



Public Comments

Napa Valley Museum Use Permit and Variance
P24-00072-UP & P24-00241-VAR
Planning Commission Hearing – October 2, 2024

From: [MeetingClerk](#)
To: [Planning](#)
Cc: [Parker, Michael](#); [Gallina, Charlene](#); [Hawkes, Trevor](#); [Trippi, Sean](#); [Quackenbush, Alexandria](#)
Subject: FW: NV Museum Use Permit
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 10:53:29 AM

From: Oliver Caldwell <oliver@caldwellsnyder.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 3:51 AM
To: MeetingClerk <MeetingClerk@countyofnapa.org>
Subject: NV Museum Use Permit

[External Email - Use Caution]

Napa County Planning Commission
1195 Third Street, Napa 94559

Re: Use Permit Hearing / October 2, 2024
Napa Valley Museum of Art & Culture

To the Planning Commission of Napa County,

We respectfully request that you approve a Use Permit for the proposed Napa Valley Museum of Art & Culture development on Highway 29 near St. Helena.

For the last forty-one years, we have held over five hundred art and cultural exhibitions in Germany, China, Mexico, Japan, Singapore and the USA. Some have been in collaboration with the highly respected Napa Valley Museum. We regard this organization with the utmost of professionalism in Arts & Education and have always admired their academic/historic curriculum and cultural offerings to the Napa Valley community.

The extended community of both upper and lower valley residents needs this venue to help enrich their lives. With its strategic new proposed location, the locals of Napa County can now easily become both aware and attend a world class museum instead of having to make the arduous trek to the Bay Area for similar experiences. There is always in NV Museum's programs something engaging for children, working parents and seniors, Where else can a family from Angwin or Calistoga go on a Sunday afternoon together to experience the arts, history and/or sciences?

Conversely, this Museum also needs this location to better position itself on Highway 29 for optimum awareness to all the commuters and visitors traversing the valley. Its current obscure location near the Lincoln theater has always been a setback for the institution and consequently the public suffers too. Optimal attendance is necessary to insure the viability of a cultural institution.

As a resident of St. Helena, my wife Karen and I look forward to visiting the new museum nearby and exploring their programs. We value the geographical convenience. We find this venue adds a synergy to the wine industry as the next generation of visitors are looking for multiple experiences and destination choices.

A Use Permit for this museum is a "win-win" for everyone who lives or visits the prestigious Napa Valley.

Thank you for your consideration,

Oliver Caldwell
Director

Caldwell Snyder Gallery
St. Helena, CA 94574

From: [MeetingClerk](#)
To: [Planning](#)
Cc: [Parker, Michael](#); [Gallina, Charlene](#); [Hawkes, Trevor](#); [Trippi, Sean](#); [Quackenbush, Alexandria](#)
Subject: FW: In favor of use permit for Museum of Arts and Culture
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 10:54:34 AM

From: Maury Robertson <maury@riandahouse.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 9:52 AM
To: MeetingClerk <MeetingClerk@countyofnapa.org>
Subject: In favor of use permit for Museum of Arts and Culture

[External Email - Use Caution]

Dear Napa County Planning Commission,

Please include me among those who are in favor of a use permit to be granted to the Museum of Arts and Culture. This cultural center will provide healthy activities and meaningful volunteer opportunities for upvalley older adults and strengthen the fabric of our community.

Thank You,

Maury

Maury Robertson
Executive Director | maury@riandahouse.org
Cell (707) 227-9559
1475 Main Street, St. Helena, California
(707) 963-8555 riandahouse.org



From: [MeetingClerk](#)
To: [Amelung, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Hawkes, Trevor](#); [Parker, Michael](#); [Gallina, Charlene](#); [Ramirez Vega, Angelica](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of support in favor of Napa Valley Museum project
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 3:59:45 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Please see below public comment for Napa Valley Museum.



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Alexandria Quackenbush

Administrative Secretary II
Planning, Building, & Environmental Services
Napa County

Phone: (707) 253-4417

1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559

www.countyofnapa.org

From: Wayne Armstrong <wayne@palladiumjewelry.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 3:51 PM
To: MeetingClerk <MeetingClerk@countyofnapa.org>
Subject: Letter of support in favor of Napa Valley Museum project

[External Email - Use Caution]

Dear Napa County Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the Napa Valley Museum of Art & Culture ("The MAC") and their proposal to establish a new location at 607 St. Helena Highway, south of St. Helena.

The Napa Valley Museum has been a cultural mainstay of the Napa Valley for over 50 years and under the leadership of its Executive Director Laura Raffaty has consistently hit above its weight in terms of the exhibitions and performances it has attracted. In addition to being a steward for artefacts, documents and photographs which chronicle the history of the Napa Valley, the dynamic combination of permanent and rotating exhibitions along with exciting tours like Julia Child: A recipe for life, continue to reinforce the Museum's position and relevance as a driving cultural force for locals and visitors alike.

My partner Marcus and I have been in business in St. Helena for 30 years, owning and operating three businesses on Main Street. We understand and appreciate the

important contribution the museum makes to the arts and culture of the Napa Valley. We strongly encourage your approval of this most worthy project as we look forward to what the new MAC will have to offer.

Sincerely,

Wayne Armstrong and Marcus Robbins,
Patina, Palladium and Pennyweight

From: [Gallina, Charlene](#)
To: [Hawkes, Trevor](#); [Amelung, Andrew](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for The MAC Use Permit Hearing October 2
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 5:31:45 PM

From: MeetingClerk <MeetingClerk@countyofnapa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 3:33 PM
To: Parker, Michael <Michael.Parker@countyofnapa.org>; Gallina, Charlene <Charlene.Gallina@countyofnapa.org>
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for The MAC Use Permit Hearing October 2

From: Rick Walker <rwalk1@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 3:26 PM
To: MeetingClerk <MeetingClerk@countyofnapa.org>
Cc: laura@napavalleymuseum.org; Charles Letourneau <charles@charlesletourneau.com>
Subject: Letter of Support for The MAC Use Permit Hearing October 2

[External Email - Use Caution]

September 24, 2024

Napa County Planning Commission
1195 Third Street
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Members of the Napa County Planning Commission,

On behalf of Festival Napa Valley, I am writing in support of the Napa Valley Museum's use permit application for the Napa Valley Museum of Art & Culture (MAC) at 607 St. Helena Highway.

For decades, the Napa Valley Museum has played a significant role in enriching our region's cultural landscape. The Museum's ability to showcase a diverse range of artistic and educational programming has been a valuable asset to both the local community and visitors. The proposed location for the MAC promises to enhance this cultural offering, creating a unique space where art and culture are celebrated.

Festival Napa Valley shares the Museum's commitment to artistic excellence and public enrichment. As such, we believe the establishment of the MAC will further elevate Napa Valley as a cultural destination, complementing the region's existing appeal while contributing to its continued economic vitality.

We respectfully urge the Commission to approve this project and recognize the long-term benefits it will bring to the Napa Valley community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Walker
President and CEO
Festival Napa Valley

Amelung, Andrew

From: MeetingClerk
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 11:17 AM
To: Amelung, Andrew
Cc: Hawkes, Trevor; Parker, Michael; Gallina, Charlene; Quackenbush, Alexandria
Subject: FW: The Napa Valley Museum and MAC

Please see public comment below for Napa Valley Museum.



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Angie Ramirez Vega
Administrative Secretary I
Planning, Building, & Environmental Services
Napa County
Phone: 707-253-4417
1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559
www.countyofnapa.org

From: Azalea Aguilar <azaleabb@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 10:17 AM
To: MeetingClerk <MeetingClerk@countyofnapa.org>
Subject: The Napa Valley Museum and MAC

[External Email - Use Caution]

Since I arrived in Napa Valley more than twenty years ago as an artist and married to an educator, we have seen many changes in the field of culture and education. In large part, we owe this to the Napa Valley Museum. This institution has been sure to acknowledge the beginning of this Valley's history, as we see in the permanent collection "Land and People," which shows and honors the diversity of its people. Also, the museum has brought many world-class exhibitions, like in other prestigious museums worldwide. The museum has also included the work of many local artists, exposing their work to locals and visitors from different parts of the world.

My wife and I have been invited to be part of the museum transformation.

Examples:

The museum allowed us to exhibit the beginning of a ten-year painting project. The AP Spanish Literature class students, after reading 32 Spanish authors, selected one they enjoyed the most and created a miniature painting. After ten years, it is a mosaic of 350 paintings painted using the egg-tempera technique. The students were proud to see their work in a museum.

For the Day of the Dead Celebration event, we invited participants in the Spanish-speaking classes, the choir, and the Vintage High School dance classes.

In this event, children and adults participated in many workshops related to the event.

The museum allowed us to show our links with other cultures so that we could understand and respect each other in this conflicted world.

The Museum invited the Smithsonian Museum, and we were lucky to help curate the bilingual exhibit "Bittersweet Harvest." The local visitors and visitors had the opportunity to learn about the workers who first came into the valley as field workers and helped establish the foundation of the economy and fame that we enjoy now. Local people were eager and proud, lending artifacts that represented their communities.

As a local artist, I have been invited to two solo shows, where my work was featured, several collective exhibits, and drawing and painting classes.

The above are only a few personal examples of the opportunities and work done by the museum and its director, Laura Rafaty.

Some museums around the world are facing difficult times, and learning that another museum, MAC, is going to open in the heart of Highway 29 in an accessible space for people and visitors to see and admire is a sign of progress for our community, the arts, and education.

Thank you!

Azalea Aguilar

Educator

Retired Teacher, 25 years teaching in the Napa Valley

Oscar Aguilar Olea

Artist and Instructor



napa valley vintners

September 26, 2024

Dave Whitmer, chair
Napa County Planning Commission
County of Napa
1195 Third Street
Napa CA 94559

SUBJECT: NAPA VALLEY MUSEUM OF ART & CULTURE

Dear Dave:

I'm aware that the Napa Valley Museum has applied for a use permit from the County to establish their new location at 607 St. Helena Highway, just south of the St. Helena city limits. I've been paying attention to this out of general interest.

While the museum has been a part of our community for more than half a century, I think it sometimes flies under the radar due to their present location being off the beaten path. Nevertheless, they have done an outstanding job of sharing art, history, geology and culture of our region with locals and visitors alike.

A move to Highway 29 and the visibility it provides would undoubtedly benefit the museum and allow them to continue serving our community in an even more meaningful way.

I hope that you and your fellow commissioners will give it your best consideration.

Sincerely,

Rex Stults

Copy: Napa County Planning Director Brian Bordona
Napa County Planning Commission



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Rogers Family Foundation

Annette & Doug Shafer

Laurie Maurer Shelton & Family

Silver Oak & Twomey Cellars

Claire & Steven Stull

Anthony R. Torres

Bob & Maria Torres

Dear Napa County Planning Commissioners,

The Napa Valley Museum has applied for a use permit to establish a new location at 607 St. Helena Highway, south of St Helena in unincorporated Napa County. The new museum will be called the Napa Valley Museum of Art & Culture ("The MAC"), with a planned opening later this year.

I am writing this letter, both as a Napa County citizen and as Board President and Co-founder of Nimbus Arts, in strong and enthusiastic support of this application.

The new Napa Valley Museum's "MAC" on Highway 29 truly represents an exciting opportunity for our community! It will provide a compelling non-wine-focused cultural destination for both locals and visitors. Its exhibitions and programming will be delivered by the Napa Valley Museum, which has grown in recent years into a renowned arts and educational institution with a glowing and growing international reputation. Their exhibits and programming are creative, diverse, and aimed at a broad audience. In this this spacious new location, the MAC will create a permanent gallery with rotating exhibitions on topics of art and culture, while the Yountville location will continue to present exhibitions on the history, geology and culture of our region, featuring their extensive permanent collection.

The new MAC location will facilitate the museum's collaboration with other local non-profits, especially Nimbus Arts. Nimbus Arts has a mission to bring the powers of art to people of all ages in Napa County, and has been delivering classes, camps, events and free art experiences to Napa County since 2005. We are very excited about the new MAC location that is literally "right down the street" from our St Helena Studios, and look forward to working with the museum staff to provide dynamic arts programming for both children and adults, coordinated with the exhibit themes.

As a citizen, I love the idea of having a museum that is easy to access and integrated with our community. I believe it will be of particular benefit to the up valley children for them to grow up with an inspiring and active museum in their home town.

Lucky us! In a time when many cultural institutions are downsizing, here's an opportunity to add life and culture to our community while supporting the growth of the Napa Valley Museum, a thriving and venerable Napa Valley organization.

I hope that you will support this wonderful project in every way possible and work to approve it expeditiously.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dana Johnson
Board President and Co-Founder

nimbus arts

649 Main Street, St. Helena, CA 94574 | 707.963.5278
nimbusarts.org | info@nimbusarts.org