

I found a note among my mother's papers which said to hold onto the properties they had invested in and developed for more than 60 years as they would continue to sustain our family. Associated Sewing Machine became one of the largest equipment providers to the garment industry and was my family's 'bread and butter' for decades. Its disappearance has only left us with the properties as significant remains.

Restrictive zoning in the General Plan severely reduces our ability to adapt to the changing needs of Los Angeles's population. There are other ways to honor this areas past which doesn't bind our families futures. The mural art on our building on the cover of a book on City murals was one way we had hoped to elevate changes within our district. But while other DTLA property owners have the ability to adapt their [legacy] properties for other uses our area is being sought as a frozen capsule in time by well meaning, but uninvested individuals and groups.

I urge the City Council to adopt a far less restrictive zoning of the General Plan for the LA Fashion District BID area to serve a wider array of business so that our investment may continue to thrive rather than be throttled and better serves the needs of our constantly changing economy.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/commercial-real-estate-woes-run-deeper-than-in-past-downturns-e0c1f2b3?mod=hp_major_pos2#cxrecs_s

* Depressed building values could hurt cities, which depend on property-tax revenue, and weigh on bank balance sheets, leading to less lending throughout the economy.

** "You literally have trillions of dollars of investment that are suddenly just massively impaired,"

Sincerely,
Carlin Glucksman

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 22-0617
Item No. 2
Deputy: Candy R.

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted in PLUN Committee
Council File No. 22-0617
Item No. 2
Deputy: Candy R

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Sophanarot and I work in Chinatown at SEACA, a member of Central City United. Many of our families are low-income immigrants and refugees. We are calling for housing that is created by the plan to be built within the Plan area. Otherwise we're pushing our residents away from a community where they are able to access jobs, services, and community in Chinese and other Asian languages. For the same reason, we are calling for an expansion of the IX1 zone. Skid Row residents also need to be in close proximity to the services and community in order to thrive.

One of our youth shares, "My mother barely makes a little over \$25,000 a year for a family of four as a busboy in a restaurant. We need affordable housing, much like the other low income families similar to us and the large population of seniors living in Chinatown. The change I want to see is more affordable housing for our community full of low income workers and minorities. Please pass the DTLA 2040 Plan NOW to reflect our community needs. We need to see this change before my people in this community become displaced!" As you can see, our community can barely continue to live in this current housing situation.

The plan that you are considering addresses many of the issues our families are facing, but it can do more. I ask that the commissioners adopt the policies put forth by Central City United so that Downtown Los Angeles can create more affordable housing so that our community members can be safe and continue to live and work in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,
Sophanarot Sam
Chinatown

Item #2

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

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted to: PLUM Committee
Council File: 22-0617
Item No. #2
Deputy: Candy R.

4/24/23

RE: [CF 22-0617] – Downtown LA Community Plan Update 2040

Dear Councilmembers Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Monica Rodriguez, Katy Yaroslavsky, John Lee, Heather Hutt & Eunisses Hernandez,

My name is Diane Valencia and I am speaking on behalf of Central City United. I am a youth organizer at the Southeast Asian Community Alliance in Chinatown and want to submit these attached letters written by our students about the urgent need for affordable housing.

For the past decade, I have worked with many neighborhood youth & their families struggling to survive & the pandemic and ongoing gentrification in our neighborhoods has exacerbated stressful living conditions. We need the DTLA2040 plan to reflect our community needs. Please read & listen to our stories.

For the past year we have been partnering with the Chinatown Library to distribute food to residents living in SROs in Chinatown. We've seen first hand how filthy and unsafe these buildings are, but the tenants are primarily elderly or disabled and can't afford anything else, including traditional affordable housing. If these buildings get redeveloped, we need to ensure that we replace these units at the same levels of affordability or lower. Otherwise these tenants will become homeless.

The following attached letters are from our current high school youth leaders that want to express to you all their concerns for the need to pass the DTLA2040 Community Plan in alignment with our urgent community priorities. I and youth leaders from SEACA- am writing in support of the Central City United (CCU) Coalition's comments & policy recommendations that would ensure that the Downtown LA Community Plan will promote equity and justice throughout downtown. Now is the time to get the DTLA2040 plan moving!

Thank you for your time,

Diane Valencia
Youth Organizer
Southeast Asian Community Alliance

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

Delivered via electronic mail.

4/22/23

RE: [CF 22-0617] – Downtown LA Community Plan Update 2040

Dear Councilmembers,

Hiya! My name is Amaris Carter. I'm a junior at Downtown Magnets High School. I'm a student leader with SEACA in Chinatown and I've been living in Downtown Los Angeles for about 7 years. I live with my disabled mother in our 1 bedroom apartment. In all my years of living at our place, it has always been a struggle. I cannot name a single time a request from tenants has gone through smoothly and efficiently. Broken, faulty, and/or old appliances are slow to fix/maintain. Over the years our sinks have been faulty, stove, fire alarm, closet rack, and too many other things to count. Despite years of asking, we have only gotten around 30% of what we want fixed. Most of which my mother has tried to solve herself. Whether clogging cracks in the walls to prevent roaches and other creatures, or buying things out of pocket to fix certain things around the home. My mom is a cancer survivor and should not be taking the time to stress about things not getting done in our apartment. In fact, we only received a new fridge and oven this year(since we moved in 7 years ago)—only for it to stop working 2 months later. The equipment we receive is cheap and unreliable. This goes for our entire apartment complex. Numerous times throughout the year, our elevators break down. This is extremely dangerous to the tenants living here. Many of them need to use the elevator to get to the apartment safely. Not to mention our broken door system. We have NO security and anyone can walk in or out of our complex. My father's place is just as bad. He's had an unrepaired leak in his apartment for years. It has gotten so bad that a wet spot has ruined his closet. He spoke to the owners numerous times to get it fixed, however, they do nothing about it. Or sending people who can't speak English to slow the process. He's on Section 8 and housing must live up to the requirements! DTLA cannot expect its community to continue to live in disgusting conditions and pay high prices for trashy apartments, maintenance, and landlords. I demand that you assist the people living in these terrible conditions instead of supplying help to people who don't need it. The poor, disabled, mentally ill, immigrant, and black and brown communities are the ones who need the most support! Not those who don't care about our livelihoods or understand our struggle. Everyone DESERVES to live quality housing. With frequently updated appliances, fair affordable prices, non discriminatory or money-hungry landlords, quality/well produced materials, and safe/secure protection. Which is why I am demanding you to pass DTLA2040 now to reflect our community needs, like the Central City United People's plan. We deserve it, it's our human right.

Sincerely,
Amaris Carter

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No. 22-0617
Item No. 2
Deputy: Candy R

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

Delivered via electronic mail.

4/22/23

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 22-0617
Item No. 2
Deputy: Candy R

RE: [CF 22-0617] – Downtown LA Community Plan Update 2040

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Ivette Garcia. I am a youth organizer with SEACA in Chinatown and I am 15 years old & in 10th grade from Downtown Magnet High School. I been part of this neighborhood of DTLA for a couple years. I used to think DTLA was just a place to hang out and didn't think there was housing problems. Now that I spend more time in DTLA I see major problems that affect the people living in the community, that are not being addressed. It is unfair that these low income families are being affected just because of selfish rich, ignorant people who want more money and power. Even though I don't live in the downtown la community, my community also faces overpriced housing/rent. A challenge I faced was when Covid-19 hit. My immigrant dad couldn't go to work and was having trouble to pay the rent. My dad had to get a second job with made him overwork, loose a lot of sleep, he couldn't see his kids. There would be times in the morning where I could actually see my dad, but that would only be if I was lucky enough to have enough time before heading to my school bus stop. This year my dad is quitting his second job because he can now pay the rent, but this costed him to loose time with his family, over work, and loose sleep. My dad is now spending lots of time with his family . During the time my was working I was trying my best to find a job, but I had a rough time keeping up with my classes and homework. I am glad my dad quit his second job. However this does not mean that the prices in my community drop. The changes I want to see in south central and DTLA is affordable housing and well managed housing. I demand that these communities get proper housing and good jobs so that they can pay their rent. Please pass the DTLA2040 NOW to reflect our community needs such as the Central City United People's Plan. My family and other families have been struggling because of the rent prices and the DTLA 2040 plan will include many tools that will support families like mine.

Sincerely,
Ivette Garcia

Los Angeles City Council
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Delivered via electronic mail.

4/22/23

RE: [CF 22-0617] – Downtown LA Community Plan Update 2040

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Danting Huang and I am a youth organizer with SEACA in Chinatown. I am 18 years old & a senior from Downtown Magnets High School and I have lived in this neighborhood of Chinatown for 16 years. Over the years of living in Chinatown I have seen our grocery stores close, shopping districts shut down, and modern buildings being constructed to replace those areas. It has become extremely inaccessible for my family and others to get groceries. Not everyone has convenient transportation and now that our grocery stores have closed, everyone in Chinatown has to travel further to get the necessities we need/are familiar with. We have to protect and preserve the small businesses as well because they help shape our communities. Seeing all this gentrification has made my family feel uneasy about our future. My mother, the only person in my family that makes money to support us, barely makes enough for us to get by. We live paycheck to paycheck so once our bills started to rise, I noticed my parents becoming stressed trying to keep up. My father, a retired 71 year old cook, has even thought about picking up work aside from caring for my grandparents. The rent costs increasing has scared my parents into thinking that we wouldn't be able to live in our home any longer. If they continue to increase, I'm not sure how my mother's low wages could continue to support my father and my sister and I while we are going to school. My mother barely makes a little over \$25,000 a year for a family of four as a busboy in a restaurant. We need affordable housing, much like the other low income families similar to us and the large population of seniors living in Chinatown. The change I want to see is more affordable housing for our community full of low income workers and minorities. Please pass the DTLA 2040 NOW to reflect our community needs. We need to see this change before my people in this community become displaced!

Sincerely,

Danting Huang

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No 22-0617
Item No. 2
Deputy: Candy R

Los Angeles City Council
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Delivered via electronic mail.

4/22/23

RE: [CF 22-0617] – Downtown LA Community Plan Update 2040

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Eric Gomez. I am a Youth Organizer with SEACA in Chinatown and I am 17 years old & in 11th grade from Downtown Magnets High School. I live and am part of the neighborhood of Canndu for about a year. I grew up in Echo Park but moved to Canndu a year ago because of gentrification. My family is built upon hard working undocumented immigrants from El Salvador. My mother works at a restaurant and my father a construction contractor.

With DTLA 2040 I would like to see affordable housing everyone could afford. DTLA 2040 has its positives to actually protect tenants, build affordable housing units, and create racial equity. With DTLA 2040 it will make the communities at the moment in the plan feel safer and not at risk of losing their homes as well provide these people more opportunities. With Los Angeles still growing having opportunities for affordable housing for everyone should be a priority. My family together doesn't make enough together to actually afford what the city considers "affordable". When my family had to move because the building had been bought out by new landlords who wanted to renovate the place and increase rent every year at the max percentage they could we had to find a new place to live which took us 7-8 months to find and it was very hard to adjust to the new environment and say goodbye to my apartment I built my childhood in. The new place I moved into was no where near my school nor family job sites. The City should consider pausing or reducing the increase percentage of rent as it could benefit people all over the City of Angels.

The change I'd like to see is improvement in trying to benefit everyone who has faced struggles or are currently struggling. This would thus improve the people of the city to be much more happy and let people have opportunities to help them out of the struggle. Everyone deserves to live in a home it's a human right to be able to live under a roof. The city should approve the plan of DTLA 2040 as it would bring great benefits to the people of the city and Downtown. Hopefully this plan can later expand outside of Downtown Los Angeles and bring more communities within the plan to bring improvements into the city and its neighborhoods. Los Angeles is my home and I love this city so please approve the DTLA Plan 2040.

Sincerely,

Eric Gomez

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 22-0617
Item No. 2
Deputy: Candy R

Los Angeles City Council
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Delivered via electronic mail.

4/22/23

RE: [CF 22-0617] – Downtown LA Community Plan Update 2040

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 22-0617
Item No. 2
Deputy: Candy R

Dear Councilmembers,

Hi, my name is Julia Huang. I go to Abraham Lincoln Senior High School, am 15 years old, a youth leader with the Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA) and have been a part of the Los Angeles Chinatown community since I was born. My family and I have lived in the same apartment for the past 15 years. We have seen many of our neighbors move out as they saved up enough money for a house. However, my family has stayed all these years because it was the most affordable home we could find in the neighborhood, surrounded by many other low income families. When my parents both worked, I was very unaware of the value of money. That didn't mean I thought we were well off. I was made aware at a young age that I couldn't get a cheap toy I've always wanted. The answer I always got from my mom was "No! Hurry up and put that back." I hated when my mom responded with that tone and those words, even though I was expecting it every time. The toys I did have were always hand-me-downs from family friends. I felt like I didn't have anything to show off at school while all my friends (whose families are middle-class) always had the most popular brand of toys. On the other hand, on the way to school, my sister and I would always ask my dad to buy us snacks from a local business or vendor, and he never said no. When he couldn't work anymore, I didn't know what that meant for my family. The thoughts I had about wanting a toy or snack immediately became the smallest of my worries.

At first, I could never see my dad, but quickly that turned to never seeing my mom. My sister and I were forced to become independent as soon as we were in middle school. That's when I realized, "Damn. We're poor." I told myself that I HAVE to study hard. I HAVE to succeed. I HAVE to make a lot of money. I HAVE to do more. I CAN'T fail. I was obsessed with checking my grades, making sure that every report card mailed to my home only had A's. When quarantine started, my mom had no choice but to stop working. She talked to me about having to be conservative because we don't have much money. That night, I attempted to cry silently, but that failed because my sister heard me and told my mom immediately. All my mom said to me was that it'd be okay and we will manage with what we have. This led to me not only having to complete school work, but also busying myself with filling out government forms that would hopefully support my family. We made it through that, but soon after, our landlord's manager started threatening to kick us out when our shower started leaking. My whole family was stressed and scared. There was no way we could make ends meet living elsewhere. Every day, we would shower in awkward positions, making sure that the water wouldn't leak. The landlord and city didn't help. SEACA did. SEACA talked to my family and assured us we had rights and did nothing wrong. There was nowhere to go with the rising rent. The Chinatown that used to be filled with familiar faces quickly became one with money hungry individuals. If they genuinely tried to help, maybe my family wouldn't have had to struggle the way we did. My family was fortunate enough to get through the named few of many situations, with support. I know, for a fact, that many others don't have that. DTLA2040 needs to help and reach out to these families. There's too many false promises. The changes to this community should be based off of its members and not the rich who don't know jack sh*t about what surviving is.

Sincerely,
Julia Huang

Los Angeles City Council
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Delivered via electronic mail.

4/22/23

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted in PLM Committee
Council File No: 22-0617
Item No. 2
Deputy: Carly R

RE: [CF 22-0617] – Downtown LA Community Plan Update 2040

Dear Councilmembers,

Remember my words! My name is Elia Manuel, a 17-year-old student & a junior from Downtown Magnets High School. I am a Youth Organizer at the Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA) and a volunteer/member of the Chinatown Public Library Teen Council. I have been involved with Chinatown for two years and I have discerned a ubiquitous amount of problems within the community.

In Chinatown, Los Angeles—home to numerous immigrants and senior citizens—people are suffering from housing problems. As gentrification expedites, low-income families are facing a rent increase. People unable to afford rent live in SRO buildings. 20+ residents in single-room occupancy housings share a single bathroom, shower, kitchen, and laundry. While doing a grocery distribution with the Chinatown Public Library Teen Council, I witnessed the poor living conditions in SRO buildings. I visited six SRO buildings in Chinatown and noticed a common trend. The inhabitants of these buildings are low-income senior citizens. The buildings had no elevators---elderly residents have to walk up and down a steep staircase. Inside the buildings, I observed narrow hallways, a pungent smell, filthy bathrooms and showers, rust, dirty walls, and more.

If DTLA2040 plans to create affordable housing, consider the living situations people will live in. These houses must be clean and sustained accordingly. It should also be accessible to people with different circumstances. Seniors and physically challenged residents should not suffer from steep stairways and narrow hallways. Gentrification will not cease at any time near and low-income seniors will continue to live in the poor conditions of SRO buildings. I demand the DTLA2040 plan to be passed sooner to ensure safe, adequate, and affordable housing for the seniors of Chinatown. Please pass the DTLA2040 NOW to reflect our community needs such as the Central City United People's Plan.

Sincerely,
Elia Manuel

Los Angeles City Council
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Delivered via electronic mail.

4/22/23

RE: [CF 22-0617] – Downtown LA Community Plan Update 2040

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Abigail Mendoza. I am a youth organizer with SEACA in Chinatown and I am 17 years old & a senior from Lincoln High School. I have lived in the neighborhood of El sereno for 17 years. My parents came to visit this country as immigrants. Concerns I have in the community is affordable housing. I think it's important because a lot of people aren't able to afford it. During covid time my parents were struggling to pay rent and thanks to SEACA's help we were able to pay rent. The city needs to do more to support struggling families. Please pass the Central City United people's plan for DTLA2040.

Sincerely,
Abigail Mendoza

Date: 4/24/2023
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 22-0617
Item No: 2
Deputy: Candy R