

# H C N C

Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



MEMBERS  
COUNCIL  
OFFICE

HISTORIC CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
1200 PARK STREET, SUITE 100  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

CONTACT INFORMATION  
TEL: 213-905-1111  
FAX: 213-905-1112

February 7, 2017

Planning and Land Use Management Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Opposition to Historic Cultural Monument Designation of Parker Center  
Case Number ENV-2016-3950-CE

Date: 2/7/17  
Submitted by: PLUM  
Council File No. 15-0127  
Item No. 4  
Submitted by: [Signature]  
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council

Dear Councilmember Jose Huizar, Committee Chair, and Councilmembers Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Gilbert A. Cedillo, Mitchell Englander and Curren D. Price, Jr.:

The Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council (HCNC) is opposed to the proposed Historic Cultural Monument Designation of Parker Center.

HCNC supports the position of the Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC), which took its initial position in support of the demolition of Parker Center in 2013. More recently, on Oct. 25, 2016, LTCC took this position a step further by unanimously voting to support the now-designated option B3 of the LA Civic Center Master Development Plan, which calls for the complete demolition of Parker Center.

The entire block, which today holds Parker Center, was taken from Little Tokyo in the 1960s. This block was razed, destroying dozens of family-owned and community-serving businesses, 700-1,000 units of affordable housing, and community facilities including the early site of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. HCNC and LTCC support the redevelopment of the site in a manner that accommodates community-enhancing retail businesses and other historical representations that tell the history of the block as part of Little Tokyo's 130+ year history.

HCNC shares LTCC's specific concerns regarding the redevelopment of the site, including:

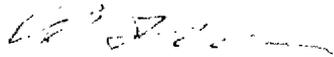
- Ground floor retail uses that complement and create a natural connection with Little Tokyo, especially to Union Center for the Arts. This design should drive people to businesses on Historic First Street and complement future development on First Street North that will now reflect Little Tokyo's vision for a Sustainable Little Tokyo.
- The design will not "turn its back" on Little Tokyo, in the manner of the State's Department of Transportation building at 100 S Main Street, but should instead be open to Little Tokyo and promote access to the community.

- Public art should be funded that reflects the historic connection of the block to Little Tokyo.
- Additional parking must be included to accommodate City employees to be housed in the new facility. Current parking, especially in the Aiso Street lot, was designed to serve local small businesses. Additional parking for the general public should also be included, given the rapid decrease in available public parking lots around the Little Tokyo and Civic Center area.
- Ongoing communication and interaction in the course of planning and design of the new building in concert with the Little Tokyo community's own vision for the development of the First Street North block and other Sustainable Little Tokyo plans.

At the next HCNC board meeting we will be taking under consideration a motion to file a Community Impact Statement that reiterates our position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan Kumamoto  
President, Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council