



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

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To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

From: [Couture, Terri](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: city council study session 530pm March 14 Agenda item #1
Date: Saturday, March 11, 2023 3:54:38 PM

Dear Los Altos City Council and City Manager

In light of the worsening economy with no good indicators in the future, please table the theater feasibility study. Real Estate industry insiders are projecting low sales this year, which property taxes is the bulk of income the City of Los Altos receives. The included report suggest a cost of \$21M, but the Community Center's price was increased many times.

The safety of our community to provide adequate police, fire, utilities, and city employee services is much more important, than entertainment in these troubled times.

You have an obligation to make sure Los Altos residents are safe and their investment in this town is safe.

Thank you

Fred Tuerk & Terri Couture

***Wire Fraud is Real*. Before wiring any money, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions.** Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.

From: [Roberta Phillips](#)
To: [Public Comment](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Study Session March 14, Downtown Theater
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 12:23:46 PM

Dear Council Members

I reviewed the slide presentation in the Study Session packet and found that there is no financial feasibility study. I do not find any proof that a new theater downtown will be financially feasible. The public does not know how much money the Theater Company is asking the City to contribute. There is no indication if the land will be provided at no cost by the city. There is no analysis of the ongoing maintenance costs.

I looked at the Treasures Report (Item # 5 in the agenda report for the Regular Council meeting for March 14th 2023) I find that the City is minus -\$ 5,629,738 form the quarter before (Ending balance 12/31/2022) , It is not a good time for the City to commit to any funds or land be given to the Los Altos Stage Company.

The City has many critical CIP projects to address first that are part of the City Council Priorities..

In addition , the Surplus Land Act requires that land be used for affordable housing first. I am concerned that there are legal implications in using land from our parking lots downtown for a theater instead of housing. There is no plan to replace the lost parking. We have already lost parking because of the Parklet Program.

The goal of the Downtown Visioning report was to add more " Feet on the Street "

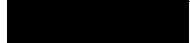
The new housing that is identified in the Housing Element for downtown will add vibrancy and more feet on the street. A theater is not necessary to meet this goal . The Los Altos Stage Company and the City might be wise to leave the theater in its current location and make appropriate repairs or remodeling as needed.

The presentation is also lacking survey results. LAR did a survey and found that a majority of people do not want to pay for construction or maintenance of a new theater downtown.

Please do not move forward. We were told by the City Council , when the Theater Working Group first came to Council, that there would be no cost to the taxpayers. Then a few weeks later, the Council gave \$38,000 to the Stage Company. Was that money used to do the feasibility study ? If yes, where is the financial analysis and survey results ?

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips



From: [oleg](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment on the Theater
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 11:14:30 PM

> Survey gleaned response from over 445 area residents

Why weren't the results of the survey included in the slides?

What is the "contributed revenue" on the operating plan? Who will be contributing it? There are millions of \$\$ of "contributed revenue" needed over the next 5 years. The plan doesn't project a break-even revenue date, suggesting that the theater will always operate at a loss and keep getting bailed out... By whom? By the city?

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Oleg Kiselev (personal account)

From: [Pat Marriot](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #1 MARCH 14, 2023 STUDY SESSION
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 11:44:32 AM

Council Members:

I have three concerns about the theater study session:

1. Lack of timely information. Assuming you think public input is important to the discussion, the only document we have now is a data-free 14-page presentation. The agenda doesn't indicate anything else is available.

I reached out to Vicki Reeder, who is always gracious and responds quickly to my questions, asking if there was a backup document with more information. She said the complete study is a 75-slide Power Point presentation, still in draft form as of March 11.

Without that presentation, residents – and Council – don't have enough time to study and respond to the information prior to the study session.

2. Reacting to the proposal that the theater be donated to the city and managed by the Los Altos Stage Company: That "gift" would be an eternal burden on taxpayers and city staff. Residents are faced with a major sewer tax increase. The city budget is in the red. The economy is headed downhill. We're already understaffed and, assuming the state approves our housing element update, staff will have three years of work to update our General Plan and zoning codes.

We have a poor track record of maintaining the buildings we have. Our police station needs to be replaced. The last thing we need is another building to maintain.

3. Three council members – Dailey, Fligor and Weinberg – have already made up their minds to support this theater with public land and public money. Councilmember Fligor has pushed it since January 2021. Councilmember Weinberg told the Theater Working Group he's so excited about it, he wants to cut the ribbon. Councilmember Dailey should recuse himself from any discussions because he is a member of the TWG.

Respectfully,

Pat Marriott