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City Council 9/30/2025 - Item 8.2: Gateway Tower Project

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From Jay Hairston [REDACTED]

Date Mon 9/29/2025 9:15 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Torres, Omar <Omar.Torres@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear Mayor Mahan and City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the memo from Councilmember Tordillos, Mayor Mahan, and Councilmember Cohen related to Item 8.2 on your agenda for Tuesday, September 30, 2025, which would offer right of first refusal to local, SoFA-based artists for 10 low-income, rent-restricted units in the Gateway Tower affordable housing project.

As stated in the memo, this project creates an opportunity for "a unique form of housing in which artists can live, collaborate, and create in the same communities they bring to life with their art each day." The proposal from Councilmember Tordillos et al. could be a game-changing moment for local artists who are rapidly being forced out of San José by the high cost of living.

Please approve the Tordillos-Mahan-Cohen memo to help keep creativity alive in our city!

John Hairston  
Facility Manager/Cafe Supervisor at 3Below Theaters  
Downtown San Jose

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City Council 9/30/2025 – Item 8.2: Gateway Tower Project

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From Jonathan Borca <[REDACTED]>

Date Mon 9/29/2025 9:36 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Torres, Omar <Omar.Torres@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear Mayor Mahan and City Council,

My name is Jonathan Francisco Borca, and I am writing as an artist, cultural producer, and San José resident to express my strong support for the memo from Councilmember Tordillos, Mayor Mahan, and Councilmember Cohen related to Item 8.2, which would offer right of first refusal to local, SoFA-based artists for 10 low-income, rent-restricted units in the Gateway Tower affordable housing project. I'm writing as an individual and not in any official capacity or on behalf of any organization or commission.

I was raised in San José's East Side (District 5), where I lived from 1995 through 2022. I now reside along Monterey Road in District 2. Over the past two decades, I've seen firsthand how quickly artists and cultural workers are being priced out of our city. San José has a wealth of homegrown talent from visual artists like Elba Raquel and Francisco Ramirez, to photographer Alex Knowbody, to poet laureates and storytellers like Mighty Mike McGee and Yosimar Reyes. Through my own work producing *The Haberdasher Shows* and curating residencies like *Hip Hop(e) & Healing* at the San José Museum of Art, I've witnessed how essential these creatives are to community life. Ensuring they have housing options to remain rooted here will benefit all of San José, both culturally and economically.

This proposal offers a concrete step in that direction. Gateway Tower can serve as a model for how we connect cultural districts with housing policy, ensuring that artists not only contribute to San José's vibrancy but also have the stability to live and thrive here. From my perspective as someone rooted in the local arts ecosystem, approving this memo is a vital investment in San José's future.

Please vote yes on the Tordillos-Mahan-Cohen memo to help keep creativity and culture alive in our city.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Francisco Borca  
Resident, District 2 (Monterey Road)

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City Council 9/30/2025 - Item 8.2: Gateway Tower Project

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From E A <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 9/30/2025 9:50 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Torres, Omar <Omar.Torres@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear Mayor Mahan and City Council,

I first wanted to say I am truly impressed by this project and the number and type of affordable units that will be available. This is an excellent opportunity to further expand the natural strength of our Downtown community, which has been the Arts.

I am writing to express my support for the memo from Councilmember Tordillos, Mayor Mahan, and Councilmember Cohen related to Item 8.2 on your agenda for Tuesday, September 30, 2025, which would offer right of first refusal to local, SoFA-based artists for 10 low-income, rent-restricted units in the Gateway Tower affordable housing project.

As stated in the memo, this project creates an opportunity for "a unique form of housing in which artists can live, collaborate, and create in the same communities they bring to life with their art each day." The proposal from Councilmember Tordillos et al. could be a game-changing moment for local artists who are rapidly being forced out of San José by the high cost of living.

Please approve the Tordillos-Mahan-Cohen memo to help keep creativity alive in our city!

Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano  
District 3/St. James/Julian Neighborhood

Thank You!

Volunteer: YES ON MEASURE A!

<https://www.saveourlocalhospitals.com>

Volunteer: YES ON PROP 50!

[stopelectionrigging.com](http://stopelectionrigging.com)

Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano

she/her/ella/GRRLL!

Artist/Creative

Expand TRUST in SJ!/INVEST IN COMMUNITY

Political Ambassador, Afro UPRIS/Black Political Representation Needed in SCC!

Choir, Member of Urban Sanctuary

Unhoused Response Group, Housing Justice Advocate

Downtown Resident of District 3: St. James/Julian Neighborhood

Values: Honesty, Kindness, Compassion, Courage, Justice

"be a light  
that doesn't cast shadows  
on anyone

have a smile  
that shines  
for everyone

and create a happiness  
that can be taken by  
no one"

~ellen everett

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City Council 9/30/2025 - Item 8.2: Gateway Tower Project

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From Sadie TheArtist [REDACTED]

Date Tue 9/30/2025 10:17 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>

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Please approve the Tordillos-Mahan-Cohen memo to help keep creativity alive in our city!

Sadie Amick  
Downtown San Jose  
Artist and future firefighter

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City Council 9/30/2025 - Item 8.2: Gateway Tower Project

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From Carman Tyra [REDACTED]

Date Tue 9/30/2025 11:18 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>

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Please approve the Tordillos-Mahan-Cohen memo to help keep creativity alive in our city!

Carman Tyra Gaines  
District 3 Resident

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City Council 9/30/2025 - Item 8.2: Gateway Tower Project

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From Meredith Orr [REDACTED]

Date Tue 9/30/2025 11:24 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>

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Please approve the Tordillos-Mahan-Cohen memo to help keep creativity alive in our city!

D3 Resident

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City Council 9/30/2025 - Item 8.2: Gateway Tower Project

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From Cathleen King [REDACTED]

Date Tue 9/30/2025 12:36 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>

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San Jose Stage Company sits directly across the street from this site and we employ over 150 artists every year. We struggle to house many of these artist at anything close to an affordable rate. In the last five to six years, we've experienced many talented artists leave San Jose—and even leave California—because the housing market here has made it impossible for them to stay. Artists deserve to work, live and play in their own community.

This is more than an industry issue. When artists leave, San Jose loses part of its cultural soul. Dedicated artist housing in this project would be a lifeline for our creative workforce and a clear sign that San Jose values and protects the people who bring art, vitality, and innovation to our city.

As stated in the memo, this project creates an opportunity for “a unique form of housing in which artists can live, collaborate, and create in the same communities they bring to life with their art each day.” The proposal from Councilmember Tordillos et al. could be a game-changing moment for local artists who are rapidly being forced out of San José by the high cost of living.

Please approve this project with the 10% artist housing designation as outlined in the Tordillos-Mahan-Cohen memo to help keep creativity alive in our city!

With gratitude,

Cathleen King  
Executive Director  
San Jose Stage Company



[www.thestage.org](http://www.thestage.org)

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City Council 9/30/2025 - Item 8.2: Gateway Tower Project

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From Peter Allen <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 9/30/2025 12:39 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>

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Please approve the Tordillos-Mahan-Cohen memo to help keep creativity alive in our city!

Peter Allen  
District 6 Resident  
Co-Founder, San José Arts Advocates

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