

Ivan Light, President, Carthay Circle Neighborhood Association:

Presentation at the public hearing held on March 16, 2015 before Luciralia Ibarra, City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning

The Carthay Circle community was built in the mid 1920's and is a central part of Los Angeles history. Its historic character was recognized in 1998 when it was one of the first communities designated a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone.

One of the remarkable aspects of Los Angeles is its ability to have commercial and cultural institutions co-exist side by side with residential neighborhoods by taking each other's interests into account and avoiding having the cultural and the commercial activities overwhelm and harm the integrity of the adjacent residential communities --- up until now Carthay Circle has been one of those residential communities that has coexisted in a balanced relationship with its cultural and commercial neighbors.

We are very fearful that the scope and nature of the proposed project will dramatically change this. We are fearful of nightmarish traffic intrusion and parking problems that the cars and buses coming to the project will bring to an area that presently has to cope with severe congestion and limited parking for its residents. And we are dismayed at the radical change in the character and atmosphere of our community that the project's proposed lighting and electronic signage will bring.

Our community would clearly be in favor of a motion picture museum at the proposed location. But when you inform our community of the dominant elements of the proposed project -- a huge theater, a banquet hall, roof top entertainment center, bright outdoor lighting and electronic signage, events lasting to midnight and later -- our community quickly understands that what is being proposed is not a museum as that term is used in common parlance but rather some sort of promotional event center.

Furthermore, and very importantly, when you add to this, the fact that the developers are not building a dedicated parking structure despite projections of thousands of additional cars a day -- our community members are simply appalled.

Our neighborhood currently exists with parking and with traffic issues that are dealt with and managed -- but with great difficulty. The addition to this community of a project of the proposed size and scope without a dedicated parking structure will overwhelm our neighborhood and cause severe traffic and parking problems.

In brief, the Carthay Circle community believes that the project as proposed is simply not appropriate for the corner of Fairfax and Wilshire --- if the project is built as proposed, it will have a material adverse effect on the quality of life in our community.