



## SAN JOSE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

July 14, 2021

Angela Wang  
Planner, Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement  
City of San José  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

RE: Serpentine Pavilion Conditional Use Permit

Dear Angela,

The San Jose Downtown Association supports Westbank's effort to bring the Serpentine Pavilion to the surface parking lot on the 300 block of South First Street. We are in a crucial moment in downtown San Jose, with recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic well under way but foot traffic and revenue for small businesses not yet back to normal.

While we are pleased to see legacy downtown events such as San Jose Jazz Summer Fest, Music in the Park and the First Friday art walks resuming soon, we also need to support forward-thinking ideas from new event producers. The Serpentine brings international interest to our city as an art project, architectural display, and event space. That last benefit will likely end up being the most impactful for our community, as the proposed schedule for the Pavilion will bring hundreds of visitors to the heart of the SoFA district for events like lectures, workshops and performances. These activities will have the added benefit of drawing people to our downtown arts district and the surrounding businesses.

We have every confidence that Westbank, Urban Community and the Urban Vibrancy Institute will ensure that the Serpentine Pavilion is an additive draw for the area, that it is well-kept and managed, and will not be a disruption to the surrounding neighborhood or the existing arts and culture movements that define the SoFA District.

We offer our full support of this important project and hope for a speedy resolution of the permit process so that the six to eight months of programming can begin as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Scott Knies  
Executive Director

Cc: Raul Peralez  
Chris Burton  
Nanci Klein  
Katia McClain  
Alan Gumby Marquez  
Aaron Maund  
Gary Dillabough  
Eric Glader  
Nate LeBlanc