



MarVista NEWS

SPRING 2024 COMMUNITY COUNCIL



DEAR MAR VISTA STAKEHOLDERS,

As the fiscal year comes to a close in June, I am pleased to provide an update on the Mar Vista Community Council's endeavors. Since the installation of the new Board, we've achieved significant milestones, and I'm proud to highlight our accomplishments for the community:

- **Supported Sidewalk Corrective Measures:** Backed the City Council's motion (Council File Number: 21-1469-S2) to explore alternative sidewalk corrective measures for expedited repairs.
- **Community Plan Update Feedback:** Approved a comprehensive feedback document on the Community Plan Update, reflecting months of public input and sent to Planning and Traci Park's staff.
- **Advocacy for Bike Lanes:** Approved a letter to LADOT regarding proposed North/South bike lanes in Mar Vista, supporting the Barrington/McLaughlin alignment.
- **Opposed Light Up Billboards:** Opposed LA Metro's proposed transportation network (Council File Number: 22-0392) involving light-up billboards along Los Angeles freeways.
- **Conditional Use Permit for Alcohol Sales:** Approved a letter of support to Planning staff for a proposed Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for on-site alcohol sales at 2876 S. Bundy 90066.
- **Expansion of Therapeutic Van Program:** Approved a letter to Traci Park's office regarding a request to expand the proposed Therapeutic Van Program in the Mar Vista Area.
- **Support for New Olympic Size Pool:** Approved a letter of support to the Department of City Planning for a new Olympic-size pool with year-round service at Mar Vista Park.
- **Crosswalk Study and Parking Enforcement:** Approved letters to Traci Park and LADOT regarding a potential East/West crosswalk on Sawtelle and parking enforcement at city street EV stations.
- **Lead Police Officers Updated Mar Vista on Recent Wave of Crime:** Due to an increase in home break-ins, MVCC invited lead officers to the Homeless/Safety Committee Meeting to meet with stakeholders. They advised how to stay vigilant, safe and keep your property secured. They also shared the thief's break-in methods and who was committing the crimes. The Westside Current wrote an article about the findings. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/ywz52ute> for more information
- **Clean Up of 405/Venice Underpass:** Supported and collaborated with Councilwoman Traci Park's office for the encampment clearing at Venice Blvd./405 underpass.
- **Public Park:** Supported a motion for a public park with a playground and open space as part of the West L.A. Commons project.

- **Community Clean Up Day:** Approved and held a Mar Vista Community Clean Up day led by Board Member Derl Clausen.
- **The Outreach committee,** led by Carolyn Honda has been busy updating the website weekly, sending out weekly eblasts, managing the holiday food drive, and has resumed tabling at the Mar Vista Farmers Market and Venice Fest.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

ATTEND A MVCC MEETING

Check the monthly calendar at MarVista.org for the most current meeting dates, times and whether the meeting is in person or on zoom.

1ST TUES OUTREACH

1ST TUES ELECTIONS & BYLAWS

1ST WED TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE & SUSTAINABILITY

1ST THURS PLANNING & LAND USE (PLUM)

2ND TUES EDUCATION, ARTS & CULTURE

2ND WED HOMELESS & SAFETY

2ND THURS EXECUTIVE / BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

3RD THURS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mar Vista Gateway Mural Project Embarks on a Creative Journey

Exciting developments are underway in Mar Vista as the community, in collaboration with CD 11 and the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), sets out to transform the 405 Freeway underpass at Venice Blvd into a captivating “Gateway to Mar Vista” through a vibrant mural project.

This initiative aims to celebrate Mar Vista’s unique character, diversity, and local landmarks while enhancing the visual appeal of the neighborhood’s entrance. The project envisions not only a mural but a holistic transformation that could extend to lighting, landscaping, and artistic elements within the underpass.

The project is more than just a mural; it’s about creating an immersive experience.

The proposed mural design concepts are dynamic and community-oriented. Ideas include representations of Mar Vista’s parks, businesses, and cultural events like the farmers’ market and Venice Fest. Suggestions also encompass highlighting local neighborhoods such as Hilltop View Boulevard and significant landmarks like the historic tree near Staples.

Moreover, the project is more than just a mural; it’s about creating an immersive experience. Possibly integrating sculptures, lighting, and interactive elements like symbols of cycling, pedestrians, and iconic Mar Vista locations will invite community engagement and interaction, making the mural a focal point for residents and visitors alike.

The vision for the mural extends beyond the walls, incorporating surrounding elements like freeway poles potentially painted with palm trees and a “Gateway to Mar Vista” sign. Future phases could integrate a rock garden, enhanced lighting, bike racks, and seating areas, transforming the underpass into a welcoming and visually stimulating space.

Community involvement is key to the success of this project. Local artists are encouraged to contribute their creative talents, ensuring that the mural truly reflects the spirit of Mar Vista. Residents’ feedback, emphasizing the recognition of family-owned businesses and the natural beauty of the area, has also shaped the potential direction of the project and thematic approach.

As plans progress, CD 11 will be working on budgeting and coordinating with other jurisdictions to realize this ambitious undertaking. The Mar Vista Gateway Mural Project promises to be a landmark initiative, celebrating the essence of Mar Vista and providing a vibrant welcome to all who enter our neighborhood.

Stay tuned for more updates as this transformative project unfolds, marking a new chapter in Mar Vista’s artistic and cultural landscape. Let’s come together to create a gateway that truly embodies the spirit of our beloved community.

MARVISTA.ORG

Education, Arts, and Culture Committee is back!

This year, Mar Vista Community Council brought back our Education, Arts, and Culture Committee! This committee’s focus is community enrichment through creativity and diversity. We are dedicated to improving our entire community’s quality of life through enhanced education, culture, and arts in Mar Vista. If you are a nonprofit, school, or stakeholder who has a mission aligned with our community, we would love to hear and support your ideas!

The committee is currently working on a Walking Tour, and accepting suggestions from the community. If there is Mar Vista location, art piece, or structure that you would like us to consider, we would love to take a look! Please scan the code or visit our website for a link to the suggestion form to contribute your submissions.



Artwork in Mar Vista



Scan to submit!

Scammers Galore. Be Aware Neighbors and Friends. Protect Yourself by Saying No.

If you frequent platforms like Nextdoor, Facebook, or Citizen, or even just talk to your neighbors, you're not surprised that scams and other crimes are rampant in our community. The Health, Public Safety, and Homelessness Committee of the Mar Vista Community Council decided to look further into this and provide information and tips to help community members protect themselves.



"It's not always easy to spot con artists. They're smart, extremely persuasive, and aggressive. They invade your home by telephone and mail, advertise in well-known newspapers and magazines, and come to your door. Most people think they're too smart to fall for a scam. But con artists rob all kinds of people – from investment counselors and doctors to teenagers and elderly widows – of billions of dollars every year."

lapdonline.org

Given that scammers are good at mimicking legitimate companies, a good general rule is if you didn't request or seek the information, ignore it or say "no thank you." Our hope is that you will spread the word about what to look out for. Here are some tips to consider:

Door-to-Door Scams: People knocking on your front door in official looking vests with clipboards, representing themselves as working for a well-known company to provide some service to your property, to upgrade, to fundraise.

Tip: Don't engage at all, or if you do, talk to them through the locked door and tell them "no thank you" or that you will call the company or organization and confirm their visit.

Telephone, Text or Email Scams: Be aware of phone calls, texts, or emails requesting charitable donations, or demand-

ing that you provide personal information and/or pay money immediately, threatening that if you don't you will be jailed for a debt; that your water and power will be turned off immediately; that your computer has a virus they can fix if you provide access; or that there is a problem with your Venmo, bank, or credit card account that requires you to provide information or money.

Tip: Scammers often use names or emails that are very similar to those of a legitimate organization. If you receive an unsolicited request for money, you should decline, and if you desire to donate, contact the legitimate organization yourself.

Tip: If you owe a debt to a federal or state agency, they will notify you by mail and will not call you, and they will certainly not threaten you with immediate arrest.

Tip: Water and power companies will notify you by mail if you are at risk for disconnection, and have resources to help if you can't pay.

Tip: If you need help with your computer, you will know it. No one from outside your home or office will legitimately call you to inform you of that. If you have computer difficulties, contact a reputable computer repair company directly.

Tip: If someone calls, texts, or emails you indicating that there is a problem with any of your financial accounts or purchases contact the financial institution or company directly. Do not email, call or text back to the email or number that they just called from. A good practice is to get the correct email or number from your official statement.

Gift Cards and Account Number Scams: There are a variety of scams in which unsuspecting people are asked to buy gift cards to remedy a problem or satisfy a debt, or they are asked for an account number to remedy a problem or satisfy a debt. If this request is coming unsolicited to you via phone, text, or email, the best course of action is to say no. This is NOT a legitimate way of resolving an issue, and thus this request is a Big Red Flag for a scam.

BEWARE.

This is not an exhaustive list of scams, just a start. The important takeaway is that there are scammers targeting unsuspecting people to obtain personal information and money. They often tap on your emotions and put pressure on you. So, when in doubt, protect yourself by saying no, ignoring, and doing your own research to verify.

**PACIFIC AREA
SENIOR LEAD
OFFICER CONTACT
INFORMATION**

SGT-II Brian Cook Email: 36258@lapd.online | CRO Supervisor

SGT-I Jeffrey Lovick Email: 36047@lapd.online | SLO Supervisor

SLO Karwon Villery 14A25: Mar Vista | Cell: 310-622-3973 | Email: 38717@lapd.online

SLO Hector Aceves 14A49: Mar Vista, Del Rey | Cell: 310-622-3972 | Email: 35717@lapd.online

Burglary Prevention Tips from Pacific Division LAPD

Tip: Place an AirTag in your vehicle for quick recovery in case it gets stolen



Air Tag in your vehicle

Purchase: Fake Products to store jewelry, cash and valuables. As inconvenient as it is to not have your jewelry in a jewelry box in your bedroom, consider storing it in one of these products. On the internet, search for: Product Diversion Safe Stash or Fake Product to store valuables in.



Fake can to hide valuables



Fake book with a safe.



Fireproof plant pot

LADOT's Ambitious Plan to Connect Westside Neighborhoods with Bike Corridors



The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) is embarking on a project to enhance connectivity and safety for cyclists in Mar Vista. This initiative involves the development of a network comprising four key bikeways, with two already secured for construction. Among the proposed routes are two crucial north-south corridors set to traverse Mar Vista: the Santa Monica to Ballona Creek Corridor and the West LA to Del Rey Corridor.

While the Westside boasts several east-west bike corridors such as Culver Blvd., Venice

Blvd., Ballona Creek Path, and Expo Path, there remain significant gaps in connecting these routes to one another along a north-south axis. The primary aim of the planned bikeways is to bridge these gaps, bolster traffic safety, and provide adequate space for sustainable transit modes.

LADOT engaged the community in the planning process by hosting a series of Open House Workshops throughout September 2023. These workshops, including both in-person sessions in Mar Vista and virtual gatherings, solicited

feedback on the preferred alignment of the bikeways. For the West LA to Del Rey Corridor, three potential routes were proposed: Barrington/McLaughlin, Federal, and Inglewood.

Each proposed route carries its own considerations regarding traffic flow and safety. Barrington, despite its higher traffic speed and volume, presents an opportunity to create protected spaces for cyclists while maintaining flow for other modes of transportation, such as cars. On the other hand, Inglewood and Federal may necessitate the use of sharrows, indicating shared lanes where cars are expected to slow down behind cyclists. However, this arrangement can be intimidating for cyclists, particularly when cars attempt to pass them closely.

Moreover, Barrington currently serves as a preferred route for cyclists due to its directness and ample space. As such, it already experiences shared mode usage to some extent. This underscores the importance of designing bikeways that not only promote safety but also cater to existing patterns of commuter behavior.

In the case of the Santa Monica to Ballona Creek corridor, two potential routes were put forward: Walgrove/Glyndon and Beethoven. These routes require careful consideration of factors such as road design and potential conflicts between different modes of transportation.

We will keep you updated as the project progresses.

SPRING 2024

Is your Organization Eligible for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG)?

A **Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG)** allows the Mar Vista Community Council to provide funding to local organizations such as 501(c)(3) non-profits and public schools for projects or initiatives that benefit the community. Your organization may qualify for one. The grant is subject to certain eligibility criteria. To learn more and begin the application process, review the four easy steps below.

This fiscal year the Mar Vista Community Council has funded:

\$5000



**Clover Elementary Booster Club
for their art education program**



To apply for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG), you would typically follow these steps:

- 1. Check Eligibility:** Ensure that your organization meets the eligibility criteria specified. Eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) nonprofits and public schools.
- 2. Prepare Application Materials:** Gather all necessary documents and information required for the application. This may include the completed NPG application form, a project budget, and additional documentation depending on the type of organization:
 - For Non-Profits (501(c)(3)): Submit the IRS Letter of Determination.
 - For Public Schools: Submit a letter on official school letterhead signed by the school Principal.
- 3. Review Public Benefit Criteria:** Ensure that your proposed project or initiative aligns with the public purposes outlined in the application guidelines. This ensures that the grant will benefit the community.
- 4. Submit Application:** Once all materials are gathered and completed, submit the NPG application to **Chair@Marvista.org**.

Subscribe to our weekly newsletter

Scan the QR code to subscribe to our weekly newsletter and receive details of upcoming activities, meetings, and events of the Mar Vista Community Council.



Join MVCC and Get Involved

During the year, we have committee, board and finance meetings, host a table at the Farmers Market, participate in community festivals, hold food drives and even meet with our council member and Mayor. We'd love to meet you!



Giveaways
at our
tables



Farmers Market
Roman Samiley, Greg Kopelow
and Charlene Samiley



PLUM meeting
Steve Paddock, Kevin Wheeler
(Chair) and Charlene Samiley



**Derl Clausen, Kelsey Figone
and Jakob Meuser at
Mar Vista Clean Up Day**



**Andrew Marton and Carolyn K.
Honda representing Mar Vista
with Council Member Traci Park**



Representing MVCC at Cyclivia
Steve Paddock, Kelsey Figone, Derl
Clausen, and Delaram Ahmadyveasi

MVCC is collecting non-perishable food items for NOURISH LA to distribute this holiday season.

Personal hygiene items like razors, diapers, formula, soaps, etc. are also welcome.

Please leave your donations here. **THANK YOU!!**

Our Holiday Food Drive



MVCC Council meeting at Mar Vista Rec Center



Branded bus benches and banners can be seen throughout Mar Vista



Carolyn K. Honda and Andrew Marton attending a Roundtable with Mayor Karen Bass

