



Public Comment Received for:
Item 4: 604 E Ortega St
(PLN2019-00425)

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
1. Cassandra Ensberg	x	
2. Michael Imwalle	x	
3. Marina Martinez		x

From: [cass ensberg](#)
To: [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)
Cc: [Riviera HA BM; Nicole Hernandez; Anne Petersen](#)
Subject: Ortega Park - a historical treasure
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 10:12:03 AM

EXTERNAL

Honorable HLC Honorable Chair Grumbine and Commissioners,
(I do not have Commissioners Edmonds or Manuel email address - i hope that they will also receive this)

For your consideration regarding the proposed new Ortega Park-

In my humble opinion this park - not only the murals but the park itself - as it currently exists - is what I would call "the real deal", a treasure and a Santa Barbara original. It is unique to Santa Barbara and I believe that places like this are essential to maintain and preserve if we wish to keep our Santa Barbara history, character, and aesthetic.

Functionally - Ortega Park serves an important role as expansion of outdoor recreation and living space for so many who live in the smaller homes surrounding the park - readily accessible and with the comfort of familiarity and the inspiration that the murals provide.

Ortega Park is a treasure - again - in my opinion - deserves to be preserved and restored - as the small local neighborhood park that it is. All should be repaired or replaced as originally designed.

I would also like to see the Junior High restored as well as the stunning backdrop to Ortega Park. This work focus would instill community pride and should be a high priority as one of Santa Barbara's most beautiful and important buildings.

With all due respect - I believe that the proposed design with fences, gates, increased parking, the big pool, and regulation size soccer field are unnecessary and out of scale for this park that whose primary function needs to continue to serve the surrounding neighborhood - just like Alameda Park, Shoreline Park and so many others in our community. Neighborhoods all need their accessible open park spaces.

I would note that regarding inappropriate activity that has occurred and that is commonly mentioned as the reason for fencing and gates is not unique to Ortega Park only. There are better ways to address these issues and I would even venture to suggest that the proposed park design could, in fact, exacerbate these social problems.

Finally - with regard to grants - It seems to me that we have somehow gotten to a place where available grants are driving our process. I believe this is out of order and gets us into trouble. I believe that we should start with our need and the solution and then find the funding from the community through a foundation (like was done at the SB Bowl) or through a grant that might fit the need.

I will stop there and appreciate your consideration of these thoughts.

With gratitude to HLC for your important work to preserve our history and authenticity.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Ensberg

Cassandra Ensberg FAIA, LEED AP
Cell: 805 455 8332

This message is intended only for the individual named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the addressee, please respond via email to notify us that you have received this email by error, and please delete all email and contents permanently.

Public Comment #2

From: [Mike Imwalle](#)
To: [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)
Cc: [Anne Petersen](#)
Subject: Agenda Item No. 4, Ortega Park Mural Evaluation Report
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:27:10 AM

EXTERNAL

HLC Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this item. My name is Michael Imwalle. I am the Associate Executive Director of Cultural Resources for the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP). As an organization, we have been following this item very closely over the last several months. SBTHP is supportive of the preservation of five of the murals and that they have been identified in the revised evaluation report as Significant Cultural Resources.

We are also supportive of the recommendation to include a new mural depicting a Chumash settlement on the former Estero and that this mural be created under the guidance of Chumash artists. SBTHP further recommends consultation with Barbareño Chumash artists on any murals being recreated or re-envisioned that contain content related to Chumash culture or symbolism.

Lastly, SBTHP would be supportive of community-based efforts to remove and preserve the de-accessioned murals so that they could be stored and potentially reinstalled elsewhere to be enjoyed by the community.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Imwalle

Associate Executive Director of Cultural Resources
Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
123 E. Canon Perdido St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-962-2101 (off.)
805-452-7546 (cell)
805-568-1999 (fax)
archlab@sbthp.org (email)
www.sbthp.org (web)

email signature 2



PLEASE BE ADVISED

The following public comment was not received in time to process. Distribution to the Historic Landmarks Commission occurred after the meeting.

Public Comment #3

From: [M. Martinez](#)
To: [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)
Cc: [Jill Zachary](#); [Ricardo Venegas](#)
Subject: Statement & Recommendation from SOPAC...
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 1:59:55 PM

EXTERNAL

To the Historic Landmarks Commission,

After making several recommendations to City Council and having participated in the murals working group meeting, to satisfy the request of the City Council, we the members of SOPAC support the recommendations being presented by the Parks and Recreation Department today. We have compromised and have come to a consensus and a meeting of the minds with various players recently involved in the Ortega Park Renewal Project efforts. Given this, your decision to approve the project as it is being recommended today should be very simple, a no-brainer.

Our community deserves this much needed park renovation and there should be nothing impeding this project from moving forward at this point. Please keep in mind that this request also comes as a result of health and safety concerns regarding the condition of the park that the community has voiced to the City over the years. This project is long overdue and we have been asking for the renovation for 25 plus years.

We look forward to moving on with the project and to your response. Please ensure that this statement and recommendation is included in the public comments for the HLC meeting today.

Thank you for your time,

Marina Martinez

c/s

Muralist/Ortega Park 2001-2007

Executive Board member of the Save Ortega Park Art Committee (SOPAC)

El Congreso de UCSB Alumni