

LATE COMMUNICATIONS (2)

From: [M.E. Lawrence](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#)
Subject: United Artists Theater
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 2:58:10 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Crane,

I am concerned about the fate of the United Artists Theater, and would like to be kept informed of any future Landmarks Preservation Commission meetings that have the U.A. on their agenda.

I doubt that many people realize the auditorium is both beautiful and of historic importance, although I think many would be dismayed when and if we lose such a treasure. It's truly astonishing to my family, who've lived in Berkeley almost 50 years, that the Landmark Preservation Committee and others would not take strong measures to keep developers from demolishing the theater, especially when they could be using the ground floor's original structure as a selling point (as an elegant cafe, restaurant, bar, gym, etc.) for the apartments they hope to build.

Thanks for your help,

Melanie Lawrence & John Smail
Allston Way

cc: Sharon Gong; Kate Harrison

From: [Maris Meyerson](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#)
Subject: United Artists Theater
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 10:42:29 AM

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Dear Ms. Crane ~

As a lifelong movie and performing arts fan, I implore you to find a way to preserve this jewel of a theater. What a powerful message it would be to acknowledge that the arts are an essential human right, and that incorporating a theater into any low income housing plans is a perfect way to honor this right.

Thank you for listening,
~ Maris Meyerson
(Sustaining Trustee, CalPerformances)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ace Musto](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#); fcrane@berkeleyca.org
Subject: Re: Berkeley Housing and the Historic UA Theater
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 4:35:46 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Fatima Crane,

I'm writing to urge the Berkeley city leaders to do what it must do to preserve the United Artists Theatre at 2274 Shattuck Avenue.

It is my understanding that the 90-year-old theater was once a magnificent Art Deco movie place and that its splendid, historic features still exist under the layers of multiplex renovations. It was built as a live theater and has the potential to be restored as a live performance venue or a hybrid arts space that anchors the downtown.

I understand that building more housing in Berkeley is very important. However, a good amount of multi-unit housing has already been built or is in the pipeline currently. I don't think that the UA, given its tremendous architectural and cultural value, has to be sacrificed for Berkeley to meet its housing goals. Once a historic building like this is destroyed, it's gone forever.

HOUSING

I agree that more housing is critically important for Berkeley and for the region. However, I don't think that the city has to destroy this particular historic property in order to meet its housing goals.

It should be noted that a good amount of housing has recently been built in the city, and there are several multi-unit housing projects in the pipeline.

In fact, apartment high rises are proposed to replace two other theaters that have recently closed in the downtown, the Landmark Shattuck and the California Theatre. That is a big why it does not seem critical nor essential to raze the historic UA and replace it with a generic 17-story building with overpriced apartments.

Summation: A restored Art Deco UA

theater could be a Splendiferous jewel of the downtown that bolsters the cultural and historical value of the local economy.

I support Berkeley's housing growth goals but not at the expense of a grand theater of such great historic and opulent

architectural value. ***When Berkeley's United Artists theater opened its doors on Sept. 16, 1932, the Berkeley Daily Gazette described it as "the greatest theatrical event in the history of Berkeley."***

Feb 12, 2023

Once a historic building is gone, it is gone forever.

Mr. Ace Musto.

Portland, OR 97214

Sincerely yours,

1823 Washington St.

From: spreckrosekrans@gmail.com
To: [Crane, Fatema](#); [Crane, Fatema](#)
Subject: The United Artists Theater - an important opportunity to do the right thing - preserve the past and inspire the future.
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 10:54:50 AM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Landmarks Commission:

My name is Spreck Rosekrans. I grew up in Berkeley and presently run a small business in Berkeley.

I am writing to ask you to stop destruction of the United Artist Theater and to consider what refurbishing and restoring the theater could do for the City of Berkeley and especially its downtown. The building is truly a treasure.

I am not opposed to growth. Berkeley, like most of California, needs housing as well as other investments – both public and private. I support most proposals, albeit not this one.

But the United Artist Theater is special – it was once and could again be the finest historic indoor theater in the city. Perhaps you have been there.

But I do not suggest it be merely preserved in its multiplex format, which only included a small fraction of its historic art deco appearance. I suggest the United Artist Theater be returned to its former glory – before it was converted to a multiplex format – and used for live entertainment.

Perhaps you have been to the Fox Theater in Oakland and seen its spectacularly restored interior. If you have not seen it, I ask you to do so before allowing the United Artist Theater to be destroyed. Once it is gone, it is gone.

A restored United Artists Theater could be the jewel of the city, and an inspiration for a Renaissance of Berkeley's downtown. It is that special. Trust Me. I have a very clear memory of the theater from the late 60s. There was no place else in Berkeley like it.

Thanks you for considering this request.

Spreck Rosekrans
510-393-4593

From: [Donna West](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#); [Donna West](#)
Subject: Fwd: Historic United Artists Movie Palace Building & Performing Arts Center at 2274 Shattuck Ave
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 9:58:48 AM

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Email changed.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Donna West <dwestsfo@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2023 at 9:55 AM
Subject: Historic United Artists Movie Palace Building & Performing Arts Center at 2274 Shattuck Ave
To: <fcrane@berkeleyca.org>, Donna West <dwestsfo@gmail.com>

Landmark Preservation Committee
For the meeting on June 1, 2023 at 7 pm
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Ave (cross st MLK)
Berkeley , CA

Attention
Fatema Crane
fcrane@berkeleyca.org
Phone: (510) 981-7413

Dear Fatema Crane and Members of the Landmark Preservation Committee:

Thank you for your support and actions maintaining our local and state historic landmarks.

I am writing to urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to do what it may to preserve the entire Historic Movie Palace Building and Performing Arts Center, which is now the Historic United Artists Theatre at 2274 Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley.

It is my understanding that the 90-year-old movie palace theater was once an art deco movie palace and that it can be restored and given a new life as an arts or performance space of some kind for the current and future residents of Berkeley to go to today.

I agree that housing is very important. However, housing has recently been built downtown and more is slated for several other properties. I do not believe the Historic UA Movie Palace has to be sacrificed to meet the city's housing growth goals.

Let's find solutions to preserve and use this historic building for all residents to use as a performing arts center today, now in Downtown Berkeley.

Please include me on all correspondence, we have solutions to preserve and use this historical building now.

Let's talk.

Sincerely

Donna West

Business and Historic Resources Researcher

[DW Business Consulting](#)

dwestsfo@gmail.com