

Karl L. Dodge
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May 17, 2021

Dear Mayor Johnson and Midway City Council members,

As a long-time citizen of Midway, I am writing this letter in strong support of the proposed Midway Arts Center (MAC) and its construction at the base of Memorial Hill.

There are many reasons to support this project. I will mention just three:

1- A professional venue such as the proposed MAC would draw people from outside our community who would spend money and provide a significant contribution to the local economy. As a former member of the Planning Commission and of the Midway City Council, I know of the importance of the city's support for our local businesses, and of the critical need to increase Midway City's tax base. I believe the MAC would provide a substantial benefit in accomplishing both of those essential needs.

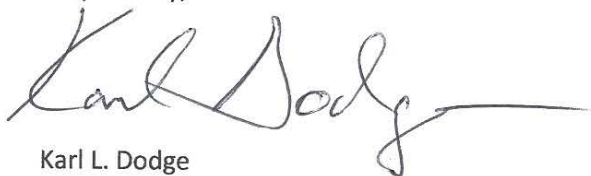
2- A beautiful arts center would be a much-loved cultural center for Midway and for other nearby communities. I believe that the majority of Midway residents would be delighted to have this professional venue in our community -- to enjoy the performing and other arts, and to help develop the artistic talents of our youth and others. A high-quality venue would elevate local talent and would also draw established artists from other areas to display their talents here.

3- Allowing for the MAC at the base of Memorial Hill would substantially increase the probability that the developer of the proposed "The Village" development would revise its plans and open a substantial view corridor along Main Street. As you know, current zoning restricts commercial buildings at the base of Memorial Hill, so the developer is forced to line Main Street with commercial buildings. As the former owner of some of the land being developed and as a friend of the developer, I believe the developer would prefer to leave that view corridor open along Main Street if it could open to the arts center and possibly other commercial property at the base of the hill.

I encourage you to support the MAC and to modify existing zoning restrictions to allow this venue to be constructed at the base of the hill.

I would be happy to discuss this with any of you at your convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl L. Dodge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Karl L. Dodge