



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)  
Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org) / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



March 24, 2009

Councilman Bill Rosendahl  
City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: The Palas Project

Dear Bill:

On March 17, 2009, the Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers voted unanimously to endorse "The Palas" project as a Public Arts Community Project for Venice.

The Palas (that's Italian for The Balls) is a community art project to transform street corners in Venice, with landscaping and mosaic sphere seating, into pocket parks that enhance our neighborhood and cultural ties.

Following a century's old Venetian tradition, The Palas are to be permanent visual markers of, and located within, the various neighborhoods of Venice to artistically focus identity, create camaraderie, engender pride and enable participation from each neighborhood in cultural festivities throughout the year and throughout Venice as a whole. The Palas are two foot diameter concrete spheres encased in a mosaic of black and white marble. They function as sculptural seating - solid, yet soft to the touch - climbable and sit-able.

Each neighborhood of Venice will have its own logo for its Palas. Community participation is invited in their design, fabrication, and site preparation.

The Palas would be located within each of the neighborhoods of Venice - often transforming underutilized or blighted street corners into beautiful green neighborhood gathering spaces. A full set of all The Palas might also encircle the Windward traffic circle or span the medians of Venice Boulevard in Venice.

Over time, banners and costumes with colors and additional unique identifying features will be developed by and for each neighborhood.

This project was conceived by Venice based national award winning public art sculptor, Robin Murez. It began with the transformation of one blighted corner in Venice, funded by the City of Los Angeles Community Beautification Grant; see: "The Venice Corner Ball Park." [www.venicepublicart.com](http://www.venicepublicart.com).



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With the active support from the community, The Venice Neighborhood Council enthusiastically looks forward to "The Palas" extending to all neighborhoods of Venice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Newhouse".

Mike Newhouse  
President

Cc: [secretary@veniceNC.org](mailto:secretary@veniceNC.org)