



March 1, 2019

Los Angeles City Council
Committee on Planning and Land Use Management
c/o Sharon Dickinson, Clerk
200 North Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

VIA EMAIL

Dear Honorable Members,

For two years, Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium hosted its Sustainable Seafood Expo at CRAFTED at the Port of Los Angeles. More than 600 people attended this event to learn how to choose seafood that's not only good for your body, but for the ocean environment as well. The wide-open venue provided us a wonderful space to host dozens of seafood samplers, celebrity chef speakers and panelist on this important environmental topic. CRAFTED benefitted as well because Expo attendees took the time to visit the shops to purchase hand-crafted items.

When the city changed the rules about temporary events, we were forced to move the Expo to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, which has a much smaller footprint for guests. In addition, the aquarium provides no cover in the event of rain. Because the Aquarium had to remain open during the Expo, it was difficult to change attendees a cover charge, which meant we had to re-think the whole event.

We would like CRAFTED to remain an option for Friends events and for other community purposes. The issues at the Ghost Ship warehouse don't exist here. Therefore, we request that the Planning and Land Use Committee support the motion directing LADBS and LAFD to establish alternative safety standards and procedures to allow for temporary events in City-owned hangars and warehouses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline Brady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly legible.

Caroline Brady
Executive Director



Contact

Ann Carpenter, CEO | 310-600-7035
ann@braidtheory.com | www.braidtheory.com

Los Angeles City Council
Committee on Planning and Land Use Management
c/o Sharon Dickinson, Clerk
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

VIA EMAIL

To: Los Angeles City Council Members
Re: CF 16-1433-S1

For the past two years, our company, Braid Theory, has produced a technology showcase event, IGNITE22, at CRAFTED at the Port of Los Angeles. The event has grown from a modest gathering of 200 technology entrepreneurs, industry professionals, investors, and area university students – to an important innovation “show and tell” event featuring:

- 50+ engineering and science tech entrepreneurs with live demonstrations and innovative displays
- 20+ university research teams presenting scientific breakthrough discoveries
- Trade and diplomatic corps participation from more than a dozen countries
- Speakers, sponsors and exhibitors from organizations including Southern California ports, area utility agencies, and major corporations representing our region’s key industry sectors including aerospace, transportation/goods movement, ocean/marine/maritime, and biotech

Due to the inability to procure a Temporary Special Event permit (TSE) at either AltaSea or CRAFTED (both City of Los Angeles owned facilities) IGNITE22’s 2019 event, projected to grow to 600-800 participants with more than 100 demonstrations, technology displays and scientific poster presentations, has been postponed until an alternative venue can be secured. Without the ability to obtain a TSE for facilities like AltaSea or CRAFTED, which were purposefully built to accommodate activities like IGNITE22, our only option is to move the event to a facility outside of the City of Los Angeles.

Through programs like IGNITE22, we have been able to demonstrate to tech entrepreneurs around the globe, the value of doing business in the LA Harbor region. Our success is demonstrated by tangible results:

- Four startups are now in the process of expanding or relocating their companies to San Pedro
- More than a dozen pilot projects are being implemented in the region to improve air and water quality
- International startups from countries including Canada, Finland, Israel, are now participating in accelerator programs and hosted delegations to AltaSea and the LA Harbor area to explore the potential of doing business in the region

I implore the LA City Council to consider reinstating the TSE permitting process to allow us to continue to bring high value programming and events such as IGNITE22 to the LA Harbor area.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Carpenter".

Ann Carpenter
CEO, Braid Theory



Braid Theory is a vertically integrated consulting firm that has created an extensive pipeline of innovative technology companies in eight key industry sectors: Ocean/Maritime; Transportation & Goods Movement; Energy/Water/Cleantech; Agriculture & Food Tech; Smart Cities,

Construction & Infrastructure; Aerospace & Advanced Manufacturing; Digital Tech; and Biotech & Life Sciences. Through Braid Theory's signature consulting program, Scale Cube, we assist companies in commercializing technology and bringing solutions to market. From identifying industrial and corporate partnerships, to facilitating demos and pilot projects, to providing business development support, Braid Theory works to connect tech entrepreneurs to the marketplace. Braid Theory currently has two locations to support startups: Braid Space at AltaSea; and Space455, a 6,000 sq.ft. coworking space in Downtown San Pedro. Additional Braid Theory lab space in Southern California will open in 2019.



March 1, 2019

Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee
City of Los Angeles

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the December 11 motion introduced by Councilmembers Buscaino and Martinez to establish a system and adopt alternative safety standards that will enable use of hangar and warehouse space for special events within the City of Los Angeles. I strongly urge you to approve this motion.

My organization, EXP – The opportunity engine (formerly ITEP), has held our annual *Oceans of Opportunity Dinner and Scholarship Event* at Crafted in the Port of Los Angeles every year since 2014. (I believe that we were the first large scale event to be held at Crafted.)

We have over 700 attendees at this event every year, which raises over \$300,000 to support our youth-serving career education programs. Not only were we founded in the Port of Los Angeles, the majority of our school-based programs are located in the Harbor. Crafted in the Port of Los Angeles is a stalwart partner in our mission, not only providing the perfect venue to celebrate our students' success, but they also host and hire our interns. As well, the Port of Los Angeles is our single largest sponsor, and holding our event at Crafted has always been synergistic and symbolic of this partnership.

When we learned that this year we would not be able to hold our 19th annual event at Crafted, it was devastating news. We had begun promotion of the event at Crafted long ago and had budgeted for our venue, catering, and A/V needs accordingly.

There is no other comparable event space within the Harbor area that is large enough to host our event. As a result, we had to move our dinner this year to the City of Carson.

My organization regularly holds large-scale events, from our 600+ student *GPS Your Future Career Day*, to our 250+ student *Women in STEM*, to our *Oceans of Opportunity*. I would love to have a City of Los Angeles option for usable venues, but now Long Beach and Carson are getting all my business.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amy L. Grat', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amy L. Grat
CEO
EXP



February 27, 2019

Honorable Mayor Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

As you are aware, San Pedro is undergoing an exciting transformation. With the redevelopment of our waterfront into a vibrant restaurant and entertainment venue, the investment in new housing construction, and the development of projects such as AltaSea which will bring new job opportunities, San Pedro is truly experiencing economic growth. The Chamber has been at the forefront of these initiatives and as a part of our efforts to bolster the local economy, we have partnered with Discover LA, as an official satellite office to promote San Pedro and support additional tourism opportunities.

However, just a few years ago, we experienced a significant setback in our tourism efforts when the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety Department ended its long-standing policy of reviewing and issuing Temporary Special Event Use Permits. This change in policy affected our local use of a set of well-maintained and safe publicly/city owned warehouses. The Harbor Area's ability to hold events over 300 guests was already limited due to the size constraints of our local hotels. Several well-maintained city owned and privately leased warehouses were the natural alternative to retain events in the City of Los Angeles and not lose them to neighboring jurisdictions. Now, eliminating the Temporary Special Permits in city warehouses has caused us to lose events to other communities such as Carson and Long Beach negatively impacting area businesses and chamber members.

On February 20, 2019, San Pedro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors passed two motions:

- Support CF 16-1433-S1: Councilmembers Martinez and Buscaino's Warehouse/Hangar Motion (see attached).
- Request that the Mayor's Office direct Building & Safety to immediately reinstate the Temporary Special Event Use Permit Process to allow for temporary special event use for public assembly in City/publicly owned warehouses or hangars.

For many years, the Chamber and other community organizations successfully held events in public warehouses under the previous Temporary Special Event process working with Building and Safety and the Los Angeles Fire Department. Acting on the motions above would allow the City to correct what we believe is an unintended consequence of the warehouse ban that has negatively impacted our business and nonprofit community and prevents the public from accessing spaces that were previously available for their use and enjoyment.

The Port of Los Angeles and the Harbor Area are home to several warehouse spaces which were enjoyed by the public for years until LADBS stopped issuing Temporary Special Event permits following the "Ghost Ship" fire in Oakland in December 2016. The Ghost Ship tragedy has no comparison to the limited, conditioned events that were being held in the city's well maintained and safe warehouses. We believe in safety first and understand the City's need to undergo a review of properties, but the previous process was working. It required an application with a plot plan, inspection by LADBS employees if warranted, and a Fire Marshal to be on site during the event.

The warehouses in the Harbor Area are single story, have many large loading doors for ingress and egress, and have been upgraded with fire alarm systems and sprinklers. As City-owned and insured property, they are also regularly inspected and bound by City leases to operate responsibly.

We have many examples from over the past two years to demonstrate the loss of business since the ban went into effect. Neighboring cities continue to host events on a temporary basis in warehouses and other unique settings. For example, last year CRAFTED was selected to host a global marketing and branding event called WORLDZ, which unites CEOs and CMOs from 150 Fortune 500 companies at a conference for 2,000+ attendees. This would have been an amazing opportunity to showcase San Pedro but do to the ban on temporary special event permits the producers moved the entire event to Long Beach, including all guest lodging. We have recently lost the Oceans of Opportunity dinner celebration to Carson and Ignite 22 is looking for new home for their tech conference designed to attract new start-up business to San Pedro.

In May of 2018, Councilman Buscaino chose to give his State of the District speech in a section of the AltaSea warehouse that is still controlled by the Port. After months of negotiations and at great expense, LADBS agreed to allow our Chamber to host the event in the warehouse but limited it to 300 people. The Chamber could have easily sold 600 or more tickets for this event, so this decision had a significant financial impact.

The San Pedro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors knows that the City's ban was well-intentioned, but it we feel that our publicly owned warehouses are unique and ask that you consider immediately reinstating the Temporary Special Events permit process for City-owned buildings while the progress of Councilmember Buscaino's motion, CF 16-1433-S1, determines the final process by which temporary events can occur in these spaces so that we may continue our efforts to produce events to attract tourism dollars and investment in our community.

Sincerely,



Elise Swanson
President/CEO
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce



Tim McOsker
Chairman, Board of Directors
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce

CC: Councilmember Herb Wesson, President, Los Angeles City Council
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair of City of Los Angeles Planning and Land Use Committee
Councilmember Joe Buscaino, City of Los Angeles, Council District 15

MOTION

PLUM
PUBLIC SAFETY

In an abundance of caution after the fatal December 2nd, 2016 "Ghost Ship" Fire in an Oakland, California warehouse, the Department of Building and Safety and Los Angeles Fire Department stopped approving any temporary special event permits in hangars at our airports and warehouse spaces at the Port. Denying the community the opportunity to utilize these hangars and warehouses takes away a one-of-a-kind experience to enjoy these spaces. Furthermore, the unique conditions of the "Ghost Ship" Fire that led to multiple fatalities do not exist at the airport hangars or the Port warehouses ("Ghost Ship" did not have fire sprinklers or smoke detectors; pathways and exits were obstructed).

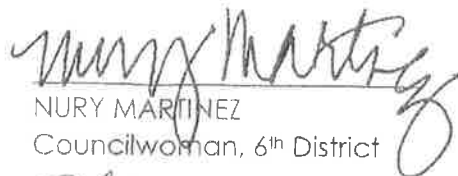
While ensuring public safety is of paramount importance, the departments recommended that the events take place outside of the permitted building areas under tents. A recent non-profit fundraising event was forced to take place under tents on airport property in the rain. The dangers that presented themselves in that situation with potential slip & falls due to the wet cement, electric cords & wires running through wet spaces with no fire suppression systems in the tent space were clearly more alarming than any potential danger from hosting the event in an approved facility.

The administrative procedure(s) and rule(s) under which the Fire Department and the Department of Building and Safety operate in these situations are not clear and do not appear to have been adopted by Council action.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Department of Building and Safety be directed to report with recommendations to establish a system to allow hangar space at LAX and VNY as well as suitable event space at the Harbor, to be reviewed on a case by case basis and with safety requirements as to what would allow these spaces to be utilized for special events.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Attorney, the Los Angeles Fire Department, Department of Building and Safety, be directed to report with recommended changes to state law, and the Los Angeles Municipal Code, that would authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department and Department of Building and Safety to adopt alternative safety standards for temporary special events that occur in warehouses and hangers owned by the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:


NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District


JOE BUSCAINO
Councilman, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



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