

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara CA 93101

#8

Re: James Marino Appeal of the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission Approval of Herb Parker Art Exhibit at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Appeal Issue 1:

In your consideration of Mr. Marino's appeal, please remember that last year you upheld your County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission's jurisdiction over structures in the Landmarked portion of the Botanic Garden.

Appeal Issue 2:

Temporary Nature:

An examination of Mr. Herb Parker's installations reveals that most of his structures are far from temporary. His structures in the South Carolina Botanic Garden have a 15 to 50 year life span. So-called temporary structures have a way of becoming permanent. Examples are the 1915 Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco and the 1915 exposition buildings in Balboa Park in San Diego. CEQA doesn't define temporary, but certainly three years should require an Environmental Impact Report.

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Historic Design Concept:

Despite the assertion in the Staff report, the meadow is not historically an art exhibit space. The first art exhibit in the meadow was the Big Bug exhibit in 2000. My father, Lockwood de Forest, designed the meadow as "the meadow section", the portion of the Garden devoted to California wild flowers such as poppies and lupine. The area was to be free of structures to provide an unobstructed view of Cathedral Peak.

Appeal Issue 3: Uses Allowed under 72-CP-116:

This Conditional Use Permit was issued December 13, 1972. It was specifically for "A horticultural unit" on Parcel No. 23-052-02. No mention is made of fine art exhibits or sculptures. The temporary displays and exhibits envisioned were flowers and plants, not new structures.

As you as Supervisors know, the entire Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Vital Mission Plan is undergoing an Environmental Impact Report and will come before you in the near future. I respectfully request that you set aside the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commissions' actions of February 9, 2009 and direct Staff to include the question of the location of temporary structural exhibits in the EIR. The CHLAC should have jurisdiction over such exhibits in the Garden's Landmarked portions along with Building and Safety.

Sincerely.

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