian and woodland habitat in 2009. We expanded our research throughout the entire park and have only documented gray foxes in only two other patches of habitat.

The Old Zoo picnic area opens directly into Spring Canyon, which has one of the only natural water-sources and riparian habitat in the park. Arboreal salamanders and sensitive bat species have been documented at the Old Zoo and depend on riparian habitat. Foxes and other sensitive species are very sensitive to human activity, which includes noise and light pollution. Light pollution interrupts nocturnal behavior especially the navigation of nocturnal flying animals. Noise pollution interrupts wildlife communication. Both types of pollution also displace

shy wildlife species, diminishing the ecological value/use of scarce habitat types. These potential impacts have a much larger impact if they have a consistent presence over a long period of time. There is no way to detect these issues without special research equipment and carefully designed surveys by trained professionals. I know you know deep down that a few walks through the proposed site and anecdotal observations of coyote sightings or howling during a summer performance is not sufficient information to make a truly educated decision. Also, it may be possible to request that Shakespeare in the park construct temporary ADA bridges for use during their performance season. Traveling and temporary performances such as Cirque du Soleil provide these amenities to their audience. I know because my grandfather has been in a wheelchair since the 70s and I've escorted him to many of these temporary shows and performances. Please do the responsible thing and hold off on any PERMANENT developments until an objective and professional wildlife and habitat survey has been completed.

### **Crystal Springs Ball Field:**

As you can imagine, night and noise pollution as a result of year-round night games is also a potential problem if youth baseball fields are built. However, the bigger issue again is the larger context of the location and the potential displacement of both wildlife and under-served communities from L.A.'s inner-city. Crystal Springs is altered but in another critical location that extends beyond Griffith Park. Our project, the Griffith Park Connectivity Study has been monitoring equestrian tunnels along the 5 and 134 freeways since 2012. There is concrete evidence that there are less than a handful of safe corridors left for wildlife to connect to the Los Angeles River, which is a corridor in itself and outlet to the Verdugo Wash. Wide ranging, primarily NOCTURNAL mammals (e.g., deer, bobcats, coyotes, pumas) depend on this connectivity to avoid dangerous vehicles, find mates, and find enough food. I am sure you are aware of the connectivity issues facing the Griffith Park mountain lion. Although you aren't sealing up one of the tunnels you are adding a great deal of noise and light pollution directly in front of one of these critical tunnel crossings at night when most of these species are active. Unlike isolated parks such as Ferraro Fields, North Atwater, Toluca Lake, and Echo Park, Griffith Park is not only of value to wildlife within the park but also for wildlife in connected natural areas. Therefore, converting a couple soccer fields or picnic area that has no value to regional habitat connectivity is different than converting habitat in Griffith Park. Also, don't forget about a bat species called the Greater mastiff bat that I documented in Griffith Park after it was thought to be extirpated from Griffith Park for over a decade. Griffith Park is the only place this species has been found in the L.A. Basin mostly likely because it requires both access to rocky cliff faces and access to a large body of water (i.e. L.A. River). The hoary bat, a migratory bat that only roosts in trees

I also want to reiterate that you will be displacing many families from Griffith Park. Like Griffith Park, visitors come from all over the city to enjoy Crystal Springs. I spoke with a grounds-keeper from Toluca Lake ball fields and he doesn't see how it is possible for the fields to remain clean and usable if they are open access.

Therefore, I expect these fields to eventually become permit-only voids of space and a big tease for low income families like mine. My family would drive all the way from south LA and many other areas of the city to Crystal Springs and we'd have to limit our activities to catch even though there was an empty field next to us. Again Griffith Park is big and you may be able to further pack displaced families into other already congested picnic areas but please look at the bigger implications of what you are doing.

I know this is a very urban city so wildlife education is sadly not in many conversations. However, I know you all are either parents or have a deep passion for L.A. youth. Therefore, I beg you to pay more attention to another huge crisis, which is connecting inner-city with local wildlife and getting Angelenos comfortable in nature. My family was very supportive and I almost nearly fell through the cracks, not due to a lack of baseball or P.E. but due to a lack of environmental education. I spent countless hours hiking around Griffith Park with my mom but we had no idea what we were looking at with regards to the local natural history. Although these projects may seem small in scale, I hope you realize that you are setting a precedent with regards to future development in Griffith Park. What legacy would you like to leave behind for future generations?

Please act ethically and responsibly and reevaluate your decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Miguel Ordenana

P.S. I grew up just off of Los Feliz Blvd/Griffith Park Blvd. intersection and my 10 and 12 year old half brothers and I have and still enjoy using the very accessible Silver Lake Rec, Elysian Fields, and Glassell Park for both

youth baseball and flag football with no issues at all. In fact, my 9 year old brother barely has enough players on his baseball team at the beautiful Elysian Fields and Silver Lake had to cancel their Flag Football program due to a lack of interest. However, I do believe L.A. does need more baseball fields because baseball is crucial for child development. However, a couple of youth baseball fields directly inside Griffith Park is not the solution.



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**MIA Picerno** <shoetopia@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 5:37 PM

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

Regarding Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts

I am writing on behalf of myself, my husband and our two girls about to start the 4th and 7th grades . We are proud residents of CD 13 in Atwater Village. We love Griffith Park and are there weekly for hikes, the zoo, Zoo Camp, and to see the Free Shakespeare Festival.

We are against the appeal. We think the park should be open to everyone in our community. The vast majority of the park is only accessible to those able to hike to it. The few areas that are more accessible should be made truly accessible. Areas like the Old Zoo have been in use for almost a century. This is a cynical use of the valuable EIR process. We are excited to see this stage built and the improvements made so we can get the girls' grandfather to a show.

Thank you for your time and attention. We value your work for our city and community.

Sincerely,  
The Picerno / Venegas Family  
August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Public Comment - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Tia Peterson** <peterson.tia@gmail.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 5:38 PM

Position - Against the Appeal

The Independent Shakespeare Festival is one of the best free events in the city bringing joy to so many. Please do not let its progress be encumbered. All should be able to enjoy it.

Thank you,  
Tia Peterson  
August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Alana C.** <alanacheuvront@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 5:40 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

DATE: August 8th, 2014

Sincerely,

Alana Cheuvront

Thank you!! This is an important moment for Independent Shakespeare Co





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

1 message

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**Gary Bovyer** <gary@boyer.com>  
To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org  
Cc: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 6:02 PM

To: The Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee

Attn: Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: Committee Administrative Assistant Adam Lid Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Subject: Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

Dear Chairman O'Farrell & Committee Members:

I support the completion of the Griffith Park Performing Arts Center project. I have attended and especially enjoyed many free performances in that beautiful space. I strongly feel that the permanent open-air stage planned for this space at the Old Zoo would have little impact on current public use of that spot or the natural setting. In my estimation the findings of the MND are sound.

Please do what you can to move this project forward.

Sincerely,

Gary Bovyer



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Brenda Barnetson** <cstbrenda@verizon.net>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 6:10 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members:

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION – I am AGAINST the appeal and believe the permanent site for the wonderful Shakespeare in the Park should go forward!

DATE – August 8, 2014

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brenda L. Barnetson

North Hills CA

818-892-5192



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - council file #14-0589**

1 message

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**Ryan Anderson** <ryanvanderson@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 6:24 PM

To: adam.lid@lacity.org

Dear chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

Public Comment - council file #14-0589-performing arts center

Position - I am against the appeal.

I am a member of the acting company with ISC and I am in support of having a permanent stage built for us to continue to provide professional quality theater to the many Angelenos and visitors that have come to love our work. I believe this stage will elevate the experience of everyone involved and further implant this great addition to LA theater. There is nothing like ISC anywhere in LA and I think everyone that comes can see and feel and hear that. I am in full support of anything that helps this company thrive and grow.

8/8/14

Sincerely,

Ryan Vincent Anderson

—  
Ryan Vincent Anderson  
www.ryanvanderson.com  
213-321-3069



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Mary-Lyn Chambers** <islandgirlfilms@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 6:29 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - I am against the appeal.

The Griffith Park Shakespeare Festival is one of the most enjoyable summer traditions Los Angeles has to offer. It makes this city wonderful. The fact that it is free allows ALL Angelinos access to entertaining art that is good for the moral and soul of our citizens. Support it, forever.

DATE: August 8, 2014

Sincerely,

Mary-Lyn Chambers

Events | Films | Special Projects

Email | [islandgirlfilms@gmail.com](mailto:islandgirlfilms@gmail.com)

LinkedIn | [www.linkedin.com/in/marylynchambers/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/marylynchambers/)

IMDB | [www.imdb.com/name/nm1401792/](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1401792/)



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

1 message

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**Veronica Stensby** <vezzosa@earthlink.net>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 6:56 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell & Committee Members:

I support the completion of the Griffith Park Performing Arts Center project. I have attended many free performances in that space and feel that a permanent open-air stage at the Old Zoo would have little impact on current public use of that spot or the natural setting. The cultural benefits far out weigh the minimal impacts. The pleasure of sharing that outdoor space with a community of music-lovers increases the sense of belonging to the larger community of Los Angeles. Music, families, and the outdoors are a great combination! It is a tremendous public service offered in this space.

Please do what you can to move this project forward.

Sincerely,

Veronica Stensby

vezzosa@earthlink.net

818.342.2554



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Ric Morton** <ricmorton@earthlink.net>  
Reply-To: Ric Morton <ricmorton@earthlink.net>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 7:23 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - I am against this appeal.

Free theatre needs to stay to entertain, and educate, the young and old of Los Angeles.

8/8/2014

Sincerely,

Ric Morton

ricmorton@earthlink.net



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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**Subject: Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Susan Norman** <susanflute@me.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 8:07 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

To: The Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee

Dear Chairman O'Farrell & Committee Members:

I support the completion of the Griffith Park Performing Arts Center project. The free performances at the Old Zoo are a powerful resource to LA families and these performances deserve a facility.

A permanent open-air stage at the Old Zoo would have little impact on current public use of that spot and can only enhance the natural setting.

Please do what you can to move this project forward. I have played in the orchestra for many years, and we have quite a following who come to hear us and enjoy the music. Having a permanent place to perform would be wonderful, and it would improve the sound for the people for come to hear us. It would also be more aesthetic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Greenberg Norman



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Jexy Wadle** <jexywadle@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 8:13 PM

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

I am against the appeal to move the site for the stage in Griffith Park. The proposed site provides a perfect space for outdoor theater and is easily accessible to nearby parking lots and bathrooms.

August 8, 2014

Sincerely,

Jessica Wadle

Sent from my iPhone





**THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the matter of APPEAL FROM SUSPENSION OF CLIFFORD H.  
BROWN, CUSTODIAN SUPERVISOR, DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL  
SERVICES. COMMISSION FILE 53681

before the Board of CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS,  
Hearing Examiner, Ms. Cassandra Lawson:



**SUBPOENA**

The City of Los Angeles sends Greetings to:

Jerrilyn Mitchell  
Department of General Services  
555 Ramirez Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

WE COMMAND YOU, That all and singular, business and excuses being laid aside, you appear and attend before the Board of CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS, of the City of Los Angeles, at a meeting thereof to be held in Room 348, Personnel Department Building, 700 East Temple Street, in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California, on Tuesday, August 26, 2014, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., then and there to testify in regard to the above-described matter; and for failure to so attend or testify, you will be liable to the penalties provided by the Ordinances of said City, passed in pursuance of the authority conferred by its charter.

IN WITNESS whereof, said The City of Los Angeles, at the request of the Presiding Officer of the Board of CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS of the City of Los Angeles, has caused this subpoena to be issued in its name, this 11th day of August, 2014.

ATTEST my hand and the seal of said City, the day and year last above written.  
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Interim City Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Clerk

# **PROOF OF SERVICE FORM**

**Directions:** Please complete this form and attach to document when a Proof of Service by Personal Delivery is required. Retain a copy for your records.

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I declare that I am over the age of 18 years. I also declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on:

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (City/State)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Typed or Printed Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Diana Kohne** <dianakohneart@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 9:29 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

We need to support and nurture arts in our city. No appeal, please.

Sincerely,

Diana Kohne  
August 8, 2014

Diana Kohne Kenny

[www.artcricketLA.com](http://www.artcricketLA.com)



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## In regards to Appeal 14-0589

1 message

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**MaryJane Mitchell** <mitchelldesigns@ymail.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 9:34 PM

Dear Adam,

I am writing to you about Appeal 14-0589, which I understand will be heard this Monday, August the 11th. This appeal concerns the building of a five million dollar Performing Arts Center within the "wilderness area" of the Old Zoo. Per the Historic-Cultural Monument status, that Griffith Park received a few years ago, isn't this breaking the rules of a Historic-Cultural Monument?

This area is filled with wildlife and rare plants and has been documented by scientific work.

As I understand there has never been an EIR completed on this "project" and yet the project has received approval. I believe, in the interest of all concerned citizens and users of the park, this project should have a full EIR before going forward.

The site that has been chosen is a historic site and is located in the wilderness area of the park.

Please take the time to consider the thoughts and feelings of all citizens of Los Angeles and not just the few who are wanting to build their own legacy in our park.

thank you

MaryJane Mitchell



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Joel Carnes** <joelcarnes@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 9:35 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - [AGAINST the appeal]

The presence of the Independent Shakespeare Company is one of the positive defining features of this great city. PLEASE support the building of a stage and keep this tradition going strong.

All you need to do is come out and witness as a thousand Angelinos enjoy this event on a beautiful summer evening, and you will know beyond a shadow of a doubt, this company of artists is truly a civic treasure.

I look forward to taking my family to watch Shakespeare in (Griffith) Park, on a wonderful new stage, for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Joel Carnes

Los Angeles, CA



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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B. <bcomstock@world.oberlin.edu>  
Reply-To: bcomstock@world.oberlin.edu  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 10:09 PM

re: PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

my position: **AGAINST the appeal**

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

I apologize for my tardiness in sending this, and hope that you will still be willing to consider my comments with regard to the above-mentioned issue. I have seen performances by the Independent Shakespeare Company pretty much since their first season in Los Angeles. The company has worked hard to make sure their performances are not only enjoyable, but easily accessible, and we see the results in the steadily-growing popularity of the Griffith Park Shakespeare Festival. In light of this, I very much wish for the stage, etc at the Griffith Park site be upgraded. ISC's annual Festival is a treasure and truly an asset to the City-- one that should be supported and encouraged so that they can continue to serve the public now and in the future. Please vote **AGAINST** the appeal.

Sincerely,

Beth Comstock



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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**Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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Jordan K <jbzweig@gmail.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 7:12 AM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

I am writing to voice my opposition AGAINST the appeal to oppose a \$4million to upgrade to the stage and facilities for the Independent Shakespeare Company.

**I strongly support the use of funds to improve the facilities for Independent Shakespeare Company.**

My introduction to the Company was many years ago while a teacher at Garfield High School, when the company invited our class to a production of Richard III. I have lived in Atwater Village for twelve years and consider the company one of the great jewels of our community. I have since seen many more productions, and my own children have been introduced to Shakespearean theater through these wonderful outdoor performances. Beyond that, I have seen the company's outreach workshops with students, both when my own children were students at Glenfeliz Elementary and for the students at East LA Performing Arts Academy where I taught for three years.

It is my sincere hope that the council will recognize this company for the great work they do with these much needed funds.



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

1 message

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**Leslie Lashinsky** <leslielashinsky@ca.rr.com>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 2:29 AM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

RE: Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

Dear Chairman O'Farrell & Committee Members:

Please go forward with the Griffith Park Arts Center Project. The lawn area surrounded by the Old Zoo structures is a tucked away area perfect for music and theater. Our family has enjoyed the Symphony in the Glen concerts there for many years, in fact our 18 year old son has attended since infancy and now brings his college aged friends. The addition of an open air theater structure will only enhance the natural and cultural beauty of this small part of enormous Griffith Park, allowing an even richer, day or night, FREE experience of the arts for diverse LA residents. My 89 year old mother comes with other residents of Kingsley Manor in Hollywood - what a treat for seniors to be outside in nature alongside younger generations. A stage is a perfect addition to the park - a natural outgrowth of fine LA arts organizations like Symphony in the Glen and Independent Shakespeare Company and their enthusiastic audiences.

Sincerely,

Leslie Lashinsky and Stan Ayeroff  
12437 Westminster Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90066





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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David Evans <davidintheusa@live.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 9:40 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org, David Evans <davidintheusa@live.com>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST

This is an opportunity to benefit the Greater Los Angeles community as a whole.

I agree that accessibility for all is an important part of any venue, but disagree that the broader community should be prevented from benefitting from this form of positive progress particularly when we are referring to free cultural performances for the general public.

I agree that there should be minimal environmental impact and that the structures should rather blend with the environment as opposed to being completely alien. The ball parks in a remote area are an eye sore and woefully thought out albeit with good intentions. An accessible location is key for a recreational sporting facility. The activities intended for use of the stage lend themselves to the environment and can incorporate the environment as part of the stage.

I can never understand why city planners in the USA can't seem to grasp the latter idea.

The United Kingdom is littered with examples of the latter (see venues for the BBC Proms) and Kirstenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa achieves the same.

This project should go ahead with due consideration to the environment.

Disabled access to any form of natural mountainous area will be challenging.

8<sup>th</sup> August, 2014

Sincerely,

David Evans

6142 W. 74<sup>th</sup> Street

Los Angeles, CA 90045.



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Public Comment: Council File #14-0589 Performing Arts Center

1 message

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**Claire Marie-Peterson** <cmarieterson@hotmail.com>

Sun, Aug 10, 2014 at 6:56 PM

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

I urge you to deny the appeal against the Performing Arts Center at the Griffith Park Old Zoo. Come for yourselves to the Independent Shakespeare Company's free Shakespeare festival at the Griffith Park Old Zoo this summer. Here's the schedule <http://www.iscla.org/griffith-park-festival/> When you see one of these plays, you cannot help but catch the community spirit. You cannot help but agree that the spirit fostered by such performances is vital to our park and to our people—*all* of our people, not just those sure-footed enough to navigate without difficulty the currently dicey climb from the parking lot to the stage area. Handicapped access is absolutely essential to the purposes of this festival and to all public events in the park.

I'm giving the 6 p.m. salon talk next Saturday, August 16, before *The Taming of the Shrew*. You are heartily welcome! But you could come any Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday night for a 7 p.m. play and catch the same community spirit. Please come!

Sincerely,

Claire Marie-Peterson



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

1 message

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**Helene Rioux** <aime\_le\_20@yahoo.com>  
Cc: "Adam.Lid@lacity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Sun, Aug 10, 2014 at 5:04 PM

To whom it may concern:

As residents of Hollywood Hills for more than 30 years, one of the privileges of our location is the access to beautiful Griffith Park. First as a couple cycling daily and then with our family, the carousel, trains, horses and summer concerts! Symphony in the Glen offers the ultimate introduction to classical music for young ears. Knowing of a permanent situation that would validate a cultural vocation for the park like so many across country would be such an addition. We are also sure that cohabiting in all harmony with the existing surroundings can be done with efforts from all.

Thank you for your work in making this possible,

Hélène Rioux



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**AnnJ Gumbinner** <annjayg@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 10, 2014 at 9:41 AM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589 - Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal to be heard on Monday, August 11

Shortly after the Independent Shakespeare Company (ISC) came to Los Angeles in 2003, my family and I began attending their wonderful productions. We followed ISC from Barnsdall Park to Griffith Park, where they moved in 2010, and we continued to go to as many productions as possible.

The Independent Shakespeare Company is one of the things that makes Los Angeles special: It provides the city with world-class theater productions, the highest quality Shakespearean theater, and in addition ISC provides a public service -- access to free theater.

My family and I are fully in support of the upgraded facilities and expanded stage that the Council has been considering. It would enable the Independent Shakespeare Company to provide an even higher quality of theater production to the public along with greater accessibility so that a wider range of people will be able to attend performances.

About three years ago my family and I moved across the country, and one of the things we miss most about Los Angeles is the Independent Shakespeare Company. We continue to recommend it to all the people we know in LA and to all visitors. It is, as far as we are concerned, one of the top sightseeing destinations in our beloved city of Los Angeles.

We are appreciative that the Council is making the new Griffith Park facilities a priority. We hope that the new stage and facilities will be approved without delay, at the existing Griffith Park site, and that work will be able to start soon enough for the Independent Shakespeare company to use the new facilities next summer for the 2015 season.

Submitted August 10, 2014

Sincerely,

Ann J Gumbinner  
5310 Belt Rd., NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
(213) 840-6740  
annjayg@gmail.com



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

1 message

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**Gayle Levant** <glharp1@aol.com>  
To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org  
Cc: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 8:40 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell & Committee Members,

As a long-time resident in the community, I absolutely support the completion of the "Griffith Park Performing Arts Center" project. The free performances at the Old Zoo are a powerful resource to LA families and these performances deserve a permanent space. I have been attending these concerts since 1996 and look forward to hearing the wonderful "Symphony In The Glen" orchestra perform in a permanent open-air stage at the Old Zoo. I truly believe that a new stage will definitely enhance the natural setting and will be a source of pride to all.

Please, I urge you to do what you can to move this project forward.

Thank you very much,  
Gayle Richards



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

1 message

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**fidlstx@charter.net** <fidlstx@charter.net>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 3:34 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell & Committee Members:

I support the completion of the Griffith Park Performing Arts Center project. The free performances at the Old Zoo are a powerful resource to LA families and these performances deserve a facility.

Environmental impacts are a matter of science not speculation or emotion; so, a permanent open-air stage at the Old Zoo would have little impact on current public use of that spot, and can only enhance the natural setting.

The cultural benefits far out weigh the minimal impacts and this project will not result in significant displacement of current site users.

Please do what you can to move this project forward.

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,  
Debra Price



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Rachel Kelley** <rachelmkelley@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 3:13 PM

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - I am strongly against the appeal. My family has been attending and supporting the free Shakespeare festival for many years. We have been meeting friends there and/or encouraging our friends and extended family to attend as well. The appeal seems like a mean spirited and back handed way to prevent years of free Shakespeare for thousands of people who would not otherwise be able to experience this valuable cultural phenomenon. Please ignore this appeal and move forward with the plans to upgrade the Griffith park space.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Kelley

Sent from my iPhone



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Daniel Osers** <daniel.osers@me.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 10:56 AM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

BODY:

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

**POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

To whom it may concern, I wish to register my strong support for the approving of the stage and upgraded facilities at the festival site. I strongly believe that this is in the interest of the city, district, and all Los Angelenos. The appeal I personally find ridiculous - with not merit and not in the interest of the greater good, the public, OR the environment. I strongly plead with you to enable this stage to go forward, and to service the public - like my family - for many years to come, and at the current site in Griffith Park that has proven to be perfect.

Sincerely,

Daniel Osers

August 8, 2014





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Mark Ward <markwardradio@yahoo.com>  
Reply-To: Mark Ward <markwardradio@yahoo.com>  
To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 10:45 AM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

I have been bringing my teenage daughter and her friends to the ISC shows in Griffith Park since they began. It is one of our highlights of the year. I have worked with many top Shakespearean actors myself including Sir Ian McKellen and I believe that in its own way ISC is every bit the equal of companies like the Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre in England. However ISC goes one better by truly democratizing the theater-going experience. It is heart-warming to see the huge age-range and ethnic diversity of the typical ISC audience. It shows that everyone, no matter what their background and financial circumstances in life, responds to vital, intelligent, challenging, and massively entertaining theatre.

ISC is a vital part of Los Angeles' cultural scene. At every performance one sees the actors literally build an engaged and connected community before one's eyes. Building a permanent stage in Griffith Park is a vital next step in helping this imaginative company do what it does best: lifting up our spirits, making our hearts sing and our minds race with possibilities. The site itself by virtue of its history has a quality of fantasy about it. It is an integral part of the experience: sometimes one feels like the animals who used to live there have returned and are like us enjoying Shakespeare's shenanigans under the stars. What better way for Los Angeles to show it is a city looking towards a future which is golden for all of its citizens?

August 9th, 2014

Yours sincerely,

Mark Ward

Mark Ward

Founding Producer

*Spoken Portraits - "Your Life in Sound"*

<http://www.spokenportraits.com>

(310) 254 - 6177



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Yoelle Carter** <ycarter@hotmail.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 8:05 AM

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,  
Regarding Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center, I would like to state that I am AGAINST the appeal. As a dweller in the city of LA, I find that the performances at Griffith park by the Independent Shakespeare Co. are the best family entertainment during summer evenings. As a family we look forward to the summer months to gather together with friends enjoy the setting, the ambience and the outstanding performance by the talented thespians. Please allow them to continue in the venue with an improved stage and facilities.

Sincerely,  
Yoelle Carter

August 9, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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whiskeyandguinness@yahoo.com <whiskeyandguinness@yahoo.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 7:49 AM

Reply-To: whiskeyandguinness@yahoo.com

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members:

PUBLIC COMMENT regarding- [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

This letter is in opposition to the recent appeal made by the oddly-named 'Friends of Griffith Park.'

The completion of the proposal to renovate pathways and construct an extremely modest and aesthetically pleasing stage to be used by the public, as well as the TRUE FRIENDS of Griffith Park, i.e., the Independent Shakespeare Company of Los Angeles and Symphony in the Glen, will only add to the charm and appeal of the park. As one with a degree in history, and currently working on my Master's in the same, it will in no way infringe upon the historical aesthetics of the Old Zoo. The new pathways and restrooms will only serve to reduce impact upon the grounds, which have not suffered during the last several years of performances. If anything, it will help create new awareness of the Zoo's history, exposing many people to its story as they uncover its existence while attending a play of symphony. The cultural value of such an ethnically diverse company is immeasurable, and showcases the city of Los Angeles and its citizens as world leaders in inclusiveness and forward thinking.

Thank you for considering but rejecting an appeal made by a tiny, misinformed and closed-minded minority in opposition in favor of the masses...the citizens of and visitors to the great City of Los Angeles...

Regards,  
Frank Lopes



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Janette Raven** <fossieinlosa@gmail.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 7:40 AM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,  
PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]  
POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

I am against this appeal. The Independent Shakespeare festival at Griffiths Park is an important part of my summer in Los Angeles. It is where I meet up with friends and family, eat good food with them, and participate in magnificent theatre. I would personally be devastated by the loss or moving of this unique and wonderful recreational opportunity.

Thank you for supporting this.

DATE 9 August 2014

Sincerely,

JANETTE RAVENS



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

1 message

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DonaldS261@aol.com <DonaldS261@aol.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 10:03 AM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: Adam.Lid@lacity.org, councilmember.labonge@lacity.org

5215 Franklin Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
August 9, 2014

To: The Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee  
Attn: Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

Subject: Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

Dear Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee members:

I am writing to support the stage project in the old zoo area of Griffith Park. I had believed this matter to be settled when the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners approved the plan several months ago. I was at that hearing, and I listened with disbelief at the claims made by the opposition to this worthy proposal.

Primary among the arguments against it was the invalid claim that the stage would interfere with a natural environment. This area of the Griffith Park hills has not been "natural" for nearly a century. I remember visiting the spot as a child with its fake bear caves and sea lion swimming pool, when the grounds were closed off to all the wild life in the park, the only animals around being the zoo denizens. And the vegetation at that time, just as today, was never the original natural flora inherent to the historic Mt. Hollywood environment. In fact, for over 100 years, due an enthusiastic reforestation effort that began soon after Colonel Griffith J. Griffith gifted the acres to the City of Los Angeles, the natural growth in the entire Griffith Park has been anything but "natural." Nearly every plant is an imported species. So to claim that the stage project will interrupt the park's "natural" flora and fauna is a completely specious argument, at odds with history and with reality. This project will alter the area in a completely minor way and at the same time make the grounds more accessible to the handicapped and elderly. In every way, the stage project is an improvement over the current and past environment.

Another argument I heard was that user-friendly artificial attractions in Griffith Park should be either maintained as they are today or removed if at all possible because they interfere with the wild life. In fact, the opposition would prefer a complete return to the state of affairs before 1896 when most of the park was devoid of "artificial" entertainments. This is, however, not entirely true, as the eastern side of the park was home to Griffith's own ostrich farm and zoo complete with a narrow rail commuter train in the 1880s. The park was given to the citizens of Los Angeles for their enjoyment and as a place to escape the pressures of urban life. Its attractions today are located in a very small part of the park grounds, and they provide a wide range of recreation and entertainment that brings

enthusiastic usage. Thus Griffith Park has truly evolved into a park for the people, and not only the backpacker set, but also animal lovers, golfers, cultural enthusiasts, historians, astronomers, and horse riders, among many others. In the last years, it has also provided more high-brow amusements in the old zoo area in the form of free orchestral concerts and Shakespeare plays. To remove this aspect of the park's offerings would disenfranchise a large percent of park users, and would be a reversal of over 100 years of park policy. Rather than being a disturbance, the stage would enhance offerings that now exist, and it would increase the security and accessibility of the area while reducing the cost of productions. There are no downsides to this venture as I see it, only positive gains.

I could go much further with many other arguments in favor of the stage. I strongly urge you to approve it and let this well-designed project be finally built. This worthy venture has been delayed long enough.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Donald A. Seligman  
long-time park user and Los Feliz resident

Cc: Committee Administrative Assistant Adam Lid  
Councilmember Tom LaBonge



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Linda Malek** <lindajmalek@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 7:31 AM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

I would like to take a strong stand against the appeal of Council File #14-0589—upgrade of the Performing Arts Center.

I live in the South Bay, and had an opportunity to bring my daughter to see Shakespeare in Griffith Park just last Friday. It was an amazing experience, with a troupe of wonderful performers, and a lovely convivial “under the stars” experience with a small group of Angelinos. My daughter’s first comment after the show was “I want to bring a bunch of my friends here with a picnic dinner—they would love it!”. It would be a sad and disappointing loss of a marvelous sector of the performing arts and culture in Los Angeles if we were to lose this performance space.

Thank you for admitting my comments.

Sincerely,

Linda Malek  
August 8, 2014

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**Linda Malek**

H: LindaJMalek@gmail.com

W: Linda.Malek@sce.com

310.994.3484

[www.linkedin.com/in/lindamalek](http://www.linkedin.com/in/lindamalek)



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**ayamanatara** <ayamanatara@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 1:04 AM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - Against

I love being able to go to performances in the park, and I see them as an important public offering. As someone whose health is less than optimal, I would love to see the proposed improvements happen, as the grading would make it easier for me to attend.

8/8/14

Sincerely,  
'Natara Brown

<http://ayamanatara.com>

<http://facebook.com/Ayamanatara>

<http://twitter.com/Ayamanatara>

sent from a mobile device





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**J Wong** <romeogirl2010@gmail.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 11:38 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Re. Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - Against the Appeal, proceed with Recommended Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration from the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

I strongly believe that the Department of Recreation and Parks has done due diligence in their Initial Study (which included numerous, well-attended public meetings) and determination to proceed with the Performing Arts Center project at Griffith Park's Old Zoo area with a mitigated negative declaration under the California Environmental Quality Act. The proposed stage foundation (not a full stage) will limit the impact of having to load construction materials to rebuild a full, new stage every time a public event is held at the Old Zoo site. Also, the stage area is on non-native grass lawn, which is not water efficient in this time of extreme drought. The less non-native, California UnFriendly lawn needing daily/weekly watering and maintenance, the better, for all species of Griffith Park and the City of Los Angeles.

Also, this project is grant-funded. Doing a full Environmental Impact Report, disregarding the findings of the Initial Study, would put a significant delay on the project and put its funding at risk.

The lighting will ensure people and wildlife are able to stay in separate locations at evening events, in addition to ensuring the safety of patrons of the park.

The site is not currently ADA compliant. This is a strong liability to the City, and the proposed accommodations are also less invasive to the area than other earlier proposals of the project.

The appellant's proposal to have performance groups perform at the new Zoo facilities instead is not in the public interest, as that facility is now privately run with admission charges. Existing performances at that site are organized by private, professional promoters. The events that take place at the Old Zoo site are free to all, bringing patrons from all over Southern California to the best part and pride of the City of Los Angeles (from babies to schoolchildren to teenagers to university students to business owners to community organizers to assisted elderly to all of their pets) four days of every week of the summer... and also in the spring. These events further Griffith J. Griffith's vision of preserving this place for the recreation of all members of the public, inclusive of all economic and social backgrounds.

The natural environment and heritage of the Old Zoo and surrounding areas of Griffith Park were fully taken into consideration in the aforementioned public meetings/hearings and the Initial Study. The mitigated negative declaration should stand.

August 8, 2014  
Sincerely Yours,  
Juliet Wong



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File ( #14-0588 or #14-0589)**

1 message

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**Kathleen Hobson** <kathobson5060@gmail.com>  
To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Sun, Aug 10, 2014 at 1:50 AM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0588-Crystal Springs ballfields or #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

Position: Against

Please leave this natural park alone. Go elsewhere in the city for any new developments. Let the Park stay a Park. This should be a no brainer.

The comments below are all very valid.

- A major reduction in the size of Crystal Springs Picnic Facility including area available for group and individual picnicking, free play and relaxation
- Eviction of a significant quantity of picnickers and recreationists; compression and marginalization of those in the space remaining, without proper outreach
- Removal of up to 49 trees, including many native "protected" species, and the shade, coolness and beauty they provide
- Loss of habitat for wildlife (mammals and birds) that have incorporated Crystal Springs into their habitat
- Destruction of the Crystal Springs asphalt loop road that provides a safe place for small children to bicycle and families to use rented pedal-surries
- Destruction of a Crystal Springs' centerpiece tree, a giant native sycamore that is a City of Los Angeles "Heritage Tree." Trading views of trees and greenery, for hundreds of linear feet of barrier fencing hung with banners
- Trading views of trees and greenery, for hundreds of linear feet of TALL barrier fencing often hung with banners

07/12/2014

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Hobson  
1752 Riverside Drive, Glendale, Ca, 91201



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Re: I oppose Crystal Springs Ball Fieldx and Old Zoo Performance Stage

1 message

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George Grace <gmrnet1@mindspring.com>

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 10:14 AM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Mr. Lid,

I just visited the webpage where public comments for the appeal are supposed to be posted. My comment (see below) and others opposing construction of the ball fields and performance stage have not been posted. When will the webpage be updated to show all comments?

George Grace

323-660-2483

**From:** George Grace

**Sent:** Friday, August 08, 2014 1:52 PM

**To:** Adam.Lid@LACity.org

**Subject:** I oppose Crystal Springs Ball Fieldx and Old Zoo Performance Stage

August 8, 2014

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

Development interests continue to chip away at the remarkable natural features of Griffith Park. Building ball fields at Crystal Springs Picnic Area and construction of a permanent performance stage at the Old Zoo are the latest examples. What will be next?

I don't support further development in the Park, and oppose both building ball fields in the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, and constructing a permanent performance stage at the Old Zoo.

Sincerely yours,

George Grace, Founder, Griffith Park Natural History Survey



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Christina** <ccincalif@aol.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:36 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

### **POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

It is unconscionable to me that anyone (or any group) is appealing this matter. Please, please do not approve the appeal, and please do allow the stage and Griffith Park upgrades to continue which benefits our community in so many ways. The old zoo is the perfect venue for this festival and anyone suggesting that it be moved has most likely never attended any event at the location.

I have been attending the Shakespeare festival with my two young children since it was held at Barnsdall Park. My son is going to be graduating from Georgetown University and my daughter from Immaculate Heart High School this coming year and both of them continue to go to the plays and now bring their friends. It does not truly feel like summer until we have gone to the first ISC play.

ISC gives so much to our community that these upgrades will only help them to continue to do so for many years to come. Please reject the appeal.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Christina Conte

[www.christinascucina.com](http://www.christinascucina.com)



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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xavi moreno <xavmoreno@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:39 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - AGAINST

In Los Angeles every summer along with triple digit heat, carne asadas, the howls of coyotes, traffic to Yasiel Puig Home-runs, something special happens the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival.

For the past 10 years Independent Shakespeare Co. has produced free performances in Los Angeles City Parks. Our audience has grown from our first performance for 15 people and a dog to a total of 43,000 last summer. This year we expect to present FREE SHAKESPEARE to over 50,000 audience members. Some who will see Shakespeare and or a Play for the first time to those that see them more than once year after year. They come up the hill to the Old Zoo with baby strollers and picnic baskets filled from Pizza, Tortas, Sushi to even our city classics, like Phillipe's French Dip. They sit on everything from flattened cardboard to chic teak lawn chairs. They represent every corner of our city: from San Pedro to Sylmar, Venice to Boyle Heights. They like (us) are Los Angeles.

My name is Xavi Moreno, I'm a proud native angeleno born and raised in the beautiful historic barrio of Boyle Heights. From the front porch of my home I grew up admiring the Hollywood sign in the distance. My urge to perform was supported by my parents who were family entertainers, the center of attention, and class clowns but growing up in my neighborhood just as on stage when the light rise, sometimes so did the gun fights. From loosing friends to gang violence to being shot at 19 years old I fell hostage to a path that could had led me behind bars or in a grave, instead i jumped on-stage. Theater changed my life, theater saved my life. With Independent Shakespeare Co. thanks to (them) my mentors, cast mates, friends, neighbors, my family, i've gone from from Audience Member to an Actor on-stage.

This festival is Los Angeles, It's me, It's you, It's every neighborhood, It's of every color and race. It's multi-lingual and multi-generational. WE are a diverse theater company for all of L.A. We do it for L.A because we are L.A!

I write to you today as a Native Angeleno whom has attended Griffith Park for the past 30 years. With my family, friends, with my community. From a Baseball Player to an Actor I stand in solidarity with the Ballfields in Crystal Springs and the Griffith Park Stage. It has been both baseball and theater that has allowed me to live my dreams today.

Today are our dreams can be put on hold by a selfish appeal but we can aslo come together as Angelenos to continue Griffith\_J.\_Griffith dreams!

This park is for all Angelenos, Hickers, Baseball Players, Golfers, Thespians, Squirrels...etc.

Thank You!

8/8/2014

Sincerely,  
Xavi Moreno

**Xavi Moreno | Mobile: 323.382.5169 | Email: [xavmoreno@gmail.com](mailto:xavmoreno@gmail.com) | [www.xavimoreno.net](http://www.xavimoreno.net)  
Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | YouTube | Follow me on my #FiestaMovement**



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File # 14-0588

1 message

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**Snow, David** <David.Snow@disney.com>  
To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:46 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

I'm writing in FAVOR OF THE APPEAL of the Griffith Park Crystal Springs Ballfields Project.

Crystal Springs is no place for new ballfields. This is one of the most special areas of Griffith Park and home to cherished wildlife and dozens of wonderful trees, including many protected native species. Crystal Springs is a refuge for Angelenos escaping the noise and heat of the city under the shade of its majestic trees in this quiet corner of the park. It would be a real shame to lose this little natural gem only to replace it with the congestion, noise, fencing and traffic that will come with ballfields. If the park truly needs more ballfields, please find a more suitable place for them — one that doesn't require such a painful loss to the park's character.

Thanks for your consideration.

David Snow  
1518 Ben Lomond Drive  
Glendale 91202



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Alyson Iwamoto** <alaiwamoto@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:50 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

**POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

Shakespeare in the Park is an institution, and the Old Zoo area is an amazing space. It would be wonderful to make both of these things more accessible for everyone. Please continue forth with building the stage and creating ways for more people to enjoy it with upgraded facilities. Please and thank you :D

Sincerely,

Aly Iwamoto

August 8, 2014





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**EDUARDO A. BRANIFF** <eabraniff@mac.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:51 PM

To: "adam.lid@lacity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

THE VALUE OF THE STAGE AND PROGRAMMING IT WILL SUPPORT CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.

DATE: August 8, 2014

Sincerely,

Eduardo A Braniff



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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**SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Danielle Kamens** <danielle.kamens@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:52 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

**POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

Please do not change the location of the Shakespeare Festival.

Sincerely,

Danielle Kamens

August 8, 2014

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D



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Public Comment - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Dika Ryan <dikaryan@sbcglobal.net>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:55 PM

Reply-To: Dika Ryan <dikaryan@sbcglobal.net>

To: "adam.lid@LACity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

August 8, 2014

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - I am AGAINST the appeal

Both Griffith Park and the Independent Shakespeare Co. Free Shakespeare Festival are precious Los Angeles gems. And they fit so well together!

As a long-time theater-goer, it is so heartwarming to find a theater company that truly reflects the ethnic diversity of this city, both in its players and its audience. Young and old, handicapped and able-bodied, rich, poor, east-siders and west-siders, all shapes, sizes and colors -- EVERYONE is welcomed and treated with graciousness and respect. ISC loves its audience and the audience loves ISC.

The Old Zoo is a perfect setting for outdoor theater but it can't really be considered a wilderness area -- there are picnic tables and a well-kept lawn where families can spread out and have fun. This is not what I would call a "wilderness." It is a city park, given to the people of Los Angeles by Colonel Griffith, and meant to be used by the residents of Los Angeles. When the area was still a zoo, the space hosted far more people than come to evening performances of the Free Shakespeare Festival during its limited run each summer. The building of a permanent, low impact stage will enhance the area, as well as making Los Angeles competitive with New York City's Shakespeare in the Park.

In addition, the ADA improvements are vital to making the park accessible to all Angelinos. Note that the Old Zoo is very close to the Shane's Inspiration playground. Making the Old Zoo section of the park accessible to the families with handicapped children seems to be, as they say, a "no-brainer." And personally, I have been looking forward to bringing several elderly handicapped friends to the summer Shakespeare Festival.

Please support the building of a permanent stage in the Old Zoo. Allow this part of Griffith Park to truly be a gathering place for ALL Angelinos.

Sincerely,

Dika Ryan



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Sarah Cronk** <sjcronk89@yahoo.com>  
Reply-To: Sarah Cronk <sjcronk89@yahoo.com>  
To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:58 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

### **POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my comments in support of the stage project and against this current appeal. I am thankful that the Friends of Griffith Park care so much about a park we all love and their eagerness to protect it. I, however, firmly believe in making this park accessible to all. And the improvements to the Old Zoo site that would make it ADA accessible are critical. As it is now, even the able bodied struggle to make that steep climb to the old zoo site and navigating the path once the sun goes down it a little treacherous.

I am a huge supporter of the Shakespeare festival that takes place at the park, and in my time there I have seen all sorts of wildlife, clearly unbothered by their presence. Regardless of whether or not a permanent stage is built to support this, and other culturally valuable events that take place at the site, the renovations that include lights and accessibility should be a city priority. The old zoo site is a historical landmark and should be accessible to everyone.

A stage gives the site the added bonus of wonderful productions available to all of Los Angeles enriching our cultural heritage and our sense of community. What's not to love about that?

Again thank you for taking the time to hear my comments and I hope they help you in your decision on this appeal.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cronk  
August 8, 2014



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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Doug Ellison <douglas.j.ellison@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:59 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

POSITION : Against the Appeal.

I stand opposed to the appeal and fully support the development of a permanent stage at the Griffith Park Old Zoo.

The Friends of Griffith Park continue to recite the false number of 5,000 projected visitors to performances at the Old Zoo. A more accurate number ( an peak of 2,500 in any evening ) has been provided by the users of this space repeatedly, as has their intended goal of spreading attendance more evenly across the usual Thursday to Sunday performance schedule each summer. Those bringing this appeal continually describe this area as 'wild' and a 'sanctuary' for wildlife. This is clearly false - it is a developed picnic area of less than 3 acres in a park of more than 4,300 acres. By erecting a permanent stage there would be no need to run cables across the park before every performance, no need to erect temporary lighting equipment. The environmental impact would be reduced. Those bringing the appeal also claim that performances reduce the 'tranquility' of the park for hikers and picnickers. I've found that a typical night at an ISC production involves around 1,000 people sat in perfect silence on a hillside watching a performance by a handful of actors - it is the very definition of tranquility. Moreover who, exactly, is picnicking and hiking thru Griffith Park well after sunset in an unlit park? Indeed - someone hiking in the dark thru the true wilderness areas of Griffith Park represents a very real threat to wildlife. Those sat in the Old Zoo area watching or listening to performances do not.

The development of the stage is in a space that can in no way be described as 'wilderness'. It is at the confluence of multiple footpaths and lies between a very poor quality toilet block and the bottom of Old Zoo itself. In its day, the Old Zoo attracted two million visitors a year and yet the bats continued to fly, the coyotes continued to prowl, and the public were able to enjoy Griffith Park. A half century later, the performing arts activities at the Old Zoo attract a little under 2 percent of that number. I have personally witnessed that both bats and coyotes continue to enjoy this area alongside the human visitors. Indeed, it's clear the Coyote's are fans of Shakespeare - they regularly join in the performances with their howling from the hillsides.

The appeal fails to mention the massive improvement in accessibility these developments would also include. It is a stated goal of the LA Dept of Recreation & Parks to improve on our city's fairly poor record on accessibility to park areas (1). The development in the Old Zoo area would help in achieving those goals. The current ad-hoc pathways to the Old Zoo area are a cause of significant ground erosion and are utterly unnavigable for those with impaired mobility. In wet conditions, the paths to the Old Zoo border on the dangerous and un-navigable. Parks around the world have learned that well made footpaths actually reduce environmental impact as they decrease footfall on un-prepared areas

(2) (3)

The proposed development at the Old Zoo is environmentally responsible and is in the best interests of both the park's natural 'residents' and its many human visitors. I therefore urge the committee to reject this appeal.

Sincerely,

Douglas Ellison  
4632 Natick Ave Apt 105  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403  
8/8/2014

References:

- 1 - Dept of Recs & Parks Website - <http://www.laparks.org/dept.htm>
- 2 - Travel and Tourism – Where does Snowdonia fit in? - [http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/\\_\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/114785/Travel-and-tourism.pdf](http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/___data/assets/pdf_file/0008/114785/Travel-and-tourism.pdf)
- 3 - Washington Park Arboretum Master Plan - <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/arboretum/Docs/part%203,%20affected%20environment,%20impacts,%20and%20mitigation.pdf>



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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**Subject: Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Linda Demmers** <linda.demmers@gmail.com>  
To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:00 PM

To: The Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee

Attn: Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: Committee Administrative Assistant Adam Lid Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Subject: Griffith Park Performing Arts Center MND Appeal Hearing File #14-0589

August 8, 2014

Dear Chairman O'Farrell & Committee Members:

I support the completion of the Griffith Park Performing Arts Center project. I have attended many free performances in that space as have tens of thousands of Angelenos every year. The location contains a well-tended lawn within a developed environment. The permanent stage can only be seen as an improvement to an area that is already developed. The location will continue to be used as a performance venue regardless of the outcome, and surely a "stage" will not further impact the area. It is ridiculous to assume so.

Please do what you can to move this project forward.

With my best regards,

Linda Demmers as Los Feliz resident

(President, Los Feliz Neighb



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Public Comment #14-0589

1 message

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**Dennis** <dennisgronski@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:01 PM

To: "adam.lid@LACity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Please keep Independent Shakespeare Company in its current home in Griffith Park.

I am against the move

DhG

Sent from my iPhone





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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**PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Caitlin Lainoff** <clainoff@gmail.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:06 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

**POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

ISC brings the best part of summer to the park, they must be given a proper venue to produce their craft.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Lainoff  
August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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**PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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Cari Dawson <carid@mac.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:06 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - **AGAINST** the appeal

We LOVE attending the ISC productions at Griffith Park, and we know how important this stage is to their continued productions. Please approve the stage and upgraded facilities!

Sincerely,  
Cari Dawson  
August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Shannon Brousseau <shannonbrousseau@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:33 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

8/8/14

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

Re: [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - I am against the appeal.

I would like to see the city move forward with the plans for the stage in Griffith Park. ISC and Symphony on the Glenn bring such a gift to the entire city of LA. My family of five regularly attend their events and I am so grateful for the opportunity to bring my children to see Shakespeare and to hear classical music that we otherwise would not be able to afford. The stage will help reduce the impact of assembling a temporary stage each summer. It is a way for the city to show their gratitude to the incredible actors and musicians that give of their talents so that we all benefit.

The upgrades to the bathrooms, pathways and lighting are very much needed in the area of the Old Zoo.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Kearney



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589 - Position: Against Appeal**

1 message

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**Sean Pritchett** <pritchettsean@hotmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:32 PM

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - I am AGAINST the appeal.

I think this project is a great addition to Griffith Park, further adding to the integrity of the wilderness and the overall enjoyment of the Park (even & especially when there are no performances). Better ADA access to this part of the park is a good thing. Burying the unsightly powerline that cuts across the opening is a good thing. I am against the appeal.

August 8th, 2014

Sincerely,  
Sean Pritchett



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Emily Goss <emily.b.goss@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:27 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - **AGAINST** the appeal

ISC performances at Griffith Park are an iconic part of LA summers. The company must be able to continue providing the public with free theatre in their traditional location.

Thank you,

Emily Goss

August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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**PUBLIC COMMENT: council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Beth Rabin** <bethrabin@sbcglobal.net>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:23 PM

Reply-To: Beth Rabin <bethrabin@sbcglobal.net>

To: "adam.lid@lacity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - I want to state my position AGAINST the appeal to block the new stage and upgraded facilities at the Old Zoo Picnic Area. My family and I have been enjoying the Independent Shakespeare Company's productions for several summers. We love to bring a picnic, count how many neighbors we see, and enjoy a wonderful production. It's truly a magical Los Angeles evening.

Improvements to the stage and bathroom facilities would greatly enhance the experience, as would ADA access.

Sincerely,

Beth Rabin

2064 Balmer Dr.

Los Angeles, CA 90039



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT: Council File #14-0589- Performing Arts Center**

1 message

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**Tammy** <faffertime@yahoo.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:23 PM

Reply-To: Tammy <faffertime@yahoo.com>

To: "Adam.lid@lacity.org" <Adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT: Council File #14-0589- Performing Arts Center

POSITION: AGAINST the appeal

I am writing to you as an ardent supporter of Griffith Park and the Independent Shakespeare Co. and ask you to vote against the appeal for the Performing Arts Center. I am a third generation Glendale and Burbank resident who grew up riding the ponies and the horse trails with my grandfather. In high school I volunteered at the LA Zoo, I've danced salsa and swing nights at the Autry. I run, bike, and hike in the park, go to concerts at the Greek, watch the stars at the Observatory, and my husband and I got married at the golf club last June. Griffith Park has been a very special part of my life. The Independent Shakespeare Co has taken an underused section of the park and turned it into a summer oasis where people from all backgrounds gather for wonderful outings with their families, friends and children. It is one of the most exciting new events to have happened in Los Angeles and its popularity is gaining every season, with people who have never visited the park coming just to see the plays and discovering the park has much more to offer. The improvements that are going to be made to the "Performing Arts Center" are very much needed. My father was confined to a wheel chair so I know the difficulties the disabled face in attempting to reach the performance area. It can be an arduous trek for anyone. Improved lighting and bathroom renovations would greatly benefit all the people that use the area, and a permanent stage could be used year round. I strongly urge you to reject the appeal against the Performing Art Center.

Sincerely,

Tammy Silva



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Torquil Duthie <duthie@humnet.ucla.edu>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:17 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - **AGAINST** the appeal

I urge you to approve the building of a new stage and upgrading of facilities at the site where the Griffith Park Shakespeare Festival takes place every summer. The festival is a wonderful event that demonstrates the unique charm and possibilities of Los Angeles. It is one of the four of five first things I mention when people ask me why I like living here. It is extraordinarily uplifting to see families of all income levels with their young children completely enraptured watching the ISC performances year after year. The ISC are not just great entertainers, they perform a wonderful public and social service to the Los Angeles community. In the last few years the popularity of the festival has increased and attendance has soared, and having a permanent stage would ensure the continuity of what is already a Los Angeles institution.

Given that the arguments in favor of the appeal are for the most part also arguments against any kind of performance taking place at the Old Zoo, I believe they should be rejected.

Sincerely,

Torquil Duthie

August 8, 2014

--  
Torquil Duthie  
Associate Professor  
Asian Languages and Cultures  
UCLA





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Hearing file #14-0589

1 message

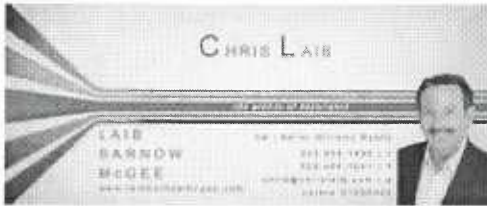
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**Chris Laib** <chris@chrislaib.com>  
To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org  
Cc: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:12 PM

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### 2 attachments



**unknown.jpeg**  
51K

 **Untitled.pdf**  
28K



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Priya Kumar Bradfield** <priya@priya.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:09 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,  
PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

### **POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

I would like to publicly say that I am against the appeal to move the Independent Shakespeare Company's summer performances to another site. The Griffith Park site is fantastic for the way they are using it - accessible to people from all over the city, a beautiful part of the park that is not used for that much else. Do not move the ISC performances or the proposed stage to another location.

Sincerely,  
Priya Bradfield  
North Hollywood, CA  
August 8, 2014

-----  
*Teaching Kids To Code For Tomorrow*  
<http://www.KidsCanCode.org>



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Joel Hindman** <joel.hindman@icloud.com>  
To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:09 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

I believe that the proposed stage and amenities at Griffith Park would be of great value to the city and it's citizens. Shakespeare in the Park is one of my favorite things that happens in LA each year. I invite friends from out of town to join me in seeing the amazing productions. Looking around me at Griffith Park I see a true cross section of LA. There is a history and tradition of Shakespeare at Griffith Park that has grown. This is the next step in continuing to spread the beauty of theater to all of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Joel Hindman  
August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Neo Cat** <thecatofneo@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:11 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

Sincerely,

Noelia Cortes  
August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Brandon Massey <bmassey108@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:13 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

**POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

The Independent Shakespeare Company will do their best to alleviate any environmental concerns regarding the construction of the Performing Arts Center. Everything being done is to benefit the patrons of the theatre, including those who are disabled and need a handicap accessible entrance. I have worked with this company multiple times and their behavior and actions have always demonstrated class, dignity and character. Their current Griffith Park location is ideal for the city of Los Angeles - fits over 2,000 people with free parking for all. The location and Performing Arts Center are necessary to continue the cultural benefit that the entire city gains from having this company in our midst.

Sincerely,

Brandon Massey

August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Nikhil Pai <nikhil@iscla.org>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:14 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]  
POSITION - AGAINST appeal

I moved to Los Angeles in the Fall of 2009 to attend Graduate School. A year later a few classmates and myself attended the Independent Shakespeare Company's benefit performance of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. As we sat waiting for the performance to begin, my friend, a native Angelino, started telling us the history of the Old Zoo and how he used to come to see the animals as a child. It was a perfect evening - watching a culturally historic play in a locally historic location.

I would like to urge you to consider that the preservation of history is not accomplished by barring access to it. In fact, that stance will only ensure its erasure from public thought and consideration.

History - or rather historic sites - are preserved by people sharing stories and by people experiencing the places where these stories took place. The building of a permanent performance space will do just that. It will bring in the next generation of Angelinos (native and migrated) to embrace Los Angeles' vibrant history and to keep that history alive.

The appellants would suggest that the building of a stage would disrupt the natural environment and wildlife - NOT TRUE. The truth is that every consideration in planning has been taken to ensure that the natural environment would not be disturbed. The picnic area would still remain an open space for children to run and play in the grass (just as it is now). The animals would not lose any grounds to their habitats and would be free to roam (just as it is now). Trees would still stand providing shade and beauty (just as it is now). The proposed stage's environmental impact would be minimal to non-existent.

The added benefits to the proposed stage is that it would provide safety and accessibility to all Old Zoo attendees (regardless of whether there is a performance). Handicapped individuals would be able to access the picnic area with much greater ease, and enjoy the area along with their able-bodied peers. All attendees will be safer when returning to their cars at night because there is a plan to light the paths to Lot 2.

The permanent performance space is the first step in honoring the culture and history of the Old Zoo. Over the years I personally have brought dozens of people to this location and shared its history. As a performer with the Independent Shakespeare Company I have seen thousands of people enjoy shows with respect and reverence for their surroundings. Please support the stage and reject this appeal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,  
Nikhil Pai

Performer, Independent Shakespeare Company



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 MESSAGE

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**Meg Scheduling** <megscheduling@yahoo.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:14 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

**PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center**

**POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

The Los Angeles City Council should continue to approve a new stage and upgraded facilities at the Free Shakespeare festival site in Griffith Park. This will enable the organization to present the Griffith Park Shakespeare Festival and serve the public for many years to come.

Please do not stop this wonderful project!

Sincerely,

Meghan Scheduling

August 8, 2014





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**Joanne Lutz** <lutzgelfman@earthlink.net>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:16 PM

Reply-To: Joanne Lutz <lutzgelfman@earthlink.net>

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Cc: "Independent Shakespeare Co." <chalsma@iscla.org>, Ron Gelfman <rons-i-mail@att.net>, wls@wls.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

My name is Ron Gelfman. My wife and I are medically related professionals working in healthcare. Although we have no children, for two decades I, and often my wife, have served as judges for the LAUSD Academic Decathlon. We do this because we firmly believe that an educated, culturally enlightened populace is key to a successful community. We have been attendees of virtually every one of Independent Shakespeare Company's productions from the earliest days in Barnsdall Park. The exponential growth of the audience attests to their remarkable ability to relate to, edify and then enlighten the community they serve so well. Their accomplishments, indeed, their very presence among us is something all Angelenos can and should be proud of. We find it unacceptable that after so much hard work and popular support brought them so close to an ideal safe and permanent venue that anyone could raise objections to it. Although it would be unfair to trivialize anyone's legitimate objections to this project, at some point common sense dictates that a project that clearly benefits so many citizens must take precedence over other concerns. We, therefore, respectfully urge you to deny any requests for appeal and provide your full enthusiastic support to the free Shakespeare Festival stage project.

Sincerely,  
Ron and Joanne Gelfman

August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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James Dutcher <jacaru@me.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:40 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to let you know that I am AGAINST Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center.

I have enjoyed using the amenities of Griffith Park for over 20 years now and the Independent Shakespeare festival has only added to that enjoyment. It boggles my mind that any of my fellow citizens would be against these minor improvements that would enhance the ISC experience.

August 8, 2014

Sincerely,

James Dutcher



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

1 message

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Rita Hollingsworth <rita@rmhmedia.net>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:44 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - I am AGAINST the appeal

As a native Angeleno and long-term resident of L.A., I can't think of another L.A.-based arts organization in which we may all take more pride than the Independent Shakespeare Company. Who else offers classical works of theater to ALL Angelenos, for free, and on such a professional level? Not only is the company itself a beautiful mosaic of diversity, so is the audience, and that is what the arts should offer to theatergoers: the experience of seeing themselves reflected on stage and in the universal and timeless works represented in the company's productions.

The fact that this is presented in the beautiful, outdoor, natural setting that is Griffith Park - a locale which many of us have visited and cherished since childhood - makes the communal theater experience all the richer, and is poignant in its ability to gather us all under the one "roof" all humanity shares: the night sky.

Please give your due consideration to the Independent Shakespeare Company's commitment to keeping us all connected in this unique, entertaining and enriching way and for making such noble, respectful use of our city's natural gifts. Shakespeare's works have survived for centuries after him, and no doubt will survive us all, too. What will future generations of Angelenos say about us as cultural creators and as a community?

Respectfully,

Rita M. Hollingsworth



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Francesca Innocenti <innocent@dornsife.usc.edu>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:47 PM

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

August 8, 2014

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

I would like to voice my strong opposition to this appeal and my staunch support for the proposed stage and upgrades in the Old Zoo area of Griffith Park.

The proposed stage and other upgrades will not have an adverse impact on Griffith Park, on the contrary, they will add to its appeal by providing a beautiful outdoor performance space and enable disabled people to attend performances that draw thousands of Angelenos to the park every summer. The stage will also be made available to other artists and performers, providing a wonderful space for events and performances to be enjoyed by the residents of Los Angeles. Griffith Park is a wonderful public space, enjoyed by all the residents of our great city; it's only fair to make it accessible to disabled people so that all of us can enjoy all it has to offer. Disabled citizens should not be prevented from participating in those popular and wonderful free outdoor Shakespeare performances. And the bathrooms do need upgrading, with audiences growing every year, they are no longer adequate in their current state. The stage structure that is going to be built is open and beautifully designed to blend with the environment, it will be an enhancement to the landscape, not an eyesore. This is a wonderful project, there is really no down side, the area is already frequented by thousands of people every evening, this will just make their visits even more pleasant and allow ALL Angelenos to share a beautiful, outdoor public space.

Sincerely,

Francesca Innocenti



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Matthew Oxley** <maoxley@yahoo.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:48 PM

Reply-To: Matthew Oxley <maoxley@yahoo.com>

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - I am wholeheartedly AGAINST the appeal

My husband and I have been attending Shakespeare in the Park at the Old LA Zoo in Griffith Park for a few years now. Before this location, we enjoyed at the cramped space in Barnsdall Park. On several occasions, we have taken in-town and out-of-town friends, and they all comment how much they love this location in Griffith Park. In my opinion, it would be a grave tragedy if this appeal were granted. This is the perfect location for an outdoor stage.

August 8, 2014

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Oxley



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## I oppose Crystal Springs Ball Fieldx and Old Zoo Performance Stage

1 message

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George Grace <gmnet1@mindspring.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:52 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

August 8, 2014

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

Development interests continue to chip away at the remarkable natural features of Griffith Park. Building ball fields at Crystal Springs Picnic Area and construction of a permanent performance stage at the Old Zoo are the latest examples. What will be next?

I don't support further development in the Park, and oppose both building ball fields in the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, and constructing a permanent performance stage at the Old Zoo.

Sincerely yours,

George Grace, Founder, Griffith Park Natural History Survey



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Carissa Kosta** <sillycarissa@me.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:55 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - I am AGAINST this appeal. It's been such an exciting time watching the growth of Griffith Park and the LA River, how incredible could our city become if you could bike to see Shakespeare, in addition to other events, in our own lovely Griffith Park?! This stage feels like the logical next step and perfectly in sync with all of the other developments happening in our area. Thank you for reading!

August 8th, 2014

Sincerely,

Carissa Kosta

Atwater Village Resident



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Laura Rin <laurarin@hotmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:57 PM

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - **AGAINST** the appeal

I support Independent Shakespeare Company and I support the building of a permanent performing arts space at the Old Zoo Picnic Area.

Sincerely,

Laura Rin

August 8, 2014





Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Mare Costello <mare@marecostello.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 1:58 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - I am AGAINST the appeal.

Having this well thought out, crafted, and integrated stage would allow Los Angeles and all who visit to have a committed place conducive to what makes this part of California the cultural mecca it is. A town that respects and regards both Nature and the Performing Arts. Griffith Park is the perfect place for this stage!

I go to Griffith park for two main reasons: To hike up to the observatory (general exercise) and to see Shakespeare in the Park every Summer. I've been enjoying the magnificent coupling or synergy, if you will, of Art performed in a glorious natural setting with the community of Los Angeles beside me. I have been a part of this fan supported event for three years now and watched how wonderfully the Independent Shakespeare Company has organized, maintained and celebrated this Summer series but I always wish it could happen year round.

When I found out that there was a permanent stage in the works I thought what a marvelous thing for me, the Independent Shakespeare company and Los Angeles as a whole. The Zoo and the Gene Autry centers are great examples of how great planning and integration into a natural preserved setting. I trust when this permanent stage is built the same attention to the concerns of its impact on nature will go before the committees if they haven't already.

I believe we all want to have a great marriage of nature, Art and commerce. This permanent stage will accomplish this by attracting more likeminded folks to the park.

8.8.2014

Sincerely,

Mare Costello

Performer, Filmmaker



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Sarah Maloney** <sarahcmaloney@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:01 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

This is in regards to [Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

POSITION - I am AGAINST the appeal

The Griffith Park Shakespeare Festival deserves all the support we can muster. This is an important organization that brings so much culture and life to Los Angeles.

08/08/2014

Sincerely,

Sarah Maloney

—  
Sarah Maloney  
818-800-4082



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589**

1 message

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**elaine miller** <elainem@aaybootcamp.com>  
To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:02 PM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center  
POSITION - AGAINST the appeal

Free Shakespeare in Griffith Park is such an asset to our community. It is an educational and wholesome way for friends and family to enjoy the park on summer evenings. The Independent Shakespeare Company does very high quality productions with world-class actors. I've been to free Shakespeare productions in other cities, and nothing compares. Please approve the stage and upgraded facilities at the festival site so that we can continue to enjoy these performances for many years to come.

Friday, August 8, 2014

Sincerely,  
Barbara Elaine Miller



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Alexis Curry** <acurry@lacma.org>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:10 PM

To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Cc: Adam Kopald <adamakopald@gmail.com>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

PUBLIC COMMENT (council file #14-0589 Performing Arts Center)

Position : AGAINST the appeal!

My family has been attending The Independent Shakespeare Company's free plays in Griffith Park for 6 years. It's a wonderful program and provides a tremendous service to the community. There isn't anything like it in Los Angeles not is there a site as ideally suited for it as Griffith Park.

August 8, 2014

Sincerely,  
Alexis Curry

Sent from my iPhone



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Public Comment - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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Dana Wilkie <danawilkie@att.net>  
Reply-To: Dana Wilkie <danawilkie@att.net>  
To: "adam.lid@LACity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:12 PM

8/8/14

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT -

I am **against** the appeal regarding Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center. The proposed upgrade to the Griffith Park stage and facilities would be a valuable public good for the residents of Los Angeles. My friends and I enjoy the performances there of the Independent Shakespeare Co. The improvements would allow more people to fully enjoy future events such as those by ISC that are cost effective and a great reuse of that public space. I suspect more groups like ISC would also hold events there once the facilities were improved.

Sincerely,

Dana Wilkie

880 N. Alameda St. #201, Los Angeles, CA 90012



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT-Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

1 message

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Lynn Wheeler <lynnwheeler@verizon.net>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:16 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing against the appeal for Council File #14-0589, the proposed Performing Arts Center for the Old Zoo in Griffith Park. As a taxpayer and voter in the city of Los Angeles, I think we urgently need a public space like the Performing Arts Center so that citizens can see programs like Free Shakespeare in the Park. We have raised our kids going to see free performances like Independent Shakespeare's productions over the last nine years and it has significantly broadened their arts education. This forum makes the City of Los Angeles more of a community and provides a valuable public service. The proposed Performing Arts Center will make more programs like this possible to a broader segment of the city population and provide valuable opportunities for our lower income residents that would not otherwise be available to them. Other major cities have spaces like this for public enrichment like the Delacorte Theater in New York's Central Park and I think the City of Los Angeles would be equally well-served by this performing arts center. I urge you to vote against the appeal for the Performing Arts Center so that we can have this needed civic space as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

M. Lynn Wheeler

1260 Piedra Morada Drive

Pacific Palisades, CA 90272



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Scott Maxwell** <marsroverdriver@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:22 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Cc: Melissa Chalsma <chalsma@iscla.org>

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

POSITION - Against the appeal

I'm sorry I can't attend Monday's meeting regarding the Griffith Park Performing Arts Center, but I appreciate this opportunity to express my continued support for the permanent stage.

The Independent Shakespeare Company is an unparalleled Los Angeles resource, as the LA Times itself agrees: they make the world's greatest literature available to anyone in the community who wants to come, in a world-class manner. Every show I go to (half a dozen so far this summer alone), I'm joined by more than a thousand other Angelenos – who even sat transfixed in last weekend's rain, and in this city that's a show of support like no other!

Some of my fellow audience members make the trek despite physical disabilities; the proposed work would make it easier for them to enjoy the same art as the rest of us. I plead with you to show your commitment to the arts in Los Angeles by building this stage, and to help those less fortunate than ourselves enjoy it by funding the associated ADA and infrastructure upgrades as well.

Thank you so much for your commitment to making Los Angeles better for us all!

Sincerely,  
Scott Maxwell  
August 8, 2014



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

1 message

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**Paul Major** <paulmajor@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:24 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Aug 8, 2014

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

Re: Council File #14-0589 (Performing Arts Center)

I am writing to you to state my opposition to the current appeal being discussed.

In December 2013 the environmental specialist Paul Davis assembled a 114 page document detailing just how little an environmental impact the Griffith Park Performing Arts Center project would be. As specified in the California Environmental Quality Act (section 15064-a) an EIR is not necessary in the event that the lead agency prepares a Negative Declaration. This is exactly what occurred, because there was no substantial evidence found that the project would cause significant impact on the environment.

The Griffith Park Performing Arts Center project changes very little, building upon a relatively small space on an already landscaped/impacted area. The Performing Arts Center Project is about improved pathways that already exist, disability access, resurfaced parking areas that already exist, a stage constructed on an area that has already spent years being used as a stage...What are the tangible, relevant concerns of the proponents of this appeal?

The benefits of the Performing Arts Center are multifold. The Independent Shakespeare Company alone has drawn thousands of patrons, free of charge, every year, to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Griffith Park. There is a real culture being fostered at Griffith Park that is engaged and in love with the arts and nature, and not at all at the expense of the natural habitat. The Griffith Park Performing Arts Center project offers a means to improve the safety and convenience of the performance area that pays complete respect to the habitat it's a part of.

This appeal attacks an important, growing cultural asset and seems driven more by rhetoric than fact.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Major





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**council file #14-0589**

1 message

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**Susan Scheduling** <srscheduling@gmail.com>  
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 2:24 PM

SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File #14-0589-Performing Arts Center - stage and upgraded facilities for the GP Shakespeare Festival

**POSITION - AGAINST the appeal**

The members of the Los Angeles Parks Commission have already heard public comments for and against this project, and their decision was to support the project - in the form it was presented to them.

Those opposing the project were heard, but the commission members considered the project to be worthy of their support without additional conditions to be met or changes to the project to be made.

The democratic process of everyone's opinion being considered and then a decision being made was completed. I attended the meeting on April 2, and it was obvious that the consideration that Park committee members gave this project was thorough. Questions were asked and answered. Concerns were addressed - many by experts representing other City agencies.

The decision at the time was to approve this project.

I understand the appeal process, but to now go backwards and reverse a decision that was made after all the facts and opinions had been presented, discussed and considered, would be a mistake. This would be to derail a project that has been well thought out and is incredibly worthwhile for everyone in LA, including the disabled.

Sincerely,

Susan Scheduling  
August 8, 2014