



February 4, 2021

Piedmont City Council  
City of Piedmont  
120 Vista Avenue  
Piedmont, CA 94611

Re: Piedmont Center for the Arts Lease

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Piedmont (LWVP) board to express our concerns about the proposed lease renewal for Piedmont Center for the Arts.

Our concern is based on the longtime, ongoing need for more sites in the City to hold community meetings and events. As you know, the Piedmont League hosts regular meetings, usually with prominent speakers, that are always free and open to the public. Except for our annual lunch meetings when we rent the Community Center or Veterans Hall, we invariably struggle to find suitable, available space in Piedmont to hold our speaker events. The Arts Center would be an ideal site for such events, but in the past, our requests to use it have been turned down because they were not arts related.

Regarding the Center's proposed lease renewal, the (11/16/2020) City staff report states, "the proposed agreement provides for City programs and events as well as private non arts-related rentals which do not adversely impact scheduled PCA events or programs to take place in the main hall. Any community member or group is able to access the space directly through PCA for an arts-related event at reasonable rental rates. Non arts-related private events in the PCA may be reserved through the City within 40 days of the event provided space is available."

It is not clear where LWVP and other similar organizations that are neither City programs nor private entities fit in this arrangement. Also, the requirement to reserve the PCA hall for non-arts private events 40 days ahead seems like an excessive time frame and a disincentive. It is also unclear whether the proposed lease prevents PCA from canceling a scheduled non-arts event reservation in favor of an arts-related program.

While we totally agree with and support the Arts Center's mission to provide and encourage arts programs and events in Piedmont, we would like to see a balanced use of the building that serves the needs of our entire community. To that end, we hope you will carefully consider how

the proposed lease can accommodate wider access for Piedmont residents to realize the full value of this valuable space.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LAP', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lorrel A. Plimier  
President, League of Women Voters Piedmont