

EDB Committee

From: Yuki Lei Sugimura <yukilei.sugimura@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 8:37 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Fwd: Wailuku meeting tomorrow at 9. Be there.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kelly McHugh <kelly@kellymchugh.org>
Date: Thu, Mar 28, 2019 at 6:17 PM
Subject: Wailuku meeting tomorrow at 9. Be there.
To: Kelly McHugh <kelly@kellymchugh.org>

Just my 2 cents...

There's a meeting tomorrow morning on the 8h floor of the Kalani O Maui Building (200 South High Street) at 9 AM to potentially cut funding for the Wailuku Civic Complex. <https://mauinow.com/2019/03/28/wailuku-civic-complex-details-funding-update/>

Every few years, the Wailuku community tells the County what they need. First came parking. There are barely enough spots in town for the daytime workforce, never mind any visitors for lunch, shopping, or getting to know the historic sites and features. The County holds public listening sessions, works cross-departmentally to get plans, permits, and everything in between to respond to their community's demand. This takes TIME. SO much so, that by the time the final plans are submitted back to the community for review, their minds have already changed. Parking? Who said anything about parking? Cars are bad for the environment, we want bike lanes! So, the county goes back to the drawing board, includes bike lanes and storage sites, reapplies for the permits, approvals, designs and feasibility plans. Then, comes back for review. "What happened to the parking? Don't listen to those millenials, I can't provide for my family if my customers don't have anywhere to park! I can't sell tickets to my show if there aren't any decent places to meet and talk story beforehand. We want food trucks, performing arts space, meeting rental space and parking for both cars AND bikes!"

This is what I've been watching for years. Populations change, needs change, the people that show up to share their voices change, plans change, politicians change, which means budget line items change. Planning takes time. But minds change quick.

You know, I'm happy that I get to be a part of the process of conserving and facilitating Wailuku stories with the best artists in town - and from far away. It's the stories that will bring people closer together, not consensus on what additional offerings a parking garage can or should have. We have a neighborhood that is becoming susceptible to outside development. We have an opportunity to start small and participate in the process along the way. Every public listening session I have gone to about the Wailuku Civic Complex (and there have been 47, so no act) reminds us that the County is here to prevent Wailuku from blight, and they will plan and fund a big, fat, important step in that process. In showing up, we can meet our neighbors and agree "we don't want no Starbucks." We want a place to walk around and admire vintage Wailuku, to grab a record at Requests and a coffee at Wailuku Coffee Co. To stroll down the street to talk to the artist about the inspiration for her community mural that's she's been working on with the Maui Historical Society, who is working with Maui OnStage on the telling of the olelo noeau that Wednesday, and you should come, we're meeting at Wai bar for a drink first, and oh, don't forget, MAPA has pop up dances at next week's First Friday right in front of the new woven installation piece that's going in.

It's not about buildings that will block views or change landscapes, its about providing access to engagement with the arts, culture, history, relationships, good food after 5 PM, new small businesses that have been dreaming of this moment since they got priced out of Paia, etc etc. It's about NEW experiences that look to the past in order to pave the way of the future.

Think about showing up tomorrow to share your testimony. How could this actually be GOOD for our community?

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Yuki Lei Sugimura

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“The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways.”

John F. Kennedy