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Sent via email

SMMUSD Board of Education
District Administrative Offices
1717 4th St., Santa Monica, CA

Dear School Board Members,

The Santa Monica Conservancy has reviewed your extensive and comprehensive Feasibility Study for the adaptive reuse of the historic Civic Auditorium for high school competitive athletics as well as for performances and other community events. It is an ambitious concept and the report addresses many important goals for the School District and for the community. For the community, public uses and access are valued as continuing the storied legacy of our Civic Auditorium, and we appreciate your recognition of this fact.

We appreciate your assurance that the existing Landmark designation by the City of Santa Monica will continue to ride with the property, and that review of proposed renovations and expansion will be under the purview of the Landmarks Commission. We hope that if your proposal moves forward with the city that that assurance will be binding. This ensures the protection of key character-defining features of the landmark and provides a process for balancing historic architectural elements with necessary programmatic changes and alterations.

The Conservancy has a strong commitment to upholding the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* as the methodology to protect the landmark's character-defining features and overall historic integrity. We expect to play a significant role in assisting the design team to meet that commitment. The adoption of Administrative Regulations and Board Policy #7113 regarding policies and procedures for historic resources in the District confirms an inclusive design development process. These policies state that interested parties and community members, and specifically the Santa Monica Conservancy, will be included in the planning and design phases of projects affecting historic resources.

At this early stage, the Conservancy is not taking a position to support or oppose the District's proposal. The District Board first needs to authorize moving forward. If plans move forward, we expect that the School District will meet with the Conservancy and community stakeholders and incorporate comments received into the proposal before submitting to the City. And we hope that the longstanding community desire to see the Civic Auditorium function in its historic use as a public venue will continue to be part of the plans.

Sincerely,

Tom Cleys, President
Santa Monica Conservancy Board of Directors

CC: Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer