



The Kelsey

**1460 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
www.thekelsey.org**

Transmitted via email

May 21, 2021

Re: Support for Downtown West

Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of the City Council
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Arenas, Davis, Carrasco, Cohen, Foley, Jimenez, Mahan, and Peralez.

On behalf of The Kelsey, we would like to express our support for Downtown West.

At The Kelsey, we pioneer disability-forward housing solutions that open doors to more affordable homes and opportunities for everyone. We have 240 homes in our pipeline and lead organizing and advocacy initiatives to support market conditions to make inclusive housing the norm. Most recently, we are grateful for your support and investment in The Kelsey Ayer Station, the mixed-income, mixed-ability 115 unit development at 447 N. First Street.

As The Kelsey Ayer Station breaks ground later this year, we believe that Downtown West's public benefits have the potential to create a more inclusive city. Specifically, the development of 4,000 new homes, with 25% of them being affordable, will provide housing to diverse residents in the Diridon Station Area. We would like to recommend that as Downtown West

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proceeds, the voices and housing needs of people with disabilities and people with extremely low incomes are included in the development process. This can be done through incorporating a focus of accessibility, disability inclusion, and/or deep affordability. We also recommend that providing amenities such as transit-passes for residents can increase ridership and public investment in our vital public transit systems from which the future residents of The Kelsey Ayer Station will also benefit. Moreover, as the Community Stabilization & Opportunity Pathway Fund will prioritize San José communities who have been affected by structural racism and displacement, we want to ensure that people of color with disabilities are explicitly included in the planning and roll out. The Kelsey would be happy to provide further information and/or recommendations throughout the planning process.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to the opportunities that Downtown West can provide to San Jose, including to people with disabilities of all income levels, backgrounds and identities.

Sincerely,

Micaela Connery
Founder & CEO
The Kelsey

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