

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Miki Vuckovich  
**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 12:51 PM  
**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm a lifelong skateboarder and former Executive Director of the Tony Hawk Foundation. In my 16+ years at THF, I oversaw grants to assist more than 600 communities across the US build free public skateparks, including skateparks in San Pedro, Garvanza, and Watts. With 29 skateparks in the Los Angeles Recreation And Parks system, I don't need to explain the benefits or the popularity of safe, sanctioned places to skate. I probably also don't need to explain the historic role Los Angeles has played in the development of both the sport and culture of skateboarding. It's been skateboarding's epicenter for decades, and in 2028 will host skateboarding's third inclusion in the Olympic Games. The skateparks and informal skate spots throughout Los Angeles have been featured in countless magazines, videos, feature films, and social-media posts. Among the most famous of these spots is the LA County Courthouse plaza. Since the early 1990s, before public skateparks were available, the "LA Courthouse" was a favorite place to skate for all of the top pros at the time. It's appeared in some of the most memorable photos and videos from that celebrated era, and the "Courthouse" has continued to host skaters from around the world—off and on—ever since. Some come to skate there, others just to see it—much like baseball fans who attend Dodger games as much for the setting as for the game itself. For skateboarders, the LA County Courthouse is hallowed ground. The opportunity to include a replica skatepark adjacent to the redeveloped LA County Courthouse plaza allows the city to demonstrate its recognition and appreciation for the role Los Angeles has played in the history and development of the newest Olympic sport. It's also an opportunity to celebrate the colorful and creative culture of skateboarding, which has launched countless skateboarding and streetwear brands, and dozens of skate shops throughout the city and region. Skateboarding is as much a part of LA as LA is a part of skateboarding. Creating a replica skatepark at the LA County Courthouse location would be more than an acknowledgement and provision of a public need for places to skate, it would be a celebration of what makes LA truly great. -Miki Vuckovich

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alec Beck

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 12:54 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers, Thank you for taking the time to read through these comments regarding considerations for the Idaho Avenue Lot's potential outdoor recreational, cultural amenities and open space options. I've attached this letter on The Skatepark Project's (Tony Hawk's national skatepark advocacy charity) official letterhead as well. As you may know, the West LA Civic Center has been a worldwide cultural and sporting destination for the action sports community (skateboarding, BMX, inline skating, scootering, and Wheelchair motocross). Since the 1990's, skaters have traveled from all over the world to experience this unique architectural configuration that lends itself perfectly to action sports participation and community cohesion. While the space was mostly illegal to skate, that didn't keep people from benefitting athletically and socioemotionally from its use. Thankfully in 2014, the space became officially celebrated as a cultural and sporting landmark with a reinvestment and designation as a public plaza that allowed all types of skating. With the West LA Commons redevelopment plan taking shape, it's appearing that the hundreds of constituents that frequent this recreational and community space will be displaced. West LA and its surrounding neighborhoods are still underserved when it comes to action sports recreation space (Stoner Plaza only serves a population of 50,000, West LA meeting only one quarter of its action sports recreation need according to The Skatepark Project's Skatepark Adoption Model). Stoner Skate Plaza is the only public skate space for 3.5 miles in any direction. Displacing these community members back to the streets and steps of business owners, and erasing the cultural history of the space, would send shockwaves through the action sports culture and challenge the local areas with increased illegal skating use. However, the opportunity to develop the Idaho lot as a cultural plaza allowing skateboarding is a welcome alternative to honor the original Courthouse space, maintain functional recreational use, and reestablish the cultural and sporting value to the community that would otherwise be lost. I was the lead advocate for Stoner Plaza and helped get the Courthouse "legalized" before being hired by Tony Hawk to work for his national skatepark advocacy charity, The Skatepark Project. Every day we work to help advocates around the country work with local governments to meet the need for legal skate

space in their community. We see hundreds of projects every quarter. None have the cultural significance or population density service as the West LA Courthouse. There are about three sites globally that have the cultural significance and functionality similar to that of the courthouse. Southbank in England (now a legalized landmark), MACBA in Barcelona, and the West LA Courthouse (Civic Center). If the original space cannot be saved, we implore the Council and Planning Departments to find appropriate ways to replicate and recycle the function, aesthetic and cultural significance of the original courthouse skate spot. We believe this can be done on the Idaho Lot, in a way that serves not only the action sports community but the neighborhood as a whole. Activating the space with a combination of non-skateable center picnic tables and replica skateable ledges and stage elements around the perimeter, we're confident that a compromise can be made that meets the diverse needs of the community during this period of redevelopment. We are more than willing to remain involved and in support of this project to help support the balance of community needs. Thank for voting in favor of considering this lot's potential. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. Thank you for your time. Alec Beck Manager of Public Education The Skatepark Project (Formerly known as the Tony Hawk Foundation) O: (760) 477-2479 C: (310) 309-7118



## THE SKATEPARK PROJECT™

Dear Councilmembers,

Thank you for taking the time to read through these comments regarding considerations for the Idaho Avenue Lot's potential outdoor recreational, cultural amenities and open space options.

As you may know, the West LA Civic Center has been a worldwide cultural and sporting destination for the action sports community (skateboarding, BMX, inline skating, scootering, and Wheelchair motocross). Since the 1990's, skaters have traveled from all over the world to experience this unique architectural configuration that lends itself perfectly to action sports participation and community cohesion. While the space was mostly illegal to skate, that didn't keep people from benefitting [athletically](#) and [socioemotionally](#) from its use. Thankfully in 2014, the space became officially celebrated as a cultural and sporting landmark with a reinvestment and designation as a public plaza that allowed all types of skating.

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Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. Thank you for your time.

Alec Beck  
Manager of Public Education  
The Skatepark Project (Formerly known as the Tony Hawk Foundation)  
O: (760) 477-2479  
C: (310) 309-7118

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Christopher Giamarino

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 01:46 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing with regards to the West LA Commons redevelopment at the West LA Civic Center in West Los Angeles. I am a doctoral candidate in urban planning at UCLA who has used this iconic public space's ledges and stage for skateboarding for almost ten years now. The Courthouse ledges and bandshell are historically and culturally significant public amenities that have been used by skateboarders for almost 40 years now. Every month, it serves as an accessible, vibrant public space for a diverse group of men, women, and LGBTQIA+ skateboarders, pedestrians, and residents. If the ledges and stage are destroyed, their destruction would be a material death of a valuable skate-friendly space. They would also be another symbolic blow to action sports culture in strategies that continue to privatize public space for consumptive practices like shopping. These features are part of the first skateboarding campaign to decriminalize a public space for skateboarding where local skaters came together, partnered with Nike SB to redesign the space to prevent minor property damage and maintenance, and collaborated with policymakers and residents to create an inclusive public space. While I understand that the current development is likely to redesign the whole public space for groundfloor retail, which will make it difficult to preserve spaces for skateboarding, working with local skateboarders to replicate elements would cushion this architectural death and help to honor the significant contributions of our culture to activating, maintaining, and enlivening the space, while also creating an alternative skate-friendly space for the huge population of skateboarders in LA. Additionally, skateboarding provides physical, social, and mental health benefits through a mode of active transportation and form of recreation that would be lost without a viable alternative. For these reasons, I am advocating for the City to redevelop the LADOT lot south of Idaho Avenue between Corinth Avenue and Sawtelle Boulevard into a public space that replicates two of the ledges and the bandshell stage and functions as a skate-friendly public space that is accessible to pedestrians and local residents the way that the Courthouse has functioned for the last forty years. LA continues to rank poorly in its provision of accessible public open spaces like plazas and parks for recreation and leisure. Please work with the local

skateboard community and invested stakeholders to redevelop underutilized parking lot space and produce more open public space for us!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Steve Zanco

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 01:50 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support replicating obstacles from The West LA Courthouse to Idaho Parking Lot. The Courthouse is a culturally significant skate space, known worldwide and serves a diverse cross section of hundreds of community members every month. Losing it would be a blow to the action sports culture and history. Replicating elements of it would serve to cushion that blow and honor the cultural significance of the space, while retaining skate space access for the huge population of skaters in LA. Having dedicated spaces for skateboarding brings value to the community. Having a place like this provides physical, social and mental health benefits for their constituents, that would otherwise be lost to the redevelopment. Please help support the replication effort and keep skateboarding positive. Thank you, Steve Zanco President Skatepark Respect, Inc. [www.skateparkrespect.org](http://www.skateparkrespect.org)

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Chad Foreman

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 01:37 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please allow the Idaho Parking Lot to become a public plaza, and replicate the courthouse skate obstacles. The courthouse is a legendary spot in the skateboarding community, and people come from all over the world to skate this very special and safe spot, which also boosts local tourism and promotes local businesses. To not have these obstacles replicated would be a huge blow to not only the local community's, but also to skateboarding as a whole. Thank you for your consideration! \* The Courthouse is a culturally significant skate space, known worldwide \*It serves a diverse cross section of hundreds of community members every month \*Losing it would be a blow to the action sports culture \*Replicating elements of it would serve to cushion that blow and honor the cultural significance of the space, while retaining skate space access for the huge population of skaters in LA \*Having a place like this provides physical, social and mental health benefits for their constituents, that would otherwise be lost to the redevelopment

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mackenzie Eisenhour

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 03:08 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** I just wanted to follow up after attending the June 14 EIR meeting regarding the West LA Commons project. I was able to attend and speak as a panelist but here were a few points to summarize my input: • I am a West LA resident since 1994 (Have lived at 1306 Armacost Ave. 90025 since '99) • I'm a UCLA graduate '98 • I am a skateboard historian - was Associate Editor at Skateboarder Mag ('01-'04) and am Contributing Editor at Transworld Skateboarding ('05-present) • I skate the Courthouse or West LA Commons space almost daily and have since '94. • I raised my two children (7 and 9) at the Sunday Farmer's Market. That said, here are the key points I would like noted for the record: • The Courthouse/West LA commons is one of the most famous skateboard spots on the planet. • It was first skated by Tony Alva and the Dogtowners in the '70s. • It became the most famous skate spot on the planet around '93/'94 when it was featured in Girl Skateboards video Goldfish (By Spike Jonze later Academy Award winning Director) • When I moved to CA from France in '94 the first thing I did was ride the Blue Bus down just to look at the famous Bandshell aka The Stage (skateboarders worldwide know it as such). • It has been featured in countless skate videos since '94. • It was finally 'liberated' and given to skateboarders by Nike and City of LA officials in '17. • I wrote an article about that process: <https://skateboarding.transworld.net/features/interview-alec-beck-liberating-courthouse-slo/> • It was recently featured in Jonah Hill's movie 'Mid 90s' as Jonah like so many of us grew up skating there. • It is the equivalent of sacred tribal grounds to skateboarders worldwide and any modification will be tragic to all of us. • A great number of us still use the space daily. It is a place to go reconnect with open space and exercise. • I understand Stoner Skate Plaza was built as a substitute yet nothing can replace the original. It is the "Wrigley Field" of skateboarding. • The Tony Hawk Foundation (Led by Tony and Alec Beck who was present at the last Zoom meeting and spoke) are greatly invested in saving any possible portion of our sacred grounds. If the skate plaza as is must be destroyed and we can replicate portions of the famous skate obstacles that would certainly pay homage to the decades of history there. My dream scenario for a skate plaza there would include: • Stage Bandshell exact replica (dimensions are important to skateboarders and this stage is known worldwide) • The fountain space is also world famous and sacred to us and a replica would be great. • Benches made of cement like the original benches in the plaza area. Thanks for your consideration, Mackenzie Eisenhour

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Thomas Barker

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 03:24 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** I grew up in San Diego and first came to skate Santa Monica Courthouse over 17 years ago because of its place in skateboarding culture. Now I'm here as an LA resident and leader of the skateboard industry to voice my support to preserve elements of the Santa Monica courthouse for future generations of skateboarders and create an adjacent skate plaza to continue building on the strength of the Los Angeles skate community which has an outsized impact on culture worldwide. When we look back at the beginning of skateboarding it is sad that we have lost so many of the spots skateboarders in LA utilized to build this cultural export. Let's try to preserve as much of this historic I space so future generations can understand where skateboarding came from. Also Alex Beck for Mayor!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Neftalie Williams

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 03:30 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** Replicating the Santa Monica Courthouse in the Idaho lot would demonstrate the city's commitment to its present and future constituents. While often marginalized in the planning process, we see that skateboarders provide a vital component of the narrative of Santa Monica, Los Angeles, and California. When entering LAX from the international terminals, the image of skateboarders adorns the walls in the tunnel. They signify to people that CA is different and dedicated to representing diverse experiences. Recreating the key obstacles from the Santa Monica courthouse would preserve the legacy of skateboarding in the area and support the notion that Santa Monica is a leader in valuing every aspect of the city's history and culture. As a scholar researching various ways in which a city creates and designates its landmarks, infrastructure, and history, I believe this would be an excellent way to honor the legacy of diversity and multiculturalism which has thrived in Santa Monica through generations of skateboarders who helped place skateboarding on the global stage during Tokyo 2021. With the Olympics returning to LA in 2028, losing this great site of cultural significance would only hurt the Santa Monica community when it is their time to shine. The LA Times recently featured the San Pedro Channel St. DIY skatepark on the cover as a beacon that met the community's needs and created a powerful space of diversity and equity when it is sorely needed. Please preserve this vital landmark through preservation or replication so Santa Monica may shine. Best, Dr. Neftalie Williams USC Annenberg School of Communication and Yale Schwarzman Center Visiting Fellow for Race, Culture, and Community.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jaime Owens

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 03:33 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I'm Jaime Owens, former Editor-In-Chief of Skateboarder Magazine and TransWorld Skateboarding Magazine, and I'm here to put in my support for helping to preserve as much of the skateboarding history and legacy that the Courthouse has given the skateboard world over the past 30 years. It's a culturally significant space that skaters from around the globe have made the pilgrimage to throughout that time. It's like Fenway Park for baseball fans, or Wembly Stadium to tennis fans. It's a very important to the culture of skateboarding and its history. But beyond the history, it gives skaters a safe place to skate and stay out of other trouble by giving them physical, social and mental health benefits that would otherwise be lost to the redevelopment. Hopefully, the city can understand how beneficial something like this is to the surrounding youth contingent and skateboarders worldwide, and will be willing to build replicas and other skate obstacles in a near by public space. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Cristian Parilla

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 03:50 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** I would love to keep elements of the west LA courthouse skate plaza in the suggested parking lot. This place means a lot to so many and is vital to giving people a place to blow steam off and skateboard with their friends.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tony Hawk

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 03:59 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers, I'm writing in support of replicating elements of the famed West LA Courthouse Skate Plaza as a part of the development of the nearby Idaho Lot. The Courthouse is a worldwide destination for the action sports community and holds tremendous value culturally and as an active recreational space. We founded the The Skatepark Project (formerly known as Tony Hawk Foundation) 20 years ago with the intention to support active spaces that youth and adults are inspired to utilize - bettering themselves and their community through our form of exercise, creative expression and community connection. Normally these are built from the ground up. Rarely does a physical space that's not intentionally designed for skateboarding garner such worldwide attention and reverence as the West LA Courthouse. Now that the space is slated for redevelopment, we're encouraged that there may be an option to replicate the central elements (ledges and stage) in a nearby parking lot redevelopment. This would preserve the recreational access for the plethora of local action sports participants in Los Angeles and preserve the legacy and historical significance of the space. Thank you for taking the time to consider the continuation of this famed space and the value of skateboarding as it pertains to public recreation space in Los Angeles. If you have questions or would like to connect with The Skatepark Project staff regarding best practices in skatepark or plaza development, please reach out to Alec Beck: [alec@skatepark.org](mailto:alec@skatepark.org). I believe he's working with the district Council and redevelopment teams already, as he was a part of Stoner Skate Plaza's initial development and the dedication of the Courthouse as a public plaza that allows wheeled participants. Thanks for the support, Tony Hawk

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kristin Ebeling  
**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 04:00 PM  
**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Save the courthouse skate spot!!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Indigo Willing

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 05:59 PM

**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21

**Comments for Public Posting:** The famed West LA Courthouse has been one of the most world-recognized skateboarding spots and is of high cultural importance to skate culture. It has been featured in numerous academic studies by architects, sociologists and urban planners, as well as people working with youth cultures and subcultures on how they can keep making creative use of public and common space. As a sociologist and skate researcher, I cannot over emphasize how important it is for city spaces to be available for for youth, women and gender diverse people to skate. I am writing to offer full support for skateboarders, including internationally recognized skate advocates from The Skatepark Project and others, who want to work with the city to replicate some of the best obstacles in a nearby lot (Idaho Parking Lot) as a public plaza. Alec Beck for instance summarizes these key points: The Courthouse is a culturally significant skate space, known worldwide It serves a diverse cross section of community members every month Losing is a significant loss to the action sports culture Replicating elements of it would serve to honor the cultural significance of the space, while retaining skate space access for the huge population of skaters in LA Having a place like this provides physical, social and mental health benefits for their constituents, that would otherwise be lost to the redevelopment With respect and support to the skateboarders actively working to create positive spaces and inclusive ways for today's and the next generation of skateboarders. Dr Indigo Willing Researcher, Griffith University Co-author of the book Skateboarding, Power and Change (forthcoming) Co-founder of Consent is Rad that encourages and activates respectful and inclusive social environments for skaters

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Stephanie Murdock  
**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 07:38 PM  
**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21  
**Comments for Public Posting:** This spot should be protected for its historic contribution to the sport of skateboarding as a place for freedom of expression, individual development and collective Community building. Please preserve this world renowned skate spot.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jacob T Marquez  
**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2022 07:12 PM  
**Council File No:** 12-1549-S21  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Wow, Really digging this idea of a new plaza if we can't keep the same location. Still hard to say goodbye to the Corinth loc.