

**Baumb, Nelly**

**From:** Kyle Heller <kyleeheller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 14, 2020 8:08 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Letter : Teen Program Funding

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.**

To the Esteemed City Council of the City of Palo Alto:

What currently faces us as a community is nothing short of a malstrom of poorly-timed coincidences and unfortunate accidents - in the coming months and potentially years, we are likely to be battered by recession, unemployment, and loss on a nearly unprecedented scale. Undoubtedly, we will be forced to cut spending in order to match the unfortunate loss in revenue we are slated to be matched by, and I'm not going to dodge this or attempt to paint a picture of a peachy-perfect world where things are not limited by expense or income. It's an unfortunate situation we find ourselves in, and I do not envy your job of making the difficult decisions required to keep our city running and to wisely subdivide the limited funds in a system that, simply put, cannot exist in its current state with a diminished incoming cash flow. The task ahead of you is certainly difficult, and will inevitably require some part of our city to take a hit in order to balance the budget, but I beseech of you to hear me out and use this as a form of public opinion to better guide your choice.

To make it clear, I understand that not everything will be salvageable after the budget cuts. I will not pretend like non-essential public services like the entertainment programs surpass the importance of departments like HHS or the Fire Department. Undoubtedly, funds will have to be properly managed, and obviously the non-essential services will be forced to take some hit in order to serve the greater good, but I ask you to reconsider *how much* they are disadvantaged by. I believe that the budget cuts to programs such as Cubberly's MakeX makerspace, the Palo Alto Teen Arts Council, and the Palo Alto Children's Theatre - while considerably better compared to an outright cancellation of these programs - still needs to be mitigated in order to better preserve these programs.

If it was not clear already, the exigence of me writing to you is found in a simple matter - as a teenager who will shortly be leaving in the coming years for college, I find myself in the unique position of someone who has experienced the wonders that the City of Palo Alto has to offer through its public outreach programs. But as someone who is leaving, I will likely not experience any changes brought to these programs through the budget cuts. While it would be assumed this would make me more apathetic to the changes - since I won't be around to be hindered by them, it would seem that I'm liable to not care - I can assure you it's the exact opposite. When I hear about these programs shutting down or being massively underfunded, let me be clear - I am not fighting for these to be preserved due to some misplaced sense of nostalgia or simply because I want to experience these for one last time before I outgrow them. I'm fighting for the next generation of students after me, who have not gotten a chance to experience these wonderful contributions that the city provides to the community. I am championing the children who have never gotten the chance to experience the joy of 3D printing something of their own design, of painting and erecting sets for a show, of experiencing the joys of acting on stage, or of meeting with their friends somewhere to enjoy small talk and the finer points of interaction.

I am championing the generation who are too young to know what they are missing out on, or are just beginning to become acquainted with these systems. While I understand that, as Council members, your job lies in serving the best interests of this community, I'd like to remind you that all actions taken in this day and age will not only affect the youth of this community *now*, but in years to come. An investment into the right areas of these programs is not an investment into the present, but an investment into the future. You find yourselves standing at a crossroad, with the opportunity to maximize the good done in the now, or maximize the public good in the future.

While the popular conception is that there are no services to be provided from these organizations while both shelter-in-place and social distancing are active, this could not be any further from the truth. Granted, some day-to-day operations of these groups *will* be severely hindered - obviously, the PACT would not be able to pack houses for its shows like it used to, and MakeX - with sawdust shavings and laser-cutting fumes - would not be the greatest place for those avoiding respiratory issues. But the misconception that these services are not capable of still serving a public good requires urgent

correction. As I've heard through friends and associates within and around the Children's Theatre, they are still managing to teach dance classes and acting classes online via Zoom, and the children are still capable of being entertained and enlightened even while confined to their homes - especially when confined to their homes - in a public service that has managed to provide a service that no others could while pre-school and daycare centres are closed. The Teen Arts Council has managed to provide escapes and getaways from the dreariness of lock-in by hosting Game Nights and Open Mics in formats that perfectly fit the online presences we have been subjugated to by this Virus. And, although not currently active, with time I'm sure that the MakeX community could discern a way to continue to service the community - obviously with mandatory mask-usage, but also perhaps via sign-ups to use the space or even virtual usage - such as no-contact 3D printing where the files are sent virtually and staged for an easy pickup once completed.

Make no mistake, these services provide an essential service to the community - especially during a time when we are itching from cabin fever and are looking for ways to relieve our boredom and stress from the tyranny of staying at home with our family. They have adapted rather quickly and are capable of serving this community in a time when civic programs and communal togetherness are needed more than ever. Our community desperately needs these services in order to entertain, to captivate, to teach, and to empower us with the skills needed for lives. While I could speak about the life skills that theatre has taught me in the nine-and-a-half years I've been attending the Children's Theatre, I'm sure you've heard it one thousand times before, and so I'll cut the cliché. My point is simply that these aren't programs that are some superficial investment in keeping the people mildly amused - they serve a real, social purpose that we need now more than ever.

We are facing a time when children are becoming more and more distant from each other due to social media. While I'm sure I could play the oft-used "Screenagers" card and turn this into a social examination on our incessant need to distract ourselves, I'd rather focus on the real good these programs do for our city. In a time when the country needs unification more than ever, I'd say these organizations are needed desperately. I can count on one hand the amount of friends and associates I've made through contributions such as the Fire Department or Police Department, but I can't even begin to explain the scores of people I have had the personal pleasure of meeting through these programs (obviously the comparison is a little unfair, but the point stands). These programs allow us to connect with people we wouldn't otherwise connect with, to broaden our horizons, and to learn to come together as a group. To remove or lessen these staples of our community would be to doom future generations to a more limited selection of activities and people they can perform.

These are community programs that we are dealing with. Not because they are intended for the community, but because they *build* a community around them. I'm sure you are familiar with the national motto, *E Pluribus Unum* - "Out of many, we are one" - it couldn't be more applicable here. The letters you are receiving from concerned citizens and students aren't some motley band of teenagers loosely rallying behind a small organization - they're from a community that is railing and rallying in an attempt to save the very things that formed it and brought it together. We aren't separate students who are each writing on our own to protect some pet cause - we are fighting for every foot, every inch we can to preserve the systems that brought us together, that gave us lives to live, that gave us purpose and gave us each other. We need these programs just as much as we need the fire department or janitorial services.

I understand the difficulty of the decision that faces you. You may be tempted to simply say "we're still funding them, just less so" and call it a day. You may think that funding these programs partially will suffice.

Every member of these programs is as much a member of the community as the brilliant young minds the programs produced. I've on countless occasions leaned on members of the Children's Theatre staff when I needed assistance in Letters of Recommendations, and I've had the pleasure of serving with them on internship assignments that gave me *tangible job experience* over the summer. You would be hard pressed to present to me a single staff member I haven't worked with or talked to, and one I wouldn't call a positive influence, adult mentor, or friendly face. The idea of any of them being removed from the equation that made me the person I am today is a concept that brings me on the verge of tears as I write this letter. They are hardworking, honest, caring individuals who have each contributed to these programs, who are each as essential to it as the children themselves, and who have put their hearts and souls into the jobs they have. If, for all their years of loyalty and dedication to these programs, they are rewarded with being given the slip at the first sign of trouble, I would call the system harsh and unfeeling; uncaring towards those who have given their all to serving a community that, when the time came, couldn't support them when they needed it most.

I understand that it would normally be customary to dictate the many services that these programs have granted me; to list the shows that I've participated in or the projects I've worked on, and to give a list of all the things this community has given me. To be frank, I think that's a little misguided. It's a fallacy to assume that the 14 shows that I've participated in at the Children's Theatre, the six projects I've produced at MakeX, and the 7 events I've attended at the Teen Arts Council are all that they've provided to me. The atmosphere, the people, the experiences, and the memories are all easily far more valuable than any monetary value or return produced by the shows or the investments by the council. They say you can't buy happiness, but if the money provided was really what allowed me to make such great friends and have such a good time, I'd say they were wrong. These programs are a fundamental part of who I am, and what I've been able to do. The idea of them being diminished in any capacity is a thought that shakes me to my very core, and the idea that a child in the coming days may never have the chance to experience what I did is a deeply disturbing thought. I'm not someone who is moved by many things, but the realization of how much these programs have served me, of how much they've contributed to my life, and how much I'll never be able to repay the people who served me in my formative years is bringing me to tears. The realization of how much I took these for granted and how they've managed to mold me into the person I am today, to give me memories and experiences I've never really understood the magnitude and impact until now, retrospectively, is deeply and profoundly moving. I would be a different person if it were not for these programs. I wouldn't be *me*.

I urge you to continue funding these programs as much as possible. I understand that keeping things the way they are now is impossible and I understand the difficult decisions that you will have to make in the coming years to balance the checkbooks and serve our community for the best in the coming years. But investing in these programs is investing in the future of so many children's lives, and produces people like me at the end, produces people like some of my best friends and closest confidants, and serves them for life. I urge you to preserve as much funding for these organizations as possible. This is not an investment in a program. This is an investment in the community. *Our community*.

I feel sorry that you have to make this call in the coming days, months, and years. That you are faced with such a difficult decision and that you will undoubtedly face some flak or outcry regardless of the decision you make. But I trust you will make the right decision.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Heller

**Baumb, Nelly**

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**From:** Joseph Hirsch <jihirschpa@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 10:52 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Cc:** O'Kane, Kristen  
**Subject:** New PAUSD-CPA Lease Agreement re: Cubberley

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I sent the following this morning, but am not sure it was received, so I'm sending it again.

Joe Hirsch

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Mayor Fine, Vice Mayor Dubois and Council Members:

The Cardiac Therapy Foundation of the Midpeninsula (CTF), a cardiac rehabilitation program now operating under its program name of HeartFit For Life, is in our 50<sup>th</sup> year of continuous operation in Palo Alto since our inception at the Ross Road YMCA in 1970-1971.

After many years at the Terman JCC, CTF has been renting continuously at Cubberley since January 2003, first under the auspices of the JCC and for the past 10 years or so directly from the City. Our rental spaces (G5, G8 and Gym B) are listed in the definition of the rented Premises that are covered by the new Lease Agreement and are shown on the map of Exhibit B (Premises) attached to the Lease Agreement.

With the City's continuing support we hope to continue our mission of helping people with cardiovascular disease (or risk factors for cardiovascular disease) for many years to come.

Accordingly, we urge you to approve the new PAUSD-CPA Lease Agreement for the Cubberley site, which comes before you for your formal approval on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you, in advance, for the City's continuing support of the Cardiac Therapy Foundation, for which we are extremely grateful, and all of the other Cubberley tenants who will continue to have space, as many have had in the past, on the Cubberley site. That is very meaningful to all of us, and the people we serve throughout Palo Alto and the community at large.

Joe Hirsch  
Georgia Avenue, Palo Alto  
Cardiac Therapy Foundation ex-officio Board Member

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Kenneth Dauber <kdauber@pausd.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 14, 2020 2:37 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Error in Cubberley item on your June 15 agenda

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Dear City Council members,

I write to correct an error in your June 15 agenda item regarding the lease agreement between the City and PAUSD. The City Manager states, in his executive summary, that:

"Due to the negative impacts to the City's budget from the events surrounding COVID-19 **and the request by PAUSD to retain portions of Cubberley**, a new lease for Cubberley has been negotiated to reduce the City's use of the premises and the corresponding cost, while a new lease for the Extended Day Care sites has been created to extend the existing terms through the 2021-2022 school year" (emphasis added).

However, there was no request from PAUSD to the City to retain portions of Cubberley for the district's use. The Board of Education discussed the lease agreement at two public meetings. At both of those meetings Superintendent Austin stated that the decision to reduce the scope of the lease agreement was entirely at the request of City staff. At no point did the district ask the City to give up any of the space it leases at Cubberley. If you approve the amended agreement and the City does vacate space at Cubberley, I expect that the district will make use of some of it for educational purposes -- but that's in the nature of trying to make lemonade out of lemons.

In addition to the question of fact, I thought it important to correct the record in the light of the City Manager's statement, under the "Policy Implications" subhead, that "[a]mending the Lease Agreement at Cubberley Community Center is consistent with policies and programs in the Comprehensive Plan promoting City-PAUSD collaboration and the effective provision of community services." I'm not in a position to evaluate the City's policy tradeoffs, but while I think the district has been forthcoming in meeting the City's desire to cut back community services at Cubberley, I wouldn't say that the decision stems from our collaboration.

I'll also note that I'm writing on my behalf, and not on behalf of the Board of Education.

Best regards,  
Ken Dauber  
Trustee, Palo Alto Unified School District

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Jeremy Erman <jeremy\_erman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 14, 2020 8:57 PM  
**To:** Shikada, Ed; Clerk, City; Administrative Services; CSD; leConge Ziesenhenne, Monique  
**Cc:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Please discuss Cubberley earlier in the evening

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Dear City Manager Ed Shikada, City Staff, and City Council

I do not understand why the discussion of the proposed Cubberley Community Center lease is the second-to-last item on the City Council meeting agenda for June 15. This is a major issue which the Council has not discussed yet, and it is being shoe-horned in at the end of the meeting.

I urge you to move this item earlier in the evening, or call a special meeting just to discuss Cubberley.

City staff is supposed to follow Council's directives, not take matters into their own hands; yet your report to the Council on Cubberley says you have already sent eviction notices to the affected tenants, even though the Council has not discussed or voted on the new lease. You have apparently not even identified who these tenants are to the public or City Council.

This is outrageous and cruel.

The entire plan to divide Cubberley is the creation of City staff, yet your report to the Council misleadingly makes it sound as if it was partly prompted by a request from PAUSD:

"Due to the negative impacts to the City's budget from the events surrounding COVID-19 and the request by PAUSD to retain portions of Cubberley, a new lease for Cubberley has been negotiated to reduce the City's use of the premises and the corresponding cost, while a new lease for the Extended Day Care sites has been created to extend the existing terms through the 2021-2022 school year."

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?t=69053.63&BlobID=77073>

There was NO request from PAUSD to "retain portions of Cubberley" until City staff said they wanted to stop leasing the whole site. PAUSD was happy with the old arrangement and wanted it to continue. I have that in writing from multiple members of the School Board, so if City staff cannot stomach taking responsibility for their decisions, I advise you to tear up this terrible lease and apologize to the community for this poor decision which removes funding for PAUSD when it is most needed, and locks in a divided Cubberley through 2024, years after other proposed coronavirus cuts are intended to be in effect,

Thank you,  
-Jeremy Erman

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Lanie Wheeler <hswdw14@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 3:05 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Cubberley Lease

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I understand that you will be discussing the extension of the Cubberley Lease (and Extended Child Care agreement) this evening. I apologize for not being able to attend in person. Hence these written comments.

I also apologize that I have not followed this issue from the beginning and, therefore, did not make my sentiments known to the PAUSD Board of Trustees prior to their adoption of the agreements.

In short, I am terribly disappointed in the direction of both of these items although I will direct my comments tonight to the Cubberley lease portion. We have worked as a community, both City and School District to keep the Cubberley site in public usage to benefit our shared citizens. Cubberley has housed numerous nonprofit organizations which have served adults and especially children for decades, nonprofits that would not be able to deliver their services anywhere near our community without this affordable home. To ignore this reality and be satisfied with the statement that staff is looking for new accommodations is truly disappointing. I have had contact with one of those tenants and as far as they know at this point, two weeks prior to their eviction, they have nowhere to go but out of business. You should not be complicit in these evictions unless you do have space identified into which these tenants can move.

We are also past the point in time where the City and the School District formally pledged to work together to propose and hopefully adopt a plan for long term joint use of the property. Now it seems we are further apart rather than closer to the finish line on that project. COVID 19 is not and should not be used as the excuse to sweep the years of planning away.

The mathematics of tonight's action may look good on the City's ledger; maybe not so good on the School District's. Fundamentally we are the same community and the price to maintain Cubberley in public usage will be borne by virtually the same citizens. I would say to you...and the PAUSD...work harder, work together.

Lanie Wheeler

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Pat Burt <patburt11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Cc:** 'Mike Cobb'; Lanie Wheeler; Ellson, Penny  
**Subject:** Item 9 Cubberley Comments  
**Attachments:** Item 9 Cubberley Lease Joint Comments.docx

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Dear Council Members,  
Please consider the attached comments.  
Sincerely,  
Lanie Wheeler  
Mike Cobb  
Penny Ellson  
Pat Burt

## Cubberley Lease/Space Abandonment

For over 30 years the City has leased the Cubberley site for use as the primary community center serving south Palo Alto. The 1987 Utility Users Tax was, in large part, passed by the voters to preserve the Cubberley site and convert it to community services.

<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2013/03/15/editorial-so-far-all-take-no-give-on-cubberley-site>

### Policy Implications

Over the last several years, the city-funded and facilitated a Cubberley master planning effort to develop a long-term investment in the revitalization of the Cubberley facilities in collaboration with PAUSD. The current action abandons the city lease on much of the community facility with little public awareness or policy discussion by the council. Instead, a very significant change to community services is being made under the guise of a budgetary decision while the impacted Cubberley users, and the community, and the council are distracted by an avalanche of impacts on the city budget and personal impacts of the emergency.

Comprehensive Plan Consistency. Rather than being consistent with the Comprehensive Plan as asserted in the staff report, the abandonment of the current Cubberley lease is inconsistent with multiple Polices and Programs, including:

- Healthy Culture
  - Support creativity through visual, performing, and digital arts;
  - Promote and provide opportunities for social interaction;
  - Support youth development through a connection to the arts, educational opportunities, and recreational programs.
- Program C1.1.1 Based on identified needs, continue to provide and expand the provision of multilingual literature, program information, and educational displays at public community facilities.
- Policy C-1.2 Promote public participation in civic life and neighborhood associations and promote the suite of community services and facilities available to local residents and businesses in Palo Alto.
- Policy C-1.15 Continue strong support for and coordinate delivery of childcare services, addressing the needs of infants, toddlers, and pre-kindergarten, as well as school-aged children. Program C1.15.1 Support and promote the provision of comprehensive child care services in Palo Alto by public and private providers, including employers.
- Policy C-1.18 Support existing senior programs and seek opportunities to expand programs, including programs promoting health, life-long learning, recreation, arts, and cultural experiences designed for seniors at all public community facilities and parks.
- GOAL C-4 Plan for a future in which our parks, open spaces, libraries, public art, and community facilities thrive and adapt to the growth and change of Palo Alto. Policy C-4.1 Develop new community facilities as needed to meet the evolving needs of residents and employees of Palo Alto, including the need for amenities for seniors within existing parks.

- Policy C-5.2 Promote access to programs that enhance and increase the physical and mental health, well-being, recreation, safety, and cultural opportunities of all residents and visitors.

Stakeholder Outreach. Outreach has been minimal and with little transparency. Users and providers of services were not informed in advance of staff recommendations that would end their leases and rents, and most do not have substitute locations available to continue their services.

**6/15/20 Staff Report and comments (*in italics*):**

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?t=69053.63&BlobID=77073>

**Policy Implications**

Amending the Lease Agreement at Cubberley Community Center is consistent with policies and programs in the Comprehensive Plan promoting City-PAUSD collaboration City of Palo Alto Page 5. *The engagement with PAUSD was a unilateral decision by the city and not a collaborative decision. Once the city notified PAUSD of its decision to not renew the lease, PAUSD worked cooperatively with the city to negotiate the new lease terms. PAUSD made clear that they did not favor ending the lease agreement. Policy C-1.12 Maintain an effective, collaborative relationship with the PAUSD to optimize the use of school services and facilities for public benefit, particularly for children, youth, teens, seniors, and people with disabilities.*

Effective provision of community services. *This is a distortion of the Comp Plan. What inconsistencies are there with the Comp Plan? This citation appears to be based on Policy C-1.3. Streamline and improve delivery and provision of services and to meet the changing needs of our population. Program C1.3.1 Develop and implement a plan to collect and analyze data on demographics, use of community service facilities, and needs of the community as related to parks, open spaces, recreation, arts, and culture.*

**Stakeholder Engagement.** The City and PAUSD collaborated on development of new agreements containing these terms. City staff have delivered termination notices and are proactively seeking potential alternative spaces to relocate those tenants and renters affected at Cubberley. *PAUSD was presented with a fait accompli which they did not have the power to oppose. This was not a “mutual agreement or collaboration in principle”. It was a unilateral decision by the city which PAUSD acquiesced to by necessity.*

*User stakeholders were not engaged in the decision process. Staff states that they “are working on” alternative placements, but there is not a promise of providing such in Palo Alto. Previously, staff has said we have a shortage of affordable space for these programs. The recommendation to terminate the lease preceded efforts to relocate tenants and does not obligate the city or PAUSD to provide for comparable relocations.*

Sincerely,

Lanie Wheeler, former Mayor

Mike Cobb, former Mayor

Pat Burt, former Mayor

Penny Ellson, Resident and former Cubberley Community Advisory Committee Member

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Subodh Iyengar <mani.subodh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** community center

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Hearing the arguments around cubberly during the council meeting, it seems clear that cubberly is an unsustainable situation. It doesn't seem good for stability for the city, PAUSD, or the existing tenants.

It might serve the community better to use the money that we spend on cubberly to instead invest longer term to expand and modernize the existing community centers like Lucie Stern, rinconada library to accommodate activities like classes and childcare. We could facilitate sharing the space between the children's theatre and other theatre activities and make that a flexible space. In addition, we could also develop the land that the city does own near cubberly. While this does not subsume all the functions of cubberly it at least gives everyone long term stability. If we need to support PAUSD we can do that in other ways than this indirect mechanism of paying rent.

Subodh  
Resident

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** pellson@pacbell.net  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 5:50 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Cubberley Lease

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Honorable City Council,

Along with fellow residents, I have dedicated many hours to two Cubberley Community Advisory Committees over the years, and I worry that the work of those committees is being disrupted without a good plan for moving forward.

I am trying to understand how this latest Cubberley lease agreement benefits your constituents. How does the public benefit when one local governmental agency transfers costs for community services to another local governmental agency that essentially is supported by the same tax base? Understand, I am disappointed in both agencies, PAUSD and CoPA. I am disappointed in the city and PAUSD for not proactively supporting Cubberley, for allowing Cubberley to become underused and to fall into disrepair over the years when there was UUT money approved to care for it. I am disappointed at the finger pointing and barbs pointed in both directions that has ensued over time rather than creative problem-solving. I am disappointed in PAUSD for their lack of cooperation during so much of the planning process. Given the current state of things, it seems to me much more efficient to have one agency managing this facility than this patchwork lease arrangement which sets a stage for more conflict between the agencies. We need better cooperation.

In 2011, I said this to PAUSD and CoPA, *“Old agreements will either be discarded or evolve. We need our representatives at PAUSD and the city to start working together with community members, actively and transparently, to find a new path forward—or we will find ourselves at a crisis point when the Cubberley lease is up. We all need to be at the table together to find a solution that works for the community...Palo Alto can find a new, creative solution to this old problem if we work together. We have done it before.”*

I still believe that it is possible to good people to work together in good faith to solve this important community problem.

City staff says they are “working on” finding homes for valued community services though they make no promise to make sure these services stay in Palo Alto and they do not provide much in the way of specifics about where those future placements might be.

We are all frustrated by current circumstances, however, I think that it is premature to make this change when:

- PAUSD voted to approve the lease because they felt the city’s unilateral announcement that they were changing the lease left them with no other alternative. I worry that this is bad for any future cooperation between the agencies.
- Staff says they “are working” to find homes for valued community services that currently are at Cubberley. When pressed, staff did not offer a clear answer on this. They said that PAUSD has the list of the month-to-month tenants and “may” lease to them, probably at higher rates more consistent with what PAUSD gets at other sites. (If PAUSD can get higher rent, why couldn’t the city? Staff was not certain, however, that these lease agreements would be realized. If not at Cubberley, where else in Palo Alto will organizations like the Chamber Orchestra go?)

- We don't understand what will happen to the Children's Preschool Center play yard, and this important child care provider cannot function under state licensing without that outdoor space.
- We don't understand what will happen to the music groups in M wing.

I'm sure there are many more questions like these that haven't occurred to me since I saw the staff report for the first time this morning. Suffice to say, I am disappointed that these cuts are being made before PAUSD has figured out their plan for the fall term and before the city has made sure that valued services will not be lost. It seems premature.

I have worked in good faith on finding a path for Cubberley, and watched the process disrupted both by the city and PAUSD at different times. This disruption does not reflect concern about delivering the distribution of services across town that the Comp Plan requires.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Penny Ellson



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## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Sbcglobal Fred <fkohler@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 12:08 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Cubberley lease

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I strongly support the proposed 54-month lease for Cubberley. It has been public for weeks and already approved by the school district. There has been no public forum supporting a shorter lease term.

To try to shorten the terms at the last minute without the opportunity for community input demonstrates regrettable lack of transparency. The council should not renegotiate the terms without clearly stating its rationale and providing the opportunity for members of the public to provide rebuttal to their thinking.

Fred Kohler  
Resident of University South

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Mike Cobb <mike@mikecobbcreative.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:35 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** RECONSIDERATION OF CUBBERLEY LEASE ... COMMENTS FOR SPECIAL MEETING TONIGHT

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**NOTE: The following is an updated/edited version of a note previously sent to Councilmembers Kou, DuBois, and Filseth ... I would like to share these thoughts with the entire Council.**

Honorable Councilmembers —

I understand that tonight you will again be considering the future of Cubberley. As I consider Cubberley, I am reminded of the Larry O'Brien book from the 70s: "No Final Victories"! Going back some 30 years, I have had a leadership role in the on-going effort to save Cubberley for the benefit of the *entire* community. We have had some victories over those many years, but are now in danger of losing all that has been accomplished and gained.

The City's apparent effort to use the pandemic as an excuse to end the historic lease agreement with the PAUSD could have major negative consequences for the future of community services and benefits in Palo Alto. All with virtually no public outreach and discussion. Based on the responses to Councilmember Kou's recent survey, we know that preservation of community services is a very high priority for the public — a priority that surely takes precedence over some the capital projects anticipated in the current City budget.

Given that the PAUSD is not in the land management business ... and really doesn't want to and shouldn't be ... both the maintenance and future uses of Cubberley will be seriously compromised if they have to take over the site. Given their need for revenues, they could easily be tempted to make short term or even long term decisions which could seriously compromise or even eliminate some of the options that have been proposed by community studies to develop the site in a way that would benefit the entire community.

Cubberley is the last large parcel of land in Palo Alto that is in public ownership. Two studies, the more recent professional study and the earlier community-based study (which I co-chaired), both suggest a number of creative ways to use the site to the benefit of the entire community ... both the PAUSD and the City. I cannot imagine the PAUSD successfully managing a long-term project of that magnitude and importance ... or even being willing to take it on.

Dealing with the budget impacts of the pandemic has put both the City and the PAUSD in a difficult financial position. Throwing the Cubberley situation at the PAUSD, whose *only* interest in Cubberley is for it to be available IF needed for a third high school ... which it is likely may never happen ... will virtually guarantee a bad outcome and a great opportunity lost. It will leave the site in limbo where it will further deteriorate and be subject to damaging and option-limiting short-term decisions which will severely compromise if not entirely eliminate its long-term benefit to both the PAUSD and the City.

During the pandemic, everyone is taking a hit. Many are out of work, Many businesses will struggle to return. And, yes, the City will also have to struggle to return to its pre-pandemic situation. We all have to pay a price. I submit that you should lead the City to a short term 'solution' where the lease is either temporarily

significantly reduced or even put on hold until circumstances have improved and then restored after we have been able to return to something resembling normal. This reduction in income to the PAUSD would be one of the 'hits' that the PAUSD would have to bear in the short term to preserve our options for the long term. The 'price' the City would pay would be to fund an agreed-to short term reduction in rent by postponing one or more capital projects that do not have to be done in the near term.

Please, don't make the City pay the larger price of losing the benefits of Cubberley to future generations. Surely, there are some capital projects in the coming year that could be delayed to cover the reduced Cubberley lease payment for this period when we all have to step back. Whether you are a preservationist (as I am) or one who encourages significant housing growth, one thing we can surely share is that Palo Alto will always be able to provide exceptional services to its residents.

In my State of the City speech during my last term as Mayor, I said that we (the Council) are *"the custodians of the present and the architects of the future."* Someday, you will leave the Council. How will you care for the present so we can preserve the community vision in the design of Cubberley for the future? Don't make the loss of Cubberley ... and that vision ... the legacy of your Council service.

—  
Mike Cobb

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## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Jeremy Erman <jeremy\_erman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:20 PM  
**To:** board@pausd.org; board@pausd.org; daustin@pausd.org; daustin@pausd.org; Shikada, Ed; Shikada, Ed  
**Cc:** Council, City; cchow@pausd.org; cchow@pausd.org; CSD; CSD  
**Subject:** Cubberley conversation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

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Dear City and PAUSD,

You don't really want Alice in Wonderland-style conversations with Cubberley renters, do you? Consider:

"I'm excited to rent the Theatre," said Alice. "I can't wait to go backstage and get Dinah into her costume."

"Backstage?" exclaimed the Mad Hatter. "My dear, you've only rented the lobby and the stage itself. If you want to go backstage, you'll have to go talk to the Duchess."

"Oh," said Alice. "Why can't I rent everything from you?"

"It's just the way it is. Move along!"

"But who are those people over there, carrying boxes, spaced six feet apart?"

"Oh, those are members of the Humane Society. They're were asked to evacuate in the middle of a pandemic, and are trying not to get sick and die."

"But isn't there a county-wide eviction moratorium in place for small businesses and non-profits?"

"Only applies if the tenant is suffering financially, not the landlord. Move along!"

"How odd," said Alice.

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Jeremy Erman <jeremy\_erman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:35 PM  
**To:** board@pausd.org; daustin@pausd.org; cchow@pausd.org; Shikada, Ed; Council, City; CSD; Administrative Services; leConge Ziesenhenn, Monique; City Attorney; Ramberg, David; Tong, Sunny  
**Subject:** Helpful ideas for Cubberley

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

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Dear City of Palo Alto and Palo Alto Unified School District,

I would like to remind you that separating Cubberley's Theatre and M rooms between the City and PAUSD will cause confusion for groups trying to rent the Theatre and the backstage dressing rooms. The M rooms were built to be music and theatre rooms, and form one facility with the Theatre. I urge you to keep the Theatre and M rooms together in the Cubberley lease to maximize their benefit to the community and avoid hardship for groups that have performed there for years, such as the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra and the Palo Alto Philharmonic.

Requiring people to go through both the City and the School District to rent the Theatre and M rooms, or to rent rooms on different sides of Cubberley at once, seems confusing and inefficient. The City has already said it will continue handling maintenance and utilities for the entire Cubberley campus, since they already have people in place who know what they're doing, and then receive reimbursement from the School District. It would seem to make sense, then, for the City to continue handling rentals for the entire campus and even other administration functions since the people and system are already in place. Even if the School District occupies part of the campus, and the City pays the School District less, it still makes sense for the City to administer the whole facility.

I think most Cubberley classrooms are usually rented during non-school hours, so it seems that the School District, the City, and the community should be able to share these rooms to everyone's satisfaction.

Please remember that Cubberley's purpose is to serve the community, regardless of who owns the land or administers it. Please don't base this lease solely on financial considerations. Please keep the community in mind as you decide the future of Cubberley Community Center.

Thank you,

Jeremy Erman

Piano Accompanist, Greene and Fletcher Middle School Choirs Former Music Director, Palo Alto Children's Theatre