

A Message to the San Jose City Council

May 1, 2018

Dear Council Members.

My name is Lee Kopp. I am an Events Captain in the City of San Jose Public Works Department, a member of the Silicon Valley Concierge Association, and I manage arts communications for Symphony Silicon Valley, sjDANCEco, Steinway Society, 3 Below Theaters & Lounge and other local arts organizations.

I was born and raised in San Jose and sat at the knees of City Historian Clyde Arbuckle for many years before his passing and listened to his stories of our city's founding, its background, and certainly of the Light Tower and its impact on San Jose's reputation throughout the region, the country, and indeed...the world.

I know from personal experience how San Jose has always had an identity crises. People constantly say, "Oh, San Jose...there is just no THERE, there." And in a sense they are correct. We have no single landmark that stands out in the imagination of our own citizens, let along the rest of the world. We think of ourselves as the Center of Technology, and yet we have nothing to point to, that physically marks our territory.

This proposal for a new Light Tower can provide a world-class iconic landmark to inspire and build civic pride. When a gift like that walks into council chambers and says, "Please take this gift from our hearts and give it to the people of San Jose and all people, everywhere, who believe in the combined forces of art and technology. Let it inspire us all for generations to come."

I ask you NOT to ignore such a generous gift.
Thank you all.

Lee Kopp