

**From:** Kevin Akin [<mailto:kevinakin1950@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2017 11:46 AM

**To:** Henson, Angela <[AHenson@riversideca.gov](mailto:AHenson@riversideca.gov)>

**Cc:** Kennon, Tonya <[TKennon@riversideca.gov](mailto:TKennon@riversideca.gov)>; Nicol, Colleen <[CNicol@riversideca.gov](mailto:CNicol@riversideca.gov)>; Alicia Robinson <[arobinson@pe.com](mailto:arobinson@pe.com)>

**Subject:** [External] Proposed library design

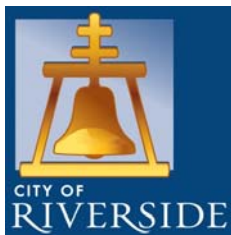
I am absolutely astonished at the depth of ugliness and unsuitability of the proposed library design. I was born and grew up in Riverside and have stayed in the area my whole life, not counting occasional visits and tourism. I am familiar with the taste of Riversiders, a bit elevated for the general area but based on our particular history. This design will outrage Riversiders. Is that what was intended? It is not a smart thing to do.

Riverside has many beautiful buildings, and a number of ugly ones. This will provide a new standard for the lower end of the scale, a building that is not just ugly but supremely offensive in its ugliness. As a local historian, who knows many other local historians, I will say that anyone who foists this on our town should be forever saddled with the public blame for this excrescence.

The new library needs lots of parking, as it is being carefully placed in a location remote from those who will use it most. It needs lots of shelf space, as the fantasy that books are obsolete is just that, a fantasy. It needs meeting rooms, rooms for the storage and examination of archival material, and yes, some computer terminals for the (increasingly small) portion of the public without other on-line access. It needs good bathrooms, well-planned and accessible, with appropriate security features. It needs good office-space. It needs windows, a feature of the old Carnegie Library that some city officials seemed over the years to desire to stamp out. It needs well-landscaped grounds, with places to sit. It probably needs good murals, statuary, and other features that show the users of the public library are respected by the city, and that we have a mind for our past as well as our future.

What the library does not need is a fantastic "up-to-date" design that will look both very dated and very ugly as time moves on. Please stop this horrible design in its tracks. -Kevin Akin

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs



# MEMO

## Library Department

**DATE:** 8/15/2017

**TO:** COLLEEN NICOL, CITY CLERK

**FROM:** Tonya Kennon, Library Director

**CC:** Rafael Guzman, Community Economic & Development Director  
Emilio Ramirez, Community Economic & Development Deputy Director  
Lea Deesing, Chief Innovation Officer  
Kris Martinez, Public Works Director  
Alex Nguyen, Assistant City Manager and Acting Museum Director

**RE:** STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR MAIN LIBRARY PROJECT PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL ON AUGUST 22, 2017

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Please include this memo as a statement of full support from city departments listed below for the Main Library Project (Project) that will be presented to the City Council on August 22, 2017. The departments concur and support the Project as well as the future operation\management\maintenance of the library.

City Clerk  
Community Economic & Development  
Innovation and Technology  
Public Works  
Riverside Metropolitan Museum

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs

**From:** Karen Renfro [<mailto:k.a.renfro7@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2017 1:36 PM

**To:** Henson, Angela <[AHenson@riversideca.gov](mailto:AHenson@riversideca.gov)>

**Cc:** Kennon, Tonya <[TKennon@riversideca.gov](mailto:TKennon@riversideca.gov)>; Nicol, Colleen <[CNicol@riversideca.gov](mailto:CNicol@riversideca.gov)>; Alicia Robinson <[arobinson@pe.com](mailto:arobinson@pe.com)>

**Subject:** [External] Re: RIVERSIDE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AUG. 14, 2017:

August 14, 2017

Tom Evans, Chairman  
Board of Trustees  
Riverside Public Library  
3581 Mission Inn Avenue  
Riverside, California 92501

ITEM #2: DESIGN & AGREEMENT FOR PROPOSED NEW MAIN LIBRARY BUILDING

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

In addition to the objections raised by my wife in the previous letter, with which I am in wholehearted agreement, I would like to add the following:

The design for a new public library building should be a very public process, one that calls for submissions from architects and citizens nationwide, and input from a local citizens' panel charged with reviewing them. Of necessity, this would be a time-consuming undertaking involving many individuals and community groups. But, this is the first we have seen of any specific design concept for our city library. We are unaware of any effort to bring the people of Riverside into this stage of the project.

A public library serves a function in society, one that connects us with our past. It is therefore a stabilizing institution, a service that enables society to withstand change and turmoil. That means a library building should have a timeless appeal, not pander to the lowest level of the fleeting tastes of popular culture. Since its main purpose is to house the people's collection of books, maps, documents, and historical material, it should look like a library, not something out of a bad science-fiction movie.

This pathetic design is presented with a preposterous \$40 million price tag, at least ten million dollars more than earlier cost-estimates. It is irresponsible of city officials to even consider the proposal. The best thing to do is reject it altogether.

As you serve on the Library Board of Trustees on our behalf, we ask that you keep us in mind as you make your decision.

Very truly yours,

Raymond Renfro  
Riverside resident since 1944  
3064 Lime Street  
Riverside, California 92501  
(951)787-0617

"Library books constitute capital." -- Thomas Jefferson, 1821

CC:

Riverside Public Library Board of Trustees  
Friends of the Library  
City Clerk's Office  
Press Enterprise

On Mon, Aug 14, 2017 at 11:00 AM, Karen Renfro <[k.a.renfro7@gmail.com](mailto:k.a.renfro7@gmail.com)> wrote:

August 14, 2017

Tom Evans, Chairman  
Board of Trustees  
Riverside Public Library  
3581 Mission Inn Avenue  
Riverside, California 92501

## AGENDA ITEM #2: DESIGN FOR NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

Please get another architect.

Riverside already has more than its fair share of ugly modern buildings. This one, however, goes one step further by being inappropriate for its purpose. The fact that it is also overpriced seems almost beside the point to me.

But, that is another reason to vote against this proposed deal. If the City of Riverside has to take \$10 million away from the new Police Headquarters fund to pay for this, then why weren't city officials willing to do that to refurbish the old library? This is a bait-and-switch operation, clearly.

This whole business makes me sad. I am so angry I am unable to express how I feel, so I am on the verge of tears.

Riverside has already lost its beautiful Carnegie library building due to the short-sightedness of city officials. Now we are about to lose its replacement, the existing Main Library which actually has both dignity and charm.

I can tell you three reasons why Riversiders haven't used our library so much as we would like:

1. Homeless people hanging outside the entryways, the filth they leave behind which should be hosed off daily, and their litter;
2. Lack of adequate parking which could have been solved by dedicating some of the grounds by Mission Inn Avenue for that purpose;
3. Bums hanging out in the library, some of whom are up to no good.

These problems are not going to go away if we move the library to the location you have selected, they will follow it around wherever it goes unless they are dealt with.

So, if I had children, they would not be allowed to go there alone. If I had children, they would not be allowed to visit the proposed new library alone for the same reasons.

I know the neighborhood where the new building is supposed to go. I used to live further up the street toward Mt. Rubidoux. I had to walk by this area on my way to work and home again. It was bad before the Redevelopment Agency tore out a block of beautiful bungalows to put in a Safeway, but it was a lot worse after that. It still is even though Safeway has long since left the neighborhood. You are moving a venerated public institution to one of the worst places it could possibly go.

But, that isn't all that bothers me about this fiasco.

I am utterly dumbfounded that the men and women responsible for our public library think books are obsolete and the Internet has replaced the libraries of the world.

No, they aren't and it hasn't. But, even if it had, we would still need the books in case something happened to the Internet.

Please vote no on this design for the new library and the deal that goes with it.

Respectfully yours,

Karen Renfro  
Resident of Riverside since 1972  
[\(951\)787-0617](tel:(951)787-0617)  
[k.a.renfro7@gmail.com](mailto:k.a.renfro7@gmail.com)

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
Library Director

August 11, 2017

City Clerk Colleen Nicol [cnichol@riversideca.gov](mailto:cnichol@riversideca.gov)  
Library Director Tonya Kennon [TKennon@riversideca.gov](mailto:TKennon@riversideca.gov)

RE: City of Riverside – Library Design Presentation, Downtown Riverside Site

Dear City Clerk Nicol and Director Kennon:

Riverside Community College District (RCCD) is pleased to see the advancement of cultural and community engagement in downtown Riverside, near our new Centennial Plaza with the presentation of the conceptual design of the new City of Riverside Library in downtown Riverside.

RCCDs Centennial Plaza encompasses 1 ½ city blocks next to White Park, at the corner of Market Street and University Avenue. Opened in 2016, our centennial year, is the Culinary Arts Academy and District Office (CAA/DO) which includes the culinary arts program with (public) dining room open for breakfast and lunch, four kitchens (including a demonstration kitchen) and three flexible class rooms; and the offices housing the district operations are on floors two and three, consolidating services from four locations, with the facility topped by a social event space with garden terrace. Next to the CAA/DO building, is the state of the art performance space and academic programs of the Alice Edna and Henry Coil. Sr., School for the Arts (CSA). This school has state of the art music performance hall which seats 450, classrooms, recording studio, band room, choral room and several practice rooms. The plaza has a parking structure and the District also owns 100 spaces (25%) of the Fox Parking Garage.

The design elements from Centennial Plaza, has sparked energy to be creative and innovative in both building and site design; therefore, advancing place-making. The planning of the library and future development between Mission Inn and University Avenue with the vacation of Fairmont and repurposing the former bus transition station and police department/greyhound station building sites, is a tremendous opportunity to advancing and strengthen the place making already corner stoned by Centennial Plaza; and the opportunity to create a corridor of arts, in the city of arts and innovation.

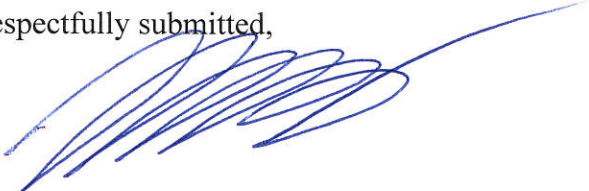
The District, as far as the library design engages with our Centennial Plaza, supports the design concept of a pedestrian flow under the facility, and we do not object to the removal of vehicular movements with a vacated Fairmont. The vacation of Fairmont for vehicular traffic is not of concern to the District, provided that traffic signal analysis and improvements are made at University and Market, to address the needed movements impacted with the elimination Fairmont to vehicle traffic. The District would be in complete opposition to the removal and/or any impediment of pedestrian traffic between the Fox and our Centennial Plaza, by either the Library or future development. Use of the corridor along Fairmont by the students, staff and faculty from the Fox garage to the Coil School for the Arts is a key consideration of our development and improvement of the

Letter-Ms. Nicol/Ms/ Kennon  
August 11, 2017  
Riverside Downtown Library Design  
Page 2

traffic signal at University and Fairmont/Centennial Plaza. The development of a strong pedestrian-oriented Paseo d 'Arts linking the Fox, through the Library, to Centennial Plaza / CSA with a possible terminus of an (activated) White Park is a great place-making opportunity for our shared communities. Additionally, the schedule of performance space in either the Fox or CSA would permit the possibility of both garages supporting both performance venues.

As we understand the library designs are being presented on August 14, 2017 and August 22, 2017, the District offers these comments through this communication, as we are unable to personally be in attendance to the meetings schedule. Please make copies of this letter and attachment available to those considering this matter. Should there be any questions or concerns to the District's position articulated herein, please contact the undersigned at 951.222.044 or [chris.carlson@rccd.edu](mailto:chris.carlson@rccd.edu) as we are appreciative of the collaborative partnerships between the District, City and community.

Respectfully submitted,



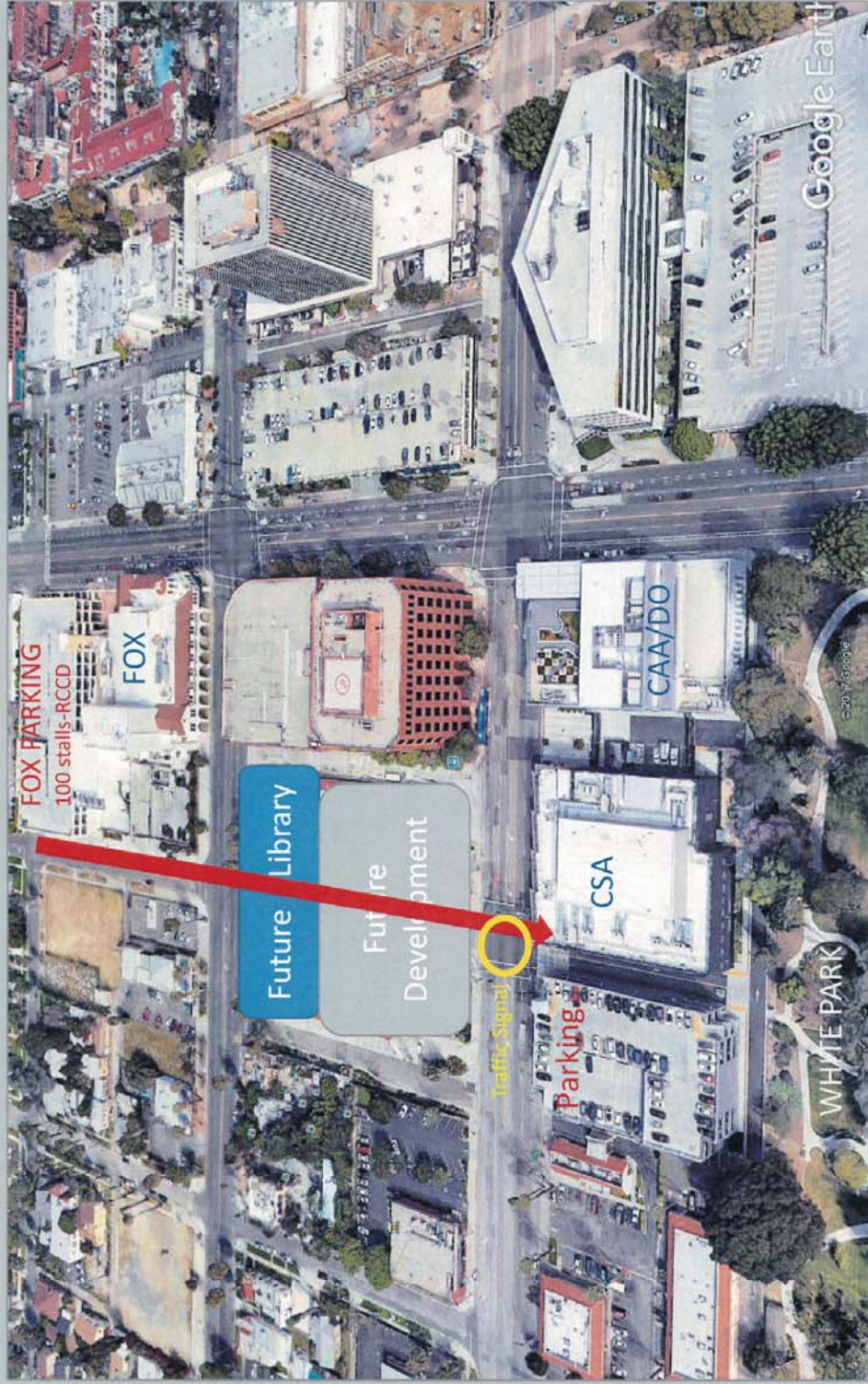
Chris Carlson, AICP  
Chief of Staff & Facilities Development  
Riverside Community College District

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
Library Director

- Riverside Community College District built and developed Centennial Plaza consisting of:
- Culinary Arts Academy & District Office Building
  - Coil School for the Arts
  - Parking Structure (on-site)
    - Project also includes parking at the Fox (100 stalls owned by RCCD)

**Key Concern with Library & Future Development Plans:**

- Maintaining a strong **pedestrian link** between the Fox (Garage) and the School for the Arts is paramount to the College District and operations.
- Provides vital link for safe crossing with RCCD constructed traffic signal.
- Additionally, this would create a sense of **Paseo d'Arts (place making)**, and maintain the needed pedestrian link between two important performing arts programs/ facilities and associated parking.





**From:** Karen Renfro [<mailto:k.a.renfro7@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** Henson, Angela <[AHenson@riversideca.gov](mailto:AHenson@riversideca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kennon, Tonya <[TKennon@riversideca.gov](mailto:TKennon@riversideca.gov)>; Nicol, Colleen <[CNicol@riversideca.gov](mailto:CNicol@riversideca.gov)>; Alicia Robinson <[arobinson@pe.com](mailto:arobinson@pe.com)>  
**Subject:** [External] RIVERSIDE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AUG. 14, 2017:

August 14, 2017

Tom Evans, Chairman  
Board of Trustees  
Riverside Public Library  
3581 Mission Inn Avenue  
Riverside, California 92501

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Please vote no on this design for the new library and the deal that goes with it.

Respectfully yours,

Karen Renfro  
Resident of Riverside since 1972  
(951)787-0617  
[k.a.renfro7@gmail.com](mailto:k.a.renfro7@gmail.com)

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs

**From:** Constance Scott <cjscott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Date:** August 14, 2017 at 10:17:30 PM PDT  
**To:** "ahenson@riversideca.gov" <ahenson@riversideca.gov>  
**Cc:** "cnicol@riversideca.gov" <cnicol@riversideca.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] New Library  
**Reply-To:** Constance Scott <cjscott@sbcglobal.net>

To: Angela Henson, Colleen Nicol, and Council Members

This is a second attempt to submit my opinion on the new library design based on the article in the Press Enterprise.

The structure is an incongruous amalgamation of distinctly contradictory elements. Not attractive.

There is too much space underneath and around the structure with an unclear and uncertain purpose.

Paying 40 million dollars for a library that is about 40% smaller than the one we already have does not make sense.

There is not enough information about the interior design. Will the average community member find this library inviting and useful? What books and media will be housed there? Do the building and its contents reveal the degree to which we value literacy, knowledge, and wisdom in a free and democratic society?

Is this a library or a costly vanity project?

You have a difficult job. Thank you all for your service.

Sincerely,

Constance Scott

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
Library Director

From: Sagebrush [<mailto:sagebrush@dslextreme.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 11:42 AM  
To: Morton, Sherry <[SMorton@riversideca.gov](mailto:SMorton@riversideca.gov)>  
Subject: [External] Item #30 (Proposed Library) on City Council Meeting Agenda for August 22, 2017

City Clerk, City of Riverside:

Please forward this message to the individuals below prior to the August 22nd City Council Meeting.  
Thank you.

To the Mayor, City Manager, and Members of the City Council, Riverside:

The recent PE article on the proposed central library raised concerns for me. I am not talking about the design, although I find its modernity gratuitous and out of keeping with the downtown Mission style. My main concern is that the space for the LIBRARY itself, the reason for a new building, will be smaller than the current building. The article even mentions there would be a need for a separate archive building. I am confused. Did the various entities involved forget what they were supposed to be doing? Did anyone consult with experts in Library Science for guidance as to what a present-day library should include? I have utilized libraries in other cities. The central library in Carlsbad, California comes to mind as an example for Riverside. We do NOT need a park or an event space; we have those nearby. What we need is a functioning up-to-date library, larger and more complete than the old one. This architectural fun zone misses the mark.

Kathryn Safford  
2110 Whitestone Drive  
Riverside, California 92506  
Telephone: 1 (951) 684-3113

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
Library Director