

From: [Ron Withall](#)
To: [Michele Hardy](#)
Subject: A Carlsbad Performing Arts Center
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 4:55:52 PM

Dear Fellow Committee Members,

After the presentation by the Arts Department several meetings ago, I was quite puzzled by the obvious omission and lack of discussion by the presenters about the need for a performing arts center in our community. I have been a resident of Carlsbad since 1985 and have advocated for a performing arts center for the past 25 years.

My background in the performing arts began in Montreal with the 1976 Montreal Olympics' Art and Culture Program. I, along with two colleagues, produced the popular music program for the 1976 Olympics' Arts and Culture Program.

My involvement in the performing arts in San Diego includes production and sound design for 18 musical theater productions at the historic Mt. Helix Amphitheater in La Mesa and Christmas Holiday productions at the Copley Symphony Hall in downtown San Diego. I have also provided sound design and helped produce 21 musical theater productions by children (over 100 shows and 50,000 tickets) in North County. Because Carlsbad does not have a performance arts venue of adequate size, popular local community performing art programs (theater and dance) are forced to go outside of Carlsbad to find venues to stage their productions. I have worked with two non-profit community musical theater groups for kids in San Diego (CYT - Carlsbad and CYT - El Cajon) and those programs can easily sell over 500 general admission tickets per show.

Carlsbad has a wealth of performing art talent but without a central performing arts center, most of the talent leaves the area. That is a loss for local artists and the community. I recognize that the construction of a Performing Arts Center in Carlsbad is not a "Performance Standard" issue but it is a "Needs" issue and a "Quality of Life" issue. Therefore, I would like to propose that as a committee, we forward a request to the City Council that in their future discussions and dialog about our community and quality of life considerations, that they include the topic of a performing arts center for the Carlsbad community. We are a diverse community and we need to celebrate that diversity through the performing arts.

What are the performing arts?

Performing arts are arts such as music, dance and drama that are performed by individuals or groups in front of a live audience.

Why are performing arts important for Carlsbad?

Above all else, the performing arts are about creativity. Creativity is essential to human development and society cannot advance without creative people. The more people there are involved in the performing arts, the more creative thinkers we will have in the community. The more creative thinkers we have, the more innovative and successful we will be at solving problems in the future.

Some of the benefits performing arts can provide to our community...

PERFORMING ARTS – YOUTH & EDUCATION

The performing arts contribute to the education of everyone involved, especially young people. A performing arts center provides a safe space for kids to try new things, learn about their own strengths and express themselves without fear of rejection. Performing arts shows young people they are capable of greatness, helping them build the confidence to become strong leaders and emotionally intelligent community members.

PERFORMING ARTS - SELF KNOWLEDGE & SELF-EXPRESSION

The performing arts provide an opportunity where people can express themselves without judgment. Performance arts encourage both the performer and the audience to look inward and see our life through new eyes. Performance art reminds us that body language is important in communication and self-expression and allows us to explore this language and the emotions that make performance arts so meaningful.

PERFORMING ARTS - A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

The performing arts give us a sense of connection in the community – and not only for the people on stage but the audience as well. The performing arts provide us with an opportunity to build relationships with others and create a community of its own that's founded on an appreciation for the arts. Unlike the visual arts, performing arts give us a form of entertainment that is focused on being around people and are responsible for strengthening engagement within the community by bringing people with various backgrounds and cultures together across the community. The performing arts actively promote civic engagement and educate us about ourselves and the world we live in.

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Proposed Draft Language for the Quality of Life Memo

OPEN SPACE and PARK

Some members of the public, many residing in the Ponto area, raised the issue of the need for a neighborhood park in their community. For many years, the City of Carlsbad has been investigating a so-called linear park that would run from the Encinitas border to around Carlsbad Airport Road. This three-mile stretch of land could accommodate many of the recreational needs in south Carlsbad in a unique way by providing public restrooms and parking at the beach, bike and pedestrian trails, active and passive recreational areas, and about 60 acres of parkland and open space, in perpetuity.

Many years ago, before the homes in Ponto were built, Carlsbad Blvd. was realigned fronting many of the homes in the Ponto area in anticipation of, and to accommodate, such a linear park.

During various meetings of the Carlsbad Tomorrow Committee, members discovered that the City of Carlsbad has strategically created unique parks and recreational areas around the City to support swimmers, dog owners, pickleball and tennis players, and baseball, football and soccer teams and golfers to name a few. The committee members learned that not all communities will have duplicative recreational opportunities and that in many cases, residents need to travel outside a two-mile range to recreate.

The committee encourages the City Council to aggressively address the needs of all residents of Carlsbad by actively pursuing the feasibility of building the linear park as a unique, one-of-a-kind recreational option for the community, like to Alga Norte swim complex, the Ann L'Heureux Dog Park, the Poinsettia Park pickleball courts, and the Crossings Golf Course, that would add to the quality of life for all who live, work and recreate here.