



Arts District Community Council LA

March 15, 2015

Renee Dake Wilson – VP planning commission
City of Los Angeles Planning Department
200 North Spring Street, Mail stop 395
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Ms. Wilson,

As you well aware, the Planning Department has embarked on an effort to introduce a new Land Use Ordinance for the Arts District that will, for the first time in history, permit new ground up construction geared towards residential projects. This Plan will substantially increase density in the Arts District.

ADCCLA and a number of other community organizations and individuals took an active part in providing the Planning Department with input designed to help shape the ordinance in a manner that will preserve the unique characteristics of the Arts District. Despite the many hours we devoted to a process that was designed to promote thoughtful development that would further enhance the creative and productive nature of the District, we were frustrated by the events that followed the publication of the Draft Ordinance. No sooner was the Draft published, than there was a concerted attempt by various outside interests to rush the Draft Ordinance through the Planning Commission. The comments submitted by LARABA and the HCNC were seemingly ignored.

As the new Land Use Ordinance is a matter of the utmost importance to the future of the Arts District, we have taken the initiative to craft a proposed ordinance that we believe will achieve these goals and certainly should be the starting point of an open and transparent community discussion. Our goal is to create an environment that encourages quality and sustainable development, buildings that will last for a century or more and adapt as the changing environment will dictate. Our proposed ordinance emphasizes the need to attract the creative class of Los Angeles and create space for new Industrial and commercial uses balancing the creating of Live/Work space with new space that will bring productive jobs and businesses.

We are local residents and businesses that care deeply about the Arts District. We are concerned that a small group of well-capitalized residential developers who have no understanding of our neighborhood are determined to impose a plan that will allow them to reap short term profits at the expense of the long term best interests of the Arts District. You have played a vital role in overseeing the rejuvenation of our neighborhood and we now call on you to insure that the new Land Use Ordinance will provide a framework for the thoughtful, sustainable policies that reflect the history and promote the future of the Arts District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ran Boytner
President, ADCCLA