



December 18, 2008

Mayor Reed and Members of the City Council
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Reed and Members of the Council,

The Campus Community Association supports the effort to rebuild and restore the historic clock tower and belfry at the San Jose Museum of Art. The proposed restoration includes building the tower to its original height and rebuilding the belfry to house the original clock tower bell. The bell now sits unused in the shortened tower that was built after the 1906 earthquake damaged the original tower.

Installing the bell and restoring the tower will further preserve an architectural gem in downtown San Jose. After restoration the museum building will anchor the corner of E. San Fernando and Market Streets. It will once again have the original architectural scale in proportion to its historic neighbor to the north, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph. In its current form the historic museum building lacks the original proportion of the public architecture the designers of our city intended at the turn of the 19th century.

Rebuilding the belfry and installing the historic and operational bell will bring more than a visual improvement to the historic fabric of downtown. It will bring the sounds of the historic bell to all who live, work and play downtown. The restored grandeur of this old building that has served the city of San Jose as post office, library and now art museum is a project worth supporting as we preserve and build downtown San Jose into a community of pride, history and opportunity.

The Campus Community Association has lent its support to historic structures and communities in San Jose in the past. We believe the restoration of the clock tower is worthwhile for a number of reasons. It will restore the building to its original dimension. It will bring the historic sights and sounds of a time gone by to a historic intersection. It will be one more source of pride for the people of San Jose.

Sincerely,

Dennis Cunningham
President, Campus Community Association