



To: Esmerelda Soria, Fresno City Council, District 1
Miguel Arias, Fresno City Council, District 3
Phillip Siegrist, Tower District Specific Plan Committee

Re: The proposed sale of Tower Theatre to Adventure Church

The Tower District is a vibrant cultural center within the City of Fresno, where many Fresnans go to eat, drink, shop, partake of the arts, and be entertained. Tower is home to a great many community and performance arts events, locally-owned small businesses, bars, restaurants, and Fresno's LGBTQ+ scene, which results in Tower always being highly recommended to people visiting Fresno from out-of-town. Tower residents and businesses take great pride in being part of this community, and the energy and culture in the Tower District is unparalleled anywhere in the City of Fresno.

We were very intentional about opening Fresno's first community hackerspace in the Tower District, the heart of which is, of course, the iconic Tower Theatre.

The sale of Tower Theatre to a church is not in line with the Tower Districts culture, nor the Tower Districts' General Plan. In addition to the major ramifications for Tower culture and nightlife, it would limit future use permits which prevents new businesses from opening, and it would present serious challenges to post-pandemic economic recovery.

We empathize with the financial plight of the current owners of Tower Theatre – the COVID-19 pandemic has been hard for many businesses and organizations, us included – and we do not fault them for wanting to sell the theater.

However, the owners – both current and future – of the Tower District's namesake theater have a responsibility to our community:

- Tower Theatre must continue to operate as a performing arts venue.
- Tower Theatre must be an asset to Tower businesses and the local economy.
- Tower Theater must be supportive of Tower culture and the community.



We appreciate Adventure Church's desire to participate in our community, but we do not feel their ownership of Tower Theatre would be beneficial to the community and that, in fact, it would be actively harmful to Tower residents and businesses, the Tower District as a whole, and the entire City of Fresno. We welcome and encourage them to seek a more suitable location within the Tower District.

As a community space based in the Tower District, and on behalf of our members who live and work in the Tower, we stand with the Tower community in fervently opposing the selling of Tower Theatre to any church. We request more community involvement in this process, and fully support taking any actions necessary to ensure that Tower Theatre remains the heart of the Tower District.

#SaveTowerTheatre.

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