

RE: Recommendation for Development of the Hoover-Union Triangle Park

Dear All:

18 April 2015

As most of you know, the Hoover-Union Triangle is being studied carefully to see what kind of design will be adopted for it. Ms. Ana Gomez of Council Member Cedillo's office has been spearheading the effort. There have already been at least 3 community meetings by which they are trying to determine what the "community" wants. The next meeting will be held on April 21 at Gertz-Ressler High School's Multipurpose Room, 2023 Union Ave. I very much hope that more of you can come to this meeting. I and my wife will be there.

Yesterday at the park, the USC students and others working on the project design held a Pop-Up Park event during which they asked all comers to fill in a questionnaire as to their priorities for the park. Then they asked the visitors to write out their first priority on a white board and hold it up to have their pictures taken with it.

As a resident of this neighborhood since 1970, my personal interest is that the park represent the community, the culture, the important aspects of life in this area. I would like to see some sort of performance area. The USC design students today told me that that was one of their main considerations too.

I believe the following kind of performances would definitely reflect our community:

Music at Noon Concerts: USC's School of Music has held these small concerts, mainly at United University Church on campus, for many years. I am proposing that such concerts could be held in the park on a regular basis – daily, bi-weekly, weekly, monthly, etc. It need not replace the one on campus but could be an additional one such as Music at Twilight, Music in the Park, etc. Music-performance students are always looking for performance opportunities; this would be a good venue and certainly be a reflection of the USC School of Music's importance in our neighborhood.

24th Street Theater Performance Venue: This stage theater has been here for 18 years. It has an excellent reputation for service to the community: It has grants to send its folk out to the surrounding schools to give kids experience in acting and public performance and to bring them into the theater for classes and performance training. It also offers highly professional stage performances at the unbelievable low price of 24 cents per ticket to neighborhood residents! The management there has expressed their desire to have a performance space in the Park as a setting to publicize their offerings and I could see it as a fun practice performance space for the local school kids taking part in their educational programs.

Community Day of the Dead Celebration Venue. This would be an additional venue to complement the usual annual *Day of the Dead* celebrations held by the community on 24th Street and at the 24th Street Theater. This is CERTAINLY a reflection of a major part of the cultural make-up of our community.

Yesterday I talked again to Eric Baes the owner of the sushi restaurant and, for the first time, with Alex the owner/manager of the Nature's Brew, the coffee shop just across Union Avenue from the park. They both like the performance venue option. This obviously has the potential to bring them more business as people will likely come to eat/drink at their businesses before and/or after watching a performance. I urged both these gentlemen to go over to the Pop-Up Park display and express their opinions and to come to the meeting April 21 at Gertz-Ressler.

I also talked again to the manager of the 24th Street Theater when he visited the park; he reiterated his support for a performance space there.

In light of these expressions of support from the local businesses most closely concerned, the 24th St Theater, and folk like me and my neighbors who have been in the community for years (My family for 45 years), I want to propose that the ECNANDC write a letter of support for inclusion of a PERFORMANCE SPACE in the development of the Hoover-Union Park.

I would appreciate hearing from board members and neighbors as to how else the performance space could be used to reflect the culture and values of the our community and how we can help strengthen a letter of support for it.

Please attend the April 21 meeting sponsored by Council Member, Gilbert Cedillo at Gertz-Ressler High School.

Thanks,

David N. Tool
Member,
Empowerment Congress North Neighborhood Development Council
Area 3 Representative