



LINDA VISTA-ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

May 23, 2008

Art Center Alert!

Dear Neighbors:

The deadline for submitting your individual comments and thoughts to the City for the Art Center College of Design Draft Environmental Impact Report is Tuesday, May 27, 2008. For e-mails and documents to be delivered to the public counter (if you prefer this way) they must reach the City by 5:00 p.m. on the 27th. For letters put in the mail this weekend, they must be postmarked by the 27th in order to be considered.

Please send your letters as follows:

Robert Avila, Planner
Department of Planning
RE: Art Center Master Plan
175 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91109
E-mail: ravila@cityofpasadena.net
FAX Comments to: (626) 396-7767
Phone Line: 626-744-6706

Please note: Only written comments will make it into the permanent record that will eventually go to the City Council.

Members of the Linda Vista-Annandale Association (LVAA) Board have appeared on behalf of the neighborhood at the Historic Preservation Commission, the Transportation Advisory Commission, the Design Commission and the Planning Commission. In all cases the Commissions have been very open to our concerns and have concurred that the issues we have raised need to be addressed by the City.

The areas of greatest concern to the LVAA are:

--Traffic, traffic, traffic and safety; the proposed 400 student increase will produce 1,000 more daily trips

--The out of scale and out of context proposed new Library and Research Center; to be 98 feet high, 40 feet higher than other buildings, with a 38 foot translucent atrium reflecting daylight and glowing at night

--The massive five story 529 space parking structure and the excess parking availability it will create on the campus, inviting single occupant vehicles ; and

--The failure of the City to examine the zero carbon footprint requirements of State of California's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32).

Essentially the City is being asked to give the Art Center a development agreement that will reach 25 years into the future. We believe all of the issues we have raised should be studied, with proper mitigation offered in the final EIR, to insure there is no net increase in trips to the campus and that the Art Center must be subject to all the applicable provisions of AB 32, particularly with regard to provisions to require that the project leave a zero or less impact of the carbon footprint of the campus.

If you are looking for key thoughts to convey to the City, please feel free to use these:

Art Center should be required to structure its proposed project so that:

(1) will be no new net parking over that currently provided on campus; and,

(2) no new net traffic trips over the current baseline will result from the project, including, but not limited to, removing in its entirety the proposed parking structure from the proposed project.

If you would like to become familiar with how seriously inadequate we believe the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is, please send Sharon Yonashiro an e-mail and she will send you a copy of the comprehensive report LVAA prepared for presentation to the Planning Commission. Sharon can be reached at: sharon.y@mac.com or (626) 792-4436. She will be in town all weekend so please send an email or give her a call if you have questions.

(We have found sending attachments as part of a large email distribution results in many, many bounced messages, hence the need to have you contact Sharon separately to see the letter to the Planning Commission.) Please make our voice heard at City Hall. Take a few minutes to write a letter or e-mail to express your concerns. This will really help us carry the message.

Please pass this message along to your neighbors.

Norm Parker

President, Linda Vista Annandale Association