

Melissa Thurman

From: Curtis Cole <rcurtiscole@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 11:20 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: 8 April: Item 8: Downtown Theater support

Dear Esteemed Councilmembers,

The LAMVCF board, staff, and I, both as a citizen and member of the board, support the community efforts to fulfill the Downtown Vision and the inclusion of a theater for performing arts.

I encourage you to support the project and seed the capital campaign to hire a professional to drive the fundraising. This private-public partnership model is a positive example of government leadership and wise leverage of taxpayer dollars.

I will personally support this once-in-a-generation opportunity to build this facility downtown. The wide community hopes we can count on your support as well.

Thank you for your service.

-- LAMVCF board member and Treasurer

- Curtis Cole

m: (650) 303-2096



Think Green. Please print this email only when necessary

Melissa Thurman

From: Les Poltrack <lap164@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 6, 2025 5:37 PM
To: City Council; Public Comment
Subject: Bird Safety - suggested improvement to proposed 14.91
Attachments: 3000KDarkSkyPage2.pdf; 2700K_DarkSky.pdf; 3000KDarkSkyPage1.pdf

Dear Mayor Dailey, Vice Mayor Fligor and members of the City Council,

The hard work done by staff and commissioners considering Bird Safe Design is greatly appreciated.

If a bird safety ordinance is implemented, I would like to suggest a practical improvement.

Specifically the proposed 14.91.040(D) says:
"The correlated color temperature of all outdoor lighting shall be 2,700K or less..."

In my opinion, 2700K is unrealistic and overly restrictive. If such an ordinance is implemented, IMO it should be inclusive of light fixtures of 3000K color temperature for the following 4 reasons.

1) Practicality - fixture availability.
Searching "Dark Sky Compliant" Outdoor/LED/Title 24 wall mount fixtures at City Lights SF yields:
- 13 wall mount 2700K fixtures
- 57 wall mount 3000K fixtures
fixture pdfs attached, 3000K took 2 pages.

City Lights SF is a "go to" lighting source for Los Altos, and I think this is a fair representation of quality lighting availability.

When I started looking for LED fixtures 12 years ago, I also leaned to "warmer" 2700K over 3000K fixtures, but quickly found that that most fixtures were available at 3000K, not 2700K. Installed 3000K fixtures out of necessity, and they're just fine. 2700K fixtures are becoming less common, and I fear might even go away.

For whatever reason, the industry of fixedLED fixtures seems to have standardized on 3000K.

2) Good architectural design.

There are a wide variety of styles of homes built in Los Altos. In my opinion, the 13 "boxy" 2700K wall mount lights above are extremely limited as to the architectural styles with which they will work.

The more than 4x available fixture styles available at 3000K will result in more appropriate architectural design for a wide variety of styles.

3) 3000K not that different than 2700K, and has "won".

It's worth bearing in mind that "cooler" 4000K, 5000K and even 6000K LED "bulbs" are widely available. 3000K is not some "cool bluish" light. "Daylight" color temperature is 5500K. 3000K is largely the standard offering.

4) Example similar ordinance - adjacent municipality.

The Town of Los Altos Hills has adopted an outdoor lighting policy allowing 3000K fixtures, while restricting path, step and tree lights to 2700K. A chart from their policy is attached for your convenience. I can't speak to their logic, but it makes sense -- fixtures typically have "fixed" 3000K LEDs. Path, step and trees often have "bulbs" available in 2700K or 3000K. Also, they are illuminating surfaces away from a home, so don't need to match color temperatures.

If a bird safety ordinance is implemented, it would be most practical to include 3000K lighting.

Respectfully,

Les Poltrack
Doud Drive, Los Altos

General Outdoor Lighting

1. The light emission and color temperatures of light bulbs shall be limited as follows:

	Maximum Light Emission (Lumens, ϕ_v)	Maximum Color Temperature (Kelvin, K)
Path Lights	200	2700
Step Lights	110	2700
Exterior Wall Sconces	600	3000
Recessed Ceiling Lights	600	3000
Pendant Lights	600	3000
Gate Lights	600	3000
Tree Lights	300 (600 for two fixtures)	2700
Temporary Construction Lighting	500	3000




Discover Exclusive Lighting Trends

Dark Sky compliant lighting refers to outdoor lighting fixtures designed to reduce light pollution, which includes minimizing glare, light trespass, and skyglow. These fixtures are specifically engineered to direct light downward, focusing illumination where it's needed most—on the ground—rather than scattering light into the sky. According to dark sky standards, these lights help preserve the natural night environment, protect wildlife, and allow you to enjoy the beauty of a starry sky from your own backyard. Dark sky approved lighting is an essential choice for anyone looking to balance outdoor illumination with environmental responsibility.


Images

Sort by: Best Selling

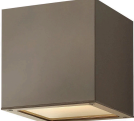
Showing 1 - 2 of 2 items




Low Tall Outdoor Wall Light
Model: From \$239
COMING



Low Square Outdoor LED Wall Light
Model: \$457
COMING



Get 20% Off



COMING


Model: From \$249
COMING




Atlas Outdoor LED Wall Light
Model: From \$439
COMING



Atlas Outdoor LED Wall Light
Model: From \$439
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Model: From \$439
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Atlas Outdoor LED Wall Light
Model: From \$439
COMING

Melissa Thurman

From: Monica Waldman <contact.mlw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:50 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [External Sender]Public Comment Agenda Item 8

Dear Council Members,

As an avid live theater goer I have attended many fine performances at The Bus Barn theater over the 25 years I have lived in Los Altos. Never once have I seen the teater remotely full of attendees.

Agenda Item 8 from the packet sayssays,

"The Los Altos Stage Company hired BuildingBlox Consulting who completed their findings in June 2024. BuildingBlox created a prospective donor list with over 200 names, conducted in-depth interviews with 20 prospective donors, and drafted an analysis on the potential for a fundraising campaign. Per the analysis, they were likely to raise roughly \$9 - \$12 million without a lead gift. In order to reach a \$25 million goal, it was recommended that Los Altos Stage Company should hire a capital campaign manager to cultivate the largest gifts between \$2.5 and \$5 million. At the November 12, 2024 City Council meeting, the Los Altos Stage Company requested the City to fund two \$2.5 million requests, with one as the lead gift for the project and another at the \$10 million goal mark, and to hire a Capital Campaign Consultant, which is estimated at roughly \$300,000 over a few years. The final request was to extend the MOU with the City to continue their work."

If the Los Altos Theater Company is incapable of raising the estimated \$25 million to build a new theater, after promising it would not cost the City of Los Altos any money and being potentially gifted "surplus land," why is Council contemplating gifting them \$300,000 to find a fundraising entity? Why don't they rebuild in the current location and call it Los Altos Civic Center?

Monica Waldman

Melissa Thurman

From: Pat Marriott <patmarriott@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 11:58 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #8 APRIL 8, 2025

Council Members:

For five years I've been writing public comments, op-eds and letters-to-the editor with logical reasons why the city should not provide funding for a theater.

For five years I've known that Councilwoman Fligor is an advocate for the theater, since she urged Council to support a theater working group, then asked her friend, Vicki Reeder, to form the group.

For four years I've known Mayor Dailey was a member of the group.

For four years I've known Councilman Weinberg said he wanted to cut the ribbon when the theater opens.

Thus, I know that logic, economic analysis and fiduciary responsibility may not be top of mind when you vote on a \$300,000 fundraising consultant. For five years the fix has been in.

The original justification for a theater was to increase "vitality" downtown, but the 2017 economic analysis is obsolete in today's world. Housing on two parking plazas changes the dynamics. A precipitous economy should preclude nonessential spending, regardless of the city's "healthy financial position." If times get tough, we can't count on the Feds or the state, which projects annual multi-billion shortfalls.

Whether naïve or disingenuous, LASC has consistently promised they would not ask for city funding. Over three years, they could not raise even \$5M seed money, in spite of having several wealthy residents on the working group and a list of 200 potential donors.

Now they want the city to increase the fiscal budget \$300,000 to pay for a professional fundraising consultant. According to the staff report, a new bureaucracy would be formed:

- A Steering Committee will hire the fundraiser, who will "focus on fundraising for this project alone."
- A "Capital Campaign Cabinet," comprising members of "the philanthropic community who are donors themselves" (to the theater?) will "solicit donations directly from other prospective donors."

If LASC couldn't get donations from friends and acquaintances in the "philanthropic community," why do we think these philanthropists will now open their wallets to a Cabinet member? Or to a professional fundraiser, particularly in today's chaotic economic environment?

And how much money do they really need? Staff has already determined the \$25M construction estimate wouldn't be enough. What's a realistic estimate for a 2029 or 2030 start date – with or without tariffs?

LASC has continually failed to meet its commitments to the city. We were told the MOU holding parking plaza land for a theater would bring donations, but now we're asked for \$5M to sweeten the pot. Another promise broken.

For five years Council has succumbed to every LASC request without ever asking residents if they want – or are willing to pay for – a theater. If you continue to subsidize this endeavor, it will be an egregious misuse of public funds and a betrayal of public trust.

I again ask you to step back and let LASC succeed or fail on its own. It would be fiscally irresponsible, particularly in this economically unpredictable environment, to provide any further financial support.

Respectfully,

Pat Marriott

Melissa Thurman

From: M Satterlee <megan.satterlee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment #8

Dear Council,

Could there be a worse time to start a fundraising campaign for a non-essential?

I guess if we were in a recession or the midst of stagflation instead of on the brink, it would be worse.

Please pause starting any capital campaign until the financial markets have settled. Your chances of success are greatly diminished with the stock markets in free fall. (At this moment DOW is down 9.76% in the past 5 days. 10.85% YTD.)

The pause should not hurt because there is no momentum.

In November 2021, the request was a 4-5 year period "that allows the Los Altos Stage Company to secure pledges and contributions to support construction of a new theater".

To my knowledge in the 4.5 years since that presentation LASC has no donation or pledges for construction.

The pause could help.

During that time, I would suggest Council figure out how it can rely on a feasibility study for a building size and layout that staff no longer thinks can be built with the target amount.

What does a different footprint do to the operational feasibility?

Should the target instead be increased to build the original plan?

And if you truly thought you had 300K to spare despite the economic uncertainty, I would urge you to invest in our pavement. Los Altos roads are in shambles. Roads are littered with cracks and missing asphalt due to budget decisions that reduced funding for pavement maintenance.

Sincerely,

Megan Satterlee

November 2021 Council Presentation:

Recommendations:

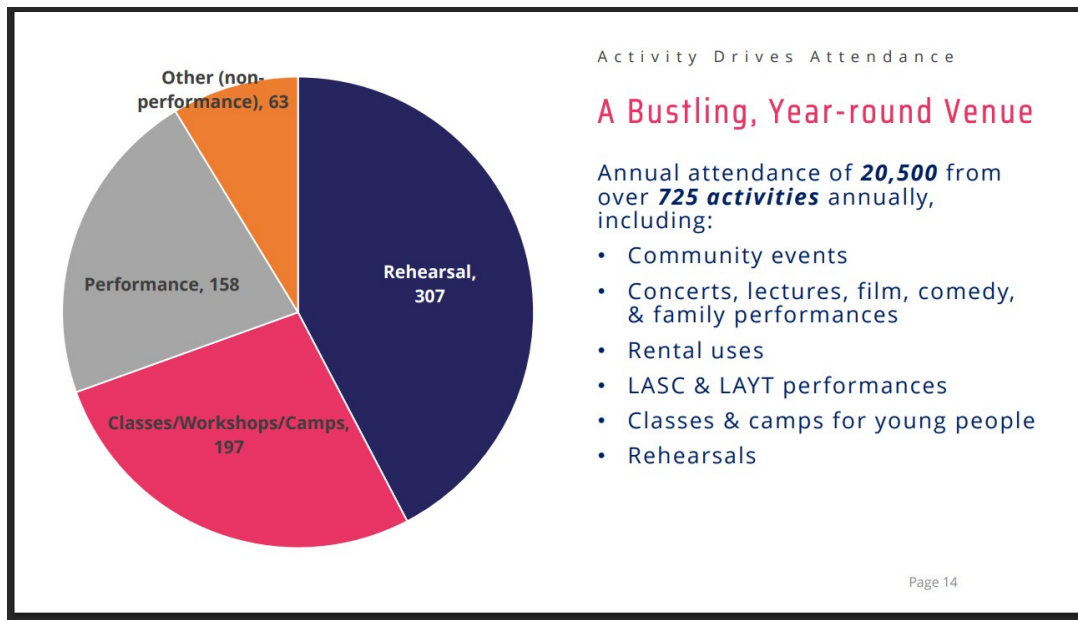
1. Draft a MOU between Los Altos Stage Co. and City of Los Altos that designates the specific plaza and a 4-5-year feasibility study period that allows the Los Altos Stage Company to secure pledges and contributions to support construction of a new theater

- Feasibility study to consider parking, state-of-the-art structure, ongoing maintenance requirements and costs, indoor-outdoor multi-use community space, operating model commitment from the City.

2. Fund the feasibility study through donations and grants, at least 25% from the City, which can include in-kind staff time.

3. Form a Citizen's Oversight Task Force that reports to the City and Los Altos Stage Company on a mutually-agreed upon regular basis.

May 2023 Feasibility Presentation:



A New Theater for the Community

Back of house support spaces



160-seat theater



Lobby, patio, & community gathering spaces



Dedicated youth lounge, rehearsal & teaching spaces, offices, storage



- 23,400 square feet
- 13,000 sq. ft. minimum site footprint required
- Order of magnitude cost = \$1,000/sq. ft.
- City-owned, LASC-operated

THEATRE PLANNERS / LIGHTING DESIGNERS
Schuler Shook

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Melissa Thurman

From: Monica Waldman <contact.mlw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Dear City Council members,

The City of Menlo Park has similar demographics to the City of Los Altos, especially the northern part of Menlo Park. Their City Council is exploring the idea of declaring downtown parking lots to be surplus land and available for high density housing use. Unlike the City of Los Altos, Menlo Park is being more transparent and making the proposed developer plans available to the public:

<https://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/Community-Development/Planning-Division/Comprehensive-planning/Development-on-downtown-parking-lots>

Why is Los Altos' City Council and Staff being so secretive? Please let the taxpayers of Los Altos know what may be coming down the pipeline.

Monica

Melissa Thurman

From: Pat Marriott <patmarriott@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 2:48 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Megan's public comment

From: M Satterlee <megan.satterlee@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 12:33 PM

To: Public Comment

Subject: Public Comment #8

Dear Council,

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And if you truly thought you had 300K to spare despite the economic uncertainty, I would urge you to invest in our pavement. Los Altos roads are in shambles. Roads are littered with cracks and missing

asphalt due to budget decisions that reduced funding for pavement maintenance.

Sincerely,

Megan Satterlee

November 2021 Council Presentation:



May 2023 Feasibility Presentation:



Melissa Thurman

From: Khansari, Azar <Azar.Khansari@netscout.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 2:43 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM #8 Next Steps for Downtown Theater – April 7, 2025

To Honorable Mayor Dailey and City Council,

I am and have been a resident of Los Altos for 22 years. I have raised my family in this community and am proud to have served on the PTA for Loyola Elementary School (Vice President, President, Junior Olympics Chair) and Blach Middle School (Secretary). Both of my kids attended Mountain View High School. I joined the Los Altos Stage Company board last year because I have always been passionate about live, local art, and am very excited by the vision of a downtown theater that I believe will enhance the vibrance of downtown and strengthen the feeling of community. I strongly support the City's goal to build a new downtown theater as well as the recommendations for funding proposed in the City Council Agenda Report. I would like to thank both Anthony Carnesecca and Gabe Engeland for their diligence and professionalism during this process.

Regards,

Azar Silver

Melissa Thurman

From: Dashiell Leeds <dashiell.leeds@sierraclub.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 1:32 PM
To: City Council; Public Comment; Administration
Cc: shani@scvbirdalliance.org; James Eggers; Mike Ferreira; Gita Dev
Subject: SCLP and SCVBA comments RE: April 8th City Council Agenda Item 7: Bird Safe Design and Lighting Performance Standards
Attachments: SCVBA and SCLP comments on Los Altos April 8th City Council agenda item 7..pdf

Dear Mayor Dailey and Los Altos City Councilmembers,

The Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance and the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter are organizations united by our shared commitment to the protection of the environment, nature, and open space. We strongly support the adoption of the Environmental Commission Draft Lighting Performance Standards and the adoption of the Draft Bird Safe Design Ordinance.

Please read the attached letter for our full comments.

Sincerely, Dashiell Leeds
Conservation Coordinator
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Shani Kleinhaus
Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance



RE: April 8th City Council Agenda Item 7: Bird Safe Design and Lighting Performance Standards

Dear Mayor Dailey and Los Altos City Councilmembers,

The Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance and the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter are organizations united by our shared commitment to the protection of the environment, nature, and open space. We strongly support the adoption of the Environmental Commission Draft Lighting Performance Standards and the adoption of the Draft Bird-Safe Design Ordinance.

Bird populations are in decline. The State of the World's Migratory Species report, a first-of-its-kind assessment by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS, an environmental treaty of the United Nations), paints a stark picture. One in five migratory species listed by the CMS is at risk of extinction and almost half (44%) are decreasing in numbers¹. Birds are especially vulnerable since most species migrate at night². Bird Safe Design and Lighting Performance Standards are both necessary to curb unnecessary bird deaths.

Furthermore, strong lighting standards will benefit the public health of Los Altos residents by reducing their exposure to artificial light at night (ALAN). DarkSky International's State of the Science Report³ notes that "ALAN exposure seems to have effects on the entire life cycle, from childhood and adolescence to old age. In particular, these effects seem to result from short-wavelength ("blue") light. While exposure to blue light during the day is important for healthy circadian functioning, exposure to this light at night can disrupt the human circadian rhythm. This can affect everything from the timing of hormone release in the body to the duration and quality of our sleep, potentially resulting in adverse health effects."

¹ [1 in 5 migratory species are at risk of extinction, says a new UN report](#). World Economic Forum Feb 21, 2024

See also, <https://www.cms.int/en/publication/state-worlds-migratory-species-report>

² Burt et. Al. 2022. [The effects of light pollution on migratory animal behavior](#). 2022. Trends in Ecology & Evolution, Special Issue: Animal behaviour in a changing world.

³ <https://darksky.org/app/uploads/2024/06/ALAN-State-of-the-Science-2024-EN-1.pdf>

Thank you for considering these draft standards, which are straightforward ways to reduce unnecessary bird deaths and protect both humans and wildlife from the harms of artificial light pollution at night.

We fully support the draft Bird Safe Design ordinance

Because there is only one version of the Bird Safe Design ordinance proposed for adoption, and those standards are well-crafted, we fully support the adoption of the Bird Safe design ordinance without modification.

The Environmental Commission ordinance (ECO) is superior to the Planning Commission ordinance (PCO)

The Environmental Commission ordinance (ECO) and the Planning Commission ordinance (PCO) have distinct language related to the application of the ordinance to existing non-conforming lighting. The ECO contains the following standards.

- “1. Existing outdoor lighting of non-residential development shall comply by March 1, 2030 [five (5) years from the effective date].**
- 2. Existing outdoor lighting of residential development shall comply by March 1, 2035 [ten (10) years from the effective date].”**

“D. Extension. A private property owner may apply for an extension of these compliance deadlines by submitting a request to the Development Service Director ninety (90) days before the compliance deadline detailing why an extension is needed.”

These standards for existing non-conforming lighting conform to the timelines and requirements established by the City of Brisbane in its adopted Dark Sky ordinance. The timelines of 10 years for residential and 5 years for non-residential compliance are sufficiently long to allow for education and outreach to be conducted by the City. Furthermore, property owners can apply for an extension in edge-cases where compliance might be difficult.

These standards are essential to reduce light pollution over time. If these standards did not exist, existing non-compliant lighting could remain unchanged for the entire lifetime of that bulb or fixture. As written, the ECO gives a flexible and generous grace period for these requirements while still ensuring that Los Altos moves towards its ultimate policy goal of reducing light pollution.

In contrast, the PCO does not apply the ordinance at all to existing non-conforming lighting. As written, it would allow for such lights to continue operating in perpetuity, so long as that lighting is not replaced.

Given the clear advantage that the ECO has in reducing light pollution over time, and given the generous and flexible grace period established by the ECO, it is a superior ordinance to the PCO, and conforms to precedent established by Brisbane and Malibu. Please adopt the Environmental Commission lighting performance standards.

Sincerely,

Dashiell Leeds
Conservation Coordinator
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Shani Kleinhaus
Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance

Melissa Thurman

From: Bill Hough <psa188@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 1:54 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: City Council
Subject: Fw: public comment regarding item #8 on 4/8/2025 agenda

I oppose the use of any public money on the project building a new theater downtown.

Previously, the Los Altos City Council signed an MOU stating that the city will not spend any money or time on the project building a new theater downtown on a public parking lot. The Los Altos Stage Company now requests two \$2.5 million requests with one as the lead gift for the project and another at the \$10 million goal mark and a campaign fundraising consultant that will cost roughly \$300,000 over 3 years.

Any funds to be spent on a new theater should be raised privately. NO city funding for this theater.