

New Academic Center – Comments

This document is a transcription of all written comments and e-mails received by the Measure C bond modernization team by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 2, 2010. A few comments received after the deadline have not been included but are on file for future reference.

1. The view of the campus from the corner of SFD and College Ave. is extremely important for the community as well as the college. The various levels and angles of ED2 are good; however, it does NOT look "architecturally significant." Too modern. It needs to blend into the community. Check out the new Ross School, which was designed to blend in with the Ross Post Office and St. John's Church. Distribution of buildings and central theater look good. TLCD plan looks VERY cheap – terrible design. Please build something aesthetically pleasing as well as functional. We will have to live with it forever.

2. ED2: Plans not clear enough -- not easy to visualize. Prefer better photos -- can see some of the old buildings.

3. ED2: Concentration of facilities appears less welcoming.

4. ED2: You draw pretty pictures but it ends there! I see no parking in your plan -- what use is a lovely campus if students can't park their vehicles? As an older (88) adult student I have not been able to take care of business so I can start my class because there is not enough parking now!! After the mess you made of the pool and locker room I have no faith that whatever you build will fill the needs of those expected to use it. Parking!! Parking!! Parking!!

5. I dislike [neither] of the projects. We want a homey community [oriented] student representing education center. It would be amazing to get students involved. Student work. Parking is very important. Nature is very important. Practicality is very important. If the two presented are our only choices I choose Mr. Cavagnero's!

6. My name is Carole Williams, I am a student here taking Art classes at COM & IVC but mostly COM. This proposed remodel has not really addressed a major practical consideration and I want to stress the practical part. Where is the parking replacement close in to the Fine Arts Dept.? Remember a huge chunk of parking will be taken away. And I would like to see this

replaced, somehow. Please remember that our Community College serves the reentry and older students. I am over fifty. While I am fairly able bodied, I often have huge heavy materials that I have to carry from my car to class and back, because of the nature of fine arts and their required materials. I hope someone will please take this into consideration again re: the parking close to fine arts. How about placing more parking in Circle Drive and Harlan Center. I may not have conveyed my ideas very clearly in writing. The gateway project is horribly dated looking, concrete, "cold." I don't like it. It looks a little like an amusement park. I don't object so much to the use of glass but the line breaks in the glass are distracting. Both need more parking near the Fine Arts Dept. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions. - Carole Williams, Student and graduate of COM

7. Both planned approaches offend with their materials – either with boxy structures and with glass turrets resembling wedding cakes/bird cages. Neither plan designates parking potential areas to replace "lost" spaces from the area where Lot 4 currently is. Parking should be planned for before siting any buildings. The campus must function for its students. TLCD enables space for parking next to the New Fine Arts Building. Finish materials should be stucco and red tile roof to be compatible in the setting of a residential area. College of Marin is a Mini-Stanford of the North. We are one of the top Community Colleges in California. We should function as one as well as look as good. More redwood trees should be planted at the corner of College and SFD. A wall of climbing roses/fruit vines could separate the Harlan Center area parking lot and the campus green to maintain a green view throughout the Quad. -Vivien Bronshvag, PH: 608-7783
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8. I object to the angular view of the new Fine Arts Building -- need big trees to block it! It is an eyesore! Also object to putting a bldg. on the corner of College and SFD; minimize the corner presence; object to working construction noise on Saturday. - Maple Ave. Resident
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9. Building style, materials, scale, do not work. Ugly! Do not fit area. Devalue our community. No communication to neighbors.
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10. We do not want a big presence at the corner of College Avenue. - Deborah and Richard Haberman
-

11. Unfortunately, I have numerous concerns about both designs provided by ED2 and TLCD. A few of my highlighted concerns are as follows: Both designs appear to want to establish a statement (to stand out) which has never been the theme of COM; Building structures should be low

profile and blend in with the character of the neighborhood and Ross Valley; Structures appear very industrial looking; The solar spiral tower is exceptionally unattractive and is a huge structure totally out of character with the area; Building on the street front is a departure from COM's history which was to tuck the campus structures more deeply onto the campus grounds; Parking is underserved currently and will be exacerbated with the anticipated increase in enrollment, the demo and project construction; provision for additional parking must be incorporated in any campus plan; Public notification through newspaper circulation is inadequate. What happened to mailing notifications to neighboring residents, it happened with the EIR. Thank you - Scott Peoples, PH: (415) 258-1762

1) COM parking availability specifically location in relation to structures, as well as, available spaces is sorely inadequate currently. With the proposed Science building largely eliminating parking in the Southwestern portion of the campus and Lot # 13 to be returned to Wetlands in the future parking will be made even worse. 2) As identified by the State of California, the campus is overbuilt now. - Scott Peoples, PH: (415) 258-1762

12. General questions/comments: Walkways should protect from the elements (namely, rain). The college shouldn't compete with local commercial businesses, although collection of rent for land space (as Stanford does) isn't a bad idea. Is attention being paid to optimizing public transportation? (bus schedules, bikes, carpooling, shuttles?)

13. I am very concerned about the development of [Gateway] on the corner of College and Sir Francis Drake. I have lived in Kentfield for 23 years, and I grew up in the area. I [want] a less obtrusive presence and ["] setbacks along College Ave., much farther back then what I am seeing in the rendering [?] ED2. - Larry Piatti, 24 Maple Ave., l.piatti@comcast.net

14. I am thrilled by both project proposals. I can only encourage that you move forward with this long overdue work. Please consider a building with another project stabilization agreement and thank you [for] allowing my input. - Lawrence Reynolds, 630 Barberrry Lane, San Rafael, CA 94903, PH: (415) 472-5327

15. Major concern is anything placed on the corner of College Ave. and Sir Francis Drake should be placed as far back off the street as possible. The campus has never advertised itself prior to this bond measure. Trees and vegetation is top priority adding to the landscape in keeping with the area. The Arcadian and Arboretum architect appears to meet more of our [expectations]. The tower does not fit into this area. See you February 16. - Suzanne Peoples

16. My concern is with 1) Environment; 2) Beauty; 3) A good and thoughtful place for the students to study, dream, create and learn. No building taller than a palm tree -- a Balinese architectural principle.

17. Choose a low maintenance design. You have no money for maintenance. Flow on ED2 plan seems better, but design is very high maintenance. School has lost its charm. There is no cohesive architectural plan apparent. Can you blend the two? The smooth cleaner lines of TLCD with the flow & landscaping of ED2. I vote for TLCD with no wall on the SFD side.

18. Both of the plans are too big and are out of synch with Kentfield. We value COM as a neighbor but we are not enamored with the "Big Box" look of these plans. The buildings should be low profile and in keeping with the architecture of the area. The buildings should be set back as far as possible from the roads, in particular Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

19. TLCD/Cavagnero Should be selected for the compact design of the buildings, and the open, [cing] quality of design. This concept is refined and can include good timeless design elements that enhance the natural beauty of the setting while also utilizing the space effectively for multiple disciplines. The ED2 design is too busy, dated and uninspiring. The Cavagnero design connotes forward thinking, new ideas...important for an educational setting.

20. I have concerns that the current Spanish Colonial, Old California theme which gives great charm to the campus has been ignored and obliterated. There is no unifying theme to the overall development, relating the new structures to the older warmth of COM. the Cavagnero Design is cold - all straight lines. No concept or prior charm. ED2 evokes its emphasis on circular shapes and landscaping has more warmth, the entry building with its rick-rack and wedding cake is "tacky" - It is a badly designed look. Please look to the original building, and look back to Spanish Colonial, our history, for inspiration. Bring grace into the entry building. Think style and elegance. - Charlotte Kissling [Phone number illegible]

21. Campus Modernization Forum Comment - The small, one-story campus buildings are more attractive, easier to heat, and safer in an earthquake than the incredibly ugly cubes designed by both architectural firms. Remember what Prince Charles said about modern architecture, that new buildings do not have to be ugly cubes just because architects want them to be. Encourage

them to build something that looks like Marin and not something that belongs in the East Bay. It seems now that many students have come from outside the county and the classes have been "dumbed down" to reflect that trend. We don't need buildings that large and should exist for Marin students only, sending the others elsewhere.

22. If I were to choose, I much prefer the TLCD design which is clean & looks efficient. I would like to see the corner set back a little. The concrete wall seems very massive. The ED2 project is extremely cluttered, overdone. The finishing materials are very busy & I doubt it would hold well in time.

23. I really like the concept of ED2. I like the fact that they have brought into the design concepts of feng shui. I think that it is important to have a signature building for our campus. The Taqueria needs to go. I'm not sure about the water tower. I think the TLCD design is too stark and antiseptic. I think you've done a great job and I hope you continue doing what you are doing. The ED2 College Ave building probably should have a more muted color than that shown on the sketch up.

24. ED2: Your design is more holistic and more in keeping with the natural beauty of the campus. It seems like it's a more accessible plan for both students and faculty. (I am both an instructor and a student.) I would rather walk thru your campus and teach in your buildings than in those of the Cavagnero design because the spatial design of the buildings vis-a-vis the natural environment is beautiful. Get rid of that tower -- it's not in keeping with the rest of the plan. It's the only thing that seems contrived in this design.

25. ED2: from Architectural Designs -- My preference leans toward the ED2 design. The spread out openness displays for me a better general design. I like the central large auditorium. It would be good if some of our original architecture (Spanish from 1926 - 1935) could be incorporated into the final designs. -Murray Peterson, COM Graduate, therefore Alumnus, COM Retired Faculty, Concerned Citizen, PH: 457-0551

26. ED2: good visuals -- not sure I like the solar tower

27. ED2: Arcadian Arboretum Best by far

28. ED2: PLEASE: NO PUBLIC RESTROOM S at the entrance to any building -- unlike the gymnasium entry!!! I choose ED2, but with modifications! The school is from the 20's -- can't we honor our history with some Mediterranean statements? There could also be touches throughout the landscape, signs, etc. Parking??? Where are we with the Public Transit for benefit of the students? Can't the IVC Campus be specialized for one focus like Nursing and let the professors go between the campus locations? [Could] this property be sold? Thank you.

29. ED2: Prefer this design -- especially like the amphitheater and arboretum

30. ED2: good open plan

31. ED2 has more innovation to its [rendering]!

32. ED2: Good attention to detail; Nice dispersed theme; Blocky boxes could be improved with more curves and undulations

33. ED2: Love the central Amphitheater/Courtyard theme with buildings wrapped around it. I don't quite get the solar spiral -- walkway function and elevator and water catch basins are OK -- Landmark for College of Marin doesn't do it for me.

34. ED2 design only!!! -Donna Reeve, 9 Maple, Kentfield, CA 94904

35. I prefer ED2's approach to a decentralized footprint for the Gateway project. -[name illegible], Maple Ave.

36. I can live with both. Prefer the look of the materials and the coziness of the "Arcadian Arboretum" if they follow through.

37. The ED2 design seems to make more use of the outdoors, which would make it better for California. However, it seems to assume that a great deal more landscaping will be done. Since much of this would involve grading and masonry construction, I wonder how much of this will survive budget considerations. Is the ED2 design overly ambitious in this regard? Otherwise (if both plans are realistic), the ED2 design concept seems to make better use of the terrain, and is more pleasing. The TLCD design looks like it might more easily survive budget changes. One assumes that the roof-without-a-building would be the first design element eliminated. This would undoubtedly reduce the cost without dramatically changing the functional aspects of the design. This design also seems to open up the central rectangle of the campus a bit more. This is a nice feature that might still be included in the other design. Thank you for inviting input. -Mike Williamson

38. The ED2 group has a more airy feeling with the space and does not seem to be alien to the nature around. By using terracing and more open facades the trees seem to be more integral to the process. Is the green roof possible/affordable? I like it. This design is more accessible, less domineering. It's more whimsical and less angular. I like a tower feature and curved staircase. All choices must preserve the number of current classrooms. Not just the same # of students.

I prefer the ED2. Keep it small so it fits into a small town feel! No big corner structure. Why isn't this going on at IVC? No building taller than 2 floors.

39. 1) Favor ED2 since it has less environmental impact. 2) The parking lot 2 (@ Maple Ave.) should be removed since it does not serve the parking purpose well. 3) The campus should be more integrated together to promote walking, instead of spreading out. 4) Tree is better tall, building is better low! 5) Feedback from [immediate?] neighbor should over 50% of population from resident of Maple Ave.

40. ED2: Sustainable; Green, Green, Green; make it look and feel and behave like a village, not a ...

41. I strongly prefer the concepts of the ED2 design. Some specific reactions: 1) The solar tower as pictured is too high & disturbs the focus on and view of the mountain; 2) We need to see an elevation of this design from Sir Francis Drake, to see visual impact of the buildings; 3) We'll access to auditorium be on the 2nd floor? If so, how will handicapped access work? 4) Bicycle thoroughway: there should be so flow of bicycle traffic through to all areas of campus. This might help alleviate some of the parking congestion; 5) Parking: there has to be a strong signage and education of students to push them to the available parking off Kent Ave. the current effort is

not sufficient; The exterior design will need further refinement. I do not like the other design.
Rich Gumbiner - richgumbiner@yahoo.com

42. ED2 - liked the roundness / circles of all of the architecture & ecological approach; seems enough spread out along street side; might be congested rendering and architecture extremely linear as very compressed; like benches; like nature emphasis & indoor outdoor walkway. Cavagnero - liked the open theater & condensed square footage; like the green on outside toward Sir Francis Drake; open - see through aspect; sunken below grade level; natural light slices arts classroom building; but push back from College & soften the frontage. - Alisa Armstrong

43. ED2: Really like the organic nature of the design - please get rid of the tower - looks like the Omni Hotel in LA - incongruous to Kentfield. Like the smaller footprint and how the buildings relate to each other. Like the corner design with the existing Redwood trees. If you can get rid of the tower - this design would be great. TLCD: There's nothing about this design I like. There is no soul in this design - The big wall/box is ugly - it blocks Mt. Tam. I don't like the compressed big-box building. It does not look right for the site or surrounding neighborhood.

44. TLCD: I do not like your plan. It seems sterile and cold and the wall looks like a sound wall. I think some of the buildings look like a parking garage. The lack of landscaping makes this an unattractive campus and one that I don't want to be walking around in when I teach and take classes at COM. This design seems to ignore the extreme beauty of College of Marin.

45. TLCD: As a College Landmark it works. You can actually view the campus from Sir Francis Drake. I like the College Ave. entrance and the walkway between the main building and the Learning Center. Concept is very dramatic -- My Vote.

46. I don't think you should put parking where Harlan Center is. I would turn Circle Drive into Student Parking and maybe special permits for Art students. I like this one better. -Jon

47. TLCD: too futuristic and modern-looking

48. TLCD: Awful Design -- Not in keeping with the rest of the campus or the neighborhood. This does not look like it will age gracefully at all. Will be very dated. Too stark and boxy. ED2: The smaller buildings seem to blend in more. Feels more manageable, personal, with more inviting spaces. Key priorities -- Keeping open spaces; protect open corridor from Sir Francis Drake → Mt. Tam.

49. Build TLCD project; Better design goes with rest of campus opposition to project is due to concrete wall at corner; 1) Reverse the wall that holds it up (diagram on card); 2) Step back class room bldg from sidewalk (diagram on card); 3) Building is cheaper to maintain long term, cheaper to heat better to concentrate classrooms for security; This project reflects a high level of architecture! Mark McDonnell (415)456-7017

50. If the goal is a much more visible presence within the Community for COM and its campus, TLCD design concept is the clear choice. Beyond that point of separation, there are pluses & minuses with each - more smaller dispersed buildings with ED2 (which is very different form current campus) and fewer larger building with TLCD (similar to existing). T. Bayer - Mill Valley

51. I have looked at both designs and have comments on both: Cavagnero: I really like the idea of putting one of the floors below ground - so the impact on College Ave is much lower - the design of the busing itself is much more preferable to me. The part facing College Ave needs more soft-scaping. The cement wall bordering the sidewalk is too hard looking. I like that the wall on SFD is set back & covered by the redwoods. I like seeing grass on the corner of SFD & College. I think the wall can be scaled back from the sidewalk. ED2: I prefer the landscaping on this plan. I detest the buildings. The look too linear - and the corner building at SFD & College is atrocious. If they could totally rework the buildings - I might consider it. The solar tower is way too imposing & the corner is also too imposing. On the other plan - the setback at the corner was much more thoughtful. We want an entry to the college - absolutely - but this is ugly. I would like to see landscaping & open space plan of ED2 with the building design of Cavagnero. Also, February 16th - when you are planning the board meeting - our schools are closed and many of us are on vacation & cannot attend the meeting. I would appreciate the meeting on picking an architect postponed. Thank You. - Ellen Gumbiner, ellengumbiner@gmail.com

52. Email #1

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to you in support of Mark Cavagnero. Mark was the architect of record for the restoration of the Christopher B, Smith Rafael Film Center in downtown San Rafael. As the Executive Director of the

California Film Institute, I worked directly with Mark for several years, from the mid-1990's to the opening of the Rafael in April 1999.

Mark Cavagnero's reputation and outstanding work speak for itself. I am familiar with his work on the Legion of Honor restoration as well as the Marin Community Foundation offices at Hamilton in Novato. Not only did we find Mark to be creative and competent, he was instrumental in our outreach efforts to the community. He was always at the ready with detailed explanations and outlines to committee members, and was as comfortable standing before a committee as he was attending a fundraising reception on our behalf. We always found Mark to be engaged and active with the entire process, and considered him an integral member of the team.

As you may be aware, the restoration and accompanying capital campaign to reopen the Rafael Film Center was a symbiotic partnership between the San Rafael Redevelopment Agency and the California Film Institute, a 501 (c) (3) organization. The Rafael was a building that was beloved by a community that cherished its' significant historic value, and Mark could always be counted on to do whatever needed to be done and more. He was always engaged and onboard with the project. We as a team, and for myself personally, think very highly of Mark Cavagnero. He is both a team player and a leader.

Yours very sincerely, Mark Fishkin

Mark Fishkin, Executive Director/Founder
California Film Institute
415.526.5812
director@cafilm.org

53. Email #2

Dear Mr. Treanor:

As Kentfield residents and neighbors in close proximity to the College of Marin campus, we are writing to strongly implore you to complete the Gateway Project and implement the design submitted by TLCD/Mark Cavagnero Architects.

As taxpayers, we voted for the capital improvements that this project represents in an exemplary form. The economic timing is ideal for launching this construction project. We know that at this juncture, savings on other projects at the college will help fund this very important, vital and timely project. Because financing has been secured, and seven years of planning (time, money and resources) have preceded this phase of the project; we urge you to put plans into action now.

The potential for creating a signature entrance to the campus and establishing an inspiring civic identity for the community and the county is clearly evident! One only has to stand anywhere near the intersection of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and College Ave. or stop in a car at the heavily trafficked intersection and look at the unsightly taqueria which obscures beautiful, mature landscaping to see the extraordinary design possibilities that will impact generations.

The TLCD/Cavagnero design is a timeless, open, clean and impressive enhancement of natural surroundings. This quality of architectural work is what we envisioned when we voted to fund this capital improvement project.

Because this project is identified in the college's master plans; the buildings to be replaced are in very poor condition; and the funding is in place: we urge you to move forward now with this construction project that will have wide ranging and long lasting benefits for the college and the community.

Sincerely,

Christine and Bill Palmer

Mr. and Mrs. William Palmer
111 Stetson Ave.
Kentfield, CA 94904

54. Email #3

Members of the Board of Directors:

I am writing to you as an interested member of the Marin community to provide comments on the design concepts for the College of Marin Gateway Building. I have lived in Marin County for 37 years, my children attended the College, and I have extensive experience a member of the Marin community of design and planning professionals.

I have reviewed the two conceptual designs being considered by your Board. While both have merits, each exhibits a very different approach to the needs of the College and the community.

The design concept presented by TLCD/Mark Cavagnero Architects is clearly superior in the way it recognizes the future of the College, providing a timeless design statement that provides a welcoming portal to the academic environment while respecting the context of the College in the surrounding community. Rather than presenting an overpowering image of an institutional entryway, the design honors the student, faculty and visitors alike. It beckons and does not intimidate.

In addition, the design statement is visually powerful, not only providing a dramatic image during the daytime, but also a second illuminated richness in the evening and nighttime hours, providing an exciting gateway experience during all hours of the academic day.

The simplicity of the base plane of the overall scheme is critical to the success of the gateway. As a physically challenged individual, I am constantly concerned about the walking surfaces, including, steps, ramps, paths and doorways. A mosaic of surface features presents serious barriers to many members of

the Marin community, many of which attend, or will attend, classes or events provided by the College. Of the two design concepts, the TLCD/Cavagnero presentation appears to best solve this problem.

The Cavagnero firm has successfully completed several exemplary design projects in Marin and the Bay Area, including the dramatic remodel of the Rafael Theater in San Rafael, the Palace of the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco, and the headquarters for the Marin Community Foundation at Hamilton. The firm's extensive experience with public buildings, including schools, courthouses and their current work on the Veterans Memorial complex in San Francisco, demonstrate their ability to provide the Board, and the College, a superior design for the campus gateway.

I urge you to select the TLCD/Mark Cavagnero Architects design team.

Sincerely,

Larry Kennings, ASLA, APA, ULI
Planning Consultant

55. Email #4

Dear Ms. Treanor,

Our family has been resident in Kentfield for a few years now and we are in the process of looking for a new home in the neighborhood around College of Marin. I drive by the campus daily and am delighted to hear that the board has decided to embark on the Gateway Project to enhance the College Ave/Sir Francis Drake corner of the campus.

I have followed the debate about the Gateway project in print and have tried to review as much of the publicly available material as possible and have also had a few discussions with other Kentfield neighbors. I think the design provided by TLCD/Mark Cavagnero Associates (TLCD/MCA) would best serve the College of Marin campus master plan.

I like the simplicity of the TLCD/MCA design - one main building and an auditorium surrounded by open space - as supposed to the more built-up and sprawling design by ED2. I think the TLCD/MCA design will create a sense of place and foster human interaction in a centrally located complex, which has been designed to thrive in natural light and circulation. The ED2 design is more decentralized and would not foster the same human interaction which is surely missing in this day of technological wonder. Another strength of the TLCD/MCA design is how it reclaims open space and re-establishes the central campus as a focal area using the natural depression around the auditorium as an outdoor amphitheater. It creates a nice entrance to campus while maintaining a nice symmetry around the historical center.

A VERY attractive component of the TLCD/MCA design is that it preserves valuable space for possible future development on campus. Based on publically available sketches it looks like the ED2 design uses

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about 20-30% more building area spread over more usable land, but with the same usable internal space. Intuitively this seems less efficient and may lead to higher operational costs OR higher building cost in order to add more bells and whistles to achieve the same operational efficiency. Both designs address sustainability and will hopefully achieve some type of LEED certification.

Delivering this project on budget and time must be an important consideration in the selection process. Unfortunately, the public is not privy to any of the budget estimates for the two proposals, but I urge you to consider the plan that has the highest probability of delivering the Gateway Project on time and within budget. Again intuitively, the TLCD plan is simpler, uses less of the available land, requires less site work, appears more efficient and should therefore be more simple to build. Based on the information available I believe the TLCD/MCA design best fulfills the College of Marin's short term goals while preserving long term options. Thank You for listening and for serving the community.

Regards

Bo Stehlin
10 Emlin Place, Kentfield, CA

56. Email # 5

Dear Board Members,

In regards to the College of Marin Gateway project, I am firmly in favor of the design proposed by Mark Cavagnero Associates. I believe you will find their design to consume less area and build less gross building footage than projected with a prior study in the alternative firm's design. Thus more open space is conserved and more campus area for quadrangle and outdoor use is retained. Plus, it will cost less to heat/cool and operate. Mark Cavagnero Associates' design provides a genuinely more handsome and thoughtful approach and will result in a lean and elegant building which will meet the College's needs. As a Kent Woodlands resident, I feel this would be the more architecturally appealing than the alternative presented by ED2.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Tom Hale

141 Goodhill Rd

Kentfield, CA 94904

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Tom Hale

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57. Email # 6

Honorable Board Members:

I am pleased to submit the attached recommendation in support of TLCD with Mark Cavagnero Associates for this signature project at COM.

Respectfully,

Ted Bayer

New Academic Center – Comments

I am writing in support of the **TLCD with Mark Cavagnero Associates** proposal to design the new signature building for the College of Marin along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.


I am a member of the Board of Trustees at Marin Horizon School (MHS) in Mill Valley. As you may be aware, MHS recently completed construction of a new building for classes associated with grades 4 – 8. Mark Cavagnero Associates was the architect for the project. In my capacity as the co-chair of the New Building Committee, I worked closely with Mark Cavagnero and his team throughout the public hearing and construction process. In addition, MHS relied heavily on the assistance of Mark Cavagnero's team in our successful mediation of a post-construction dispute with the project's general contractor, BBI Construction.

In virtually every aspect of the MHS project, I found the performance of Mark Cavagnero and his team to be first-rate. Neighborhood opposition to the project was very strong, vocal and determined; however, through Mark's ability to answer, calmly and in detail, even the most inflammatory inquiries and to incorporate valuable community input into the building's final design, we were able to obtain unanimous Marin County Board of Supervisors approval. His team's steady hand and detailed record keeping during the project's rather torturous course of construction helped MHS avoid numerous change order disputes with the contractor and saved us many thousands of dollars in potential cost overruns. Finally, his team's performance at our 2-day mediation – totally organized, focused and on point – was the single most critical factor in our being able to reach a very favorable settlement with BBI.

I have stressed the intangible aspects of Mark Cavagnero Associates' performance on the MHS project for a simple reason: the completed building itself speaks to the uniqueness and functionality of their design abilities. The entire MHS community – teachers, students, administrators and parents – is enthralled with this striking yet user-friendly addition to our campus. It has been the catalyst for an on-going transformation at MHS.

I am certain the College of Marin will enjoy a similar experience should you elect to proceed with the proposal submitted by **TLCD with Mark Cavagnero Associates**.

Dated: January 10, 2010



Theodore F. Bayer

58. Email # 7

Dear President Long and Board Members:

As a long-time Marin County resident and design professional, I am writing to urge selection of "TLCD with Mark Cavagnero Associates" as the architect team for the Gateway project. I have served with Mark Cavagnero on the Headlands Board of Trustees and worked with him in my capacity as Vice-Chair of the Miller Avenue Design Advisory Committee – a Mill Valley City Council appointed Committee. I have high regard for his design skills and his ability to listen to the community and District officials.

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I believe that he has created a design for this project that is very tight, using sustainable materials that will help move us toward carbon neutrality. It supports campus diversity and provides for learning architecture. Most importantly, it meets your program yet consumes less area and builds less gross building footage than the District had projected with a prior study. Thus, TLCD with Mark Cavagnero Associates will conserve more open space, retain more campus area for quadrangle and outdoor use, will cost less to heat/cool and operate, and result in a building design that will provide a genuinely more handsome and thoughtful approach to your charge than the competing team. They offer you a lean and elegant building meeting your needs while also offer long-term flexibility. It is a building we would all be proud to see on the campus.

For these reasons, I hope you will select Mark's team for the assignment.

Your consideration of my position is appreciated.

Michael vanVeber Dyett, FAICP

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59. Email # 8

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The design concept presented by TLCD/Mark Cavagnero Architects is clearly superior in the way it recognizes the future of the College, providing a timeless design statement that provides a welcoming portal to the academic environment while respecting the context of the College in the surrounding community. Rather than presenting an overpowering image of an institutional entryway, the design honors the student, faculty and visitors alike. It beckons and does not intimidate.

In addition, the design statement is visually powerful, not only providing a dramatic image during the daytime, but also a second illuminated richness in the evening and nighttime hours, providing an exciting gateway experience during all hours of the academic day.

The simplicity of the base plane of the overall scheme is critical to the success of the gateway. As a physically challenged individual, I am constantly concerned about the walking surfaces, including, steps, ramps, paths and doorways. A mosaic of surface features presents serious barriers to many members of the Marin community, many of which attend, or will attend, classes or events provided by the College. Of the two design concepts, the TLCD/Cavagnero presentation appears to best solve this problem.

The Cavagnero firm has successfully completed several exemplary design projects in Marin and the Bay Area, including the dramatic remodel of the Rafael Theater in San Rafael, the Palace of the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco, and the headquarters for the Marin Community Foundation at Hamilton. The firm's extensive experience with public buildings, including schools, courthouses and their current work on the Veterans Memorial complex in San Francisco, demonstrate their ability to provide the Board, and the College, a superior design for the campus gateway.

I urge you to select the TLCD/Mark Cavagnero Architects design team.

Sincerely,

Larry Kennings, ASLA, APA, ULI

Planning Consultant

60. Email # 9

Dear Board Members,

As a longtime Marin County resident and recent college graduate I would like to applaud you for deciding to move forward with "plussing" the College of Marin campus by tying it more closely into the town and increasing it's exposure to county residents. I'm well aware that the reputation of the school has suffered as of late and I think that I project like this will without a doubt make great strides in reversing some of that negative trend. I took some time to look over the two final designs and I would just like to express how delighted I am with the finalists, more specifically the design prepared by TLCD and Mark Cavegnero. I love the clean lines and manner in which the new building integrates into the surrounding areas while making great use of some of the more novel and interesting sustainable building materials currently available. The design reminds of me of some of the modern building that I studied in at The University of California Santa Cruz, in that the spaces were both functional, attractive and worked synergistically with the surrounding natural spaces. Just throwing in my two cents here.

Thanks again for helping to move this project forward and I am excited to see the new and improved campus.

Hugh Hunter

Novato, CA

61. Email # 10

Dear Sirs-

I am writing you to voice regard and opinion in advance of the outcome of the Building Design Competition at College of Marin. I am a resident of Marin and have a satellite office here as well with an employee that has been through the Arts program at your Institution. I would like to communicate my strong support for the proposal submitted by TLCD with Mark Cavagnero Associates. I have been a Mill Valley neighbor and professional colleague of Mark Cavagnero for over 15 years. Mark has an excellent public process history which includes his contribution within the City of Mill Valley Planning Commission, American Institute of Architects and the AIA California Council to name a few. As his record will show, Marks talent for design and dedication to community issues are unparalleled among local architects. COM and the campus would be at a loss should it miss this opportunity with Mark's team.

My office has reviewed the submissions and cannot find reason or objective design merit that would support the nested fussy sameness one would consider over the strong dynamism of the TLCD/Mark Cavagnero submission. Please take this recommendation into serious consideration when determining the future of the built environment at COM. Should you have questions or a reference inquiry about Mark please do not hesitate to call me.

Kind regards

Alfred Quezada Jr. AIA, LEEDap

Quezada Architecture

www.quezadainc.com

Sausalito

San Francisco

415 331 5133 direct

415 819 1700 mobile

415 331 6133 fax

62. Listed comments – ED2

1. Historic architecture at street – tie in to newer [architecture] from campus interior – non-industrial.
2. Scale buildings; maintain current scale of existing buildings, especially height. Neighborhood scale.
3. No entrance at intersection of College Ave. and Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
4. No exterior staircases, no concrete walls per Fine Arts Building.

5. Natural materials on exterior.
 6. Buildings inward looking to focus on campus interior and views to south and west – toward Mt. Tam and Baldy, not College Ave. and Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
 7. Maintain interior lawn and views.
 8. Paths between buildings open to the sky, no roofs, no breezeways, ground level.
 9. Large street presence not welcoming.
-

63. Very good design process. However, my questions are more basic concerning the utility and benefit of the project. What has the population profile of the student body, 10 years ago, 5 years ago, today, 5 years and 10 years? How has the advent of technology been considered for future on-site campus populations? Distance learning will definitely impact the demand for local facilities. I have taken several classes at College of Marin – but all have been remote from my home office.

- Howard Wise, howard.wise@attglobal.net
-

64. Many good improvements over the previous design. Still a few issues to resolve, but making good progress. I like what was presented. Also, good discussion, but many people simply don't want any change in the community.

- Jim Polisson, Kentfield resident
-

65. Students don't spend time sitting around outside – they go to class and then leave. Don't need a lot of "outside rooms." Just because the land is there doesn't mean it should all be developed. The design is too busy. Like it to be simple – classrooms and admin. offices. Maintenance of the buildings and landscape is a major problem. How is the College going to afford to take care of all this?

- lroxon@marinwater.org
-

66. It appears to me that the College Board has directed the architects to design an entry that resembles an Indian gaming casino. Kentfield needs to be respected, not [illegible word].

67. After listening to ED2 this evening and reviewing all drawings on the wall, I think the design is too large and very angular and does not fit into the small town feel of this community.

68. ED2: Nice presentation, of course – Bad ideas: location of the “Gateway;” traffic issues already a problem – will become worse; the “great lawn” seems to have shrunk.
- Patrick Pfahl; floreal1@earthlink.net
-

69. Listed comments – ED2

1. The design is extremely fragmented, and the architectural character is too backward-looking rather than forward-looking in character. It will be dated looking the day it opens.
 2. The configuration of the buildings recreates the problematic, restrictive layout of the existing buildings – long, narrow, limited flexibility in planning width, too spread-out.
-

70. ED2: I believe the architect listens and responds to the concerns quite well. The architect has taken into account “green technology” quite thoroughly. I believe the [illegible text].
-

71. ED2: This was a very interesting meeting and I am glad we have such qualified architects working on such an important project. It seems that they are working within the project “plans” provided to them by the College and have done an amazing job with the space flow, preservation of trees and existing architecture and integrating it with the new. It seems that the issues can be worked out regarding the entrance or signs.
- Ana Huson, (415) 407-5571
-

72. ED2: This plan shows a tremendous sensitivity to the neighborhood and to the natural elements – I think it’s excellent! Something has to go in at the corner (not parking!) that defines the community and the college. It seems that this architect is very responsive to the community input.
- Libby Hatfield, 451-4990
-

73. ED2: I like very much the new styles interpreted into the buildings, especially getting rid of the tower. Also the color change. The scale is good. Re: arrivals and departures. There is now a pick up and drop off spot in front of Olney Hall. Can such a drop off College Avenue – into the sidewalk area be included in the new design? I hope so.
- Holly Schardt molly@schardt.org

well thought out. They responded best to the needs of the College. Please support ED2.

- Dennis Rinehart - 45 Leveroni Court.
-

75. I hope you will support the plan by the ED2 team. It is the most environmentally sensitive and most responsive to the community.

- Susan Kraft - Bel Marin Keys
-

76. I like this plan – ED2 is the best

- Chorlee
-

77. ED2: Too much architectural jargon; too much five golden section “ – “ chi; fancy names to disguise minimalist, unattractive buildings.

- Gloria Neumeyer (sorry I couldn't stay)
-

78. 1) I disagree that parking and traffic should be reviewed separately or after the architect is chosen. You cannot design a building and place it in a corner without taking into account the glow of foot and vehicle traffic. 2) Don't you hear the neighbors saying that we don't want a big, bold presence on the corner of College and SFD Blvd. 3) Please design a building that reflects Spanish Mission style.

79. The ED2 plan is quite a lot better. Their concept for an academic center fits this community very well. I don't understand the other plan – looks like a concrete mess and Mark Cavagnero – wow – is he a little full of himself? He's a fantastic architect – just ask him! I can't see working with him!

80. I apologize for my neighbors – we appreciate the COM and support the revitalization process. ED2 is the best choice.

81. I like the ED2 design much better. Fewer trees being removed – nicer layout – better overall design. Well thought out – wayfinding; small footprints; shared Mt Tam views; LEED

82. The ED2 design looks great and balances the myriad of demands placed on the project.

- Emily Dean Community Member (415) 827-5644
-

83. ED2: I love what you have designed. What a shame the meeting was hijacked by “Nimbys.” As a member of the community, I believe your welcoming entrance is well placed to encourage public transportation and open the campus to be a part of the neighborhood. I applaud the way you have incorporated the low-slung and sloped feel of buildings in the community. I also prefer the earlier, darker color scheme, but I agree with the removal of the tower. Are ramps for bicyclists incorporated into this design?

- Tamara Raskin - Berens Drive, Kentfield
-

84. The plan by ED2 is the more compatible with the neighborhood than the alternative. The College needs a presence beyond Kentfield – the College serves all of Marin, not just the adjacent community. The College should embrace the ED2 plan and move forward with design – community comment and programming of the use of new space.

85. The New Academic Center is truly a gateway building, viewed and identified as the college center by the greatest amount of traffic flowing on Sir Francis Drake. It is the cornerstone for the campus. Parking is difficult presently, and the more students can be encouraged to utilize public transit the better – plus those who can bike (or walk). The design and colors tonight are going in the right direction. Entailing Spanish Mission design rather than modernistic block embraces the historic. View paths, saving trees, campus walkability and ease of finding locations, integration and friendly interaction are all important.

86. While listening to the presentation, and view the pre-lim plans – I wonder why your design group didn’t design more ‘neo-colonial’ style buildings. All the building in the presentation were very HARD EDGE. The existing Spanish Colonial buildings are the defining charm of College of Marin. These building are “organic” full of archways – arch entrances – columns – curves. This new “gateway design” is so full of hard edges that in my humble opinion contradicts the organic fluid nature that is Kentfield. Can your designers please design with more Spanish style Colonial buildings?

- Melissa Parages - Artist/Designer www.famousmelissa.com

07. Will the architects chosen be presented with the frame study in progress to hopefully advise it in their designs? Are all the established redwoods on the corner of Sir Francis Drake and College going to be saved?
- Helga Hanken - 25 Elm Ave, Kentfield CA 94904 (415) 456-8694 cfhanken@comcast.net
-

88. More planning and community involvement would be a good idea. 2) The ED2 plan has my vote to do this.
- (name/signature unreadable)
-

89. Please make the College Ave. side more humane and human scale. The drawings shown are unnecessarily stark. Forget the abstract art and make it for people. On the site plan, please make it more humane. There is no justification for the stark shapes and sharp angles. For example, the sharp angle wall pointing into College Ave. is awful. Please soften this.
-

90. Having looked and listened to both presentations, both architects are willing to change the buildings to respond to the community. ED2 has demonstrated success working with the community. I would stay with someone with a proven record.
-

91. Mr. Cavagnero continually interrupted the commenters. How can such an approach be conducive to true community involvement?
-

92. I would like to see your version on email – I can't visualize your plans! My email is galjones@yahoo.com. I think I'm on your email, so please check and do not send me an email twice.

--Gloria R. Jones

93. Listed comments:

1. Mark's insights, connection and willingness to listen to and respond to the community and to come up with a shared vision is key to incorporate the wishes of the community, faculty, students, and administration.
2. His compact design speaks to consolidating the massing of the built-out spaces and creating new and maintaining outside spaces.

3. The building's relationship to the existing and planned buildings should or might

4. The concept of green is respected by using less in terms of building materials, heating and cooling, and the open stair speak in addition energy and maintenance. In addition, more green in terms of exterior planting creates a healthier and greener campus, by way of the environment.
5. The public spaces respect how community, students, administration and faculty interact between any classes, meetings or events.
-

94. Mark Cavagnero demonstrates an architect with good listening capabilities, along with a basic design that addresses view and pathway linkages within the campus, preserving the environmental beauties and enhancing them. The architecture serves the students but also provides a much needed gateway from Sir Francis Drake and College Avenue, and greatly improves the College Avenue entry and views. All stakeholders are guaranteed input as the design is refined.

95. I vote for Mark Cavagnero! He will work through this. This one building cannot be expected to renovate College Avenue on its own. It will contribute positively to such a renovation. I like the canopy – both for shelter as well as connecting the buildings. The entire concept is excellent – carry on—Also, thank you for managing the two very difficult meetings.
--Nancy van Ravenswaag

96. Listed comments

- a. Traffic and parking patterns need to be established before, or included in, the conceptual designs. This is one of the biggest and most important issues in the community.
 - b. Is it necessary to have living/green roof, seems like a lot of extra support in the roof will be necessary, and maintenance, both of which greatly diminish “green” effects.
 - c. - Mark C. and TLCD Group seem more adaptable than ED2; will listen to stakeholders and change design.
 - d. Agree that at 90% of design, too late for comments and community input.
-

97. Needs better interface/interaction with College Ave. Future College Ave. will potentially have retail, amenities, pedestrians, etc. and new COM building should be more welcoming to work better with College Ave. activity. Like [TLCD] overall plan better with big-block wall-canopy.

--Alan Derwin, Kentfield Planning Advisory Board, Visioning Committee Member

98. Listed comments

- a. ED2: Too spread out. Very high maintenance. No clear architectural statement
- b. TLCD: Great plan. Clearly has studied the entire flow and architecture of the campus. Good ideas. Would be easy to work with. Mark Cavagnero is my choice.

--Anne Peterson

99. Agreed that College Ave. needs work. Façade acts as wall. But Mark seems to be concerned with working with the community and listening/responding to comments, which is the most important thing in picking the architect. I would like to remind people to think of the students and classrooms, not the façade, but I think we can work well with Mark and move in the right direction.

1. It seems that more community input is needed. Only 2 meetings is not enough because this project is very highly visible. College would be wise to garner more feedback even if some of it may not be pleasant. End result would most likely be better serving the interests of the community.
 2. Elimination of canopy is a good choice. It was too overwhelming with its presence.
 3. Clean up of College Ave. needs considerable help and College should consider improvements along streetscape.
 4. Opening corner at College and Sir Francis Drake Blvd. is really nice concept to include in final design.
-

100. Go with TLCD.

101. It is unfortunate that the traffic and pedestrian flow study was not completed before the architects completed their preliminary plans. It seems that the results of the study would have a big impact on the design, particularly with the entrance to the campus at College and Sir Francis Drake. I favor the Mark Cavagnero/TLCD philosophy of returning to the original COM plan, use of compact buildings and emphasizing open space but dislike the angular buildings he has used. If he is willing to change the style to one that incorporates some traditional elements – as ED2 proposed with using recycled roof tiles – then I would endorse his approach. Otherwise, I would go with ED2 if they de-emphasized the grand campus entrance at the corner. Both architects should be heartily commended for the thought, time and effort they put into their presentations.

--Paul Curry, 32 Maple Ave., Kentfield

Architecture/Mark Cavagnero Associates, as the architects for the new Academic Center of COM. Thank you for putting these presentations together for the community.

--Mark Samolis, Friends of Kentfield

103. I prefer the second (TLCD) plan. But I wish it could incorporate a more Spanish Colonial architecture (i.e., match Fusselman).

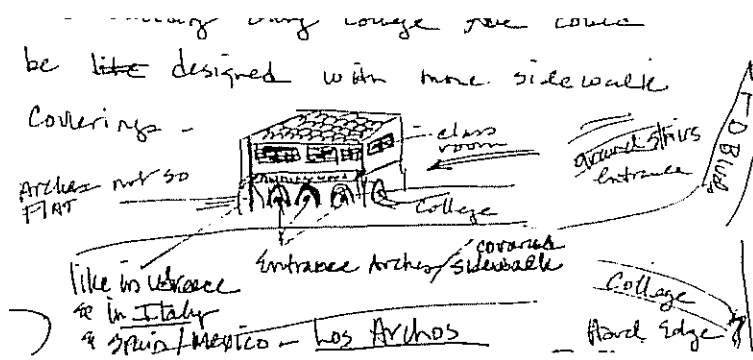
--Jim DeMartini, 126 Terrace Ave.

104. The integrity of this architectural firm is evident. I think TLCD Architectural group should not be punished for the College of Marin Board's failure to involve the Kentfield community early on in this process. Long after this college board is gone, our community will live with whatever is built. Your (TLCD's) design must highlight the Marin woodland aspect of KENTFIELD, and not be a flat wall on a busy corner more fitting for an urban setting. If Fusselman Hall is the jewel of the crown, why not take more cues from its architecture? You are obviously a talented group, but these designs seem stark and not graceful, as least the flat "Gateway" hallmark edifice abutting up against sidewalks. The side facing College is conventional and does not seem to be tied into Kentfield and the wooded beauty of our community.

--Kathy Goldsmith, Kent Woodlands

105. Listed comments

1. Do not think the canopy or wall (that blocks the view) would be better design. Think roof garden. Ditch the canopy idea.
2. If Fusselman is the jewel of the crown of College of Marin, why not think more neo-Spanish style architecture? Remodel with less hard edges or at least try to incorporate more curves with arch entrances.
3. The building along College Ave. could be designed with more sidewalk coverings – [Refer to participant's sketch.] ... arches not so flat ... like in Greece and in Italy and Spain/Mexico—Los Archos ... entrance arches/covered sidewalk
4. Mark, how do you define Kentfield? Hard edge? I define Kentfield as:
 - a. Low key
 - b. Soft edges
 - c. Organic
 - d. Under Mt. Tam
 - e. Lots of rain in winter
 - f. Hot in summerMore Spanish style arch walkways for hot weather and rain.



--Melissa Parages

106. E-Mail #11

Bob Hickey
 202 Foster Avenue
 Kentfield, CA 94904
 E-mail Address (garnet5@att.net)

Marin Community College Project

My family is heavily impacted by the traffic and visual aspects of the college project because we live three blocks away from campus. We use the Sir Francis Drake/College Avenue intersection every time we enter or leave our property.

Comments/Concerns pursuant to public meeting held at Deedy Lounge March 31.

- 1) **Auto and foot traffic** must be considered right from the beginning of the development of this project. The College/Sir Francis Drake intersection was identified as the third busiest intersection in Marin county some time ago when the last Kentfield Development plan was published. In addition to the commute-time traffic at the intersection, northbound traffic on College backs up almost to Westamerica Bank every schoolday afternoon.
- 2) **Visual Impact.** Kentfield, particularly around the campus and from which the campus draws its ambience, is characterized by short narrow streets, lots of trees and vegetation. The feeling is "it's not the '50s". The massive tower and modern, angular metal struts that

- 4) Retail uses are entirely inappropriate due to the traffic.
-

107. Email #12

Here are some of my concerns about the new construction:

1. The new building should not be of a different architecture than the original buildings. The softer Spanish look fits the community much better than a tall modern looking building. My biggest fear is that it is too late. The integrity of COM has been fairly destroyed with pretty ugly construction and portables that seem to be "permanents".

Something should be done to update those existing structures to make them a bit more palatable. Who on earth has been overseeing the design up to this point. Indian Valley has been done in such a pleasing way; that is inviting. It fits into the area. What on earth has happened at COM!!

2. I share the concern about the positioning of the Gateway. Yes, it is an idea to announce the presence of the college but to think that that corner will be a meet and greet spot is probably not realistic. If you watch the COM foot traffic, there is almost none at that location. Students and visitors park their cars and walk directly from there to wherever they are going. It makes more sense to have a "meet and greet" type area in the middle of the college and not bordering a busy intersection.
3. I also am worried that the President and the Board are only giving us lip service and really are fairly committed to doing whatever they want. I hope this isn't true but it is a concern expressed by many in this community. Remember we are the people who vote funds for you. We will not be willing to do that in the future if COM does not truly listen to the community.

--Sydney Park, McAllister Ave., Kentfield

108. Email #13

I support COM's attention to this sensitive project allowing special care in creating a selection by competition and finally starting community workshops to address local needs and feelings as this design will have a significant impact on our community.

General: The TLCD/MCA Scheme appears to be more appropriately in touch with the history and the College of Marin in its contemporary + sophisticated feel. It preserves and strengthens the campus core and inter-facility relationships.

Opinion: Both schemes have a fundamental failure in the way they address College Avenue. Each places significant building bulk and mass between the existing oak trees and College Avenue, in an effort to serve the campus needs, much too close to College Avenue. This results in an imposing, out of scale, face for COM in a poorly selected location.

College Avenue: My image, driving this street for 26 years is a quaint tree lined street. I've always felt that the existing COM buildings, at the new Academic Center site, were the major flaw in that they were constructed too close to the sidewalk crowding the street. This is further reinforced with the TLCD/MCA presentation showing the historic plan clearly positioning all buildings set back with a landscape buffer from College Avenue. While I'm in favor of providing an inviting entry and image at this location, it needs to be more of a subtle landscape solution, not an even larger, massive crowding structure. Preservation of the large oak trees exacerbates this problem as they force the new center to be on one side or the other making neither work. There is not an appropriate solution in either scheme presented at these workshops.

Recommendation: Postpone further building design development for this project as both these schemes fail to meet significant concerns of the community.

--Comments and Observations by Christian Oakes, Marin Resident and COM user since 1984

109. **Email #14**

I was so impressed with Mark Cavagnero's presentation last night. Kudos for his forthrightness and willingness to listen to input from the audience.

I am hopeful that having the main entrance to COM on Sir Francis Drake is not closed for discussion. I feel entering the campus from that direction would give instant access to a view of Mt. Tam which, after all, is another jewel that commands attention.

--Sarah Fletcher, Friends of Kentfield

110. **Email # 15**

I really appreciated Mark's presentation last night.

1. I love the idea of orienting the meet/greet to the center of the campus and away from College/Sir Francis Drake

2. I appreciate his honoring the history of the campus
3. His use of green space will make a very attractive view of the campus even from the street
4. When I first got involved in this I must admit I was favoring a Spanish heritage type look but upon taking a better look at the campus. I can see that there is no reason to do that. The campus is such a hodge podge of buildings that a new Spanish type building will just chop it up more than it really is.

In my opinion the only way to improve the appearance of the campus is to try to somehow pull together the various styles that are there now.

5. Can anything be done with the "crappy" look of those temporary "permanents".
6. If COM really wants to attract new students someone better make it more attractive. Right now if I was bringing my student to have a look at a campus we would never return. There are too many equally important attractive campus around!! In my ignorance I have no idea how the campus has been degraded over the years with ugly building.

From now on I will definitely be paying more attention instead of just trusting others. I am certainly not just going to approve any future bond issues without knowing more. I blame myself for this and unfortunately I think that a very large segment of our community is in the same position.

Thanks for spending the time with us. I hope you are really listening to the community.

GO MARK!

--Sydney Park, 453-5026, 105 McAllister Ave, Kentfield
(right on the 1/2mi.mark so we do not receive your mailings)

111. Email # 16

I attended the presentations this week and want to express that I very much prefer the ED2 Team's design for the new Academic Center. Their design is sensitive to the property, works around the trees and is much more people friendly than the other team's layout. Also, the ED2 design is much more visually appealing than the large concrete structures the Cavagnero design offers. My two cents.

--Jim Dannon, Mill Valley resident

At yesterday's meeting, I very much appreciated Mark's efforts to step back and consider the history and architectural context and from which the College of Marin campus has evolved.

There is a good reason so many of us who have lived near the college for many years are focusing on this point. The College of Marin was a beautiful campus at one point. I've been a user of the campus for about 50 years - as a child riding my bike down the elegant arcade hallway of the Spanish mission style predecessor to Harlan Hall, as a student at the college, and as a father teaching his kids how to play soccer on the great lawn with the dramatic view of Mt. Tam. That original design - w/ its alignment to Mt Tam and its central outdoor room - the great lawn - as Mark focused on was indeed a successful design - it evoked positive feelings and memories, and was used as intended.

Having attended several meetings with concerned residents, there is a consistent theme: We believe the College of Marin has sadly lost its way from a design point of view. We are looking for a design that seeks to recapture some of the esthetic beauty that the campus had before all the concrete blocks went up - particularly now with the ill-conceived Fine Arts building going up virtually in the middle of the great lawn and at odd angles to the natural alignment of original campus design. The feelings in the community (and shared by many faculty) are not simply a case of nostalgia. There are many buildings that have disappeared in Kentfield over the years and no one misses them. The positive feelings about the older COM structures and campus are based on successful esthetic elements and site design.

I applaud Mark for bringing attention to these points. His concept is a step in the right direction. As many yesterday noted, the design presented, however, could go much further in bringing back the pleasing, softer lines of the original campus design - i.e. stucco, mission style look, with covered open arched arcades that protected you during the Kentfield's rainy season. The design should worry less about trying to tie together the horrible mistakes of the current buildings going up, and strike out on its own to try to restore elements of the core style of the earlier campus. The current project under consideration at the corner of College and Sir Francis Drake is of significant mass and central location so that it will become the defining architectural style of the whole campus.

As others mentioned, the project is also an important opportunity to address how the campus faces College Ave. It is - for better or worse - our town's Main St. and the design of this element should go much further in reflecting a main street quality to it. Strolls through Larkspur, San Anselmo or Ross can provide a lot of examples and inspiration along these lines. The oval theater, in my view, does not seem to fit well into the design - it does very little to restore the alignment Mark talked about in his opening comments. I would encourage that more attention be paid to the original building that was at that location (prior to the current Harlan Hall). This was the real "crown jewel" of the campus (w/ Fusselman Hall playing a much more junior role). There is a huge opportunity with this project to come up with a concept for that spot that serves as the "crown jewel" for the whole campus and that plays off or complements Fusselman

I'm cautiously optimistic that with further discussion and development of Mark's central themes, a new and elegant chapter could be started for the College. One that is satisfying to the community, residents, students and faculty.

-- Thanks, Reto Tuffli

113. Email # 18

I have the following comments regarding the recent presentation by ED2 International and TLCD/Mark Cavagnero:

- As a resident of Kentfield for more than 40 years, I am saddened to see the loss of the historic character of the campus. However, the damage is already done and I can only hope that the architect selected by the Board will have the skill and vision necessary to bring something to the community that meets the needs of the students and also addresses the genuine feelings of Kentfield residents that attention to the past not be abandoned in favor of a continuation of the recent urban style of architecture adopted by the Board. While I do not like the stark treatment of the structure facing College Avenue as currently proposed by Mark Cavagnero, I do feel that he has a far greater understanding of the total site than the representative of ED2, and if hired by the Board, appears to be willing to work with the Community to arrive at a plan that addresses our concerns.
- I am concerned with the project timetable as it applies to the amount of time that the selected architect will be available to the community. President White said on Tuesday, the 30th., that the architect would be available to the community as necessary to make sure that our concerns were completely understood and addressed. However, she also said that the majority of such sessions would have to be during 9 to 5 working hours. This shuts out many of us who work in the City and would be willing to commit our evening and weekend hours to this process.
- I hope that the Board has heard the concerns of the residents and is not merely paying them lip service. I understand that the final decision on the project rests with the Board, but it would be tragic if this process winds up to be a sham.

-- Neil M. Park, 105 McAllister, Kentfield

114. Email # 19

After attending both of the architect presentations for the new Academic Center, I have the following observations.

Mark Cavagnero shows great care and concern regarding campus placement, and his goal in minimizing the building footprint is laudable. Ultimately, however, the sheer size of his building seems uninviting and out of place. In addition, I have concerns about the open-air arboretum concept - this was tried in the current science building, and it was not successful. I prefer the design by ED2. The buildings seem to be a better fit for the campus. In addition, I was impressed with some of the architects ideas for changing his original concept to incorporate concerns that had been voiced.

--Sincerely, Beth Patel

115. Email # 20

To: Board of Trustees, COM & Modernization Office, COM

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the community meetings with the two architectural firm finalists. Each presented some appealing ideas and showed a willingness to listen to and respond to community concerns. This is a good start.

As the President of the Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association, I want to voice a paramount concern from a neighborhood perspective: That whatever is built at the Academic Center site respects, and integrates successfully with, a vision of College Avenue as a true community main street that reflects the heart of Kentfield. College Avenue today shows how the College has historically viewed its face to the community...the backs of buildings, loading docks, shabby temporary buildings, parking lots, and multiple entrance and exit curb cuts. Neither of the architects seemingly put much thought or priority on how the building will impact College Avenue, nor on the obvious opportunity this project affords to help make a main street that can better integrate the College with the community - a real win-win.

The Mark Cavagnero firm is from my perspective the more appealing alternative of the two, both in terms of the concepts reflected in the drawings as well as Mark's personal approach to thinking about the site and the project. But the driving priorities of his concept are the inside of the campus, and its interface with Sir Francis Drake. But the building, which has many appealing aspects, including its compactness, is forced down on top of College Avenue - much too close and presenting much too much of a fortress wall to contribute anything friendly, relaxed or interesting to the street. I'm respectful of the desire to build around the two old oaks, which is apparently the reason for wedging the mass of this building as close to the street as possible. But this structure will define and dominate the Kentfield community forever...in relative terms, I would look for other ways to respect our arboreal goals without condemning the community to an abrupt two-story building which squeezes pedestrian life into a sliver of a sidewalk, all in a way which feels out of character with and unsupportive of what we would like College Avenue to be.

as a grand entrance point to the College. It isn't, and it can't easily be imagined how it could become that. This is an area of fast-turning cars and heavy traffic without any opportunity for drop-offs by public transit or private automobile. There seems to be a misplaced desire to use that corner visually and physically as an arrival point ... but without people the outcome is likely to be an overbuilt desert. The original "gateway" misnomer for the project did a disservice in leading conceptualization of the site in this direction...it needs to be revisited.

I think this an exciting opportunity to do something wonderful for our community and the College. We look forward to continuing to work together.

--Josh Rafner, President, Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association

116. **Email # 21**

To the College of Marin Board of Trustees

What a treat it was last night to experience such a wonderful presentation of an absolutely spectacular vision for the new Academic Center at the College of Marin.

I am writing to express my full support for the Architect, Mark Cavagnero, his team and the development of his elegant proposal.

Mark showed not only his total understanding of the campus, its surroundings and the passions of the community, but blended his buildings, his landscaping and architecture with the past, present and future campus, creating a simple, cohesive and harmonious series of outdoor spaces, axis and beautiful vistas.

The attention to scale, materials and sense of place of his proposal showed skill and finesse experienced only at the highest level of competency and architecture. Consideration for all layers of the campus, the public spaces of College Avenue and the ease of entry and discovery for users has been extremely well thought out and studied, and furthermore, complemented by an architecture of timelessness and beauty.

Mark is clearly totally dedicated to his art and will insist on only seeing a wonderful project becoming realized for all of us, the residents of Kentfield (Ross Valley, Marin, CA...), the College Community and all of the users and passers-by.

I feel privileged and extremely fortunate to be this close to seeing this site receive buildings, a place, and a vision designed by this gifted Architect. Please, take advantage of this opportunity, this is definitely the one not to miss!

I cannot wait to use it, pass it by, sit in the stairs, take my kids to this place and point to the stars and say, "I told you. Isn't this place fantastic!".

--Peter Brockman, 7 Spring Road, Kentfield, CA

117. Email # 22

Comments on the architect selection for the proposed Academic Center at the College of Marin

It is without doubt that the team headed and presented by Mark Cavagnero is suited to produce the best solutions for the College of Marin's architectural and landscape architectural statements. It is very possible that this project guided by this team will be one of great enhancement to the environment of the campus and surrounding community.

As long time residents of Kentfield (Molly was born and raised here) we were particularly impressed by their research and understanding of the history and earlier guidance of the layout of buildings around an open space focused on Mt. Tam to reestablish the main spine of the campus. His work to reintegrate the buildings old and new to recreate this harmonious whole brings function and beauty to the new Academic Center. This architectural proposal, although only conceptual at this point, shows extraordinary genius in designing a structure that meets the program needs yet reduces the building footprint, allowing more varieties of useful outdoor space. We liked the compact building of the Academic Center itself with its open atrium and air flow. Stepping it up in two blocks from College Avenue to the dome of the quad lessens the sense of mass and leads one up to the campus.

We believe the wall perpendicular to College Avenue as originally proposed is an important element of mass and direction appropriate for campus name signage and compositional mass at the edge of the open space and trees, although it could be much lower in height.

We urge you to retain the architectural firm of Mark Cavagnero/TLCD for this important part of the building program for the College of Marin.

Max and Molly Schardt, 8 Orchard Way, Kentfield

118. Email # 23

PARKING + BUILDINGS = FLOW

The parking and the locations of uses (destinations of those who are parking) are intrinsically interrelated. They need to be evaluated at the same time. With the terrain that exists at COM the opportunities for tucking parking under buildings or open areas also need to be evaluated. A

businesses, neighboring residents and the environment.

--Jack Liebster

119. Email # 24

Elizabeth,

Regarding ED2 International's Presentation, March 30, 2010, I have two comments:

1. I'm not sure of the justification for the elevated, covered walkways between the two buildings, other than convenience. They add to the clutter of the whole complex and block views. If I were a desk-bound worker at the college, I would welcome the occasional opportunity to use the stairs to get where I need to go.
2. This is not directed at ED2. Whatever short-sighted thinking went into destroying one of the few sweet spots in all of Kentfield, that of the beautiful lawn and view area that has now been destroyed by the new arts building, perhaps this disaster can be partially mitigated by expanding to the east what remains of the lawn. ED2's plan has a new building essentially replacing the footprint of the part of Harlan Center that borders the lawn. Of course it would be desirable to save the Japanese Maples (?) that currently border the lawn, but removing them and expanding the lawn to its former square footage might be more desirable in the long run.

--Thank you, Michael Wanger, Granton Park, Kentfield

120. Email # 25

The following is in response to ED2 International's Gateway Presentation held on March 30, 2010:

Background

The College of Marin's Kentfield campus has an illustrious and historic past as a small Junior college in the unincorporated area of Kentfield within Marin County. College of Marin was known in its early years as, Little Cal, a small two year feeder college to the four University, University of California at Berkeley. College of Marin's humble beginnings were made possible through benevolent land grants provided by the Butler and Kent families. The original campus was constructed in a Spanish Mission style revised and is ever present in other public facilities in and about the Ross Valley namely, Ross City Hall, post office, police and fire stations, as well as

same and reference pages 37 and 38 of the College of Marin's alumni publication). Over the last forty years and with the most recent architectural concepts for building construction under Measure C and specifically, the Gateway Building, this historic theme of the Spanish Mission style of building seems to be lost. Thankfully, with today's technology, a façade replication embracing the Mission Style can be incorporated on the exterior of any sustainable building. When considering Measure C language and the historical significance of College of Marin's Kentfield Campus, a link to its passed humble beginnings would seem to be a must and overwhelmingly supported by the community at large as the entry to the community of Kentfield and home of the College of Marin.

ED 2 Presentation comments

Ed 2 International's original presentation, as well as, revised conceptual drawing was too conventional/apartment building-like, oversized in height and spread out; simply overpowering for its geographic location with an apparent desire to make a statement through a daunting street presence. Although ED 2 revised concept had token Spanish Mission style components it fell short of the replica type architectural details envisioned in the previous paragraph which would marry the campus with its passed and be in concert with the Kentfield community. Should the Gateway structure be constructed in the general location of College and Sir Francis Drake it should be downsized, set well off the street frontage and away from the intersection corner. In order to downsize the structure, I suggest a program review for the Gateway be undertaken and consideration be given to placing all Administrative Staff in the Austin Science building, a surplus structure with the construction of the proposed New Math and Science building, or the underutilized Indian Valley Campus where half of the Administrative Staff operate from now instead of relocating all Administration to the Gateway Building.

Furthermore, the proposed Gateway Entrance appears to be improperly positioned because for all practical purposes this gateway entrance will not be adequately utilized. As a commuter school the majority of the student body will be arriving from the south end of the campus. Traditionally, campus gateways and gathering locations for students are purposely centrally located within the heart of the campus not necessarily curbside locations. As I understand it there are four recognized entry locations in which to walk into the College of Marin campus. There appears no particular reason to elevate one entry point as the grand entrance.

Additionally, if it's desired to identify the campus so prospective students don't inadvertently pass it by, which has been expressed as justification for the Gateway building/entry by some faculty and administration, simply place a small attractive landmark surrounded by landscaping at the corner of College and Sir Francis Drake, currently occupied by the Taqueria.

TLCD presentation comments

TLCD's original presentation was too modernistic with exceptionally sharp angles which gave it

historic past. What TLCD's original design did have as a positive was its compactness while still addressing program needs.

TLCD's revised design appears improved when considering the following changes/features:

*With the removal of the canopy and wall the campus has a more welcoming feel and presents a compatible open but wooded space while re-establishing and re-aligning the Central Lawn Quad and Mount Tamalpais orientation (the heart of the campus) which had been lost through the placement of encroaching structures. It also allows a more unobstructed view into campus.

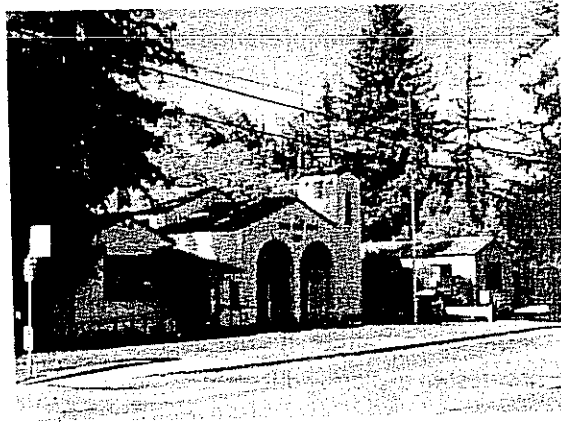
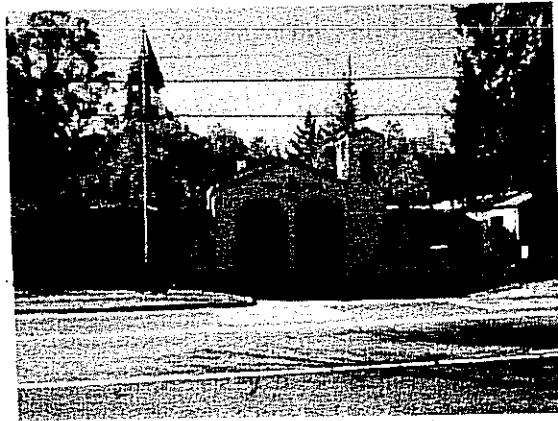
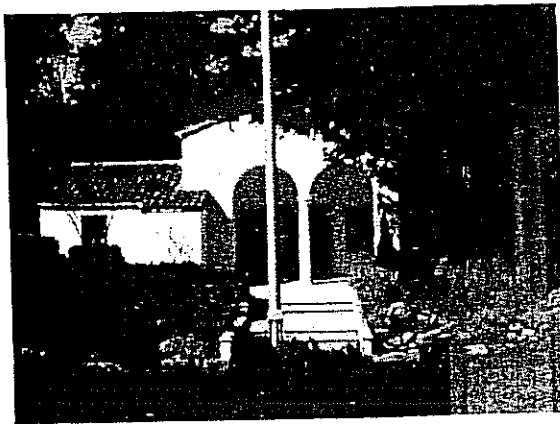
*TLCD has maintained a compact Gateway building design which is off the corner and allows the campus grounds to unite with campus structures on what one would have to admit is a densely built-out campus footprint.

*TLCD power point presentation and discussion revealed the firm's willingness to design/explore the new Gateway building as a stucco finished building with façade character additions to soften the original designs overly modernistic appearance. I consider this new approach as more fitting with the campus historically and the Kentfield community. The structures being replaced are with a stucco finish

In closing, it has been stated that whichever Architect is ultimately chosen to design the new Gateway Building it will be as if they were handed a blank sheet of paper to create this critically important structure. It's our believe that TLCD's building compactness, design changes, and interest in exploring different façade finishes and character additions will be an asset to the campus and the community. It is within this same spirit of partnership and community input that we offer these comments for the practical function of the campus and educational needs of the students attending the College of Marin Kentfield campus.

--Very truly yours, Scott and Suzanne Peoples, 23 Maple Avenue, Kentfield, Ca. 94904

(please see attached photos provided by Mr. & Mrs. Peoples – next 2 pages)





April 2, 2010

President Frances White, College of Marin

Board of Trustees, College of Marin

V-Anne Chernock, Modernization Program, College of Marin

Heather.Holiday@marin.edu

**Issues /proposed selection of architect for Kentfield campus New Academic Center.
(NAC) of College of Marin (COM)**

Dear concerned Trustees and staff:

Rather than select the firm ED2 International Architects that has an outstanding record and merited the "runner up" status in my view, I believe that the trio of experts of TLCD Architects, Mark Cavagnero as principal architect, should be your choice. He

- Recognizes historic setting of campus; relationship of past plantings, heritage tree preservation and 1930's buildings aligned for focus Mount Tamalpais icon with contemporary spaces for students' informal interaction; out door learning areas in surround of today's and previous structures built in 3 phases
- Retains remaining building Fusselman Hall (budgeted \$9 m renovation) and relates to newest structures, Science and Fine Arts by planned axis to it and to reconnect Sir Francis Drake eye-view across campus of, again, Mt. Tam
- Relates by plan accommodating a vision integrating this learning complex, (NAC) with new Fine Arts and Science buildings by construction materials and footprint siting of (NAC) and assembly theatre/lecture hall
- Removes dramatic Gateway design "charged by" concept of grand entrance, now discarded by Board in response to recent vital community comments with modified design for academic / learning center
- Reviews Friends of Kentfields' / Woodlands' concerns and demonstrates his flexibility for constructive change and design leadership and necessary ability to hear and incorporate solutions to problems.
- Represents many past excellent designed campus concepts and buildings throughout the United States
- Reflects a stance that honors Marin and the students and community attendees who will be using this future building.
- Realizes circulation and entry from parking and transit areas essential in the construct of lively student, visitor, elderly/disabled and hurried users of COM

assessment of needed space (11/17/2013) and offering offerings for COM's realistic need to equal to existing space or increased space for classrooms and office space, and historic acclaimed diversified and accelerated course offerings. Staff storage/desk needs has increased on our campus with this diversity as exceptional part time instructors, (current and future trend for part time faculty for budget and expertise needs) who need *more* office space. This is acute, especially since our campus has more varied uses of this campus as a functioning COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER – varied range of students from age 14 (e.g. my granddaughter in a French conversational course) my former gifted art students from Tam High School from age 16 to retired professionals and AA degree earning students of all ages. Learning is enhanced by seniors enrolled in fields of interest and assist in all learning interaction with students of all ages and their instructor. (Reflective of CLR In the Fine Arts building complex are smaller class rooms, insufficient student storage space, and unwise combinations of printmaking (ink and stationary and needed flat files, glassed worktables and print drying areas with drawing courses that require model space; drawing horses in circular arrangement (limited space means limited class size).

COM needs are for more space for our atypical campus and exceptional range of offerings, as well as an increasing need for remedial / English speaking Language (ESL) and especially excellence in more program offerings for more students who shall be matriculating to upper division universities and state colleges.

Departments also need larger spaces for conferences (with food bar) in mini size assembly spaces, adapted from related classroom spaces or sound proof partitions in lecture /study spaces. Evening and weekend programs in sustainability / climate change have been in existing spaces with exciting community / student / specialists / instructor offerings.

Since we get no State fund allocation because of CLR or other standards, could we not then, listen to staff and students and community **before space and needs parameters are given the chosen architectural firm?**

Could the architect design greenery with native plants, removal of some hardscape entry with a permeable entrance area into the student center and have most primary pathways meeting ADA standard but using compacted granite rather than uneven brick or asphalt.

An arborist should appraise the life expectancy of 3 oak trees by the retaining wall, which limits space in the NAC. Sudden Oak Death is a future problem.

Why isn't money budgeted for renovation of the Music / old Fine Arts building rehabilitation? The performing arts, dance, theatre and community music courses / programs are an outstanding cultural educational (multigenerational) resource for Marin.

If there is extra bond money because of cost reductions in these economic challenged times, please set aside sums for this great need.