



LA PARKS ALLIANCE

August 9, 2022

See below for comments from community members and leaders in response to Frank McCourt's announcement to transfer gondola project to a nonprofit.

Statement from Richard Rojas Sr., former State Parks Superintendent, board member of Latino Outdoors and member of the [LA Parks Alliance](#).

Make no mistake, today's announcement by McCourt Global to transfer the proposed Union Station to Dodger Stadium aerial gondola project to a nonprofit organization is nothing but his latest shell game. For months, the community has raised concerns and questions about this project, its safety, its plans for financing and who will cover costs for maintenance and ongoing operations, among many other things. We've received no information.

This so-called "transfer" does nothing to address our concerns. In fact, we believe it is a thinly-veiled attempt to get the taxpayers to fund McCourt's vanity project. And we have serious questions like: What does it mean for a nonprofit to take this project over? Would this transfer mean that a nonprofit can access state and federal funding? Does Frank McCourt receive a hefty tax break? Why is Frank McCourt trying to disassociate himself from the project?

Let's be clear, the gondola is McCourt's project. This latest attempt to pull the wool over our eyes proves our point: this man can't be trusted. First, he used Metro to greenlight a deal that broke its own rules for transparency and good governance. Now, he wants to saddle a brand new nonprofit and has no experience with a \$300 million project. We didn't ask for the gondola and we don't want the gondola. The fact that McCourt brought a nonprofit from outside our community to serve as a front for a project that won't reduce emissions or traffic is an insult to a neighborhood that has suffered more than its fair share of injustice.

McCourt can't fool us. We will continue to do all we can to stop the McGondola!

Statement from Jon Christensen, adjunct assistant professor, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

Frank McCourt's announcement that he is transferring his aerial gondola to a nonprofit with no experience and track record building transit is further evidence that he will go to desperate lengths to keep this pet project alive. While his company has repeatedly said they will take full responsibility for the project, his actions speak otherwise. First, he somehow got Metro to unfairly get involved with the project. Now, he is suddenly involving a nonprofit organization. But why? What's in it for him?

McCourt has a lot to win if the gondola gets built, even if he doesn't build it.

There is no evidence that McCourt's gondola would reduce greenhouse gas emissions or traffic around Dodger Stadium, but there is evidence of his plans for future major development at

Dodger Stadium. The evidence is in court documents McCourt tried to have sealed during bankruptcy proceedings when he sold the Dodgers but kept 50% ownership of the parking lots. If McCourt succeeds in building public transit to the stadium, he can reduce the number of parking spaces and build a luxury residential and entertainment complex there. That development will bring more people, more cars, large-scale gentrification and displacement to the neighborhood.

It's time to call it like it is. The gondola is only a means to an end for Frank McCourt to once again profit off the backs of Angelenos.

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