

---

**From:** Vickie Jo Sowell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:11 PM  
**To:** Nick Orton [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Chadrick Smalley <[csmalley@emeryville.org](mailto:csmalley@emeryville.org)>; archana horsting [REDACTED]; Scott Donahue [REDACTED]; Christine Daniel <[cdaniel@emeryville.org](mailto:cdaniel@emeryville.org)>; Ally Medina [REDACTED]; Dianne Martinez <[dmartinez@emeryville.org](mailto:dmartinez@emeryville.org)>; John J. Bauters <[jbauters@emeryville.org](mailto:jbauters@emeryville.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: [External] My unanswered questions about the art center

Hi Nick,

I'm looking forward to talking about this project. I have a lot more unanswered questions .

What's the idea with this "jewel box"? How will people get in, who gallery sits it?

What kind of Artists would be allowed in the studios. Jewelers with bottled gas flames? Artists present all kinds of problems as neighbors. Oil painters with linseed oil and turpentine, power drills, framing saws, sewing machines, etc. Are there some ideas about noise control? What does the studio management? Have you looked at a studio to rent business plan?

Where is a performance area suitable for video artists, or lecturers, dancers? There should be at least ways to accommodate sound systems, video projectors, lighting.

Something that really concerns me is whether there is any clear vision for the gallery space and performance area in terms of both facilities and management. I keep thinking about the people who will be in these spaces, whether they be staff, volunteer gallery sitters or docents. The director office should be by the Gallery, I feel.

Just providing a large empty space is a long way from a really useful cooperative work area. Have you looked at examples of artist co-working facilities?

What are all the extra offices for? Is this really just an annex for city hall?

And while I do think that the legacy brick frontage along Hollis at 40<sup>th</sup> has character, it doesn't represent the arts center mission very well. It looks more like the elementary school I went to in Great Falls, Montana, with less windows.

Unfortunately this plan has been going on for seven years. And it is going getting more disappointing. With hundreds of days of community input.

Vickie Jo Sowell

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

---

**From:** [Nick Orton](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:44 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Your letter

Dear Ms. Sowell,

My dad and I share an interest with you in making the Emeryville Arts Center as good as it can be. We are sorry that the disjointed process has led to some misunderstandings about our project. I was wondering if you were available for a brief discussion as I believe I can allay at least some of your concerns about the project. It would be great to meet before Council's appeal is heard October 5th.

Let me know if and when you're available. I am out of the office Friday, but otherwise fairly open.

--

Nick Orton  
Business Development  
Orton Development  
[REDACTED]

C: [REDACTED]

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete this message.