



# City of Sierra Madre

Office of the City Clerk

232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.,

Sierra Madre, CA

(626) 355-7135

THE BROWN ACT PROVIDES THE PUBLIC WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS AT ANY PUBLIC MEETING.

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING AND WILL BE POSTED ONTO THE CITY'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY.

THE COMMENTS ATTACHED ARE SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. THE CITY DOES NOT CONFIRM THE VERACITY OF THE STATEMENTS PROVIDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

About a year ago, I started a plan with my children and grandchildren that I named my Early Inheritance plan. If they wanted to do some rather large project—like add a room to their home or replace a clunky old car—but couldn't afford it yet, I could give them some of their presumed inheritance early. I could then enjoy seeing their pleasure in it while I was still alive.

After a bit, I came to realize that the same would be true if I gave an Early Inheritance now to my favorite charities, I might live to see what special project they would do. Of course, the Sierra Madre Playhouse was the first thing that came to mind. Howard and I had attended plays there ever since we moved to Sierra Madre in 1982. Soon I began writing reviews of each play. It was a place dear to my heart.

So I inquired and indeed, something came to mind to the Playhouse leaders. Two somethings, as a matter of fact: a new roof and bathrooms adapted for handicapped persons. I didn't ponder very long. While the bathrooms sounded rather inglorious and mundane, the choice was most meaningful to me. Our second son, Mark, was born with a severe physical handicap. Reminded of years of coping with inconvenient bathrooms, of course I chose ADA bathrooms. I donated money to start the needed reconstruction.

Now anyone who starts work on an old building knows that one thing leads to another. Updating has become necessary in the plumbing, electricity, cooling and other systems as well as the roof. I am hoping that a grant from the City will enable the Playhouse to complete this entire project in a timely manner.

In fact, I hope very much to be here to announce the dedication of the Sierra Madre Playhouse ADA bathrooms to the memory of Mark H. Syverson by Howard and Fran Syverson.

Thank you.

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Amber Tardif  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 8:07 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Laura Aguilar  
**Subject:** RE: In Support of the Sierra Madre Playhouse

Thank you for your comments. Your e-mail has been forwarded to the City Council for their review and consideration. Your comments will be uploaded onto the City's website for public access and transparency.

Regards,

Amber Tardif  
Administrative Analyst/  
Deputy City Clerk-Elections  
City of Sierra Madre  
232 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard,  
Sierra Madre, CA. 91024  
626.355.7135 ext. 308  
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www.CityofSierraMadre.com

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CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Council Members and Staff,

Please be advised that I support the Sierra Madre's support for public funding.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse is a center for the performing arts. They produce bold, resonant live theatre that inspires, entertains and celebrates our diverse community and its environs.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse is also a center of education in the form of lecture series with support from the California Humanities, David Morgan and Ward & Louise Calaway.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse brings world class speakers and academicians who present on such diverse topics as cultural expectations, historic neighborhoods in transition, Astronomy history's deep field and exploring space in Cyberspace. The speaker series is free to the community.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse introduces theatre to children. Recently the Sierra Madre Playhouse performed Silent Sky to hundreds of sixth graders. The subject matter of Silent Sky is important as it dealt with Astronomy, the impact of studying STEM and gender equality. The youth program is also free of charge.

These are only a few of the factors of the good that the Sierra Madre Playhouse brings to the community. The Sierra Madre needs your help in funding improvements to make the theatre even more accessible to the community.

As an Advisory Member of the Sierra Madre Playhouse Board, Co-Chair of the Asian American Cultural Art Coalition, and the Board Chair of HillSides, I am confident in David and the Board of Directors to make effective use of the funding that they are seeking.

Thank you for your review and consideration.

Sent from my iPad

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Roberta Malfitano  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 8:34 AM  
**To:** Amber Tardif  
**Subject:** FW: Appeal on Behalf of the Sierra Madre Playhouse

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Regarding The Sierra Madre Playhouse.

**Roberta Malfitano** | Executive Assistant to Jose Reynoso, City Manager

*City of Sierra Madre*  
*Village of the Foothills*



232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
626-355-2355 | [rmalfitano@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:rmalfitano@cityofsierramadre.com)

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**From:** Scott Wedgbury [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 22, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Gene Goss <[ggoss@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:ggoss@cityofsierramadre.com)>  
**Cc:** Rachele Arizmendi <[rarizmendi@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:rarizmendi@cityofsierramadre.com)>; Edward Garcia <[egarcia@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:egarcia@cityofsierramadre.com)>; Robert Parkhurst <[rparkhurst@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:rparkhurst@cityofsierramadre.com)>; Kelly Kriebs <[kkriebs@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:kkriebs@cityofsierramadre.com)>; Jose Reynoso <[jreynoso@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:jreynoso@cityofsierramadre.com)>  
**Subject:** Appeal on Behalf of the Sierra Madre Playhouse

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October 22, 2022

Kindly have my note read at the next board meeting. I would like to have attended in person but am currently traveling out of the country.

Kind regards,  
Scott

### The Sierra Madre Playhouse

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Dear Mr Mayor and Council Members,

Since first moving to Sierra Madre in 1987 and then back again in 2015, the Playhouse has seemed such an integral part of our town. It has only been in the last couple of years I have come to realize how important a role they play (pardon the pun) in our life and indeed in a larger community. Of particular

interest to me, in addition to the quality and variety of their various performances and events, is their educational outreach to schools and other area arts programs.

The Playhouse draws audiences from areas outside our town and contributes to our ongoing vitality.

It is also clear that the facilities need significant updating and refurbishing not only for function and safety but also to strengthen to broaden the types of events they are able to accommodate.

While I willing and able to do my part in supporting this Sierra Madre institution, I would add my voice to many others for the appeal to our city leaders. Please carefully consider granting this new life to our beloved Playhouse.

Respectfully,

H Scott Wedgbury



## Amber Tardif

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**From:** David [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2022 1:28 PM  
**To:** Gene Goss; Rachele Arizmendi; Kelly Kriebs; Robert Parkhurst; Edward Garcia; Jose Reynoso; Laura Aguilar; Public Comment  
**Cc:** Frank COSTELLO  
**Subject:** Sierra Madre Playhouse

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Sierra Madre City Council,

I write as a director of the Sierra Madre Playhouse and a lover of your city which I most probably would not have known but for the many wonderful plays that have been put on at the Playhouse over the years. I am not a resident of your city and thus presume to ask you to expend funds to support the Playhouse on behalf of all of the hundreds, if not thousands, of people from other cities in the San Gabriel Valley (and beyond) who joyfully visit (and spend money) in Sierra Madre specifically because of the Playhouse's existence.

That existence is in jeopardy as the physical plant is very old and in critical need of repair and upgrading. David Gordon and others have provided you with detailed renovation plans and I will not repeat them here. Suffice it to say that a beacon for the local community and for the lovers of quality entertainment throughout the area is at risk and may not survive. In the face of the many challenges the Playhouse has faced in recent years due, in part, to COVID, new labor laws, and changing audience tastes, the Playhouse has thus far managed to go on. However, the restoration of the physical plant of the Playhouse is beyond the resources now available to it. Hence the initiation of a major fund raising effort and our appeal to you to provide a significant initial financial contribution to that effort.

In closing I wish to congratulate and thank you for the support the City of Sierra Madre has provided the Playhouse since its inception. Few cities in California (or for that matter anywhere else in the country) have been able to sustain a theatrical performance center of the Playhouse's caliber. Please continue this investment in the Playhouse and Sierra Madre's future.

Respectfully,

Frank Costello

**Francis Costello | [Holland & Knight](#)**

Partner

Holland & Knight LLP

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## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Laura Aguilar  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 22, 2022 8:33 AM  
**To:** Amber Tardif  
**Subject:** Fwd: Memo in support of the Capital Campaign for the Sierra Madre Playhouse - Setting the Stage for the Next 100 years

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Public comment

Regards,

Laura M. Aguilar  
Deputy City Manager  
City Clerk

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** paul scranton [REDACTED]  
**Date:** October 22, 2022 at 8:15:33 AM PDT  
**To:** Rachelle Arizmendi <rarizmendi@cityofsierramadre.com>, Edward Garcia <egarcia@cityofsierramadre.com>, Robert Parkhurst <rparkhurst@cityofsierramadre.com>, Kelly Kriebs <kkriebs@cityofsierramadre.com>, Jose Reynoso <jreynoso@cityofsierramadre.com>, Laura Aguilar <laguilar@cityofsierramadre.com>, Gene Goss <ggoss@cityofsierramadre.com>  
**Cc:** paul scranton [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Memo in support of the Capital Campaign for the Sierra Madre Playhouse - Setting the Stage for the Next 100 years

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Dear Mayor Gross, Mayor Pro Tem Garcia, Council Members Arizmendi, Kriebs, Parkhurst, City Manager

Reynoso, and Deputy City Manager Aguilar,

I am writing to you to add my voice in support of the Capital Campaign for the renovation of the Sierra Madre Playhouse.

This is a critical time for the Playhouse. It is in need of substantial repair and modernization - hardly surprising after 100 years in operation.

For generations, Sierra Madreans have enjoyed and have been engaged, enlightened and entertained by live award-winning performances at the Playhouse.

Now is the time for us to step forward and ensure the continuation of the Playhouse's success for the next 100 years.

As a public non-profit and a recognized charity under section 501(c)(3) of the tax code, the Playhouse has met and exceeded the community's expectations.

The building is a debt-free venue for live performances, community gatherings, educational programs and a cultural landmark for our village. Remarkable statistics abound.

Over 800 sixth graders from the area were treated to the most recent main stage production of Lauren Gunderson's inspiring "Silent Sky", and that is only one of many outreach programs.

Imagine - standing ovations from audiences of sixth graders to a historical drama. That in itself is truly amazing and an indication of the impact and magic of live theater.

Resilient from the start of the Covid pandemic, the Playhouse has shown its staying power and commitment to Sierra Madre.

It is a jewel of the foothills, truly a memorable icon for visitors and residents alike.

The building renovation has begun but is in need of further financing. The city council's approval and financial support of the capital campaign is a vital foundation for a subsequent appeal to

individual donors and other governmental agencies and foundations.

Ever since moving to Sierra Madre, I have been impressed by the Playhouse. Starting as an audience member, and eventually becoming a member of the Board of Directors, I am honored to

be a part of the present and future of this unique civic asset.

The board members, staff, volunteers and performers all recognize the importance of The Playhouse to the community and are committed to its success and survival.

We ask that join us.

With deep respect and gratitude for your dedication to our village,

Paul Scranton

Sierra Madre

Board Member, Sierra Madre Playhouse

## Amber Tardif

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**From:** Colette Monell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 12:24 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public comment: smoking multi-family residences

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Good Evening Mayor, Council members and City staff,

Thank you for your consideration to approve an ordinance that would prohibit smoking in multi-unit residences. As a condo owner and resident in the city of Sierra Madre, I am looking forward to the City moving forward with an ordinance that protects residences from secondhand smoke in multi-family units, such as condos.

Thank you,  
Colette  
Condo owner in Sierra Madre

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Mayor Goss, Mayor Pro tem Garcia, Council members Arizmendi, Kriebs and Parkfurst

Please consider a grant for the Sierra Madre Playhouse's much needed refurbishment.

Sierra Madre has many treasures and one of its more stellar gems in the treasure box is our Playhouse.

I've said in our Library Trustee meetings and at the council meetings: "If you don't ask, you don't get" which was added to our appeal for Library grant funding. Cultural enrichment for our residents from our Playhouse is just as important to many as the Library's programs are.

To echo Playhouse President David Gordon :

*"Your support of the Sierra Madre Playhouse Capital Campaign strengthens our requests for support from county, state, federal, and foundation resources. Individual donors will be encouraged to give generously to a project they know is supported by the City Council. Your support strengthens our appeal to all these various sources."*

I wholeheartedly agree!

From a personal perspective, our beloved SM Playhouse is in my own DNA, after all, growing up here I saw movies at the "Bogart Theatre" such as Romeo and Juliet, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and even the first Rocky movie.

Or should I say I feel its an Alma Mater to me of sorts. It's where I served on the board in the early 1980s. I was a volunteer hostess there – the building was owned by Dale White at the time. As stage Manager for a few plays, I also ran the old lights and sound booth. And as an actress in three plays, I had the pleasure of performing alongside Charlie Andrese or being directed by Stan Zalas - both of whom are memorialized with Stars in front of the playhouse today. We didn't have a curtain for the stage back then – and the ladder I had to climb up to the

lights and sound booth was quite rickety- we sure struggled for funding at that time!

As far as my current involvement – I’m proud to have ‘married’ the library’s One book one city events in collaboration with the Monday night staged readings performed by actors from our playhouse . In February of 2020 I produced the play called “Café Vida” – it was a part of Library’s One Book One City events based on the book : “Barking to the Choir” by Father Gregory Boyle. Christian Lebano, former artistic director, said that the playhouse that night had it’s most successful staged reading with standing room only from Library and Playhouse Patrons attending - even President David Gordon was turned away at the door.

Many other residents, donors, patrons and playhouse staff have generously donated **far more than I have** of their time or resources to keep our Playhouse going. Now it’s time to pony up and raise the funds sorely needed to usher in a bright future for the Sierra Madre Playhouse!

Sincerely Yours,

Catherine Addè

Library Trustee