

Jacob, Melinda

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**Subject:** FW: 2211 Harold Way

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**From:** Charlene Woodcock [<mailto:charlene@woodynet.net>]

**Sent:** Sunday, May 03, 2015 10:29 AM

**To:** Berkeley Mayor's Office; Maio, Linda; Moore, Darryl; Anderson, Maxwell; Arreguin, Jesse L.; Capitelli, Laurie; Wengraf, Susan; Worthington, Kriss; Droste, Lori; City Clerk; Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB); Zarnowitz, Sally; Burns, Anne M; Powell, Greg; Allen, Shannon; Jacob, Melinda; Merker, Mary Ann; Amoroso, Alexander

**Cc:** Keith Johnson

**Subject:** 2211 Harold Way

To: elected and appointed members and staff of Berkeley city government

I write as longtime resident of Berkeley who values, in addition to the racial, cultural, and economic diversity which has enriched the city, the now-diminishing opportunities to see great world films that the Northside theaters, UC Theatre, Act I & Act II, the Fine Arts Theater, and Pauline Kael's Berkeley Cinema Guild afforded us in the past. Most recently we lost the Fine Arts theater, due to the broken promise of the developer of the Fine Arts Building.

It should be mandatory that any elected or appointed city official who will vote on the question of permitting a Los Angeles developer, with the assistance of former City Planning Manager Mark Rhoades, to demolish the Shattuck Cinemas, should tour the 10-screen Shattuck Avenue theater. Besides 10 other films, the Shattuck Cinemas are currently showing *The Salt of the Earth*, a beautifully-made documentary film by Wim Wenders and Juliano Ribeiro Salgado that provides a view of the magnificent life work of the great photographer Sebastião Salgado. This film is being shown nowhere else in Berkeley or the East Bay. Anyone who sees this film cannot fail to appreciate the immense value of this cinematic experience. There is no way to match it on the small screens used for home viewing of movies.

Such films are brought to us by the Shattuck Cinemas in their ten screening rooms of varying sizes that accommodate viewers of widely popular films as well as the more obscure ones we would not otherwise have the opportunity to see. The Egyptian Revival and Moorish screening rooms were beautifully designed by architect William Simpson in 1988, the inspiration of Allen Michaan who owns the Grand Lake Theatre, to recall the detailed ornament and exoticism of the movie palaces of the 1920s. It is unthinkable to the thousands of Berkeley residents and many others who treasure the Shattuck Cinemas, that our own elected representatives would approve their destruction.

Please do your due diligence before voting on this very significant proposal to destroy one of the cultural and economic magnets to our downtown.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Woodcock  
2355 Virginia Street  
Berkeley 94709





photos by Bill Woodcock