



CITY OF SAN JOSÉ

Naming of City-Owned Facilities

NOMINATION FORM

Person Submitting Nomination: Mayor Ron Gonzales and Chris Worrall

Address: 801 N. 1st, San Jose, 95110 Daytime Phone: (408) 277-4237

101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, 95113 (408) 367-7255

Name Proposed for Facility: Susan and Phil Hammer Theater Center

Location of Facility: 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose
(Include street address, cross street)

Nature of Facility to be Named: (Describe use, clientele and any special geographic or historic characteristics)

Home of the San Jose Repertory Theatre

Is this site/structure of potential historic significance? Yes No

If yes, please submit parcel number and a summary of bibliographical resources.

We defer to the Planning Department's recommendations.

Appropriateness of Name to Facility: (Briefly characterize the nominated individual, group, event or feature. Describe why naming would be appropriate. If the facility is proposed to be named after an individual, attach no more than one page outlining a brief biography and significant contributions to the community.)

See attached document.

Submit Nomination to: City Clerk, San José City Hall, 801 N. First St., Room 116, San José, CA 95110

FOR CITY CLERK'S USE ONLY

Referred to the following Commission or Committee:

Airport Arts Child Care Disability Advisory Historic Landmarks
Library Parking Advisory Parks & Recreation Senior Citizens Youth
Other

Proposed Renaming of the San Jose Repertory Theater "Susan and Phil Hammer Theater Center"

Susan and Phil Hammer have been instrumental in building a strong foundation for the growth and vitality of arts and culture in San José and Santa Clara Valley. Their dedicated leadership and sustained efforts over time to encourage corporate and community support for the arts have enriched life for the residents of our city and made San José a cultural center for our region.

Before becoming Mayor of San José, Susan Hammer had long experience working directly on behalf of arts organizations in our city. As a founding board member of the San José Museum of Art, she fought successfully to preserve its downtown historic building that has become a community landmark. As a Councilmember, she helped establish the "San Jose Arts 20/20" Task Force to identify the challenges facing the arts, explore opportunities for solutions, expand performance venues, and enhance the catalytic value of city resources to leverage private sector support for the arts.

Mayor Hammer was an invaluable leader in the effort to build a permanent home for the San José Repertory Theatre. In her 1991 State of the City address, she declared her personal commitment to create a new downtown theater for the company and made the project a priority for the San Jose Redéveloppement Agency. The Rep, as it is known, had long needed a permanent home of its own to allow the company to grow and further serve local audiences and youth with quality performances and outreach. With the recognition that a dedicated space for the Rep would also free up performance venues for local arts organizations, Mayor Hammer, the Redéveloppement Agency, and other supporters were able to serve the broader arts community as well.

The Rep successfully raised private funding for the project and actively participated in the theater design and project oversight. Phil Hammer helped lead the Rep's fundraising efforts to secure significant private sector support. He also served on the community task force that reviewed the theater's design and effectively represented the interests of producers, performers, audiences, and our downtown. A founding member of the Repertory Theatre, he has been a strong personal supporter of the Rep for two decades, serving as a member and president of the Repertory Theatre's board and long-time advisor to the group.

Phil Hammer was instrumental in guiding the Rep during its early years of growth and development and encouraged it to serve our local community with quality theatrical productions and educational programs. He promoted a strong partnership between the Rep and Lincoln High School, a performing arts magnet school, which remains active today. His leadership helped secure the Rep's role as a world-class theater company and a valuable local cultural resource.

In 1997 the new theater on Paseo de San Antonio opened to rave reviews and enthusiastic public response. With growing audiences and exciting performances, the Rep's accomplishments have become a matter of great pride for all of San José. The leadership, dedication, and skill demonstrated by Susan and Phil Hammer were essential factors in the San Jose Repertory Theatre's growing reputation and the success of its new downtown performance venue. They inspired broad community support for the arts, guided innovative public policy for the development of arts and culture in our city, tirelessly promoted the importance of thriving arts enterprises in the cultural and economic life of San José.