

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC**

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The Casillas Family  
221 Barranca Avenue  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109  
Tel: (805) 564-7071

March 11, 2015

To: Mayor Helene Schneider  
Mayor Pro Tempore Gregg Hart  
Councilmember Cathy Murillo  
Councilmember Dale Francisco  
Councilmember Randy Rowse  
Councilmember Frank Hotchkiss  
Councilmember Harwood "Bendy" White

**RE: SB Museum of Natural History**

Thank you in advance for reading this letter of our support of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the museum's master plan and project application.

The museum has been an important part of our and our son's lives. Creating an educational, fun, and creative environment for him (and us!) to learn about the environment and nature. It is a favorite place to visit for all of our friends and family including repeated out of town visitors. We often get comments from friends and family members visiting the area about how special and unique the museum is and how lucky we are to have it in our community. We, along with our friends and family, support the goals of the museum and the plan the museum has submitted for improvements and enhancements.

As your constituent, I urge you to support the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and approve their project and application.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this.

Respectfully,

Ani Casillas  
Monico Casillas  
Nico Casillas

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113 Harbor Way, Suite 190, Santa Barbara, California 93109  
(805) 962-8404; Fax: (805) 962-7634; www.sbmm.org

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William Pearlman

Dr. J. Brian Sarvis  
*Former Superintendent,  
Santa Barbara School District*

Brooke Sawyer, Ed. D.

Jean K. Schuyler

March 13, 2015

Dear Mayor Schneider,

I am writing to ask you to support of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's (SBMNH) Conditional Use Permit and Master Plan as approved by the Planning Commission last month. The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is one of our oldest and finest cultural institutions, but in order to remain relevant and inspiring its visitors, especially to young students, it must be able to fulfill its Mission, and needs to be able to evolve in the years ahead.

I believe the Museum's plan is a reasoned, proportional approach to the revitalization efforts needed for the museum to serve our tri-county region. It also addresses the need to care for the museum's exhibits and programs, and enhances the natural assets of the campus while honoring its historical relevance. In addition, it is important for SBMNH to have flexibility, in order to provide a mix of programs that respond to current issues, community interests, and new trends in education.

Having attended one of their community sessions and the Planning Commission hearing, I believe the museum staff went out of their way to listen to the concerns of their neighbors and the community in general, and incorporated solutions to the issues raised into their plan in a balanced way that allows the Museum to remain vital and relevant to our community and the people it serves.

For those reasons I encourage you to vote in favor of the SBMNH CUP and Master Plan as proposed. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 456-8742.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Gorga".

Greg Gorga  
Executive Director  
Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

Laurie Guitteau  
2639 Memory Lane  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

March 15, 2015

City Council  
City of Santa Barbara

Dear Mayor Schneider and Council Members,

As a member of the Mission Canyon Association for over 10 years, I have witnessed the growing pains, sometimes very painful, of both the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and the Museum of Natural History as they tried to update their facilities in a way that is harmonious with the rural nature of Mission Canyon and yet allows these important institutions to survive financially. Change is never easy in Santa Barbara because we cherish the beauty of our environment and work tirelessly to preserve that beauty.

I am writing you as a private citizen who supports fully the Museum of Natural History's CUP as approved by the City's Planning Commission. Under the guidance of Luke Swetland, the museum staff and their Board of Directors are to be commended for their commitment to community concerns. They have worked diligently to modify the original plans in response to concerns of local residents, to the stipulations in the Mission Canyon Community Plan, and to restrictions presented by the historical importance of the property and the facility. Santa Barbara has been spared another lengthy and bitter battle because of the vision and the willingness to compromise of the museum staff and directors.

Yes, there are still those who oppose, but there will always be opposition to change, especially in this town. However, in my humble opinion, the museum's request is reasonable and should be accepted with enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Laurie Guitteau

RECEIVED

2015 MAR 16 PM 12: 26

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

March 15, 2015

City Council  
City of Santa Barbara  
735 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, 93101

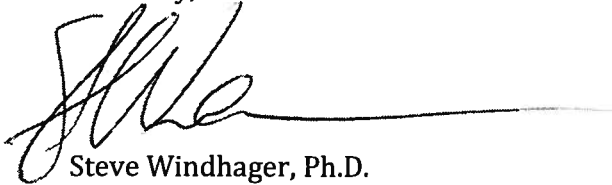
Dear Honorable Mayor Schneider and Council Members,

I am writing to express my support –both as the representative of a fellow non-profit institution, as well as a Mission Canyon neighbor – for the proposed Master Plan for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and its request to have all of its property in a single jurisdiction. This greatly scaled down plan will both achieve the Museum’s goals to inspire a love of the natural world as well as address community concerns with the scale of changes in the Canyon. I commend the thoughtful way that the Museum has incorporated the desires of community members and groups into the proposed Master Plan that was unanimously approved by the City Planning Commission and is now before City Council. I urge you not to further burden the Museum with unnecessary requirements in their updated CUP.

The Garden is particularly excited about the Master Plan’s inclusion of the restoration of the exterior spaces at the museum, better connecting their collections to the natural world that they are drawn from. The Garden has pledged to assist in the restoration and management of the oak woodland as a key component to the enhancement of the exterior exhibits at the Museum. It is incredibly generous of the museum to allow that this core part of their institution will continue to be accessible to the neighbors for passive recreational use.

The Museum Master Plan provides a strong blueprint for the institutions future by building off of the strengths of its nearly 100 year history. The Garden looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Museum in cultivating a love of California’s native plants and animals in its second century, and your approval of the Museum’s proposed Master Plan will help to ensure this future.

Sincerely,



Steve Windhager, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

CC: Luke J. Swetland, CEO, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

March 16, 2015,

City Council  
City of Santa Barbara  
735 Anacapa St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council,

I am writing to you in support of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's request for approval of their proposed Master Plan and updated CUP, in its entirety. For nearly seven years I have been serving as Executive Director for Ganna Walska Lotusland, which is required to operate under a Conditional Use Permit issued by Santa Barbara County. I am extremely familiar with all aspects of a cultural organization operating within a residential community, both for the organization and the residents. I fully appreciate what it takes for such an organization to sustain itself with operational restrictions, and I also fully appreciate how important those restrictions are to the residents. Given my perspective, I can point out numerous reasons why the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History should be given full approval to proceed with all aspects of their proposed Master Plan.

First, the Museum's executive director, staff and board have done everything within their power to be good neighbors and respectful community citizens. Their record is impeccable. They have worked hard for many years to engage their immediate neighbors and the Mission Canyon Association in their day-to-day activities, as well as the long-term planning for the Museum. From that interaction, the Museum drastically scaled back an earlier master plan proposed by the previous Museum leadership. This is a true testament to the current Museum leadership's desire to both give their best stewardship to one of Santa Barbara's most prominent scientific and cultural institutions, as well as give their best stewardship to their neighbors whose community they share.

Even while the Museum is asking for rather basic construction permits to make desperately needed upgrades to aging facilities and exhibit spaces, it is clear that they also recognize that asking for these approvals requires they give something back, and they have done so in spades. Unlike the previous master plan, their proposed Master Plan and CUP does not call for new construction, and the Museum has made significant effort to preserve the historic buildings and footprint. At the same time, the proposed Master Plan and CUP creates a safer and more comfortable environment for local residents moving in and out of their adjacent neighborhoods, as well as for visitors to the Museum. Most noteworthy is that the Museum is not asking for extended hours of operation, increased annual attendance, and more programs – all the kinds of things that would improve the financial sustainability of the Museum, but are sore points for the immediate neighbors. These are serious and profound concessions made by the Museum.

The specifics of the Museum's proposed Master Plan and CUP truly address the most critical and vital needs the Museum has to ensure that it maintains a standard of excellence in programming and exhibition while also providing a safe and comfortable environment for visitors, neighbors,

and staff. The proposed (and much-scaled-down) Master Plan and CUP also indicates that the Museum's leadership has a very good understanding of how to operate most efficiently and effectively to honor and provide for the peace and privacy of its neighbors, and at the same time make the Museum accessible, educational, and inspirational for all the rest of Santa Barbara's citizens.

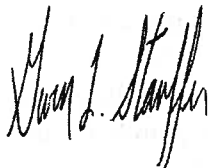
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is a gem in our city's crown. In a city that prides itself as being the birthplace of the national environmental movement, there is no other organization that is more valuable in helping our citizens understand the natural world in and around Santa Barbara, and what is at stake within that natural world. On top of that, the Museum is a significant historic property – 100 years old in 2016. Decades have passed since the Museum has been allowed to make any sort of improvements to the buildings and to the site. The construction changes they propose are in keeping with the standards expected for a Museum of this caliber. More than that, these improvements will finally provide the level of safety, aesthetic and accessible use our city's citizens expect from their community's institutions.

Finally, the desire of the Museum to annex into the City the parts of their property now in Santa Barbara County jurisdiction makes perfect sense. It is extremely difficult for one organization to respond to the requirements of two jurisdictions, particularly when one jurisdiction's requirements are in conflict with the other. This situation is not only a disservice to the Museum, but it prevents the Museum from serving both city and county citizens effectively, and it is a jurisdictional nuisance and waste of resources for both the city and county. At the same time, it makes no sense for the Museum, or any organization, to permanently deed any of the organization's land or other facilities to any other entity.

All of the Santa Barbara community is destined to benefit from the critical, yet modest, plans the Museum has proposed. The Santa Barbara Planning Commission agreed when they unanimously approved the Museum's proposed Master Plan. The appeal on their decision by one or two individuals is based on unfounded and contradictory assertions about issues that the Museum's updated CUP effectively resolves. Approval of the Museum's proposed Master Plan and CUP, in its entirety, will help ensure that all of our community will continue to receive the very best services and programming from one of our finest community institutions.

Thank you, in advance for your consideration.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwen L. Stauffer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gwen Stauffer

Executive Director  
Ganna Walska Lotusland

March 16, 2015

Re: Appeal of Museum of Natural History CUP

Mayor and City Council,

My name is Alastair Winn and I have lived with my family at 715 Mission Cyn Rd, less than a block from the Museum campus for 27 years. I have been a board member of the Mission Cyn Association since 2008 and am on the MCA Museum subcommittee. In that capacity, I have worked closely with former CEO Karl Hutterer since the first Museum renovation concept plans were provided to the community and have continued to work with his successor, Luke Swetland.

Karl, and subsequently Luke, have attended nearly every MCA monthly meeting since 2008. They have listened to our concerns and designed and redesigned to satisfy them. I can assure you the MCA Board makes informed and calculated conservative decisions on all issues. In January, 2015, the MCA Board voted unanimously to support approval of the Museum CUP. At that time, we were fully aware of the concern from neighbors regarding so called loud speakers, trash truck noise and protection of the woods and walking pathways. We were also aware of adjacent neighbor's overblown concerns about traffic, excessive Museum activities, protection of walking paths.

I do not speak for the MCA today, but rather as a direct neighbor of the Museum who has served on the MCA Museum committee for 6 years and is well informed about the issues you are being asked to consider in this appeal. I will be blunt. Luke and the Museum staff and consultants have bent over backwards to address every concern raised during their lengthy CUP process. In my opinion, this appeal is mean spirited, selfish and an abuse of the generous planning and development process of the County of Santa Barbara. I urge you to send a message that your decision to approve the CUP was well informed and correct and that this appeal has no merit and should be denied.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone here that the Museum is self-funded, non-profit, provides invaluable services to the community on a daily basis, has paid dearly to reach this point and asks nothing in return except to continue providing those valuable services. They deserve our respect and thanks.

Sincerely,

Alastair Winn

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2015 MAR 16 PM 12: 26

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



Dennis Power  
1123 Harbor Hills Lane  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

March 16, 2015

Santa Barbara City Council  
City of Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

Attn. Gwen Peirce, City Clerk's Office

Re. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Master Plan and Conditional Use Permit

Dear Members of City Council:

This is to communicate to our City Council my strong support of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Master Plan and Conditional Use Permit application.

One cannot deny that now more than ever we need children exposed to nature, parents capable of engaging their families in educational pursuits, and ways to keep up with rapidly progressing knowledge in natural science fields. Through its research, exhibits, and education programs, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is the source for those benefits to our community. But there is an urgent need now at that nearly 100-year-old facility, and the timing is critical. You have an opportunity for the Commission and the City Council to partner with the Museum, keeping it relevant and a credit to our citizens.

The plan the Museum has advanced is appropriate for the neighborhood – the ambience in lower Mission Canyon will not change. Caps on attendance and activities are in place. The historic architecture, inside and out, will be respected and, in fact, enhanced through accessibility and landscape improvements. Museum leadership has gone to great lengths to work with the immediate neighbors, the residents of the area, and City staff.

The picture is much bigger, however. As citizens, we must foster in children a sense of the value of nature; to protect the environment in the future they must appreciate it. We must have a place for informal science education, where parents and children can satisfy their curiosity about real things. Dealing with ongoing threats such as climate change, the loss of biodiversity, the interaction of humans and the local fauna at the interface of urban and rural landscapes, and protection of the marine realm demands the understanding the Museum can bring if it is updated and kept relevant.

Especially important is to capture the interests of teenagers with personalized instruction and interaction with Museum curators through such programs as Quasars to Sea Stars. The success of such endeavors are quantifiable: kids participating enter college at a higher rate

than their peers, and an even higher percentage end up majoring in science, engineering, or technology.

-2-

And how great it is to keep adults, long out of college, informed of the latest advances in natural science research and how we are impacted, such as in the use of DNA in understanding human origins and global colonization, or newly discovered threats to ecosystems.

In short, *knowing nature matters*. The Master Plan, once fulfilled, will make sure that stays possible in Santa Barbara. Without it, the Museum becomes anachronistic, irrelevant.

How can the City Council partner with the Museum? They can do so simply by recognizing the value of the Master Plan and vote to approve it, letting the board and leadership there proceed with the job of fundraising and creating an institution that is worthy of our city.

Sincerely,

Dennis Power, PhD

## **Tschech, Susan**

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:53 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Appeal of Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Master Plan

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**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 6:07 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Casey, Paul; Buell, George  
**Subject:** FW: Appeal of Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Master Plan

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**From:** Raymond Smith [<mailto:ray@eri.ucsb.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2015 3:43 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene; Francisco, Dale; Hart, Gregg; Hotchkiss, Frank; Murillo, Cathy; Rowse, Randy; White, Harwood "Bendy" A.  
**Cc:** Ray Smith  
**Subject:** Appeal of Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Master Plan

Dear Mayor Schneider and Council members:

I understand that the City Planning Commission's approval of a new CUP for the Museum of Natural History, as well as a recommendation for approval for annexation of five acres of environmentally sensitive lands to the City, has been appealed to the Council by a neighbor. I have followed the Museum's various expansion plans over the past decade and am very concerned about the process the City has followed for approval of the current Museum plan. In particular, I cannot understand the CEQA exemption that entails a lack of environmental review.

I was the Chair of the Mission Canyon Plan Advisory Committee (MCPAC) that, over a period of years, developed the Mission Canyon Community Plan. For more than the past two decades I have also been an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Mission Canyon Association, concerned with issues affecting our community, most especially, emergency ingress and egress and fire related education for canyon residents. While I have this background of community understanding and involvement, I emphasize that in this letter I am speaking solely for myself.

The Mission Canyon Community Plan (MCCP) contains very important policies that affect both the City and the County jurisdiction, in particular with respect to evacuation in wildfires, and traffic and circulation policies/roadway capacities for the segment of Mission Canyon Road south of Foothill. The Final EIR for the MCCP, and approval of the MCCP, was delayed for about two years because the attorneys and consultants for the Museum of Natural History argued that the County had used an incorrect environmental baseline. This issue was important because the EIR addressed buildout of single family lots in Mission Canyon, as well as contributions to fire evacuation and circulation issues from conditionally permitted uses in residential zones, such as the Museum, the Botanic Garden, and the Women's Club. MCPAC and MCA were deeply involved in these discussions with the Museum as well as City and County planning department folk.

The Museum representatives argued several times, both to the MCPAC and to the Mission Canyon Association, of which I was then President, that roadway capacities proposed for Mission Canyon Road would result in a

moratorium on 'new' development, including an expansion of use/increase in visitation, of the Museum's own property. The Board of Supervisors approved the policies as initiated. In these discussions, we were led to believe that the issue of the Museum's own contribution to existing and future traffic would eventually be analyzed in an environmental document that would be circulated for public comment in context of the Museum's CUP/Master Plan.

This issue was not eliminated when the Museum decided not to build new buildings. The issue of what is the appropriate 'baseline' for visitation, both for high attendance events and daily visitation remains important. Indeed, the potential difference in traffic and circulation impacts between "community events" and "gate visitation between 10 am and 5pm" has not been adequately addressed. The Museum says its 'baseline' is the number of annual visitors it was 'permitted' under its prior permit. But the existing physical baseline has been much lower: the visitation in 2013 was only 119,000. The CUP contemplates growth up to the 165,000 over a period of years (this maximum number is apparently a previously permitted maximum which has never been reached). The increases in traffic and fire evacuation hazard from additional cars on the road in the future is not theoretical. Whether the future growth in visitation would result in a violation of Mission Canyon roadway and intersection standards, and fire evacuation standards, which must be mitigated, is also an important question. This baseline dispute should have been resolved in a public process, and it has been ignored, because your staff decided to recommend an exemption for the entire project, including the annexation of five acres of woodland, from CEQA.

Further, I would like to emphasize that the woodland, requested to be gerrymandered into the City, is identified in the MCCP (which your Council approved) as an environmentally sensitive habitat (ESH) and the creek side trail has been included in the County's PRT maps since the 1980's. The Museum has already re-privatized a portion of the trail previously available to the public, and the public is entitled to a level of certainty that the remainder of the existing trail network will, in fact, be preserved for public access. Indeed, this was a stated condition in MCA's letter of support sent in early January to the City Planning Commission by MCA President Barbara Lindemann. Also, it is my understanding that the Museum's proposed educational use of the woodland would require a CUP under the County's ordinance, and impacts from that new use to the biological resources would surely be analyzed in an environmental document. The CUP conditions requiring these remaining trails to be preserved can be changed by a future City Council, and if the Museum sells the Western parcels to a developer seeking to develop houses, they will be ineffective to protect the habitat. Consequently, if it is in fact the City's intent to protect the Western parcels, the only way to assure the public that the trails (including the Museum's latest version thereof), open space, and habitat will in fact be preserved is to require a trail dedication and a conservation easement now, and as a condition of the City's support of annexation.

For all of the above reasons, and especially since the Museum insisted on recirculation of the MCCP's Draft EIR (and they were the only objector) it came as a shock to learn that the City staff had recommended an exemption from CEQA for the entirety of the Museum's own project. It seems that the people who worked in good faith for two decades on the Mission Canyon Community Plan should be entitled to a transparent approval process and a full discussion of the issues the Museum cited for delay of the MCCP. The City has not provided any factual justification for having ignored these issues. As one who participated for decades in this process, I would like to know how this happened. Therefore, I am requesting, pursuant to the Public Records Act, that you direct your staff to provide any and all documents, memos, notes of meetings which reflect any communication between any representative of the Museum and any member of City staff, HLC, Planning Commission and/or City Council members, from January 1, 2013 to date.

Thank you.

Ray Smith

Mission Canyon Resident

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 4:11 PM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: SB Museum of Natural History 15 year Master Plan

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**From:** Lawrence Davanzo [<mailto:larrydavanzo@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 2:30 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene  
**Subject:** SB Museum of Natural History 15 year Master Plan

Dear Mayor,

As you can see from my address below, I am a neighbor of the Natural History Museum. My wife and I walk our dog every day on the wooded trail that adjoins the Museum. I ask you to approve the Museum's renovation with the following exceptions:

1. Prohibit the exterior P.A. System.
2. Require dedication of the trail network and conservation easement over the woodland.
3. Control the population at Museum events and rentals to minimize the need for "improvements" to Mission Canyon Road.

Thank you,  
Larry

--  
Lawrence E. Davanzo  
2685 Puesta del Sol  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
805-563-9109 (h)  
805-450-7960 (cell)

## **Tschech, Susan**

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: SB Museum of Natural History Master Plan and Conditional Use Permit

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**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 6:04 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Casey, Paul; Buell, George  
**Subject:** FW: SB Museum of Natural History Master Plan and Conditional Use Permit

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**From:** Barbara [<mailto:blewalker@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 12:35 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene; Hart, Gregg; Murillo, Cathy; Francisco, Dale; Rowse, Randy; Hotchkiss, Frank; White, Harwood "Bendy" A.  
**Subject:** SB Museum of Natural History Master Plan and Conditional Use Permit

Dear Mayor and SB City Council Members,

Hello. I am writing today in support of the SB Museum of Natural History Master Plan and Conditional Use Permit. Our family is a big fan of the SB Museum of Natural History. With three boys, ages 5-10, the Museum provides a wonderful resource for us to teach them about the history of California and Santa Barbara, and the wonder and importance of nature, ecology, and human-environment relationships.

We particularly love The Museum Backyard and Nature Club House. These exhibits represent unique museum spaces where children can literally go wild. Everything can be touched. Running, jumping, and climbing is encouraged. And there are no docents asking children to "Ssshhhh" or "Slow down." The Museum Backyard and Nature Club House is always the much-anticipated grand finale to our museum visits.

Restricting or denying the Museum's Master Plan and Conditional Use Permit request would be a great disservice to our family and to the thousands of Santa Barbara and Goleta children that visit the museum daily either with their schools or their families. Please uphold the decision of the City Planning Commission which voted unanimously in support of Museum's Master Plan and updated Conditional Use Permit.

Thank you,  
Barbara Walker Greenberg  
Ken Greenberg  
Joaquin Greenberg  
Miguel Greenberg  
Santiago Greenberg  
21 S. Ontare Rd.

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:53 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Barbara Museum of NH Master Plan

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**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 6:06 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Casey, Paul; Buell, George  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Barbara Museum of NH Master Plan

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**From:** Laura Pomerantz [<mailto:ciaofornow@cox.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 9:41 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene; Hart, Gregg; Murillo, Cathy; Francisco, Dale; Rowse, Randy; [iso-8859-1?Q?=B7fhotchkiss?=@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:iso-8859-1?Q?=B7fhotchkiss?=@santabarbaraca.gov); White, Harwood "Bendy" A.  
**Subject:** Santa Barbara Museum of NH Master Plan

Dear Mayor Schneider, Councilmember Hart, Councilmember Murillo, Councilmember Francisco, Councilmember Rowse, Councilmember Hotchkiss, and Councilmember White,

I am writing in support of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and their Master Plan.

I am a mother/father of with 3 children who have visited the Museum for a school field trip and family outings. My children love the planetarium, Native American Hall, special exhibits and the backyard and aviary.

The Museum is a special place for our family, and I would like to see this Museum continue to be a special place for our future generations. The Museum's project will revitalize and transform the visitor experience and ensure that the Museum can continue to connect us with nature and science for the 100 years.

I have enjoyed attending the special events, programs and family festivals the Museum offers. These kind of events are important to the Museum. For example, the Folk & Tribal Arts Marketplace held each year in December is fundraiser for the Museum and great opportunity for me to find unique gifts for family and friends. This is a fabulous event which brings quite a number of people, but each year the Museum has demonstrated its ability to manage the traffic and parking impacts.

I understand that the Museum has proposed a phased project over 10 to 15 years that allows for breaks between construction phases. This shows that the Museum has done its homework and considered the impact to its visitors and neighbors.

I am aware that there was an appeal by one household to the Planning Commission's unanimous vote of approval for the Museum's project. Please remember that the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History serves our whole community, and their plans have considered the whole community.

Thank you/With regards,  
Laura Pomerantz

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Mission Canyon road widening and SBMNH master plan

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**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 6:06 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Casey, Paul; Buell, George  
**Subject:** FW: Mission Canyon road widening and SBMNH master plan

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**From:** Joan McKay [<mailto:joanmckay@cox.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 7:10 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene; Francisco, Dale; Rowse, Randy; Hotchkiss, Frank; White, Harwood "Bendy" A.; Hart, Gregg; Murillo, Cathy  
**Subject:** Mission Canyon road widening and SBMNH master plan

Madame Mayor and City Council members,

I don't pretend to be an expert on the issues, but I would like to add my voice to those advocating for:

- no exterior PA system for the SBMNH to make announcements if they can be heard in the yards of residential neighbors; perhaps some speakers immediately adjacent to the main buildings would be fine, but certainly not 13 new speakers!
- dedication of a trail network and conservation easement through the adjacent woodland which has been used for years by equestrians, pedestrians, bicyclists and birdwatchers and other naturalists.
- carefully consider capacity of the Museum at events and rentals, given limited parking on the property and to minimize the need for "improvements" to the Mission Canyon roadways.
- maintain the current historic design and rural feel of Mission Canyon Road, by reducing the speed limit (similar to other curving roads with little shoulder such as APS); not moving beautiful rock walls; upgrading the pedestrian "path" over the bridge; carving out some dedicated joint bikelane/pedestrian easement on only one side of the Road (if all the people at the beach must share one pathway, why not here too?); and not removing any trees if at all possible.

I completely agree with others that this corridor does not need to be straight and fast to accommodate speeding vehicles. Slow down the traffic instead.

Thank you.

Joie McKay  
Resident of the Riviera but frequent traveler in and through Mission Canyon  
[joanmckay@cox.net](mailto:joanmckay@cox.net)



## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: SB Natural History Museum Support!!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 6:04 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Casey, Paul; Buell, George  
**Subject:** FW: SB Natural History Museum Support!!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Margaret Miller [<mailto:megmiller1@verizon.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 11:29 AM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene  
**Subject:** SB Natural History Museum Support!!

Dear Mayor Schneider,

I am writing in support of the SBNHM and their master plan.

My family has belonged to the museum since our children were small. We believe it is a gem in Santa Barbara's crown and should be supported by the city to the utmost degree possible.

Please continue to support this important institution and beautiful landmark.

Thank you for your time.

Meg Miller and Dean Dawson

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:53 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Museum of Natural History Expansion/No PA System Please

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 6:13 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Casey, Paul; Buell, George  
**Subject:** FW: Museum of Natural History Expansion/No PA System Please

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Geoff Alexander [<mailto:Geoff@6-17management.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2015 10:30 AM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene; Hotchkiss, Frank; Murillo, Cathy; White, Harwood "Bendy" A.; Hart, Gregg; Francisco, Dale; Rowse, Randy  
**Subject:** Museum of Natural History Expansion/No PA System Please

I am a long time resident of Santa Barbara and I support the Museum. However, the proposal to install 11 exterior speakers, for announcements of shows and exhibits, for up to 12 hours a day and multiple times per day, would result in intolerable nuisance to the neighborhood, and, more importantly, is unnecessary and completely inappropriate for this semi rural area of Santa Barbara. It will completely change and cheapen the experience of visitors to the Museum, and disturb wildlife in the riparian area and the oak woodland. Please say no to the announcements!

Thank you,

Geoff Alexander

Tel. 818-359-4883

Sent from my iPad

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: City Council Meeting on March 24th

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**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 5:55 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Casey, Paul; Buell, George  
**Subject:** FW: City Council Meeting on March 24th

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**From:** Condor Express [<mailto:info@condorexpress.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2015 1:21 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting on March 24th

Dear Mayor Schneider,

Museums reflect our lives. Museums offer a place of education and community. Museums inspire creativity, discovery, and innovation. We have the responsibility to preserve and sustain our Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History so that our Museum can continue to offer all these things to the people of our local community and those who visit us from afar.

Our Museum of Natural History will turn 100 years old in less than one year. It is one of the oldest and most important community institutions in Santa Barbara and the Central Coast. In order to maintain its ability to continue to serve our communities for the next 100 years, the Museum has developed a transformational and proportional Master Plan.

The Museum's Master Plan will revitalize the Museum and transform the visitor experience by better connecting people to science and nature...indoors and outdoors...by improving site stewardship, creating news gallery experiences, and refreshing legacy galleries.

As Commodore of the *Condor Express*, I fully appreciate the Museum's desire to better connect people to nature and science. When our guests experience that "WOW" moment the first time they see a majestic Blue Whale, we know that we have inspired them to see and appreciate our oceans and marine mammals with a new perspective.

I encourage you to thoughtfully consider the Museum's work and diligence. They have presented a Master Plan and updated CUP that takes into account the various perspectives of all the stakeholders. The Museum's project is phased over 10 to 15 years so that change is manageable for the Museum's visitors, the fundraising team, and the immediate neighborhood. In consideration of its neighbors, the Museum has already volunteered an additional 19 conditions to its CUP. And both the Master Plan and the updated CUP received unanimous approval from the City Planning Commission. Clearly our community supports the Museum's project.

The Museum's Master Plan is necessary, prudent, proportional, and transformational. I support the Museum's application and I ask you to support it as well.

Sincerely,

Hiroko Benko

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding The Master Plan of The Museum of Natural History

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**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 5:54 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Casey, Paul; Buell, George  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding The Master Plan of The Museum of Natural History

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**From:** Annmarie Rogers [<mailto:annmarie@sbchamber.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2015 11:51 AM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene; Hart, Gregg; Murillo, Cathy; Francisco, Dale; Rowse, Randy; Hotchkiss, Frank; White, Harwood "Bendy" A.  
**Subject:** Regarding The Master Plan of The Museum of Natural History

Dear Mayor and City Council Members!

I have lived and worked in Santa Barbara for over 20 years and I feel that the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is one of our most treasured cultural attractions.

As the Executive Director of the Chamber Visitor Center, I see, first-hand, how many visitors ask about the Museum and are impressed by not only educational and cultural opportunities that it affords, but also the beautiful and tranquil setting where it is located. My staff and I know that the Museum is a great cultural asset for Santa Barbara, and we readily encourage visitors to go there to enjoy all it has to offer. It is a treasure that we must foster and help preserve.

It is also a great place for groups and families to gather and socialize. Just last year the Museum hosted a Chamber event that was really successful and included the magical Butterflies Alive exhibit. It was really fun and educational at the same time. Win-Win.

One of my favorite community events that the Museum hosts is the Folk & Tribal Arts Marketplace held each year in December... just in time for holiday shopping. The Museum transforms its halls into an amazing Marketplace with unique items from around the world. The Museum meticulously manages the visitors, vendors, and cars, to mitigate any unpleasantness for surrounding neighbors.

Our Museum of Natural History is deeply rooted in Santa Barbara and the staff has a great sense of community pride and belonging. They understand that they are a museum in a residential neighborhood, and the work they have done to prepare this Master Plan, and the requests they have made regarding their CUP, have been thoughtful and appropriate.

I support the Museum's Master Plan and application for an updated CUP, and I encourage you to support the Museum as well.

Sincerely,

Annmarie Rogers  
Chamber Visitor Center  
Executive Director

1 Garden Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Important letter on behalf of Kathy Janega-Dykes  
**Attachments:** Mayor Helene Schneider.pdf

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**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 5:52 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Casey, Paul; Buell, George  
**Subject:** FW: Important letter on behalf of Kathy Janega-Dykes

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**From:** Lynda Dees [<mailto:lynda@santabarbaraca.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2015 11:12 AM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene  
**Cc:** Kathy Janega-Dykes  
**Subject:** Important letter on behalf of Kathy Janega-Dykes

**On behalf of Kathy Janega-Dykes, President & CEO of Visit Santa Barbara:**

Dear Mayor Schneider,

I am writing to you today to share my deep appreciation and regard for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

For almost 100 years, our Museum of Natural History has existed for the benefit of our local and global communities. They preserve the past, define the present and educate for the future; while creating exhibitions, public programs, and special events to inspire, enthrall and enlighten.

Whether it is a symposium on human origins that brings world renowned scientists to Santa Barbara or a summertime family festival for our local community or the Santa Barbara Wine Festival™ that draws locals and tourists alike, the Museum provides memorable experiences of the world's natural history and human culture.

I have personally attended the Museum's exhibitions and special events; and whether the event was for 100 lecture attendees or 1000 wine connoisseurs, the Museum was and continues to be an impeccable host, seamlessly managing customer service, onsite visitor flow, traffic, parking, and communications.

At the core of the Museum's public service lies their capability to inspire curiosity and stimulate learning by connecting visitors to nature and science inside their halls and outside along Mission Creek. The Museum is an essential learning environment for students of all ages, scholars and creators, as well as for our millions of visitors, both physical and virtual, from every community and cultural background.

This special learning environment, our Museum, must be sustained; and the Museum's Master Plan is necessary, prudent, proportional and transformational. The Museum has been diligent in understanding the needs and impacts to all stakeholders. Their plan will revitalize their campus through manageable change, and allow the Museum to remain vital and relevant as it goes into its next century of community service.

The Museum stimulates creativity and enriches our cultural, social and economic life, not only for Santa Barbara, but for the whole world. I am confident in the Museum and I encourage you to fully support the Museum's Master Plan and their application for an updated CUP.

Sincerely,

Kathy Janega-Dykes  
President & CEO

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 8:38 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Museum of Natural History CUP Application

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**From:** Bush, Deborah  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 7:42 AM  
**To:** Mayor & City Council  
**Subject:** FW: Museum of Natural History CUP Application

Mayor and Council,

For your information.

Debbie -

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**From:** Rich Appelbaum [<mailto:richappelbaum@ucsb.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2015 7:03 AM  
**To:** Bush, Deborah  
**Subject:** Museum of Natural History CUP Application

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I join the chorus of people who are raising concerns about the MNH's proposal to install 11 exterior speakers for announcements of shows and exhibits. As many of you know I am a long-time resident of Santa Barbara (43 years), and needless to say a strong supporter of the Museum. But I believe the proposed speakers would create an intolerable situation for nearby residents (some of whom are friends of mine), and furthermore is unnecessary. I urge you to vote no on this proposal.

Sincerely,  
Ruch Appelbaum

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Richard P. Appelbaum, Ph.D.  
MacArthur Chair in Sociology and Global & International Studies  
Co-PI, Center for Nanotechnology and Society  
Social Science and Media Studies 2105  
University of California at Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-7065  
phone: (805) 893-7230  
fax: (805) 893-7995  
email: [rich@global.ucsb.edu](mailto:rich@global.ucsb.edu)  
<http://www.global.ucsb.edu/people/academic/richard-appelbaum>  
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## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 8:38 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: PA System at Natural History Museum

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**From:** Bush, Deborah  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 7:37 AM  
**To:** Mayor & City Council  
**Subject:** FW: PA System at Natural History Museum

Mayor and Council,

Passing this on as requested.

Thank you.

Debbie

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**From:** Howard Wittausch [<mailto:howard@whwace.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 7:05 AM  
**To:** Bush, Deborah  
**Subject:** PA System at Natural History Museum

Please pass this on to Mayor Schneider & City Councilmembers

"I am long time resident of Santa Barbara and I support the Museum. However, the proposal to install 11 exterior speakers, for announcements of shows and exhibits, for up to 12 hours a day and multiple times per day, would result in an intolerable nuisance to the neighborhood, and, more importantly, is unnecessary and completely inappropriate for this semi rural area of Santa Barbara. It will completely change and cheapen the experience of visitors to the Museum, and disturb wildlife in the riparian area and the oak woodland. Please say no to the announcements!"

--  
Wm. Howard Wittausch, AIAE, ASCE  
Architect & Civil Engineer  
P.O. Box 267, Santa Barbara, CA 93102  
p: (805) 898-8766; c: (805) 680-2803  
e: [howard@whwace.com](mailto:howard@whwace.com)

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: March 24 Agenda Item on CUP for Museum of Natural History

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Schneider, Helene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 5:40 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Cc:** Buell, George; Casey, Paul  
**Subject:** FW: March 24 Agenda Item on CUP for Museum of Natural History

-----Original Message-----

**From:** George Relles [<mailto:grelles@cox.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 3:14 PM  
**To:** Schneider, Helene; Francisco, Dale; Hart, Gregg; Hotchkiss, Frank; Rowse, Randy; Murillo, Cathy; White, Harwood "Bendy" A.  
**Cc:** [blbgr@cox.net](mailto:blbgr@cox.net)  
**Subject:** March 24 Agenda Item on CUP for Museum of Natural History

Dear Mayor Schneider and Council Members,

We're writing regarding Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's plan to reinstall an external speaker system that it was ordered removed in 1989. While we are not residents of the City of Santa Barbara, we are among the many "visitors" on whom the City and the Museum also depend for their ongoing patronage and support.

We oppose the Museum's proposed reinstallation of a speaker system, based on a simple benefit/burden test. The benefits of such a system are dubious and minor at best. It seems likely that such a system is of very little utility to announce events such as planetarium showings or other special events. Experience has shown that many Museum visitors will mostly ignore the kind of impersonal, tinny announcement that electronic public address systems generate.

Indeed, if event announcement is the true benefit sought, there are a multitude of better alternatives, such as publishing in newspapers, newsletters, online, emails, smart phones, handing out a schedule list as Museum visitors arrive, etc.

However the BURDENS of an amplified speaker system are numerous. As anyone who has been in an airport or department store will note, speaker system announcements are usually noisy and unintelligible intrusions. Within the Museum, a speaker system would result in negative benefits of disruptive noise pollution, without visitors actually gaining much useful information.

More importantly, the speaker system would create exterior sound pollution that is out of keeping with the otherwise peaceful setting surrounding the Museum. Not only is there a nearby semi-rural residential neighborhood, but the Museum is situated in an area marked by the peaceful serenity of a historical mission, a quiet park, wildlife habitat and sometimes a running creek. This area is incompatible with the kind of "carnival barker" sounds that emanate from an electronic speaker system. If a loud, electronic speaker system is not incompatible with this area, we wonder "what is?" Any assertions that the speaker system will not extend sound to the surrounding area are unsupported by testing or any other objective measure.

Your precedent-setting decision will be carefully watched by other establishments seeking to draw attention by raising the volume. Just as the City of Santa Barbara does not allow large neon signs on State Street, it should not allow a loud speaker system to intrude on the character of this peaceful place.

While we support the Museum's renovation plans we also support the appeal asking you to reject the reinstallation of a speaker system that has historically been prohibited in this location.

Respectfully,

George Relles  
BL Borovay

Goleta, CA

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:53 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: SBMNH CUP (Tuesday, March 24 City Council Meeting)

-----Original Message-----

From: Chuck McPartlin [<mailto:macpuzl@west.net>]  
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 6:23 PM  
To: Peirce, Gwendolynn  
Subject: SBMNH CUP (Tuesday, March 24 City Council Meeting)

Good Afternoon,

I am Chuck McPartlin, the public outreach coordinator for the Astronomical Unit, the amateur astronomy club sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

The AU, under the aegis of the Museum, has received local, national, and international recognition for our astronomy outreach programs. The Museum has been a partner with the AU and SBCC and LCOGTN in promoting astronomy, and providing a venue for classes and stargazing for many years. For thirty years, the Astronomical Unit has been hosting public star parties and educational events throughout the county, and in particular at the Museum.

Astronomy is one of the signature and most popular activities the Museum, and it provides wonderful education for students and citizens alike, and serves as an introduction to the fun side of STEM subjects, particularly for elementary school children.

Under the current Museum CUP, stargazing activities are allowed until 10:30 PM.

Under the new CUP just approved by the PC, the Museum is now being required to end all of its activities at 10 PM.

I am here as a community member to ask you all to consider modifying this condition slightly.

In the summer months, astronomical twilight does not occur until almost 10 PM. To stop our astronomy classes or to end the monthly star gazing parties at 10 PM would severely limit our summer month astronomy programs at the Museum.

If the stargazing that happens at the observatory plaza were allowed to continue during the summer months until 10:30 PM, AS ALLOWED UNDER THE CURRENT CUP, our program of Museum summer astronomy outreach could remain intact.

We would still have all participants off the Museum campus by 11 PM, in accordance with the parking lot closure requirement.

Astronomical observing is inherently a quiet and dark activity. The Museum, as far as we know, has not had significant complaints about our students or stargazers being loud or problematic during events or when they leave.

Please do consider extending stargazing until 10:30 PM during the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day, so we can continue to offer this important educational opportunity for the citizens of Santa Barbara.

Thank you, and Hasta Nebula - Chuck.

--

Chuck McPartlin

[macpuzl@west.net](mailto:macpuzl@west.net)

<http://www.sbau.org/>

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## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:53 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: CUP for SBNHM

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Doyle [<mailto:jhdoyle1186@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:02 PM  
To: Peirce, Gwendolynn  
Subject: CUP for SBNHM

Dear Ms. Peirce,

Please forward these thoughts about the proposed Conditional Use Permit for the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum to the members of the Santa Barbara City Council:

The Conditional Use Permit just approved by your Planning Commission regarding the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum (SBNHM) needs amending before adoption. Specifically the clause that prohibits some museum activities after 10:00 PM is contrary to the interests of the of the SBNHM as well as those of the City of Santa Barbara. I ask that this be changed bask to 10:30 PM as the current CPU allows.

I suggests this because one of the affected activities is astronomy. This is an educational activity that the SBNHM frequently puts on for members of the public, including Santa Barbara residents and visitors from out of town. While it is important for children to be exposed to science and nature via astronomy it is often a real treat for our out of town visitors. Many of our visitors come from metropolitan areas with so much light pollution that only a handful of stars are ever seen even on the best nights. People in Santa Barbara are fortunate to be able to see the stars in the night sky reasonably well on a clear night.

Many "out of towners" have commented to me that they just can't see the sky at home the way they do here and that this is part of the enjoyment of coming to Santa Barbara.

Please modify the proposed new CUP for the SBNHM to allow astronomy activities until at least 10:30 PM.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joe Doyle

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:53 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: SB Museum of Natural History CUP appeal

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**From:** bkm [mailto:[bbm0@cox.net](mailto:bbm0@cox.net)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 9:06 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Subject:** SB Museum of Natural History CUP appeal

Good Afternoon. I am Bruce Murdock, a member of the Santa Barbara Astronomy Unit (SBAU), and an active astronomer doing public outreaches with astronomy.

The Santa Barbara Natural History Museum has been an enthusiastic partner with the SBAU, SBCC and Los Cumbres Observatory (LCOGTN) promoting astronomy and providing a venue for classes and star gazing for many years. Remember, the Museum has a planetarium that is used many times a week to promote astronomy.

The SBAU has been providing free monthly star gazing parties and weekly telescope classes to the community for years at the Museum.

Astronomy is one of the signature and most popular activities the Museum and it provides wonderful education for students and citizens alike.

Under its current CUP, star gazing activities are allowed until 10:30 pm.

Under the new CUP, just approved by the Planning Commission, the Museum is being required to now end all of its activities at 10 pm.

I am here as a community member to ask you all to consider modifying this condition slightly.

In the summer months, astronomical twilight does not occur until almost 10 pm. To stop our astronomy classes or to end the monthly star gazing parties at 10 pm would severely limit our summer month astronomy programs.

Allowing the star gazing at the observatory plaza to continue during the summer months until 10:30 pm, AS ALLOWED UNDER THE CURRENT CUP, our program and our summer class could remain intact.

We would still have all students or star gazers off the campus by 11 pm, in accordance with the parking lot closure.

And please remember that star gazing is inherently a quiet and dark activity.

The museum as we understand it has not had significant complaints about our students or stargazers being loud or problematic when they leave.

Please do consider extending star gazing until 10:30 pm during the period between memorial and labor day and we can continue to offer this important educational opportunity.

Thank you,

Bruce Murdock



## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:53 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Please reconsider

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Tim Crawford [<mailto:TCrawf3@cox.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 10:29 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Subject:** Please reconsider

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a member of the Astronomical Unit, a local astronomy club. We do much outreach to our community and as a routine have a star party at the Museum of Natural History for the public every second Saturday of the month. The Museum is also used by the City College that has classes there. Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network (LCOGTN) has donated much to the Museum for upcoming observatory changes. UCSB students show up during their school year for credit. We have many guests come from out of town or around the world that join us to participate in astronomy events as well!

Currently we end our night events at 10:30 and I understand new guidelines are for events to end at 10 pm. During Summer months the sun actually sets a little before 9 pm. That makes it difficult to entertain guests that come to our star party as they would most likely have 1/2 hour of dark sky. I ask you - would you come to this yourself?

Let me cut to the chase here. If the new conditions are based on curfew or noise levels I think it's just which side of the fence you are on, isn't it. The Museum has been doing education and public outreach for years! To modify what they have done for years is not beneficial to them. For the residents of the area, they get to feel that the hatches get battened down earlier and it might make them feel better.

Compromise has been around forever. Let me just say one thing here. Maybe if we can come to some kind of agreement, both sides will come out of this okay. Dual glazed windows are a great compromise. I live on a dead end street- real quiet- and had these sound issues. We had some work done on our house and when we did it we got new windows. I never had dual glazed windows before and never heard of them. They insulate better to the exterior temperatures. Heating and cooling costs are actually saved. But, the surprise benefit is the way the noise is also insulated. You literally hear way less of the outdoors if you choose to close the windows ( especially to the side that faces any unwanted noise).

You know, I don't know who may need this kind of issue addressed or even if they could work with the Museum toward this end. I just thought I might try to help by suggesting a possible compromise.

Of course I am a prejudiced party here. I love going up to the Museum and taking the public for a ride in the night sky. It's really fun- and interesting. But, in the world we live in, where everything costs more, it would be a shame to curtail something that still costs nothing. No, we don't own the night- we're merely shepherds of the skies. And we're really good at what we do. When some of these young people grow up and have their own families, I'd like to think we helped show them a way they can tell their kids and friends a way they can still get something for nothing- the stars at night.

Tim Crawford

Sent from my iPad

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:53 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Conditional Use Permit per Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

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**From:** Bill Clausen [<mailto:wjc1450@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 3:27 AM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Subject:** Conditional Use Permit per Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Ms Peirce:

The Museum has been a partner with the AU and SBCC and LCOGTN promoting astronomy and providing a venue for classes and star gazing for many years.

Astronomy is one of the signature and most popular activities the Museum and it provides wonderful education for students and citizens alike.

Under its current CUP, star gazing activities are allowed until 10:30 pm. These activities do not involve the use of alcohol and are family-oriented events.

Under the new CUP just approved by the PC, the Museum is being required to now end all of its activities at 10 pm.

In the summer months, astronomical twilight does not occur until almost 10 pm. To stop our astronomy classes or to end the monthly star gazing parties at 10 pm would severely limit our summer month astronomy programs.

If the star gazing that happens at the observatory plaza would be allowed to continue during the summer months until 10:30 pm, AS ALLOWED UNDER THE CURRENT CUP, our program and our summer class could remain intact.

We would still have all students or star gazers off the campus by 11 pm, in accordance with the parking lot closure.

And please remember that star gazing is inherently a quiet and dark activity.

The museum as we understand it has not had significant complaints about our students or stargazers being loud or problematic when they leave.

Please do consider extending star gazing until 10:30 pm during the period between memorial and labor day and we can continue to offer this important educational opportunity

Thank you. Bill Clausen. 805-698-2031. P.O. box 343, Lompoc, Ca, 93438. [wjc1450@aol.com](mailto:wjc1450@aol.com)

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:54 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Update

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Tim Crawford [<mailto:TCrawf3@cox.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:28 AM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Subject:** Update

Council Members,

I emailed you last evening with my take of what is going on with the Santa Barbara Museum changing its hours of night activity to 10 pm from the current 10:30 pm time.

Talking with my wife more on this ( she has incredible honesty and common sense) I have a few more observations regarding this issue. My take was compromise. I still think this is the answer.

Look, the Museum has been a community activity center for how long? As far back as I can remember . The point is, this is nothing that is new. To curtail the events to an earlier hour, especially during the Summer or on weekends is to end the events. It is just not reasonable an answer or fair to an existing body.

The Museum is not the only local venue that has these issues. Think about local high school football games. How about the County Bowl? Even better, I bet residents of Cottage Hospital do not enjoy helicopters coming and going at all hours.

The point is, we are a growing and ever modernizing community. I think it is also time to be a little more modern in our thinking. Let's be a little more tolerant.

Here is what I propose. First, the hour of 10 pm may be a good time to cut off events during the workweek. But for the weekends or holidays make the hour of cut off 11 pm. That's only 1'hour more of putting up with a little noise. It just makes sense. As I said before in a previous email, no one will want to drive to a star party for 1/2 hour of semi dark skies. It just won't happen. You will not just be changing hours- you will be ending what has been a mainstay at the Museum for years.

If the residents of the area do not like the noise levels or traffic noise, they can do themselves what I proposed in the past email. Install dual glazed windows. I'm telling you- they work. I know this from my own experience.

Thanks for listening,  
Tim Crawford.

Sent from my iPad

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:18 PM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: City Council re: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History CUP, Astronomy

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**From:** Andrew Allen [<mailto:andrewstuartallen@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:08 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Subject:** City Council re: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History CUP, Astronomy

Dear Santa Barbara City Council Members,

I've recently heard that the new CUP for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History would require all museum activities to conclude by 10pm. This would greatly limit astronomy activities at the museum in summer months. In June, for example, the sun doesn't set until after 8, and it doesn't get dark enough to see many of the most interesting space objects (galaxies, star clusters, etc.) until well after 9pm.

Ending the events at 10 would leave a very narrow window of opportunity. The astronomy events are quiet, and allowing them to go until 10:30pm, as they do now, would not be disruptive to the surrounding neighborhood.

The Museum of Natural History and the Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit do a great job of providing a place for children and adults to learn about space and to see the wonders of the universe through telescopes. I hope you will consider this small accommodation to help facilitate their contribution to our community.

Thank you.

Andrew Allen  
329 West Ortega St. #B  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805-451-6981

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:09 PM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding modification request of SBMNH CUP

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**From:** erinfieldstudy@gmail.com [mailto:erinfieldstudy@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Erin OConnor  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:00 PM  
**To:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Subject:** Regarding modification request of SBMNH CUP

Dear Ms Pierce,

I am contacting you today to support a request for a slight modification of the recently approved CUP for the SB Museum of Natural History. I am responsible for the SBCC Astronomy labs that are held in the planetarium and observatory at the museum. Should we be required to vacate the premises by 10 pm, this would severely limit our astronomy program and could lead to a cancellation of all summer courses.

Astronomical twilight does not occur until near 10 pm during summer months (and actually at exactly 10 pm on June 21 in SB). This means it is not dark enough for our classes to observe deep sky objects during summer months until after 10 pm. We ask that the 10 pm deadline be extended to 10:30 pm for all astronomy activities, and that a provision be added that would allow the public to continue viewing later for special celestial events, such as comets, eclipses, alien space ship landings, etc). It would be silly to have an astronomical event of great significance, with a \$100,000 dollar state of the art telescope at the museum, and not be able to share with our community (the public).

SBCC and the museum have a long standing collaboration in astronomy. We have shared facilities for decades in our mission to share the wonders of astronomy to our local community and to our children. SBCC offers six lab sessions every fall, another six in the spring, and two in the summer. This adds up to 500 students per year doing three hours of astronomy per week for sixteen weeks. We are the only educational institution in the area that offers such a comprehensive astronomical lab course experience. UCSB offers nothing in this area.

The students who take the lab course are almost all from our local community. Although SBCC does host some international students, very few of them take this lab course because of it's off site location and the difficulty of finding transportation to and from. Therefore, our lab courses directly benefit our local community in a very real way. I myself took this same lab course as a student at SB High School in the 1980's. Today I teach the course and have many local high school students taking the labs for credit. Local high school students are in need of night courses that don't conflict with their classes during the day. Astronomy is one of the most commonly taken courses for high school students, and also one of the most popular and impacted courses at SBCC for local college students from our local community.

Due to strict educational guidelines that require students to have specific amounts of time working with telescopes to get credit for an astronomy lab, restricting our labs to before 9:30 pm, jeopardizes the credibility and transferability of our courses. During summer months, the restriction is so severe, that we would most likely have to cancel our summer offerings.

Also, please note that a lot of community support has gone into the renovation and installation of the new telescope donated by LCOGT. This is a state of the art instrument that is being purposely installed in a location not optimal for research, but for the primary purpose of education and outreach. Here is a telescope our local community, the public, our children, can see and look through. The educational value of such an instrument, and the potential to inspire our youth to pursue interests and careers in science, are priceless. Restricting our viewing to before 9:30 pm severely limits the use of this telescope and the educational mission for which it is intended.

Lastly, I wish to point out that on occasion there are astronomical events of great significance. We need to have the flexibility to use the telescope, our observatory, and our planetarium facilities to cater to public demand during these events. Be it a famous comet, meteor storm, supernova, eclipse, or whatnot, we need a safe place to share this with the public. These events are rare, but to not be able to share with the public would be a disservice to our community.

I wish to finish with a reminder that the museum has been a proud fixture of our local community for over 100 years, and nothing that we are asking for above is beyond what has been allowed in the past. We are not asking for an expansion of our access, but rather just to be allowed to do what we always have been allowed to do. There have been classes, star parties, and special event showings at the museum at night for at least the past 50 years that I am personally aware of. Please don't take this valuable resource away from us. Those of us in the astronomical community are passionate about the stars and what they can do to awe, inspire, and teach our youth. Help us with our mission.

Astronomy is by nature a quiet and peaceful activity. I don't think we will impact the community adversely at all, and the benefits to the community are great.

Thank you for your consideration. I request to speak at the next board meeting on this subject. Please let me know how I can go about requesting permission to do so.

Thank you.

--erin

Erin O'Connor ([oconnor@sbcc.edu](mailto:oconnor@sbcc.edu))  
Dept of Earth & Planetary Sciences  
Santa Barbara City College  
[www.fieldstudy.com](http://www.fieldstudy.com)

## Tschech, Susan

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**From:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:17 AM  
**To:** Tschech, Susan  
**Subject:** FW: CUP related to Astronomy Activites at SBMNH

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**From:** Yvonne DeGraw [<mailto:ydegrow@ydegrow.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:50 PM  
**To:** Yvonne DeGraw  
**Cc:** Peirce, Gwendolynn  
**Subject:** CUP related to Astronomy Activites at SBMNH

Hello,

As the President of the Board of Trustees of the Goleta Union School District, I'd like to encourage you to amend the CUP related to the Museum of Natural History to permit star gazing activities organized by the Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit (SBAU) until 10:30 pm as was permitted under the previous CUP.

These astronomy activities are of great value to students in our area. In fact, one low-income student, Daniel Godinez, is currently studying astronomy at Bard College on a full-tuition scholarship due to his involvement with the SBAU and the astronomy programs at the museum. Many students attend the SBAUs events and are encouraged to pursue STEM majors in college.

The volunteers of the SBAU hosted 227 astronomy events in 2014, including showing the stars and planets to students and parents at Science Nights for Adams and McKinley Elementary Schools. Astronomy is an important part of the elementary and junior high science curriculum. For many students, it is a "high interest" topic that inspires them to continue to work hard in school.

Because the sun sets so late in summer, it does not become fully dark until almost 10 pm. So, allowing star gazing to continue until 10:30 pm allows for half an hour of prime viewing. While the older members of the SBAU are able to drive up into the hills for late-night viewing, this is not always possible for students or low-income families.

The SBAU's star gazing activities are free to the community. I and my family have attended these activities in the past, and they are very quiet. They generate no light that would disturb neighbors, as those using telescopes want their eyes to stay dark-adapted.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Yvonne DeGraw

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Yvonne DeGraw  
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