

February 20, 2016

Sandy Bleifer
22 Sunset Avenue
Venice, CA 90291

Re: Endorsement of Affordable Housing for Venice's Artists and Creatives

Dear Ms. Bleifer,

I am writing to advise you that our organization endorses your efforts to create affordable housing for Venice's artists and other creatives.

The VSA has long worked to maintain the quintessential warp and woof of Venice - such as its historic Craftsman architecture. Certainly artists and other creative individuals, including musicians, composers, sculptors, writers and poets, have long been a part of the tapestry of our community.

We have watched with concern as many artists have been forced out of Venice due to rent increases and the loss of older, less expensive housing stock and commercial space, which has been replaced by higher rent apartments, single family homes and high end retail uses.

With low income artists now considered eligible for federal assistance along with others of lower incomes, Venice has an opportunity to support the construction of units specifically designed for artists in future affordable developments.

We prefer some sites in Venice for artists affordable housing, such as the abandoned bus yard on Main Street and the Postal Service building and parking lot on the Windward Traffic Circle, to other sites, such as public parking lots, which we believe should be retained for parking uses. We also would ask that any project abide by the height limits and parking requirements of the Venice Local Coastal Specific Plan.

Thank you again for your efforts to retain Venice's artists and its tradition as a vibrant art colony.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Ryavec
President