

**From:** [Andrea Chelemengos](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2022 1:52:27 PM

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**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 1:28 PM

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**Subject:** Request for feasibility study funding

Honorable Mayor and Council Members

I write to support the funding request by the Theatre Task Force to contribute to the theatre feasibility study to determine the scale and feasibility of a new performance theatre to replace the Bus Barn.

A new theatre would be among the most important recreational facilities in the city. Rather than review the benefits of a theatre to the cultural life of the community as well as the educational value to both children and adults, which I assume you all know, I want to make the case for city financing.

For over 40 years the organization now known as Los Altos Stage Company (LASC), formerly the Bus Barn, and Los Altos Community Theatre (L'ACT), has provided successful live theatre. Operating from an unlikely and unsuitable metal building, it has provided professional level theatre using Bay Area actors. Additionally, LASC now operates the Youth Theatre for the city's recreation department. It has done this while

paying its share of building costs with no cash subsidy unlike other organizations which provide city-like services for the city. Moreover, these contributions have been driven primarily by volunteer or near volunteer labor. The idea for the conversion of an empty school bus barn was driven by a volunteer who managed the original theatre as a volunteer for almost two decades.

If we ignore the substantial benefits of a theatre and just recognize it as a beacon for volunteering, that alone would justify city support.

Finally, the funding requested is a minor share of that required for the study. Funds from

private donors is providing the bulk of the funds. Moreover, the request is not competing for the operating budget as Park-In-Lieu funds are available and appropriate for this use.

The product, the shows, are amazing. Some of the scenes that have provided to the understanding of slices of community lives have remain in my memory for years.

These

experiences surpass the impact of professional theatre in large, impersonal theatres.

Moreover, LACT provides these experiences at affordable prices well below the three digits prices of Broadway-type theaters.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Roy Lave