

Portland City Council Agenda
 Written Testimony - Item 867

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1 867	Jim Kepner			Yes	10/07/24 8:31 AM
2 867	Anita Davidson	Support	As a downtown condo owner near the Keller and PSU, I support Council's action to explore the potential for auditoriums at both sites to see if market-feasible options exist for a pair. Even more, I support the position of Halprin Conservancy that progress towards a "new Keller" can and should move forward now. Council can green-light movement on redeveloping the Keller while discussion and studies to use both sites continues. Thank you.	No	10/10/24 8:21 AM
3 867	PSU-AAUP	Support with changes	These comments will also be given in person.	Yes	10/10/24 10:24 AM

August 22, 3024

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Rene Gonzales
Commissioner Mingus Mapps
Commissioner Carman Rubio
Commissioner Dan Ryan

Portland City Council
1221 SW Fourth Avenue.
Portland, OR 97204

The City Council will review the Keller Auditorium Options on Wednesday, October 9th. At this time, you have two Options 1. Portland State University Campus 2. Rejuvenate existing Keller Facility.

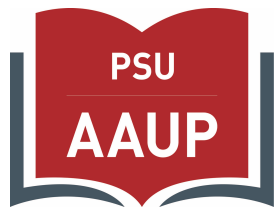
The recent resident survey showed 75% like the existing site on 222 S. West Clay St. with at least three parking options in the downtown core.

My project response is simple relating to the overwhelming wishes of Portland residents. This contrary approach would be to reverse Keller Auditorium and Keller Park sites. In my recommendation, the new auditorium would be constructed on the Keller park block, and a multi family park could be constructed on the auditorium block.

Please consider this option as the base case for the new Keller location rather the PSU location and present Keller location. This analysis would be more respectful to the majority of Portland residents. Our city core needs to be rejuvenated and enhanced for Residents and Visitors.

Respectfully, Jim Kepner
503-347-8522 Please call with any Questions.

Cc; Lauren Broudy, Program Coordinator



PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

American Association of University Professors

Promoting Quality Higher Education – An Investment in Oregon's Future

Public Comment to Portland City Council RE: Resolution to Accept the Future of Keller Collaboration Team Recommendation...

October 10, 2024

My name is Emily Ford, and I am the President of PSU-AAUP, the full-time faculty union at Portland State representing around 1,200 faculty and academic professionals.

Mayor Wheeler, Councilors, I am deeply disappointed to read that the proposed resolution sitting before you regarding the Keller auditorium ignores the testimony given to you at the August 14 meeting. Unions from academic labor to the building trades, from AAUP, SEIU, PSUFA, LIUNA, IATSE, and the Carpenters offered testimony about the need for any replacement of the Keller auditorium to be fully staffed, built, and maintained by union labor. Further, testimony showed deep concern about job stability for workers at the University Place Hotel. During that testimony I stated: "Labor concerns need to be central to the committee's discussions and integrated into its report and proposed developments unveiled in October." Yet, the only mention of labor surfaces in the market feasibility study, which is now being proposed to be expedited. Thoughtful considerations and collaborations with labor should not be expedited. It is deeply concerning that labor was not included in the collaborative process touted by Kearns & West, the consultancy facilitating the work between Halprin and Portland State. Labor is deeply concerned about the members of this governing body's dedication to supporting Portland residents who make Portland a livable and thriving city. This Council would do well to internalize this union adage: nothing about us without us.

Earlier this week PSU President Ann Cudd's Administration notified academic units on campus— those providing mission critical teaching to our students and research to the Portland community— of the need to cut \$12.5MM in total for the next fiscal year. This will result in layoffs the size of which this University has never seen. All the while President Cudd's Administration seeks financial support in Salem and from the City of Portland totaling around \$300MM to fund steel and concrete— not students. Not professors who cannot afford to live in the city where they work. Not advisors, some of whom have caseloads of over 800 students. Not researchers, who bring in tens of millions in grant funding yet face systemic job instability impacting their family and life planning. It is the workers who make this city vibrant. It is not concrete and steel.

Amidst the President Cudd's funding request, amidst the purported financial austerity at the University, President Cudd's Administration has not made meaningful headway in its collective bargaining with the Graduate Employees Organization, who recently went into mediation; nor has her Administration made meaningful headway with PSU-AAUP— the union representing over 1,100 full time faculty and academic professionals. Does the city want to invest in a University that is on the verge of serious labor unrest?

Does the city consider the financial priorities of the University's Board of Trustees – many of whom own real estate in downtown Portland – over the needs of the workers and over 21,000 students who make downtown vibrant? As our over 1,100 members head to the polls this November, we'll be reminding them which candidates advocated for the teaching, working, and learning conditions our students, colleagues, and community deserve; and which candidates advocated for developers' bottom lines.

Portland City Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.
Verbal Testimony

	Agenda Item	Name
1	867	Marian DeBardelaben
2	867	Emily Horton
3	867	Margo Howell
4	867	Rich Jaffe
5	867	Sue Dixon
6	867	Emily Ford
7	867	Dave Sweeney
8	867	Dean Barnett
9	867	Diana Stuart
10	867	Rose Etta Venetucci