



January 29, 2016

Mayor Rusty Bailey  
City of Riverside  
3900 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92522

Dear Mayor Bailey:

As managers of the Riverside Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Riverside Sports Commission and the Riverside Convention Center that serves the City of Riverside and the greater Riverside community, we fully support the City of Riverside in its efforts to locate an interactive science-focused museum in the existing Main Library building in Downtown Riverside.

The effort to build a new state-of-the-art Main Library at another location that meets the needs of current and future library patrons is a much needed investment in our community. The relocation of the Main Library offers the City the unique opportunity to reimagine the site and build upon the strong cultural environment that currently exists. Locating an interactive science-focused museum on the site would reinforce Riverside as the City of Arts and Innovation, promote local economic development and attract more people to enjoy our City's many assets – including our shops and restaurants. For Downtown Riverside, this would mark another milestone in its great evolution as the region's destination for dining, arts and entertainment.

Equally important, a project of this type would serve as a catalyst for our City's youth. An interactive science-focused museum would build on local STEM curricula and offer a hands-on approach to science education through engaging activities, programs and exhibits. It has the potential to create a meaningful impact on our community by inspiring the next generation of innovators and prepare them to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

Please accept this as a letter of support from Raincross Hospitality Corporation for the City's proposal to locate an interactive science-focused museum in the existing Main Library building in Downtown Riverside.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Weggeland", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ted Weggeland, President  
RAINCROSS HOSPITALITY CORPORATION

FW: [External] Library

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**Patricia Palagi**" <[ppalagi@gmail.com](mailto:ppalagi@gmail.com)>  
Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2016 at 6:36 PM -0800  
Subject: [External] Library  
To: "Gardner, Mike" <[MGardner@riversideca.gov](mailto:MGardner@riversideca.gov)>

Good evening!

My kids and I use the downtown library fairly frequently, as it is located close to the restaurant. I was very disappointed to read in the Press -Enterprise that city was recommending the small site on Chestnut for a new downtown library.

I believe that site is way too small for the needs of the community. Like my friend, Sue Mitchell, I liked the bus station site.

I think the downtown community needs a library done right, with adequate meeting space and plenty of money for books. The chestnut site is just too small and not well located. Downtown deserves better. Our community does too.

Thanks,

Patricia Orozco Palagi  
Arlington High School  
History Department  
CFO of Famiglia Palagi, Riverside, CA  
Sent from my iPhone

FW: [External] Library!!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Sue Mitchell" <[sue@riversidepersonnel.com](mailto:sue@riversidepersonnel.com)>

Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2016 at 7:28 PM -0800

Subject: RE: [External] Library!!

To: "Gardner, Mike" <[MGardner@riversideca.gov](mailto:MGardner@riversideca.gov)>

Mike - As I stated on fb...I live downtown and walk from my home to many activities. I have been to most of the Artwalks and many First Sundays over the past seven years and the Chestnut location has **nothing** to do with any of the happenings in downtown Riverside. Please don't let it happen. Thanks ...sue

Sue Mitchell

Printmaker/ Mixed Media Artist

[www.suemitchellart.com](http://www.suemitchellart.com)

[sue@riversidepersonnel.com](mailto:sue@riversidepersonnel.com)

Co-Founder

Riverside Personnel Services

3590 Central Ave., Suite 200

Riverside, CA 92506

Phone (951) 788-7900

Fax (951) 788-1676

[www.riversidepersonnel.com](http://www.riversidepersonnel.com)

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**From:** Gardner, Mike [<mailto:MGardner@riversideca.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2016 7:06 PM

**To:** Sue Mitchell <[sue@riversidepersonnel.com](mailto:sue@riversidepersonnel.com)>

**Subject:** Re: [External] Library!!

Thanks Sue. I appreciate the input. It will be interesting to see what the Library Board of Trustees does tonight.

I M not convinced Chestnut is the right site, but I want to see what the BLT recommends and what the ublic thinks of that.

Mike

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)

On Mon, Jan 25, 2016 at 6:35 PM -0800, "Sue Mitchell" <[sue@riversidepersonnel.com](mailto:sue@riversidepersonnel.com)> wrote:

Hi Mike –

You might be noticing the big backlash on facebook about the Chestnut site.

There are some that favor NO move but many of us were open if it were the right location.

I could support a move if it were in the right spot but Chestnut is on the far edge of downtown with nothing of interest near it and not enough land for public activities outside...I've been pretty low key on this and when they talked about the land where the bus station is that made sense...with the FOX and RCC nearby it would have good energy and foot traffic.

I hope you can get the library in a more central location or remodel the existing.

Thanks...sue

Sue Mitchell  
Printmaker/ Mixed Media Artist  
[www.suemitchellart.com](http://www.suemitchellart.com)  
[sue@riversidepersonnel.com](mailto:sue@riversidepersonnel.com)

Co-Founder  
Riverside Personnel Services  
3590 Central Ave., Suite 200  
Riverside, CA 92506  
Phone (951) 788-7900  
Fax (951) 788-1676  
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FW: Main Library Relocation

**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2015 12:58 PM

**Subject:** Main Library Relocation

Dear Board of Library Trustees and Council Members

This email will amplify my remarks at the Monday, August 24th Library Board meeting. I am a former President of the Library Board of Trustees, a career long Librarian, the former Interim Director of the UCR Libraries and a resident of Ward One since 1968.

The newest City Manager's idea to abandon the historical location of Riverside's Main Library and retreat across market Street is a mistake. If the Main Library moves from its current position in the very center of the constellation of Riverside's downtown cultural institutions it will surrender its central role in the many cultural events of the City. Its front porch and wide lawn will no longer host events such as the Festival of Lights, Dia de los Muertos, the Lunar New Year and the Dickens Festival.

Like many public libraries across the country, the Main Library's local history collection is the repository of the City's collective memory. This where scholars and historians go to do research. Where will those collections go on such a reduced site as the one suggested.

The current proximity of Riverside cultural institutions downtown provides convenient public access. Our school children can easily visit their cultural patrimony by walking from the Art Museum to the Metropolitan Museum to the Municipal Auditorium to the Main Library in one day.

This cultural district is the result of decades long prudent planning and dedicated work by City officials and public spirited citizens alike. To say that a modern library cannot be built inside the current Main Library building is to join those unimaginative citizens who scoffed at the idea of saving the Mission Inn, transforming the Kress Dime Store into the California Museum of Photography and the old Rouse Department Store into the Culver Center. The Riverside Art Museum was once the YWCA and the Fox Performing Arts Center was once a derelict theater. Riverside's downtown cultural district was built on a determination to use our historic buildings wisely rather than abandoning them.

Don't allow the current chimera of a "modern library" blind you to the fact that the Main Library will lose much of its support base and power when it is reduced to a shrunken branch located on some inconvenient surplus redevelopment land.

Stick to the remodel plan which has already been vetted by long, painful years of public hearings and input from all interested stakeholders. Don't settle for less than a truly powerful Main Library.

Respectfully,

Venita Jorgensen  
4435 Mission Inn Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92501  
[kvenitaj@att.net](mailto:kvenitaj@att.net)

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACM Nguyen  
Library Director

FW: Judy and Gary Mares, 683-1129, in favor of bus station site for Main Library

**From:** Anderson, Lynn

**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 10:02 AM

**To:** Gardner, Mike

**Cc:** Nicol, Colleen; CMO CM-ACM

**Subject:** Judy and Gary Mares, 683-1129, in favor of bus station site for Main Library

Mike,

Judy and Gary Mares called last week and left a voicemail for you to go on record that they think the site of the bus station is a perfect location for the Main Library, they live downtown, use the library each week and so do their children. They truly hope the library goes there. I am copying the City Clerk so that this may be shared with the other Council Members and the Mayor.

Thanks,

Lynn Anderson

*Council Assistant - Ward 1*

**Council Member Mike Gardner**

City of Riverside

3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522

951-826-5242 (office) 951-966-8614 (cell)

[landerson@riversideca.gov](mailto:landerson@riversideca.gov)

JOSEPH PETER MYERS

LAWYER

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
Asst. City Managers  
Library Director

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

4048 TENTH STREET  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501  
TELEPHONE (951) 684-4330  
FACSIMILE (951) 686-6686  
EMAIL jpm@myerslaw.net

RECEIVED

SEP 15 2015

City of Riverside  
City Clerk's Office  
*from Mayor's Office*  
*Cam*

September 14, 2015

Tom P. Evans  
Members of the Board of Library Trustees

hand delivered to City Clerk/Mayor's Office

Gentlefolk:

I have received the notices of a proposed relocation of the Main Library with a good deal of concern, and no small measure of anger. I have not been "in the loop" of our Public Library's administration for many years, ever since my eight years as a Member of the City and County Library Commission concluded. I have continued to serve as a Trustee of the County Law Library for the past eighteen or nineteen years, however, and my interest and feelings for the City Library remain.

There is no question that our Main Library is in dire need of modernization, reconstruction, and refurbishing. Technology continues to both delight and confound everyone in the information industry – and libraries are at the core of that segment of our society. Our City needs the best modern library we can have. All libraries serve, and our own Main Library has served from its inception, not simply as repositories of written books and materials. More important, they are perhaps the most accessible symbol to all citizens of the fundamental importance of knowledge and the innate human drive to learn and to experience.

Because of the nature of the Library – and the importance which it should have in our City – moving it to the locations being considered would be a terrible thing to do. It is a virtual banishment – away from the heart of the City and its history. Further, one can only imagine with some trepidation what will become of the present property. Another large building created without architects? – we have any number of those already. Another boondoggle for developers – who will purchase the land for pennies and resell it to the City or County for millions?

Surely the existing site can be reborn into a library which by its reconstruction and its location represent the ideals of our City's hopeful motto – that we are a City of Arts and Innovation.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH PETER MYERS

FW: [External] AGENDA ITEM #5: LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES DEC. 14, 2015  
MEETING:

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

**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2015 4:15 PM

**To:** Nguyen, Alexander; Kennon, Tonya; Henson, Angela

**Cc:** Bailey, Rusty; Gardner, Mike; Melendrez, Andy; Mike Soubirous; Davis, Paul; MacArthur, Chris; Perry, Jim; Burnard, John; Russo, John A.; Nicol, Colleen; Mark Acosta; Alicia Robinson

**Subject:** [External] AGENDA ITEM #5: LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES DEC. 14, 2015 MEETING:

Dec. 14, 2015

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

#### AGENDA ITEM #5: UPDATE ON MAIN LIBRARY

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

As lifelong booklovers we have always held libraries everywhere very dear to our hearts. Libraries are the foundation of education and essential to the well-being of the people. A library is an institution designed to hold books for use by the people. Without books, a library is not an essential institution of society.

We believe the issue of whether the Riverside Main Library is to be renovated or relocated is related to the policy adopted some years ago to displace its collection of books with computers and other amenities. While we believe there is a place for technological advancements of the modern world in a library setting, we do not believe that these advancements are in any way superior to hard-copy books whether they are made of paper, parchment, papyrus or clay. As books require a certain kind of climate-controlled building to protect them from the elements, until recently libraries have been designed with as few windows as possible. Getting rid of book collections to reduce the number of light-sensitive books is a foolish policy, one that future generations will deeply regret someday.

As we think a permanent policy should be that all other forms of information and communication should be acquired to compliment the book collections, not replace them, we do not think a library should be designed around the new technology, but around the preservation and expansion of the book collection, and the new technology designed around the main purpose of libraries.

Many years ago city officials decided to construct a brand-new library at the present site because the old Carnegie Library, one of the most beautiful public libraries ever built, was too small. We are both still mourning this loss. The new library rose up behind the old library, but instead of leaving the Carnegie-designed architectural treasure in place for re-use as a museum or something, it was demolished. This should never have happened and it didn't need to.



Although we share the common sentiment that the Main Library is not a thing of beauty and a joy forever, it is still located in the very best possible place. We think the proposals that this board has considered in the past and is considering now are ill-conceived. The sites proposed for relocation are entirely insensitive to the role our city's Main Library plays in the lives of the people and its relation downtown cultural, economic and government centers.

The site currently proposed is one of the worst places for a valuable cultural institution as the main library. It is in a neighborhood that many people would never voluntarily enter by car, foot, bicycle or bus, especially at night. It is a neighborhood that many parents would not like their children going through to get there under any circumstances. We know because we used to live in that neighborhood and it has not changed for the better in the 33 years since we left.

We know the existing library building has many problems and if it is to continue to house books much will need to be done to bring it up to current standards of the profession. But, we think there are two solutions that could resolve the many dilemmas posed by advocates of the various proposals presented over the years, including the one before you today:

#### OPTION NUMBER ONE:

One would be to repair and renovate the existing building to house the book collections, rooms with bookshelves and tables for people doing research. Each floor could have a reference and information desk or counter, whose staff would function as auxiliary security. A new wing of up to two stories high with a basement could be built to the front of the old building, attached with the main entrance on the ground floor of the new wing. Technical processing could be located in the basement of the new building to allow more room for the library's book collections in the old building.

The new wing could go out almost to the sidewalk along Mission Inn Avenue in one direction and almost as far as the west wall of the old building in another direction. This would leave room for the sundial, the pagoda and the parking lot. The new wing would be where computers, meeting rooms, administration offices, restrooms, music, media, study rooms, practice rooms, local history & genealogy collections, and other amenities that would benefit from lots of sunshine and open space could go.

The new wing could be built first and used temporarily to house book collections that need to be out of the way during renovation & upgrades of the old building. Then, when all that work has been accomplished all the books could be moved back into the old building and the new building opened to the public for modern-library related uses. If properly designed this new wing could have a small auditorium and Dickens' Festival related displays, with the local history and genealogy departments nearby.

#### OPTION NUMBER TWO:

Alternatively, the Main Library would continue to house the book collections, local history and genealogy, reference, and technical processing. Renovations and upgrades to this building would have to be carefully worked-out. A new building for the new technologies, open spaces, meeting rooms, and so forth could be built on any number of other sites in the downtown, although the optimal location for this would not be any that have been proposed so far.

#### CONCLUSION:

All the options have not been explored yet.

The presentation offered with this agenda item does not reflect the wisest thinking on the subject of libraries. The fact that the libraries of other cities have abandoned learning in favor of socializing and entertainment as their main function does not mean Riverside should follow suit. The suggestion that book

collections of our Main Library could be stored somewhere off-premises and retrieved as requested by patrons is repugnant to those of us who value the ancient purpose of libraries.

Our well-being as a society depends upon the wisdom we receive from those who have gone before us, not on technical innovations whose longevity remains uncertain.

Please do not approve any of the recommendations for this item. It is better to post-pone a decision that really can be put off than to make a bad one. W

William Shakespeare said "The people are the city." Keep the public discussion of the future of the Riverside Library open so that we the people whose taxes make this institution possible and patronage makes it necessary have been given time to present our proposals.

Thank you for considering our request.

Respectfully yours,

Raymond and Karen Renfro  
3064 Lime Street  
Riverside, California 92501  
[\(951\)787-0617](tel:(951)787-0617)  
[k.a.renfro7@gmail.com](mailto:k.a.renfro7@gmail.com)

"Without wisdom, a people perish."  
Proverbs

FW: Site search for new Main Library

**From:** Barbara Shackelton <[dbshack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dbshack@sbcglobal.net)>

**Date:** September 11, 2015 at 12:02:01 PM PDT

**To:** Bailey Rusty & Judy <[rbailey@riversideca.gov](mailto:rbailey@riversideca.gov)>, Rusty Bailey <[rustybailey9@aol.com](mailto:rustybailey9@aol.com)>

**Subject:** Fw: Site search for new Main Library

**Reply-To:** Barbara Shackelton <[dbshack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dbshack@sbcglobal.net)>

Hi, Rusty.

Please see the letter below. There's strong opposition in the community (not only from the Shacks) to moving the library from the current site. I'm sending this because I want to keep you informed.

Trust all is going well with the family and with the city -- neither of which is ever dull, I know.

Best, my friend.

Barbara Shack

September 11, 2015

To: Library Board of Trustees

From: Doug & Barbara Shackelton

Subject: Site search for a new Main Library

We suggest that this search for a new site be temporarily be stopped while we reexamine the existing site and building. The reasons for this request are:

1. No good explanation or evidence has been provided as to why the existing plans and work, costing at least \$1M, should be abandoned and wasted. A qualified consultant should be hired to answer 2 questions:
  1. Can this existing building be rehabbed for \$20M to \$22M per the existing plans?
  2. If it is rehabbed per the existing plans will Riverside get a "state of the art" new Main Library?
2. If the answers to no.1 above are that it should not be rehabbed, then we should study building a new building on the existing site which is far superior to sites identified so far. Demolition of the existing building is possible with community and City staff support.
3. Picking a new site and starting over will be costly and will take at least 4 years. With funding the rehab of the existing building could begin quickly and be finished within 2 years.
4. If City staff believes that the existing plans to rehab the existing building are deficient, what would it cost and how long would it take to revise them to provide plans for a "state of the art" building?
5. With funding, picking a new site and starting over will be costly and will take 4 years or more. Whereas, rehabing the existing building, with

funding, could happen very quickly and be finished in 2 years.

- 6, The cost to build a new library on a new site will cost the same or more as rehabbing the existing building depending on the site selected, the building size, and the amount of parking. A 50,000-sq-ft building with 75 to 100 parking spaces will cost at least \$20M.
7. The community should not be told to take the risk or gamble as to what will be done with the existing building when it is abandoned.
  - Will it be vacant or used for storage for several years?
  - Will it be used for another cultural use?
  - If so, what use and where is the money to retro fit the building?
  - Will it be sold to a private user?The City needs to discuss this with the community and perhaps provide some guarantees -- like deed restrictions.
8. This site search is a bold new move and the community has not been involved and brought along with it. This has happened before with the Main Library, and the community rejected and rebelled.

In conclusion, we urge the Library Board of Trustees to slow the process down and re-examine the existing plans and existing site. An objective analysis of the points raised above should be done and provided to the Board and to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug & Barbara Shackelton  
2398 Deerhorn Dr.  
Riverside, Ca. 92506  
[shackconsult@gmail.com](mailto:shackconsult@gmail.com)  
951-315-1520

FW: [External] The Main Library

**From:** [lee@eventsmarketing.us](mailto:lee@eventsmarketing.us) [mailto:[lee@eventsmarketing.us](mailto:lee@eventsmarketing.us)]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:43 PM

**To:** Nicol, Colleen

**Cc:** Gardner, Mike

**Subject:** [External] The Main Library

To the City Clerk, Mayor Bailey, and the Riverside City Council:

I have been a resident of the "Wood Streets" for 13 years. As a citizen, voter and tax payer of this City, I have a right and duty to communicate to my representatives.

RE: the Main library on Mission Inn Ave.: The library hardly has money for books so building a new building is putting library money into the hands of accountants, contractors, architects, interior designers, laborers, administrators etc. This would be a misuse of the library's mandate and the City's responsibility of overseeing the Library.

The downtown facility is outdated, but that's not the problem. The problem is it doesn't have enough money to buy books.

The City needs an adequate library with lots of books, not a really nice library with not enough books.

PLEASE DO NOT SPEND MONEY ON A NEW BUILDING. INSTEAD, BUY MORE BOOKS.

Respectfully,

Artye S. Wade  
3509 Elmwood Court