

Communication from Public

Name: Marianne Van Vorst Ryan
Date Submitted: 01/26/2020 07:56 PM
Council File No: 20-0015
Comments for Public Posting: Statement from original owners of C.B. Van Vorst Manufacturing Plant/Santa Fe Art Colony Sent from Marianne and Louise Van Vorst

Santa Fe Art Colony

Louise Van Vorst and Marianne Van Vorst Ryan

When our great grandfather C.B. Van Vorst choose an architect, John Montgomery Cooper, he took a chance on him as a young architect who chose to express his artistry through architecture. The property on Santa Fe Avenue was the first major work of Cooper who became a notable architect and went on to design dozens of commercial buildings in the Los Angeles area. Today there are artists living and thriving in the Santa Fe Art Colony who are contributing to the betterment of our communities through their work and design. And whether or not they become notable artists such as John Montgomery Cooper, they deserve an opportunity to live and work in a space that provides them safety and inspiration with an affordable rent.

Our father, Richard G. Van Vorst, was part of the family furniture and mattress business, taking over the daily operations of the company, succeeding his father and grandfather. When The Van Vorst mattress company was sold, he leased the building to other furniture manufacturers. In the late 1980's, the building saw the introduction of leased spaces for the artistic community.

We remember clearly our father's promotion of, interest in, and enthusiasm for this new concept of bringing artists together to work and live in the building where furniture was designed for many years. He believed that the Santa Fe Art Colony, was a new concept for this historical building, which honored the original purpose of the building.

We encourage everyone in the decision making process of this building to ensure that it becomes an historical building, not only to honor the architect and unique style of the building, but also to ensure that future artists and those who live in the Santa Fe Art Colony today, will have an affordable place with the same opportunities.

For the past 100 years, the interior walls of this building have seen many transformations, but there remains one common thread – artistry. We know that if our father, grandfather and great-grandfather were here today, they would be in favor of the preservation of the building, and of the live and work space of the Santa Fe Art Colony, as we are as representatives of their legacy.

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy O'Rourke

Date Submitted: 01/26/2020 07:58 PM

Council File No: 20-0015

Comments for Public Posting: Dear PLUM Committee members, (Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair, Bob Blumenfield, Curren Price, Gilbert Cedillo, and John S. Lee) I urge you to VOTE YES to designate the Santa Fe Art Colony (SFAC) as a Historic-Cultural Monument. The current owner has abandoned the original purpose of the SFAC to provide affordable live-work spaces for artists. The owner plans to convert the current studios into luxury lofts that would not be affordable for artists, thus destroying the cultural mandate of the Colony as a place for emerging artists to exchange ideas and develop their talents. The Van Vorst Furniture warehouse structure with large windows is ideal for artist workspaces. There are plenty of places that can be developed into luxury dwellings in Los Angeles but precious few spots that are affordable and provide the appropriate types of space for artists. The SFAC provides a rare haven for the artists that create art that supports the thriving Los Angeles Arts district as well the thousands of galleries throughout Los Angeles. The Santa Fe Art Colony is a precious and unique gem in Los Angeles, indeed all of California, that provides workspace and housing for artists in an urban environment. I sincerely hope that the Los Angeles PLUM committee will have the foresight to preserve the Santa Fe Art Colony for generations of artists to come. Designating the Santa Fe Art Colony as a Historic-Cultural Monument will preserve a unique cultural resource for the City of Los Angeles and the State of California. Sincerely, Nancy O'Rourke Los Angeles Art Lover

Communication from Public

Name: Evan

Date Submitted: 01/26/2020 09:25 PM

Council File No: 20-0015

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers Harris-Dawson, Blumenfield, Price, Cedillo, and Lee, I would like to urgently request that you vote YES to designate the Santa Fe Art Colony as a Historic-Cultural Monument, for the following reasons: The SFAC has long served as a central hub of artistic activity in Los Angeles, playing a key role in the vibrant, creative atmosphere that has made the city's many unique contributions to international culture possible. In addition, the warehouse on the property, first established in the 1910's, serves as a historical reminder of the city's early industrial history. The owner has disregarded the original reason for establishing the SFAC – to provide affordable live-work spaces for artists. The owner plans to convert these live-work studios into prohibitively expensive luxury lofts, thus destroying the cultural integrity of the Colony as a place for emerging artists to exchange ideas and develop their practice. The owner also plans to convert the historic industrial warehouse on the property into luxury lofts, further eroding the historical significance of the Colony. Designating the Santa Fe Art Colony as a Historic-Cultural Monument will preserve this important cultural resource for the City of Los Angeles. Sincerely, Evan