

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Arts Commission

October 10, 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: Support for Santa Barbara Center for Art, Science and Technology (SBCAST) Project

I am writing to enthusiastically support Alan Macy's proposed plans for developing a Santa Barbara Arts, Science and Technology Center (SBCAST) on Garden Street near Haley.

SBCAST, as envisioned by Mr. Macy will serve as a working studio, educational and exhibition environment for a number of working artists, scientists, and technical specialists. Much needed affordable housing units are also included in the project... that is designed to meet the most demanding LEED requirements. The project will serve the creative community as a center for innovation that makes effective connections between UCSB, Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara and Dos Pueblos High Schools. Conceived as an efficient, beautiful and clean facility Mr. Macy's planned project would do much to enhance the Santa Barbara creative community and provide a unique space for collaborative and creative innovation.

The County Arts Commission recently completed a Community Needs Assessment study compiled with input from the Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative and the Community Arts Workshop Task Force. The Needs Assessment study cited a continued loss of light industrial work space as a significant factor affecting artists and artisans. With the gentrification and development of the Funk Zone, raw and undeveloped light manufacturing spaces continue to disappear at an alarming rate. The City continues to lose artists and innovators who are moving to Ventura County and spaces (such as the recently completed Working Artist Ventura (WAV) project) or to North Santa Barbara County where rents and studio space are more available and at significantly lower rates.

A collaborative working model is a growing trend and key to economic vitality. More than ever, it is important to connect with people to successfully create and develop. Studies show that artist spaces fuel innovation and engage the community. Dynamic artist spaces facilities also function as engines of cultural equality, social change, and innovation. Mr. Macy's incubator model has the increased value of cross-generational mentorships and will provide valuable career training experience.

With plans for developing the Community Arts Workshop on the corner of Garden and Cota St., and its close proximity to the resources of Art From Scrap, the SB Center for Art, Science and Technology will add vital resources and opportunities to the growing synergy of this neighborhood.

With enthusiastic support,


Ginny Brush
Executive Director



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