



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice CA 90294

[/www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

Email: president@VeniceNC.org,

Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



May 18, 2011

Consumer Affairs
U.S. Postal Service
7001 South Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90052-9631

RE: Historic Venice Post Office Relocation from 1601 Main Street to 313 Grand Boulevard

To whom it may concern:

On April 24, 2011 USPO officials presented a proposal to the Venice Neighborhood Council and the community about plans to re-locate the historic Venice Post Office. We thank you for sharing your preliminary ideas and look forward to participating in the process as it unfolds. The issue is of great interest to the Venice community and we will continue the dialogue every step of the way.

We appreciate that you have had a community meeting in Venice in addition to the presentation at the Venice Neighborhood Council, and ask that you plan more so that our stakeholders can stay informed. We also expect that you will report back to the Venice Neighborhood Council regularly. I have appointed Amanda Seward and Nancy Feinberg as a VNC Task Force to engage in dialogue with your representatives, and we ask that you communicate with them as the process moves forward.

The consensus of the concerns expressed at the Venice Neighborhood Council meeting are as follows:

- 1) Although the overwhelming opinion of the community is that the building not change hands, if it must happen, our desire it that any re-purposing of the building is consistent with its long history as a Venice public landmark.
- 2) The community is united in the need to protect the current post office building and wants to be informed about any possible new owners.
- 3) We also want assurance that prospective buyers understand the need to maintain public access to the historic building and its (WPA) Work Progress Administration, Depression era mural and are in touch with Suzanne Zada, the executor of the Edward Biberman Art Estate.
- 4) Assurance that the mural will be protected in perpetuity, and request that a copy of the mural (or the original mural have a prominent place in the new, rehabilitated annex building in consultation with SPARC, The Social Public Art Resource Center, a world renowned Venice based non-profit organization dedicated to public art and mural preservation (<http://www.sparcmurals.org>).
- 5) All prospective buyers should be informed that any new construction must comply with the Venice Coastal Specific Plan and must receive approval from the California Coastal Commission prior to any change of use, as this is a dual jurisdiction area.
- 5) Grounds design and ongoing maintenance are and have been issues of concern. The current chain link fence recently added to the Annex parking lot is an eyesore and prevents the efforts of the community to keep it presentable. Any garden and grounds design plan needs to include trees and sustainable plants in as large an area as possible and regular maintenance by contract. In fact, Venice is home to many world class landscape designers, and hiring a local designer would be appropriate.
- 6) The Venice Neighborhood Council and its Land Use and Planning Committee reviews all plans for construction in the Venice area and issues recommendations to the LA City Westside Area Planning Commission and City Council District 11.

We look forward to continuing communications and another visit to our Neighborhood Council very soon.

Sincerely,



Linda Lucks
President
Venice Neighborhood Council

Cc:
Eduardo Ruiz, District Director, USPO
Ramela Youkenian, USPO
Ruth Goldway, President, US Postal Rate Commission,
Kate Anderson, 36th Congressional Office
Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl
Board, Venice Neighborhood Council
Suzanne Zada, Edward Biberman Art Estate
Judy Baca, Social Public Art Resource Center (SPARC)
Emily Winters, Venice Arts Council