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Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - Group 2

From: Emily Zacarias <ezacarias@gusd.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 7:55 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support for Music Academy of the West Case Numbers: 21-RVP-109; 21 CDP-129

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Lavagnino and members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing this letter in support of the Music Academy of the West. As I understand it, they are requesting an update/revision to their Conditional Use Permit; I urge you to approve this CUP to give them more flexibility in their operations.

As a Trustee for the Goleta Union School District, I see firsthand the benefit of partnering with community organizations to provide free quality education programs to our students. The MAW's Sing! Program provides free group choral lessons to students in our districts as well as others in the County of SB. These regular lessons and rehearsals culminate in performances at the Granada Theater, which last year got to perform with the London Symphony Orchestra. These experiences are what help shape our youth into becoming confident, cultured, and artistically inclined individuals.

As a public school teacher in the County, as well as a parent of 2 young daughters; I have also attended many concerts and events at the Music Academy and recognize its importance as a cultural institution and a gem in our region for providing classical music concerts (with many offering Community access \$10/seat shows), a venue for community events (notably, the upcoming Salute to Teachers on 11/2 which SBCEO recognizes the best teachers of the year), and a world-renown Summer Institute which hosts and trains young classical musicians from all over the US and the World (which my husband and I have been Compeers for-- hosting visiting musicians for the 8 week program).

Please, I strongly encourage you to approve the revised CUP and give the Music Academy the flexibility it needs to be a sustainable organization in our community for many years to come.

With gratitude,

Emily Zacarias

Katherine Douglas

From: James Walker <jwflute1@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 8:02 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support for Music Academy of the West Case Numbers: 21-RVP-109; 21 CDP-129

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Dear Chair Lavagnino and members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am James Walker, one of the two flute faculty member of the Music Academy of the West for 10 years. I am also Professor Emeritus/USC Thornton School of Music and current professor of Flute and Chamber music at The Colburn School Conservatory of Music. I am writing in support of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) the The Music Academy of the West. Since I have been in the Southern California area since 1977 as Principal Flutist of the LA Philharmonic Orchestra, I have been a huge fan and supporter of The Music Academy. It has been my honor to have joined the faculty and I look forward to a continued productive experience there for the coming years. The international outreach and reputation of the Music Academy is stellar and hopefully will continue for decades to come. Please register my support for granting this permit to The Music Academy.

Sincerely yours,
James R. Walker

Katherine Douglas

From: Steve Windhager <swindhager@sbbotanicgarden.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 9:43 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support for Music Academy of the West Case Numbers: 21-RVP-109; 21 CDP-129

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Lavagnino and members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in support of the application by the Music Academy of the West for changes to the Conditional Use Permit. Many of the critical cultural institutions in Santa Barbara County labor under highly burdensome Conditional Use Permits that greatly impedes these institutions to be able to achieve their mission. These cultural institutions would in other communities be funded at least in part by the cities and counties that they occupy, but this is not the case in Santa Barbara County. Instead, Santa Barbara County has placed often unreasonable and costly restrictions on routine operations. With the rising costs in Santa Barbara County, this is adversely affecting the continued existence of many of these institutions.

In the case of the Music Academy of the West, their requested amendment stays clearly within the spirit of the 2004 CUP. They are not changing the daily, any-given-time, and annual limits on attendance and the limit on non-conservatory events. The changes they are requesting is the appropriate flexing of conditions after having lived with them for 20 years, and are designed to enable the private non-profit to raise the funds required to remain a viable entity. A rejection of this request will lead to reduced services available from the Music Academy. Approving this request will ensure that the Music Academy will be able to continue to provide critically important cultural resources to our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve



Steve Windhager, Ph.D.

Executive Director
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
1212 Mission Canyon Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Office: 805.690.1123
SBBotanicGarden.org

Katherine Douglas

From: Laurie Rasmussen <laurieharp@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 1:48 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: : Support for Music Academy of the West Case Numbers: 21-RVP-109; 21 CDP-129

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Dear Board Members,

I am writing in support of the Music Academy of the West and hope that you will allow them to hold events that fund their programs.

I've lived in Santa Barbara for over 20 year and in that time I have attended countless stunningly beautiful concerts and masterclasses at the Music Academy. As a professional musician, I am inspired by the offerings at the Academy but I know that non-musicians who attend these events also value them as much as I do. Our community is lucky to have such a gem locally - a place that provides not only cultural and educational experiences, but also the serene setting of the campus that is enjoyed by concert-goers and neighbors alike.

I have recently begun renting a music studio at the Academy to teach my private harp students. Both myself and my students are inspired every day to reach higher as we hear the sounds of Debussy floating down the hallways. It's supportive to have an atmosphere where everyone else is equally devoted to honing their skills and making beautiful music.

Please, support the Music Academy of the West!

Sincerely,
Laurie Rasmussen

Laurie Rasmussen
805.320.9337
www.laurierasmussen.com

Katherine Douglas

From: ANTONIO ARTESE <antonioartese@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 1:54 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support for Music Academy of the West Case Numbers: 21-RVP-109; 21 CDP-129

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Lavagnino and members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Music Academy of the West and to encourage you to approve their updated Conditional Use Permit and deny the appeal for Case No. 21-RVP-109; 21-CDP-129. As a pianist and educator who has lived in Santa Barbara since 1991 and recently moved back, I have seen firsthand how vital the Academy is to the cultural and artistic landscape of our community. It not only attracts exceptional talent but also enriches the lives of Santa Barbara residents through world-class music and educational opportunities.

The Academy's commitment to musical excellence and community engagement is inspiring, and it is a resource we are fortunate to have here. Please support the Music Academy of the West in their efforts to continue serving our community and nurturing the next generation of musicians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Antonio Artese

Dr. Antonio Artese, DMA
Pianist - Composer
805 259 5047
www.antonioartese.com

M. Antonio Artese, DMA
Dean
Chigiana Global Academy Program
+39 339 2412388
www.global.chigiana.org



Katherine Douglas

From: Kathryn Martin <kmartin@thesymphony.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 2:58 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Kimberly Kebler
Subject: Support for Music Academy of the West Case Numbers: 21-RVP-109; 21 CDP-129

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Dear Chair Lavagnino and members of the Board of Supervisors,

I write to request your support of the Music Academy's revised CUP request. The Music Academy of the West – and brings national visibility to Santa Barbara, and joins The Symphony as a generator of community impact and moments of awe – for youth and adults.

The special and iconic property upon which they have been fortunate to call "home" not only provides their students and audiences with an environment to experience this impact, but the location ALSO serves other local non-profits. For instance, the Symphony is grateful to have access to their spaces for Youth Symphony rehearsals, and rehearsals & auditions for the professional Symphony when the Granada Theatre is not available or is cost prohibitive.

When considering their request, The Symphony invites discussion about increasing access to the local non-profit performing arts community.

Sincerely,

Kathryn

Kathryn R Martin

President & CEO
Santa Barbara Symphony



☎ [\(805\) 898-9826](tel:(805)898-9826)
✉ kmartin@TheSymphony.org
🔗 TheSymphony.org
📍 1330 State Street, Suite 102, Santa Barbara, California 93101



Katherine Douglas

From: LAURA HEMENWAY <lhemeway@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 3:12 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support for Music Academy of the West Case Numbers: 21-RVP-109; 21 CDP-129

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Lavagnino and members of the Board of Supervisors,

I support the Music Academy of the West. Please approve their updated Conditional Use Permit and deny the appeal.

The Music Academy is the star of the Crown of the Santa Barbara arts community, WORLD-WIDE. Its reputation is far-reaching and its standards set the bar for every performing classical musician known to me. Its master classes, summer program, and orchestras have offered performance opportunities and audience opportunities that are world class.

As a recipient of a BA in Piano Performance and an MA in conducting from UCSB, I share a personal story:

When I was a teenage piano student, I was growing discouraged and wondering if I was choosing the right career path as a conductor. In 1972, women conductors were just not accepted. My piano teacher was acquainted with Reginald Stewart, a longtime teacher and supporter of the Academy, and a piano virtuoso with a huge backlog of international performance and recording credits. He agreed to listen to me play. At the end of the session, he was so encouraging, and positive, and gave me the confidence to continue my music studies. He encouraged me to continue my goal to become a conductor. That opportunity changed my life and set my life's direction. I went on to continue my music education at UCSB, and I was music director and conductor of the Antelope Valley Symphony Orchestra for the next two decades after meeting with him. This is one of thousands of stories that reflect the mentorship of generous first-class artists who make up the faculty at the Music Academy of the West.

Currently, I am renting a teaching studio at the academy. The opportunity to teach in such an inspiring environment, in a studio with a Steinway, surrounded by other such studios, and to see my students grow and thrive while surrounded by other young musicians, has been invaluable.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Music Academy of the West.

Best regards,

Laura Hemenway
Professor of Music (retired)
Antelope Valley College, Lancaster, CA
410 Palm Ave, #B9
Carpinteria, CA. 93013