

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers and City Manager:

My name is Marek Dzida and I have managed the 2nd Saturday Art Walk Street Fair in the East Village Art District for the last 20 years.

In 1996, the City of Long Beach, local businesses, together with the Redevelopment Agency, DLBA and the East Village Association created a plan, *The East Village Arts District Guide for Development*, for the future of the Art District in Downtown Long Beach. One of the core elements of this document was a plan to establish a community street festival that would become a signature of the Art District. In response to this *Guide*, the East Village Association started the 2nd Saturday Art Walk Street Fair in August 1997.

This event is open to the public, free of charge and accessible to everyone. This event has been hosted every month since 1997, and it has been attended by thousands over the years.

As a matter of quite surprising fact, as the organizers, we have had to pay for all City permits and other expenses in order to provide this free, open to all community event for Long Beach. We could only do this for so long.

Additionally, the City of Long Beach Special Events and Filming Office after 20 years, still requires us to obtain signatures from 80% of the businesses and HOAs on the block of the Art Walk every month in order to issue the permit. The charge for the exact same permit is \$500.00 every 6 months.

Recently, a handful of individuals (4) have refused to sign-off on the event and thus have effectively put a stop to this 20-year-old tradition.

We, the residents, business owners and artists do not want to lose the Art Walk.

Here is what we believe needs to happen, and where we need your help in order to continue:

- After 20 years of existence (that is over 240 events) the Art Walk has become a permanent reality of the East Village. We would like to ask you to grandfather-in this event in the East Village on Linden Ave between 1st Street and Broadway, and wave the requirement for survey signatures.
- Additionally, we would like you to wave all the City fees that are collected from us.
- Finally, we would like you to dedicate a consistent stream of funds for the event from the 1% for the Arts Budget to our non-profit organization so that the event can be properly financed and managed for many years to come.

I would like to know what the next step would be in order to have these issues addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

2nd Saturday Art Walk Organization,
501(c)3 nonprofit public charity.
117 Linden Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802
Tel 562.682-9735, www.ArtWalkLB.com,
findyourart@earthlink.net