
From: Patti <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, March 2, 2025 2:14 PM
To: Michele Richards; nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; diabelle@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com
Subject: OC Fair Board Administration Deception
Attachments: IMG_1969.jpeg; IMG_1968.jpeg

The collage shows a few photos of stable activities.

Open 365 days a year and until the administration took over it making money for fairgrounds.

With Women and minority businesses Community outreach activities, Equine Therapy programs, lessons, camps and more.

WORTH SAVING

Trainers and owners left because of the drastic raise in rates and obviously anti stable attitude of the administration.

The Deception

In the Master Plan, the administration decided to superimposed a photo of children working in the Centennial Garden in front with the now empty horse barns.

This is really underhanded. The stable was a thriving part of the fairgrounds for our community for years.

Always a dream, I began riding at the age of 50 (yes, 50!) at the stable.

For 20 year took lessons, rode and was involved in community out reach by teach a weekly non-riding Horsemanship Class.

I have seen the power of horses to change kids and kids with special needs lives.

Save this stable.

Our Stable

Pitiful Deception



From: Leslie Morgan [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 8:55 AM
To: nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com; tbilezikjian@ocfairboard.com; djackson@ocfairboard.com; nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com; Michele Richards
Subject: Public equestrian center

As a parent who took my child to riding lessons and camp at the fairgrounds it was disheartening to see the Equestrian Center as NOT part of the Master Site Plan. It is a shame what has been done to the ONLY Public Equestrian Center and believe it should be restored and added back to the Master Site Plan and included in the Strategic Plan. It is a complete shame what has been done to the grounds after being there for 80 years. Removing the recreation, sport and activity and replacing it with exhibits is going to hurt families who have enjoyed the equestrian center for years.

Please reconsider and adding it back.

Thank you.

Leslie Morgan

From: Michael Storan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 8:56 AM
To: nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com; tbilezikjian@ocfairboard.com; djackson@ocfairboard.com; nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com; Michele Richards
Subject: Restore OC Equestrian Center !!

Please don't take this opportunity from the next generation



From: Barbara Makros <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 1:36 PM
To: nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com; tbilezikjian@ocfairboard.com; djackson@ocfairboard.com; nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com; Michele Richards
Subject: Public Equestrian Center

I have been informed that the you are looking to remove the ONLY local PUBLIC Equestrian Center in OC. I am requesting that it be RESTORED and ADDED BACK into the Master Site Plan AND included in the Strategic Plan.

This sure seems like a land grab! I know that historically there have been other attempts to acquire this land and push the horses out with plans to build condos or storage units. This is a state run property and the citizens of California pay for the entire Orange County Fairgrounds with our tax dollars.

Why are we pushing out opportunities for people to connect with large animals and be out in nature? Why are we taking away one of the few equestrian centers located in the entire area? I believe the equestrian center at the Orange County Fairgrounds is worth fighting for! I believe that Orange County benefits from having this wonderful center available to the public and to all socioeconomic backgrounds.

My hope is that you all seriously consider keeping this beautiful equestrian center as it is. This is your opportunity to not give in to the pressures of greed & financial gain. The beautiful thing about this space is that it helps humans reconnect with animals and nature. One of the few beautiful things left in the concrete jungle our area is slowly becoming. 

Live Well!



Barbara Baird

Mobile: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

From: Stephanie Rogers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 11:17 AM
To: nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com; tbilezikjian@ocfairboard.com; djackson@ocfairboard.com; nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com; Michele Richards
Subject: Please reconsider the OC Fairgrounds Strategic Plan

Hello -

I am writing to request that you please restore the inclusion of the equestrian center, its horses, programs and recreation into the OC Fairgrounds Strategic Plan and Master Site Plan.

The fairgrounds are supposed to be dedicated to promoting education and opportunity for agriculture and animal experiences. The OC Fairgrounds has always had a horse/large animal education and riding facility on its grounds. It is also a large animal evacuation center when there are emergencies throughout Orange County and neighboring counties.

Orange County benefits from having this wonderful center available to the public from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Please save this special place for future generations of animal lovers, horse riders, children, veterans, horse trainers, educators, and nonprofits.

With thanks,
Stephanie Rogers

From: April Strong <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 8:50 PM
To: nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com; tbilezikjian@ocfairboard.com; djackson@ocfairboard.com; nrubalcava@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com; Michele Richards
Subject: Equestrian Center

Orange County Fair Board Members:

I write this evening to implore you all to restore our public equestrian center and add it back to the Master Site Plan, and include it in the Strategic Plan as well. The public needs this equestrian center for lessons, trainers, camps, equine therapy, etc.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

April Strong

From: Carol Graves <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 1:06 PM
To: nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com; tbilezikjian@ocfairboard.com; djackson@ocfairboard.com; nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com
Cc: Michele Richards
Subject: Please Put the Equestrian Center On the Master Site Plan

Hi OC Fair Board,

We were assured by Michele Richards that there was no intention of getting rid of the Equestrian Center (aka The Ranch). If what she said is true, it should be on the master site plan. Generations of kids, families and community members have enjoyed the hands on programs created by various trainers ***at no cost to you***. The trainers built "Rome" for you over the decades for the benefit of everyone and it ran as a PROFIT of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the OC Fairgrounds. Hundreds of people came every year for camps, lessons and other activities that were all open to the public. The EQC was always a place of activity for many members of the public and anyone was allowed to come in and join in on the fun that the trainers created. (Which is why there is no "public gift of funds" when everyone from the public benefited. Also all the horses remaining, including the ones used for the after school program are "privately owned" and used by the public. Just like before. The model you have is no different than what was in place other trainers and their programs.) Please keep the EQC on the Master Site Plan and please bring in trainers and people who know how to use horses to help vulnerable members of our community as well as all the other programs that were previously available to kids, families and other members of the public.

You have a duty to work in the best interest of the public who are the owners of the OC Fairgrounds. On the current plan there is no mention of horses, equine sports or programs. ***You are not the owners and only stewards of this property***. You have a duty to ensure that the equestrian history of this historic property be preserved and fostered for future generations. That begins by putting it on the Master Site Plan and working with the equestrian community to restore what was once there.

Thank you,
Carol Graves

From: Christine Lambson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 3:21 PM
To: nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com; tbilezikjian@ocfairboard.com; djackson@ocfairboard.com; nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com; Michele Richards
Subject: Please protect and preserve the Public Equestrian Center

Dear Board of Directors,
I believe the public Equestrian Center located at the OC Fairgrounds should be preserved. For many, it is the only access to equestrian activities and is an important part of our community.
Please consider restoring the Equestrian Center and please add it back to the master site plan.
Thank you,
Christine Endsley
Newport Beach, CA

From: Lisa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 1:36 PM
To: Michele Richards
Subject: Equestrian Center

Dear OC Fair Board member,

I am not OK with the plan to replace the Equine center with an exhibit. It is a cherished OC staple for programs, sports, lessons and other activities. I understand also that it serves a valued boarding location for permanent boarding as well as emergency boarding.

It is the only local public Equestrian center and to take it away is unacceptable. Please restore and add back this Equestrian treasure to the Master site Plan and include it in the Strategic Plan.

Lisa Cassidy

From: Caroline Colesworthy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 8:12 AM
To: nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; Michele Richards; rruiz@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com; djackson@ocfairboard.com; tbilezikjian@ocfairboard.com; bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com
Subject: Please keep the equestrian center

Dear board members,

I was born and raised in Newport Beach and live in Eastside Costa Mesa just a few blocks from the fairgrounds. I grew up riding horses at the fair and my two daughters now 16 and 9 have both written at the fair. We go to the fair every year. We've never been fortunate enough to own our own horses but we love having horses so close by. During regional emergencies, our local equestrian center becomes an evacuation site for friends horses. We are aware of therapeutic equestrian activities and all sorts of special events that welcome the non-paying public all year. There are less expensive places for my daughters to ride however I always chose to pay more to have my daughter's ride at the fairgrounds because as a working mother I could never manage having to drive them all over the county. Horses aren't free. It requires a tremendous amount of money and upkeep in the city. However what is happening at the OC fairgrounds equestrian center is an incredible public resource and needs to continue. I have been fighting to protect it My entire adult life and I will continue doing so.

Warmly,
Caroline

Caroline Colesworthy, Broker/ Owner
Colesworthy Real Estate Services
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Work is love in action.

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