

LA JOLLA LIGHT

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ENLIGHTENING LA JOLLA SINCE 1913

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The Conrad wins third round:



La Jolla Music Society (LJMS) and its architectural team returned to the Aug. 18 DPR meeting with additional information on its proposed Fay Avenue performing arts center, The Conrad, garnering its third unanimous vote of approval by a La Jolla advisory group (the project received similar nods this summer from the Planned District Ordinance committee and La Jolla's Traffic & Transportation board).

Although LJMS president and artistic director Christopher Beach told DPR member Mike Costello LJMS hasn't figured out how much it will charge community groups to use the space two years from now, he said it would be comparable to what the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego charges for use of Sherwood Auditorium (which will be demolished to accommodate MCASD's gallery expansion). Beach said nonprofit groups would receive a discounted rate to use The Conrad.

DPR member Collins and chair Paul Benton had concerns with the amount of trellis around the perimeter of The Conrad's central, open courtyard, though Beach said city staff interprets a trellis as being open to the sky.

"It's a thrilling project (and) innovative design ... but I will tell you that you're really stretching it when you talk about ground coverage to the sky," Benton said.

Conversely, DPR member Leira noted the project includes a second-story foyer that is open to the outdoors through terra cotta grillage. Such open spaces are requested in the PDO, although they are rarely incorporated, she said.



Architect Ray Porfilio presents plans for La Jolla Music Society's performing arts center on Fay Avenue (as shown in the model). The DPR committee unanimously approved the plans during its Aug. 18 meeting at La Jolla Rec Center.