

**Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole**

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**From:** Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 8:22 AM  
**To:** Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole  
**Subject:** FW: Item #8, board agenda, March 17.

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**From:** shields3033@netscape.net [mailto:shields3033@netscape.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2009 11:08 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** pconn43@cox.net  
**Subject:** Item #8, board agenda, March 17.

To the Board of Supervisors:

In re: Agenda item 8, meeting, Tues. March 17

I wish to protest the proposed construction of a "temporary art exhibit", or labyrinth house structure, that the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden wants to erect for a period of three years in the upper meadow. I ask you to set aside the action of the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission on February 9 giving this project a Categorical Exemption.

Reasons:

1. This structure violates the historic design concept and use of the SBBG's Landmark status. Man-made structures of this size were never placed in the landscape, nor were tourist attractions ever intended to be built, the natural beauty of the garden being the sole criterion for its appeal to the public.
2. The Garden's last CUP was for building horticultural structures only. It was not intended for structures unrelated to the garden's purpose.
3. This structure is of a size and form that require a permit from Planning and Development to build it. In that case it should require an EIR.
3. It appears that the sole purpose of this "exhibit" is to attract tourists. Many children will be playing in it, which would be delightful somewhere else, but not in the Botanic Garden, which is a quiet place and not a playground.
4. This sizable manmade structure of wood and metal will greatly impact the view of what is meant to be a natural meadow and the mountains behind.
5. The plantings on top of it will require a great deal of water to keep them alive.
6. Three years is not temporary.

This structure is unsuitable for placement in the Botanic Garden and should be subjected to critical analysis on the basis of both the historic landmark status of the garden, the nature of the building itself and the period of time it is intended to remain in place.

Your truly,

Susan Shields

3033 Calle Rosales, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

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