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RE: McCourt Gondola, Item 12

February 13, 2024

Planning Committee  
Metro  
1 Gateway Plaza,  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Planning Committee and Metro Board:

I thought it might be appropriate to start this letter off with a poll conducted by the Eastsider, a local newspaper here in our neighborhood that shows 74% of community members summarily rejecting the McCourt Gondola project.

## • **Readers Respond: What do you think of a proposed Dodger gondola? Feb 2, 2024**

### **Readers Respond**

#### **What do you think of a proposed Dodger gondola?**

Last week, we reported that [City Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez](#) is calling on the city to [suspend](#) further actions on the proposed aerial gondola between Union Station and Dodger Stadium. So we asked, is the gondola a good idea?

-   - 26%
-   - 74%

#### **Some of your comments:**

- "Huge waste of money for something seasonal. Buses to the stadium are the way to go."
- "It will lead to excessive future development at the stadium parking lots."
- "I'm tired of rich people doing whatever they want in this city whether we like it or not. I hope we can stop this one."
- "The gondola will hopefully help with the parking and exiting nightmare at the stadium."
- "Elysian Park does not need to be further monetized. We need the park & its wonderful birds and wildlife as an escape from monetized areas."
- "I'd love a faster trip to the stadium from the Gold Line!"
- "Echo Park is not an amusement park It's going to impact the neighborhood in a negative way."

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As a community member who has been organizing against this project since its inception, it should be noted that the comments against this project have been consistent and growing in complexity making many of our community leaders greater experts on the topic than the staff and representatives making the ultimate decisions. This often happens when individuals take the time to read and digest the contents of an EIR...

The last-minute call to hold a decision-making meeting on Valentine's Day and dropping a 200-page load of nonsense to review during the Lunar New Year celebration, shows a profound lack of respect for the people being impacted.

Our petition has grown to over 6,000 signatures as of this morning... (An updated copy will be provided to the full board for next week) not from people who have been paid by McCourt, but by people living, working, and participating in the collective community. They answered substantive reasons to the petition they signed vs "I like the Gondola" from LA ART. Newspapers, activists, engineers, community leaders, environmentalists, conservationists, have all weighed in on the absurdity of allowing this project to move forward.

It has not been lost on us that Metro and most of the electeds involved in approving or disapproving this project speak incessantly about the need to make our neighborhoods and parks more equitable, so it would incumbent upon our elected leaders to explain to the community how giving a billionaire a blank check to build a (unfunded) 500 million dollar monstrosity that will serve only his needs, serves our community.

We get:

- Thousands of pounds of concrete added to the neighborhood.
- Peepers hovering 26 feet above our park and our homes at all hours of the day.
- The removal of hundreds of mature shade giving trees in a protected historic state park
- Loss of community and park parking
- More traffic
- Loss of park vistas and public air space

Just to name a few.

Equity begins with listening to and siding with the communities of color being subjected to assaults on their neighborhood by billionaires like Frank McCourt. Equity is not something we ignore no matter who and how much money is being promised.

This is the very nature of Equity; PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM THIS EXACT THING. How many more destructive incidents will be tied to this stadium and Frank McCourt? This has to stop.

This project does not solve a single problem for the neighborhood or the City of Los Angeles and despite years of endless outcries that this is not wanted or needed, despite an EIR riddled with falsehoods, inconsistencies, no funding plan that does not include taxpayers, we are here again saying, "Hey electeds, let us remind you that you work for us. You were elected to make OUR lives better not Frank McCourt's."

I/we are asking this committee to reject this farce and protect our neighborhood from yet another ill-conceived folly that profits one billionaire.

Sincerely,

*Laura Velkei*

Laura Velkei

(For purposes of identification)

Managing Chair of ADCCLA/LARABA LUC

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