

May 18, 2021

City of Pasadena Design Commission
Attn: Michi Takeda
Hale Building
175 N. Garfield Ave. 2nd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101

RE: 491-577 S. Arroyo Parkway

Dear Members of the Design Commission:

USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy is invested in supporting people of every age can enjoy life to the fullest. Our vision aspires to promote community, work, and living spaces that are inclusive and health-promoting, which includes attention to the design and flow of the physical space to craft a future environment where people thrive. In harmony with this vision, the Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice (OTFP) consults with organizations and communities that share our vision and core values that strive to create inclusive environments that consider the range individual needs across the lifespan. Specifically, we recognize that the health of the individual is in part constructed by a reciprocal interaction with their environment. While environmental adaptations are not novel in the realm of health and safety, OTFP supports the creation of environments that enhance well-being rather than solely decrease risk to health.

With this in mind, we have been supporting the applicant's team in the design of the Affinity Project in considering how community members might manage their physical health and mental well-being within the site (e.g., exercise facilities, community space, green space), how to facilitate safe and efficient navigation of the environment for individuals of all ability levels (e.g. cognition, vision, mobility), room designs that support open communication, and other health-promoting design choices. Throughout the last year, OTFP has been working with the applicant's team on ideation, design, and layout to explore and implement best practices including the consideration of design principles that support inclusiveness and productive aging. OTFP finds that the project is exemplary in design and function to support ease of use and enjoyment for all members of the community including but not limited to those with limited mobility.

As a partner in this exciting project, we look forward to continuing our collaborative process until completion. We look forward to continued work ensuring that all aspects of the site have been thoughtfully considered with respect to the breadth of diversity and abilities.

Sincerely,



Marissa Marchioni, OTD, OTR/L, CEAS
USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice

[Redacted contact information]