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October 1, 2021

Dear Public Art Commission,

I am so grateful to Annette Glanckopf for alerting me about plans for the Midtown Poetry Wall. I have been a resident in Palo Alto for 31 years. The Midtown Poetry Wall is something so DEEPLY near and dear to my heart that I would feel destroyed if it were removed. This Poetry Wall is a very important part of our history here in Palo Alto and it would be a complete tragedy for it to be removed. A better option would be to have it repaired and restored.

I realize that many of you may not be aware of our roots here in Palo Alto, but as a long-time resident this Wall represents a more simpler way of life as it was back then. Also, I happen to know most of the poets featured on this wall personally.

My daughter Amelia, who grew up her entire childhood in Palo Alto, wrote one of the poems when she was in elementary school, during a time when she was incredibly creative, happy and brilliant. Unfortunately, her parents split up after this poem was written and life became more complicated for her/us. This poem represents a time in our lives that was most innocent and precious to me and is a remnant of that. Art often captures memories and feelings to which words cannot do justice. That is how I feel about this Wall.

Please let me know what I can personally do to help repair and restore this Wall to its original intention of displaying local art.

Thank you for your sincere consideration.

Gratefully,

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