

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I urge the City Council to consider a re-imagined LA Zoo with an "animal-first" focus, and recognize that we now live in a digital age with different community standards around the treatment of animals than existed 100 years ago. The LA Zoo today is still modeled on 18th century zoos, when "exotic" animals were "kidnapped" from foreign countries, many of which were colonized by White Europeans. Animals were (and still are, tragically) locked up for life, deprived of any opportunity to lead normal lives. There was (and apparently still is) a prevalent idea that animals are objects without any rights. Zoos and colonial exploitation go hand-in-hand. In this article, "Is it time to break with colonial legacy of zoos?" (<https://theconversation.com/is-it-time-to-break-with-colonial-legacy-of-zoos-60485>), the author argues persuasively that zoos represent "an outmoded worldview rooted in colonialism..." I am deeply disappointed in this "vision" plan for the LA Zoo which is not "visionary" at all. Merely redecorating the prison does not make it better. You talk about the trees! Yes, please preserve the trees, but don't forget the suffering animals who are being deprived of their lives, imprisoned solely to "entertain" human beings. Why isn't Los Angeles taking this moment to step into the spotlight with truly enlightened practices around our zoo? With all the creative people in this city, people who love animals, why isn't the LA Zoo in the vanguard of creating a truly humane vision for itself? We are the center of the Entertainment Industry boasting incredible talent and artists who can create digital representations of animals like dinosaurs - so why not elephants, who are being treated so cruelly here in Los Angeles and should be sent to sanctuary IMMEDIATELY. What is this zoo teaching our children? That it's ok to deprive other beings of their agency? That we should ignore the cruelty of our actions and the suffering of those less powerful than ourselves? Why is the Los Angeles City Council failing to guarantee that the humane standards of the Los Angeles community be reflected in this zoo upgrade? We can and should do better! This is Los Angeles!