



**Public Comment Received for:**  
**Item 4: De La Guerra Plaza**  
**(PLN2019-00576)**

<b>Name of Sender</b>	<b>Distributed prior to hearing</b>	<b>Distributed after the hearing</b>
1. Peter Conn	x	
2. William and Barbara Wood	x	
3. Susan Chamberlin	x	
4. Pamela Jameson Boehr	x	
5. Victoria Valente	x	
6. Francesca Galt	x	
7. Barbara Lyon	x	
8. Andrew Rawls	x	
9. Kevin Snow	x	
10. Barbara Bates Bonadeo	x	
11. Elly Bajor	x	
12. Rosanne Crawford	x	
13. Citizens Planning Assoc.	x	
14. Gale Goldberg	x	
15. Anna Marie Gott	x	
16. James Main Fine Art		x

# Public Comment #1

**From:** [peter.conn](mailto:peter.conn)  
**To:** [Community\\_Development\\_HLCsecretary](mailto:Community_Development_HLCsecretary)  
**Subject:** De La Guerra Plaza. Please SAVE this historic space as is. Repair the sidewalks.  
**Date:** Saturday, January 08, 2022 10:59:50 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Historic Landmarks Commission and City Historian, Nicole Hernandez,

Please keep the current De La Guerra Plaza grassy area and road configuration. The flexibility and simple design have worked beautifully for a century.

Repair the sidewalks. It is good for businesses, free speech, Fiesta and other festivals as is. It just needs maintenance and repair.

Reasons:

1. De La Guerra Plaza is CA State Historic Landmark # 307. It is linked to Casa de La Guerra also CA State Historic Landmark #307 according to documents at the CA. State Historic Preservation Office (Jay Correia). The plaque refers to the Plaza not the Casa.

2. Despite numerous designs by famous and not so famous architects with crisscrossing paths, fountains and statues of all sorts, those busy designs for this small space were all rejected ([Plaza de la Guerra Reconsidered Exhibition and Symposium](#), SB Trust for Historic Preservation, 2002) .

3. De La Guerra Plaza has been an oval lawn since at least 1923 (postcard, p. 41, [Plaza de la Guerra Reconsidered Exhibition and Symposium](#), SB Trust for Historic Preservation, 2002)

4. The original completely raised oval plaza with roadway around it was designed by James Osborne Craig in 1921-1922 as part of his design for the “Street of Spain” that is part of El Paseo across de la Guerra St. The current configuration of the Plaza with the flattened end along de la Guerra Street is clearly shown in a City engineering drawing of 1924. ([Plaza de la Guerra Reconsidered Exhibition and Symposium](#), SB Trust for Historic Preservation, 2002)

5. De La Guerra Plaza is historically a free speech and festival area (see history of José de la Guerra and family and all the newspaper clippings since the earliest Fiestas). De La Guerra Plaza is one of the original “plazas” or “parks” in Santa Barbara, showing on the 1853 City map. De La Guerra Plaza is where people met with the “comandante” and later the mayor. When the automobile arrived on the scene the road and parking around the plaza was needed for public and business services. This flexible, useful, and beneficial space occurs because of the simple design that it has now and has officially had since 1924 when accepted by the then City Council.

6. De La Guerra Plaza needs maintenance and repair not change. The lawn needs water and the sidewalks need repair.

7. Back in 1924, the nationally highly regarded Olmsted Brothers and Charles H, Cheney suggested flagstone for the sidewalks (p. 20. [Plaza de la Guerra Reconsidered](#)). The sidewalks, currently a mix of designs in red cement and regular gray cement, could be changed to flagstone to tie in with the “Street of Spain” and be the color of the decomposed granite of the Casa de la Guerra front yard. A bench or two could be put along the wider parts

of the sidewalk and in Storke Placita but NOT in the grassy Plaza de la Guerra. Benches would disrupt the flexibility of the grassy open space.

8. In my opinion, the most beneficial use of City taxpayer funds would be to:

a) repair the sidewalk area of de la Guerra Plaza;

b) bring a recycled water line from the wastewater treatment plant into downtown and all the way to the Old Mission. Then all the parks, including Mission Historical Park, Alice Keck Memorial Garden, Alameda Park, the Courthouse lawns and the City Hall's De La Guerra Plaza could be watered with reclaimed water. This would benefit Santa Barbara, the planet and retain the historic integrity of De La Guerra Plaza as CA Historic Landmark #307.

9. Please make De La Guerra Plaza a City Historic Landmark. It should have been that years ago.

10. It is State Street that has become a mess and needs concentrated unifying work, not Plaza de la Guerra.

Plaza de la Guerra is a brilliant design that works for free speech for City Hall and the newspaper right there, and for festivals as it is in the heart of Santa Barbara without obstructing businesses but being complimentary to them.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Paulina Conn

Mission Canyon resident who worked in the News Press Library in the 1960s and loved walking through the green Plaza de la Guerra, through flagstoned El Paseo, and sitting on the steps of Casa de la Guerra.

## Public Comment #2

**From:** [William Wood](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Subject:** 20 East De La Guerra/ Plaza De La Guerra/ Al No PLN2019-00576  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 1:39:07 PM

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EXTERNAL

As owners of neighboring 724-26 Anacapa St. please register our opposition to this project. We see no reason for this AT ALL ! If the City wants to spend more money it would best be served and much less expensive by using the funds for maintaining and care of this very important and historic center of our city.

I am a forth generation Santa Barbarán and student of Santa Barbara history. I believe all Natives past and present would resent change to our sacred center.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our view... William and Barbara Wood.  
Sent from my iPhone

January 11, 2022

TO: City of Santa Barbara Historic Landmarks Commission  
P.O. Box 1990  
Santa Barbara CA 93102-1990

FROM: Susan Chamberlin  
Landscape Historian, M.A. & Landscape Architect (CA #2001)  
P.O. Box 3864  
Santa Barbara CA 93130

**RE: January 19, 2022 Agenda—Plaza De la Guerra, 20 East De la Guerra Street**

It is frankly surprising that the proposed demolition and remodel of the historic, cultural landscape Plaza De la Guerra has progressed to this point. Has Brad Hess of the City or the HLC considered CEQA regarding the plans before you? Cultural landscapes have been part of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties since 1992.

Along with Casa De la Guerra, the Plaza is included in the documentation for California Historical Landmark #307 (where it is called "De la Guerra Plaza") according to the California Office of Historic Preservation's Jay Correia. There is also a plaque on a boulder in the Plaza with this name that was placed in 1950 and is therefore considered historic as well. The boulder with the plaque is not on the proposed plans by RRM Design Group, and the palm trees (correctly identified by them as historic) are removed from the Plaza. Their entire design can only be described as contemporary.

Whether its original design was intentional or not, the Plaza as it appears today is nearly a century old, and it functions well. As you will see in the enclosed article, there is a plan by City Engineer Geo. D. Morrison archived at UCSB's Architecture and Design Collection, which shows the layout of the paved loop road around the plaza essentially as it is now. Clearly visible on the plan that is archived is the notation that it was approved by the City Council on July 17, 1924. Grass appears in early photos of the plaza and in the 1926 book, *New Santa Barbara*.

Removing parking from the plaza will impact El Paseo shops and tasting rooms and make it more difficult for lower income people to do business at City Hall and the News-Press. Eliminating grass from the plaza and replacing it with hardscape will increase the City's carbon footprint. The proposed trees in planters will need perpetual irrigation due to their limited root zones.

I am in favor of: updating the utility corridor if it includes reclaimed water for irrigating the lawn; temporary coffee kiosks; restrooms. I urge you to reject the rest of the proposed Plaza plans.

*(signed) Susan Chamberlin*

enclosure: Susan Chamberlin and Paulina Conn, "Preservation Watch: De la Guerra Plaza," *The Capital* 25, no. 1 (January 2022): 2. Reproduced with the written permission of the editor of *The Capital*.

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Please direct inquiries  
and comments to:

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### Newsletter

Cheri Rae, *editor*

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# PRESERVATION WATCH

By Susan Chamberlin and Paulina Conn

(Initiated by popular request, Preservation Watch informs Pearl Chase Society members of community projects that may disturb historical structures and features, explains community preservation efforts, and/or lists opportunities for public input for those concerned with a particular issue.)

## De la Guerra Plaza

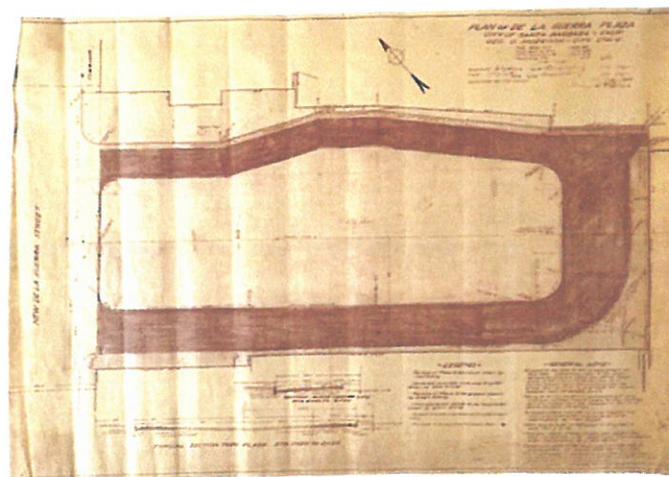
A remodel of De la Guerra Plaza is being considered by the Historic Landmarks Commission (referred by the De la Guerra Plaza Revitalization Advisory Committee and City Public Works Department), despite the fact that plans archived at UCSB's Architecture and Design Collection include one from 1924 approved by the City Council that shows the design of the paved loop road by City Engineer Geo. D. Morrison around the Plaza more or less as it exists now.

This cultural landscape is therefore nearly a century old, easily within the threshold of 50 years for historic resources. Post/Hazeltine did not include this 1924 plan in their 2008 Historic Structures Sites Report for the Plaza for reasons that are not clear.

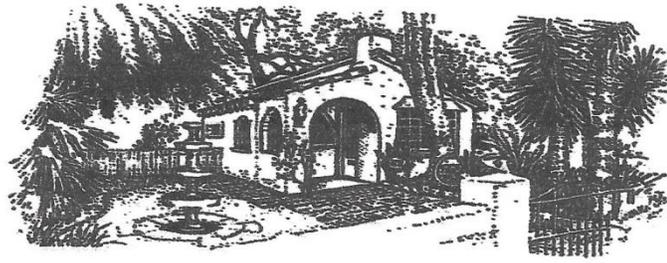
There is grass in the Plaza today just as there was long ago. Grass is visible in historic photos including one that appeared on page 17 in the 1926 book, *New Santa Barbara*. The publication was issued by the Plants and Planning Committee of the Community Arts Association. (See photo below)

De la Guerra Plaza and Casa de la Guerra are both considered in the documentation for California Historical Landmark #307, according to Jay Correia, Supervisor, Cultural Resources Programs Registration, California Office of Historic Preservation. The plaque, "DE LA GUERRA PLAZA 1850-1950" mounted on a boulder at the edge of the Plaza in 1950 is also historic, and few plaques from this era survive according to Correia.

For more information about this remodeling plan, access the [De la Guerra Plaza Revitalization Advisory Committee page](#).



1924 Design:  
Lutah Maria  
Riggs papers,  
Architecture  
and Design  
Collection.  
Art, Design &  
Architecture  
Museum;  
University  
of California,  
Santa Barbara.



The Gates Building  
A Structure of Merit in *El Pueblo Viejo*  
707 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

12 January 2022

City of Santa Barbara  
Historic Landmarks Commission  
Santa Barbara, CA

Re: 19 January 2022 Agenda Plaza de la Guerra, 20 E. de la Guerra Street

Dear Commissioners:

My sons are fifth-generation Santa Barbara residents and third-generation natives. Our family is proud to be neighbors of *Plaza de la Guerra* which is part of a *California Historical Landmark*.

I was the first student of Jose Manero. When he moved his studio from Anapamu Street to *La Placita Building* it was special to overlook the *Plaza*. During *Old Spanish Days* we dancers performed on a stage at *El Mercado*.

As owners of *The Gates Building*, a *Structure of Merit* in *El Pueblo Viejo*, we feel a special bond of appreciation of the *Plaza*. It is sacrosanct. It is the heart of Santa Barbara and means so much to me. Together with *Casa de la Guerra*, *City Hall*, and the *News-Press Building* it presents a special public square assembly. The curbing helps to provide safety. If I need to do business at *City Hall* I can easily find parking there. If I need to place an ad or pick up an extra copy of the paper,

it's perfect to park right in front of the *Santa Barbara News-Press Building*. In fact, a traffic study indicated people also park there to visit *El Paseo* and State Street. Why would the City even consider removing parking for 60 vehicles?

If the flags are properly maintained and the shack is removed, the *Plaza* should remain as it has for 100 years with open space as a ceremonial and civic center for use by many groups.

My family sees absolutely no need for a 'revitalization' of any sort. The *Plaza* needs to continue being appreciated, cherished, maintained, and left alone.

Sincerely,

*Pamela Jameson Boehr*

## Public Comment #5

**From:** [Victoria Valente](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Subject:** De La Guerra Plaza Revitalization  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:22:01 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Historic Landmarks Commission,

Please reject the De La Guerra “makeover” design.

This concept, in my opinion, is busy, contrived, and cold, which is similar to others by RRM Design Group. Why waste the money on a redesign when the existing one is superior?

All the fancy designs with multiple paths, pavement, statues, kiosks, and fountains that were proposed by famous architects of the day such as James Osborne Craig (1921-1922), George Washington Smith / Lulah Maria Riggs (1922), the Olmsted brothers / Cheney (1925), etc. were rejected. (source: Plaza de la Guerra Reconsidered Exhibition and Symposium, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, 2002).

DLG Plaza has served as a public gathering spot for government and celebration since 1828 when it was the front yard of the Comandante José de la Guerra y Noriega.

De La Guerra Plaza is California State Historic Landmark # 307 along with Casa de La Guerra (source: email from Jay Correia at CA Office of Historic Preservation citing documentation). The plaque on the boulder showing De La Guerra as a landmark was placed in 1950. It is over 50 years old and therefore qualifies as historic. Jay Correia of CA Office of Historic Preservation cited that this plaque is rare.

CEQA (CA Environmental Quality Act) should be triggered because De La Guerra Plaza is a Historic Landmark.

The City Council, in 1924, approved the raised central grassy area design with road and parking around it and sidewalks similar to what it is today. (source: various UCSB archives). Parking is fundamental to any city center.

Personally, I enjoy the convenience of 15 minute parking to run an errand at City Hall or the SB News-Press, or pick up a smoothie at Blenders.

The proposed makeover turns grass into pavement and takes away the flexibility in use of this space. It becomes a dead, hot, paved-over area instead of one that is green and cooling that works for everyone.

Why does our Parks and Recreation Department want to remove our last remaining patches of grass in Santa Barbara? Every decent city offers a few inviting grassy areas, landscaped parks, and supports a maintenance department.

In addition, who thought of a splash pad in this small space with no parking? Have they ever walked any distance in wet clothing with small children??

The City needs to leave De La Guerra Plaza alone and do maintenance and repair. As it appears right now, De La Guerra Plaza is open and inviting. A few minor improvements are needed, however the overall design is good.

Water the lawn along with all our parks with recycled water. There is no recycled water line downtown yet so that should be a priority, installing a reclaimed water line. Next, install a new sidewalk and make the it consistent all the way around the plaza.

De La Guerra Plaza needs to be a City Historic Landmark. Please make it one.

Sincerely,

Victoria Valente  
Eastside resident since 1991

## Public Comment #6

**From:** [Francesca Galt](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Subject:** RE: De la Guerra Plaza CA State Historic Landmark # 307  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:25:19 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Historic Landmarks Commission,

Pease keep the Plaza in its traditional design. It is a welcome, restful, green space so needed for our well being and that of the planet.

The Historic buildings around the Plaza are viewed and enjoyed because you can see them without distractions.

Colorful trees and other trendy designer type changes are wrong for this Historic Landmark. Many native grasses that take a beating are on display at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and they conserve water. Take a look at them at the Conservation Center.

Isn't this project a waste of time and money when important issues need our attention and resources?

Thanks for all the important work you do to protect our Historic Landmarks. They help make our city the special place it has always been.

Sincerely,

Francesca Galt 980 Andante Rd SB 93105

**From:** [barbara lyon](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Subject:** De La Guera Plaza "makeover"  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:28:40 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Historic Landmarks Commission,

As a third generation Californian and lover of Santa Barbara, PLEASE REJECT this makeover design. It offends me greatly, is just one more plasticization of our environment and erasing of our beautiful treasured history and soul. I don't know the people behind it, but they lack all artistic and historical sensibility, they are a menace to beautiful living. The world needs cherishing and good citizen caretaking of what we have, not paving over. We could, for example, repair the sidewalks and replace concrete with beautiful tiles. We could place a fountain in the center of the grass now there, but we must keep the grass as open green space so necessary and peaceful to the eye and soul, not awful concrete. As a bona fide California Historic Landmark it should be subject to CEQA. People need to learn to and appreciate walking from parking to the Plaza, and not demanding we pave it over for ugly parking. I am positive there are many landscape architects and artists in town that could do this gem up right! PLEASE REJECT THE MAKEOVER monstrosity!

Thank You for your consideration!

**From:** [Andrew Rawls](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Subject:** Bathrooms in Storke Placita  
**Date:** Friday, January 14, 2022 11:59:07 AM

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EXTERNAL

Hello,

My name is Andrew Rawls, the owner of The Crafter's Library located at 9 E Figueroa St in downtown Santa Barbara. It was recently brought to my attention that new restrooms are planned to be installed at Storke Pacita as part of the De La Guerra Plaza renovations. I am writing to express my strong desire to see as many restrooms as possible installed.

Restroom access has been a major issue in downtown Santa Barbara for years. Considering the restrooms that are proposed will be reportedly self cleaning, maximizing the number of restrooms available will benefit not only those in our community experiencing homelessness but also the countless tourists that visit Santa Barbara.

I would like to HIGHLY encourage the Historic Landmarks Committee to increase the number of restrooms in the approved plans to the maximum number the space can accommodate, higher than the two or three currently in the plans.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Best,  
Andrew

Andrew Rawls  
Owner - The Crafter's Library  
W: 805-770-3566  
C: 818-288-7590  
E: [Andrew@thecrafterslibrary.com](mailto:Andrew@thecrafterslibrary.com)

**From:** [Kevin Snow](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Subject:** De La Guerra Plaza  
**Date:** Friday, January 14, 2022 12:09:55 PM

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EXTERNAL

Please REJECT the De La Guerra Makeover design. It is cold, uninviting, detrimental to climate change and a giant waste of money.

The Plaza is part of the California State Historic Landmark #307. The existing Plaza needs saving! It deserves protecting and better maintenance.

The proposed "makeover" project would impact a variety of existing public uses and is therefore subject to CEQA. Where is the analysis of the impacts this project will have on a critical component of the the city?

The Plaza needs maintenance and repair. Bring in recycled water (spend the money there!) and water the lawn. Pipes are being laid all over town so now is the time. If the City can water a golf course it can certainly water De La Guerra Plaza, a landmark space surely visited by more people than the golf course. The worst thing about the proposed "makeover" is that turning grass into pavement removes the flexibility of uses for the Plaza and renders the area a hot, dead space even a fountain cannot relieve.

The public loves Alameda Park because it is grassy and undefined in contrast to the rigid pathways and planting of neighboring Alice Keck Park. Maintain the grass area of the Plaza, repair and unify the sidewalks, and make it a green inviting place to visit.

Sincerely,

Kevin Snow  
board member of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation 2015-2021  
member of the 2014 Mission Canyon Area Planning Committee  
past president Montecito Trails Foundation

## Public Comment #10

**From:** [Barbara Bates Bonadeo](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Subject:** De La Guerra Plaza design  
**Date:** Friday, January 14, 2022 1:06:59 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Commission Members, Please reject the makeover design of the Plaza. It is part of the State Historic Landmark #307, and needs saving, maintenance, and repair. Water the lawn with recycled water by adding and installing a reclaimed water line with non-potable water. Make the sidewalks consistent all the way around. Thank you. Barbara Bonadeo, 1002 Arbolado Rd. SB: [batesbb@cox.net](mailto:batesbb@cox.net)

## Public Comment #11

**From:** [Elly Bajor](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Elly Bajor](#); [George Bajor](#)  
**Subject:** De La Guerra Plaza  
**Date:** Sunday, January 16, 2022 10:45:00 PM

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EXTERNAL

De La Guerra Plaza is a CA State Historic Landmark and it needs to be saved, protected, maintained, and continued as a public gathering place for government, business access, and celebrations... NOT as a splash pool for children. Nothing could be more inappropriate in front of the newspaper building!

The City needs to stop these divisive, ill-suited, inflexible ideas, and stop pandering only to special groups rather than to the public as a whole.

Please reject the De La Guerra “makeover” design, and leave the historic De La Guerra Plaza alone, for civic and public service.

Elly Bajor - 805-687-2134

## Public Comment #12

**From:** [Rosanne Crawford](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Subject:** my comments regarding De La Guerra Plaza  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 11:44:54 AM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Commissioners,

I was horrified when I reviewed the suggested changes to De La Guerra Plaza.

Tasteless and will attract undesirable activity, not necessarily children, a splash pad can be put in some park or other designated area, anywhere but City Hall! Please keep the landscape open an understated area as it is currently. This keeps the City Hall and De la Guerra Adobe prominent.

That area can be beautified by fixing the sidewalks that need repair but don't pave over and clutter the Plaza. That lawn can be watered with recycled water.

We all certainly enjoy and value trees, this is reflected in all our parks with Alice Keck Park almost a botanical garden.

City Hall, our City seat of Government's front yard is a California State Historic Landmark which should be a City Historic Landmark. Please make it one rather than degrade its significance.

We need to fight for what keeps Santa Barbara special , its history and open space so it doesn't becomes just another soulless city.

Thank you ,  
Rosanne Crawford  
2726 Ben Lomond Dr  
Santa Barbara Ca. 93105



Citizens Planning Association

912 Anacapa Street,

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

January 18, 2022

[HLCSecretary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:HLCSecretary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

Re: HLC Concept Review, Item 4, de la Guerra Plaza, 20 de la Guerra St.

Dear Historic Landmarks Commission members:

Citizens Planning Association has been active in Santa Barbara since 1960, working for good planning, including the preservation of our historic resources for the present and future appreciation of Santa Barbara residents. The de la Guerra Plaza is central to the two or three blocks of our historic civic center, the heart of our city, and it deserves and needs careful and caring attention. It's also our Commons, belonging to all of us, the housed or, as, sadly, too many Santa Barbarans these days, the unhoused. And, finally, it's not a park but a plaza that has had a lot of study and praise over the years. We watched the 1999 [Plaza de la Guerra Reconsidered Symposium](#), learning some of the history of our city and its Commons.

It's a balance: city commons are organic, not stuck in the past but responsive to present needs and designs, always keeping in mind the wishes of the residents. It is a herculean task for planners and one we think that has not been well met: this has been a top-down, staff-driven process, starting with the so-called workshop of March, 2019. CPA representatives participated, thinking that this would be different, a true outreach for Santa Barbara ideas, a charette, basically, where we all participated, but instead it was not. True, there were pages to respond to questions asking for opinions, but it was apparently already decided that the Plaza needed a major overhaul.

A committee was born, its name indicating the intention, [DE LA GUERRA PLAZA REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE](#). It met once in 2019, 3 or 7 times in 2020, the website says both, and three times in 2021, again according to its webpage. The staff report says 12 meetings over 25 months on Friday mornings; CPA representatives attended, via webinar, of course, after the first (in person) meeting, many of the meetings that were notable in having very little public participation. It was a committee of two councilmembers and tried and true city commissioners, with no ordinary Santa Barbara public Plaza-users to hone the staff-chosen RRM presentations.

For two weeks last October there was an "online community questionnaire", designed "to confirm if the project is still consistent with the desires of the community" to which there were a tiny number, 342, of responses, with the major concern, 85, being homelessness (page 3, staff report).

***Recommendations for the HLC Concept Review:***

**Landscaping:** first and foremost, there needs to be a grassy center. In this period of a changing climate and the recognition of the value of greenery, to convert even a small Plaza into hardscape is not acceptable and not wanted, probably, by most Santa Barbarans increasingly few of whom have their own backyards. The 2011 plans brought the lawn from 17,307 sq. ft, 43.5% of the project area, down to 10,731 sq. ft; why, a little more than 10 years later, the urge to replace it completely! Best, as others have noted, to bring in purple-piped water and allow the grass to grow.

A proposed splash pad water feature should be abandoned. It would be better located in a neighborhood park than in front of City Hall. Even the questionnaire respondents voted against it: 51 disliking to 14 likes. The argument in favor was that it would attract families with toddlers or weary visitors from State Street. We think that if the Plaza were revitalized with cared-for grass, benches and seating, with art displays, and is used, as are many commons, for public gatherings, the public would return to enjoying it, as they used to not so long ago.

We also have concerns about adding trees, their water and nurture needs, the space they'd require taking away from an important usage, public gatherings. However, on the other hand, they would add pleasant shade for summer lounging. We think that the changes for the Anacapa Street entrance are positive and long overdue.

Not least in the landscaping, the venerable *Washingtonia filifera*, the California palm, should be allowed to live out its life in place. However, if it must be moved, then before that's done there should be an independent analysis by an arborist knowledgeable of such palms, skilled in such a move and able to assure Santa Barbarans via the HLC that the tree will survive.

**Architectural features: the arcade:** We don't understand its purpose: slide 8 of the PowerPoint pdf shows it to resemble a Potemkin Village gateway: nothing apparently behind and leading nowhere but looking good with its arches. Unless it is locked at night, it is likely to attract sleepers, as does the portico of City Hall; but to have a major feature of a commons be off limits, locked, is unfortunate.

We also don't understand the moving of the flagpoles and the apparent move of the major plaque, which commemorates Casa de la Guerra and the Plaza. We do support the moving of the Armenian memorial.

CPA is very grateful to the Historic Landmarks Commission for your dedication to protecting the historic character and charm of Santa Barbara. Thank you for your work! For this very important civic and historic site, surrounded by designated historic buildings, there's a need for more public participation in the "revitalization process" and a thorough environmental review.

Yours sincerely,

Marell Brooks, President of Citizens Planning Association

From: [Gale Beth Goldberg](#)  
To: [Community\\_Development\\_HLCsecretary](#)  
Subject: DE LA  
Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 8:36:30 AM

## Public Comment #14

EXTERNAL

HLC :

Committee

Met 12 times over 25 months.

Present design Proposed will cost

How much??

Where do the Funds come from??

How long bidding & construction ??

Add'l input/ideas below:

- Just replace the growing grass/dirt w/ high quality artificial turf.
- Add bathrm/s @ the walk-thru plaza @ rt of NewsSuppress bldg & make that wasteful space purposeful.
- Add some nice vintage pole lighting, security cameras.
- Add PA system/speakers
- Provide option for hardwood dancefloor- so regrading to make flat & good drainage.
- Provide place/set up & storage for portable stage.
- Provide People who can be Helpful resources for homeless : where to stay. available jobs. trained therapists to talk to/ maybe skilled souls from HospiceSB. Set them up @ tables w/ chairs for

those being helped  
& locate in walkthru plaza.

- No benches!
- No water feature!
- Leave the horseshoe & parking.

**From:** [Anna Marie Gott](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#); [Ted Hamilton](#)  
**Cc:** [Anthony Grumbine](#); [Steve Hausz](#); [Michale Drury](#); [Ed Lenvik](#); [Robert Ooley](#)  
**Subject:** Item #4 - De la Guerra Plaza - Splash Pads Are A Draw For The Homeless To Use For Bathing Nationwide  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 11:11:17 AM

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### EXTERNAL

Commissioner's,

I am concerned about the recommendation to include a splash pad in De la Guerra Plaza for three reasons: this type of *"interactive water feature"* is **not historical, I could not locate an example of a splash pad in a public square in Spain**, and **the chronic use of splash pads** around the country **by the homeless who use them to bathe and wash in.**

The "In Progress" Memo stated that *"the interactive water feature is not 'historical,'" and to justify one in Santa Barbara the advisory board did not provide a single example where a public square in Spain added a splash pad to a public square.*

As **splash pads** have been built around the country they **have become magnets for the homeless to both bathe and wash their clothing.** There is **no** question that Santa Barbara has a substantial problem with the homeless gathering downtown. Adding a splash pad will simply encourage the homeless to gather more frequently in the plaza especially during the hot summer months where they will use the splash pad to cool themselves off.

I have personally seen **homeless people washing their clothes in the Dolphin Fountain** in the middle of the day on the weekend. I have also witnessed a **homeless person using a drinking fountain** in the 400 block of State Street to bathe and brush his teeth in. To think this won't happen at the splash pad in De la Guerra Plaza, or that it will not require staffing during all hours of operation, is ludicrous. Why? There are few facilities citywide for the homeless to tend to their hygienic needs and there isn't a day shelter for them to use in the city.

The city is simply asking for problems related to the homeless if it installs a splash pad. Additionally, the city will need to constantly monitor the area which will become a substantial annual expense and headache. It may also be dangerous for children, residents, and tourists due to health and safety issues. A filtration system designed for a splash pad typically won't be built to filter the amount of contamination that bathing or washing would entail. - The city of Torrance's \$1.4M splash pad is often shut down for this reason.

Additionally, in other cities task-forces have been assembled, ordinances implemented and additional expenses for security incurred to address the problems that pop up as a result of the homeless using splash pads for bathing, loitering, and washing clothes. - All issues which have not been entirely addressed or considered in this plan.

Finally, I agree that the feature would be nice to have, but the Commission needs to be realistic and practical when reviewing this plan and consider that a splash pad should be placed in a park with a swimming pool where it can be better managed.

I hope you will reconsider adding this feature which can be problematic to operate on many levels.

Best,  
A

PS

The cost of a splash pad will be an added capital expense when our city Parks and Recreation budget is already underfunded and causing projects to be delayed.

**NEWS ARTICLES:**

**About 70 tents fill a stretch of John Prince Park off of Sixth Avenue South west of Lake Worth Beach.**

*"Homeless men taking showers in a playground splash station, communal bars of soap left on water fountains"*

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/20200204/tent-city-for-homeless-rises-in-john-prince-park>

**John Prince Park visitors say more needs to be done for homeless living there**

*"While there we saw a man taking a shower at the water park area..."*

<https://www.wptv.com/news/region-c-palm-beach-county/lake-worth/john-prince-park-visitors-say-more-needs-to-be-done-for-homeless-living-there>

**Peer specialists could help the homeless living in parks**

*"homeless bathing at the splash park"*

<https://www.wflx.com/2019/11/06/peer-specialists-could-help-homeless-living-parks/>

**Homeless bathe, kids bullied at Broadway Water Park**

*"adults were again bathing in the water in this children's water park, washing their hair, letting water squirt under their arms, and splashing water into their shorts and up their skirts. They were also filling plastic jugs with this recycled water."*

<https://www.turlockjournal.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/homeless-bathe-kids-bullied-broadway-water-park/>

**Daytona enforcing new park rules; dozens arrested**

*"They bathe in the splash pad fountains or in the park restrooms."*

<http://gm5-1kweb.newscyclecloud.com/news/20180622/daytona-enforcing-new-park-rules-dozens-arrested>

**Here's why Torrance's new \$1.4 million splash pad keeps shutting down**

*"...has a tendency to automatically shut off for 30 to 45 minutes when the filtration system's ph levels get out of whack"*

*"the water can become dangerous"*

<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2019/07/16/heres-why-torrances-new-1-4-million-splash-pad-keeps-shutting-down/>

**NSB takes steps to curb 'camping' in public spaces**

*"The ordinance also empowers the city manager to update signs placed in public parks to include language prohibiting "bathing, shaving or washing clothes in or from*

*public restrooms or splash pad area.”*

[https://www.hometownnewsvolusia.com/news/nsb-takes-steps-to-curb-camping-in-public-spaces/article\\_6fba0338-0c0f-11ec-b27f-4f82b6e3ee99.html](https://www.hometownnewsvolusia.com/news/nsb-takes-steps-to-curb-camping-in-public-spaces/article_6fba0338-0c0f-11ec-b27f-4f82b6e3ee99.html)

### **Parents concerned about homeless problem at Las Vegas park**

*“Parents like Ashley Dines, who grew up coming to the park as a kid, say they’ve seen it all. She now frequents the park with her daughter, but says the final straw was when someone was showering in the splash pad in the middle of the day.”*

<https://www.ktnv.com/news/parents-concerned-about-homeless-problem-at-park>

**From:** [James Main Fine Art](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Subject:** De la Guerra Plaza  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:48:30 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear commission:

As a stakeholder, I have operated my business on De la Guerra Street for 31 years. I am opposed to this De la Guerra Plaza project and have been opposed for the last 25 years. I find it a complete waste of funds that would better serve the community by hiring more police and security.

By closing De la Guerra Street, you are denying access and egress to my place of business and City Hall. How on earth am I supposed to get deliveries and pick ups? How are people going to have access to City Hall? This project has no parking plan or traffic circulation plan. It does not account for the likely closure of State Street. It's an awful lot of empty space for people to stand around and talk to each other.

I certainly have no problem with events, but there is no reason to permanently shut down the street. Are you having events every day? If not, why can't other people use the space for their vehicles? This is the most coveted parking in the city. It is full of cars every day from morning to evening.

This plan is certainly not inclusive to the entire community. It's more like a bunch of bullies having their way.

Shame on all of you.

Sincerely,  
Jim Main

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Sent from my iPhone