

To: Zina H. Cheng

Deputy City Clerk
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org
clerkplumcommittee@lacity.org

Re: My strong support for affordable housing & work space for artists.

It was 'the artists' that cultivated and birthed 'the arts district' – unfortunately to their peril, as the city along with developers saw Economic opportunity.

I followed my late brother Richard Duardo to his first 8000 sqft. studio, the Diamond Walnut bldg. on 7th St. and Mill St. in 1980.

This was the first of several 'downtown' studios. His studios brought business into an area long left to rot in downtown. His clients came from 'the Westside', New York and around the world to publish with him. His studio brought economic value, innovation and jobs to the area. He and his studios are one part of the birth of the downtown art scene. Many artists that date back to these times and now are already displaced or hanging on and praying that their building does not fall prey to the greed of the developers and the city. Profits over people and communities has to come to an end- needs to be reined in.

All are aware of the business between the city and developers. We know the 'sweetheart deals' that are made for new ordinances, variances, zone changes, density bonuses, tax breaks, etc. afforded these developers by the city.

It is time to put equalizing pressure on the developers by the city requiring them to pay via affordable spaces in these developments to these artists they are disenfranchising. And a good place to start is by supporting the ideas put forward by Sustainable Little Tokyo!

Sincerely,
Lisa Duardo
1714 Albion St., L.A., CA 90031
liska_fish@yahoo.com

Fred Afari, Elmwood Investments

lucy....@att.net

Aug 21, 2018 1:09 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear Ms. Cheng,

I am writing to express my support of the housing project on 1800 E. 7th St.:

RE: CPC-2016-2683-GPAVZC-HD, CEQA:ENV-20162684, VH-74309

1800 E. 7th St., Applicant: Fred Afari, Elmwood Investments

I am a founding member of LADADSpace, served on the HCNC for two years, and served as treasurer for LARABA for several years. Currently, I live in the Santa Fe Art Colony, where I make my living solely from my art work. Unfortunately, the thirty year old Colony has just been sold to Fifteen Group, a development company which plans on turning it into expensive condos. Their contractors came by to access my studio today. We will soon have to move, as they hope to more than double the rent.

I support Mr. Afari's project because it includes affordable live/work units that will be available to qualified artists. He is working with the local arts community to provide common area studio or workshop space. Projects like this are needed, as the downtown artists community has been all but eliminated by the rising rents. The Arts District may soon have no artists in it. Projects that provide affordable live/work space to artists will help cultivate a new generation of artists in downtown Los Angeles.

Thank you,

Lucy Jensen

lucy@lucyjensenstudio.com

Artists' support for Elmwood/Afari project

Sylvia Tidwell

Aug 21, 2018 2:08 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear PLUM Committee,

I am an artist and the head of the Tenants Association of the Santa Fe Art Colony in downtown Los Angeles. On behalf of our 82 artist-residents, I would like to register our support for the project by Elmwood Investments and Fred Afari that will be reviewed at today's PLUM Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Tidwell
Head, Santa Fe Art Colony Tenants Association
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sylvia@sylviatidwell.net