

The City We Love: A Retrospective



STEVE HANSEN
DISTRICT 4
2012-2020



Dear Friends,

These two terms on the Sacramento City Council have been the most rewarding and challenging years of my professional life. It's been an honor to serve you and the city as we came out of the Great Recession, rebuilt the city's financial resilience, invested into the community, and advanced a multitude of projects to build the city and programs to make Sacramento more fair and more equitable.

Our District 4 staff, commissioners, and I have worked night and day to ensure that we made the most of our time in office. On my desk sits a memento with a favorite saying by Albert Einstein: "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." Through the reading of thousands of staff reports, reviewing hundreds of binders of information, and the spar of frequently intense, numerous, and long meetings, we fought to make the lives of our fellow citizens better and more vibrant.

I truly believe in servant leadership and collaborative governance, which reminds us that we steward for the betterment of the community and to leave people better off than before we took office. Let it be said that we never wasted a day. We did our best to take advantage of our opportunities and to confront the myriad challenges of this era - this is the essence of Sacramento's original motto: *Urbs Indomitata - Indomitable City*.

Our guiding ethos in launching my first campaign for council in 2011 was "Every day is OUR chance to make this city a little better." As it will continue to guide me in my next chapter, I also hope that it guides you and our city leaders as we all do our best to make the most of tomorrow.

Thank you for eight wonderful years of support, friendship, and challenge. I'm proud of all we've been able to do together.

Warmly,
Steve



Steve Hansen

Sacramento City
Councilmember,
2012-2020

Councilmember Steve Hansen served on the Sacramento City Council from 2012 - 2020 representing the 4th Council District, which included residents in the River Oaks, Central City, Land Park, South Land Park, and Little Pocket neighborhoods.

Steve has been a leading voice for smart growth, multi-modal transportation, public safety, economic development, and innovation in government service. During his tenure, he served eight years on the board of and as chair for the Sacramento Regional Transit District, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, and the Sacramento Transportation Authority. He also served on the boards of the Downtown Sacramento Partnership, the Midtown Association, the Broadway Partnership, the Sacramento History Alliance, the Sacramento Cable Commission, the Regional Sanitation District, Paratransit, Inc, and as chair of the Local Government Commission.

During Steve's time on the Council he passed numerous key initiatives, such as building new arts and educational facilities, new streetlighting, passing Vision Zero and complete streets policies, pro-housing YIMBY ordinances, increasing protections for LGBTQ employees and residents, legalizing urban agriculture and urban farm stands, banning flavored vaping products, securing protections for tenants against excessive rent increases and

unfair evictions, and working to bring new mobility options to Sacramento's residents via microtransit, improved bus service, and shared rideables. He also worked tirelessly to reopen a local elementary school in the central city.

Other accomplishments include creating new and improving existing District 4 parks, working to build more affordable housing, investing in artists and the creative economy, and championing bike and pedestrian mobility projects.

Steve's life of public service in Sacramento began as an Executive Fellow working in the California State and Consumer Services Agency. He also has worked for Equality California, a statewide advocacy group for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Californians; Genentech, Inc.; and University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Steve is a graduate of University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and has a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Gonzaga University. In 2014, he earned a Certificate for Senior Executives in State and Local Government from Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government.



Dear Steve,

You have contributed so much to the City of Sacramento over the past eight years that it's impossible to sum up here. You have been a valued colleague who is never afraid to dive into the middle of important and difficult public policy issues, whether it be rent stabilization, a proposed housing bond, and much more.

You have been an invaluable champion for arts and culture in our city and the retooling of our downtown as a place where people live as well as work, and where they commute on foot, by bicycle, and by scooter rather than just in cars. I also greatly appreciate your partnership when it comes to addressing the twin issues of homelessness and affordable housing.

In this past, difficult year, you had the foresight to push for measures to help our small businesses, including an expansion of outdoor dining near the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, an initiative that probably saved some of our most cherished eateries.

Beyond the issues we've worked on together as Council colleagues, I value you as a good friend who loves his city. Your work in public service is far from done.

The best to you always,
Mayor Darrell Steinberg

Content

Cover Art by Amber Witzke

All photos courtesy of Steve Hansen's team. All quotes by Steve Hansen unless otherwise specified

08 Arts and Education

Steve made it a focus of his time in office to promote access and opportunities around arts and education – two pillars of a strong city.

16 LGBTQ & Equality

As the first openly LGBTQ councilmember, Steve fought to see equality, access, and equity increase for communities central to Sacramento's spirit.

22 Built Environment and Housing

With housing access and insecurity increasingly becoming a challenge for Sacramento, Steve made a point to work toward a city where everyone has a place to live.

28 Public Health and Parks

Steve recognized the importance of public health – both mental and physical – as he focused on initiatives and park improvements to make Sacramento a safer, more enjoyable city.

34 Transportation Mobility

Steve left his mark on the transportation mobility sector by fighting to give city residents green, multi-modal options that were better for the population and the environment.

40 Additional Accomplishments

Steve's impact on the City of Sacramento reached beyond categorization to include projects like the creation of new commissions, small business recovery, and more.



Alas de Jorge Marín

1 Download the app **JORGE MARÍN**

2 Heighten your experience with *Wings*

3 Share in your social networks

@AlasdeMarin f /marinestallion

JORGE MARÍN

**“Here’s the truth:
Hansen gets things
done for District 4,
and for the city
as a whole.”**

– Sacramento Bee
Editorial Board



Arts & Education

C3: Sacramento Convention Center, Memorial Auditorium, and Community Center

January 2019 – ongoing

“C3” refers to the trio of buildings including the Sacramento Convention Center, Memorial Auditorium, and Community Center. Plans for renovation and expansion of the C3 will attract larger events and make downtown more vibrant and active. This project is funded with the issuance of \$350 million in bonds, which will be repaid with hotel taxes. Upon completion, the Convention Center will have added meeting rooms, exhibit halls, and more lobby and kitchen space. The Memorial Auditorium will have upgraded seating, acoustic enhancements, and other audio/visual upgrades. The Community Center will boast better aesthetic appeal, improved lobby space, more accessibility for disabled patrons, and a new loading dock that will allow for larger shows.

“This will better connect our midtown restaurants and hotels to the many visitors who come to work or play. The C3 projects are monumental for the visitor economy of our city and our region as we build for a brighter future.”

California Auto Museum

May 2017

Sacramento City Council approved the sale of the California Auto Museum to the California Vehicle Foundation, the museum’s host organization, which allowed them to construct a new roof, install insulation, and improve interior climate control. The previous lease agreement with the City didn’t ensure the museum a permanent home on the waterfront and frustrated many attempts to replace the leaky roof and other problems with the building.

Creative Economy Grants

July 2020

Steve pioneered new grants for cultural institutions and new artists to preserve Sacramento’s creative economy from the economic devastation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Art is a fundamental form of creative expression. This program offers an opportunity to dig deep into our communities and support those who are crying out for resources and help. We want to ensure no one is left behind in this grant process and we must uphold our arts equity principles for all of Sacramento’s creative and cultural communities.”



JUNE 2020

BLM Mural on Capitol Mall

Following the death of George Floyd in May of 2020, Steve proposed painting the median of Capitol Mall with the words “Black Lives Matter” to express Sacramento’s support and solidarity with the national movement on the lawn leading up to the State Capitol. Steve worked through the Atrium to commission a local Black artist, Demetris Washington (BAMR), to paint the phrase with a cohort of volunteers. This display of support garnered statewide and national recognition alongside other major cities in the country finding ways to take a stand in support of the “Black Lives Matter” movement.

Cultural Equity Statement

April 2018

Steve’s appointee to the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, Maya Wallace, created and led the 2018 Cultural Equity statement adoption, which Steve brought to the City Council for unanimous approval in April 2018. The statement “defines cultural equity as the inclusion and fair representation of multiple diverse populations in outreach and in allocation of funding, resources, and programs, providing equitable and fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some communities.”

“Part of the reason we reconstituted as a city commission is to get deeper and more effectively into the under-served communities.”

Fairytale Town Expansion

February 2019

Fairytale Town began its first ever expansion at the start of 2019, which allowed for construction of a new home for early literacy programs. Steve helped secure adjacent land in William Land Park for the expansion and \$600,000 in the City budget to kick off the capital campaign. The project includes a new Sacramento Story Center with a community room, outdoor classroom area, improved entry for streamlined ticketing, restrooms, a new park restroom, and improved stroller and pedestrian access.

Golden One Center and Downtown Commons

February 2018

During the Great Recession, downtown Sacramento was severely impacted by state furloughs, city budget cuts, and a collapsed real estate market. When the Sacramento Kings announced in January 2013 that they were considering moving to Seattle, Steve worked to ensure a new arena would be built downtown, be transit oriented, and that it would be a venue for much more than basketball – a world class green building and well-designed experience. Steve worked to ensure that the financing deal worked out with the city would protect the taxpayers and general fund, while spurring adjacent development, including the Downtown Commons project on the site of the shuttered downtown plaza. As part of the agreement, Steve got a commitment from the Council to advance key civic projects that had been stuck: the Studios for the Performing Arts (CLARA), the new B Street Theatre (The Sofia), the renovation of the Community Center Theater, and the Powerhouse Science Center (The SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity).

“People love to hate the arena, but you can’t deny it is bringing energy and investment into the city that is producing revenue. It was like a defibrillator on the city’s heart. What we saw after that was this renewed sense of confidence in the central city, particularly downtown. We saw properties changing hands. That generates revenue for the city. And then finally we saw much-needed residential projects coming along behind them.”



APRIL 2020

CLARA

After the prior Studios for the Performing Arts failed to proceed, Steve worked with the Sacramento City Unified School District to reopen the historic Fremont School and transform it into permanent home for the Sacramento Ballet and its school, as well as affordable spaces for performing arts organizations and creative nonprofits. Steve led the charge to invest \$7.5 million of City resources into creating what we now call the CLARA in midtown. Steve worked with the School District to lease the space for \$1 a year for a 40-year lease and partnered with a new nonprofit specially formed to run the site. The CLARA is home to Alliance Française, Brazilian Center for Cultural Exchange, Capital Stage, McKeever School of Irish Dance, Sacramento Ballet, and Sacramento Preparatory Music Academy.

Steve thought the timing of the CLARA spoke well of Sacramento. The agreement was finalized around the same time as the City agreed in principle to fund the new downtown arena. At the Council vote to approve the funding, Steve shared that the funding proved “we care not only about sports. We care about the arts.”

SEPTEMBER 2017

SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity (formerly Powerhouse Science Center)

The new SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC) project will transform a 108-year-old gas burning power plant to offer five times the exhibit space than that of the previous space at I-80 on Auburn Boulevard. The original structure will house permanent and rotating exhibits. The new structure will have an entryway, retail and cafe area, and planetarium and is expected to attract 250,000 - 300,000 visitors total. With Steve's leadership, the City Council voted to advance the project with \$40 million in federal bonds to transform the waterfront site into a new home for this important educational center. He and Mayor Steinberg recruited SMUD to become the name sponsor for \$9.25 million, which was the last piece of funding needed to break ground.





“This is a regional project that will transform the lives of kids and families by bringing STEAM experiences to a new generation.”



JANUARY 2018

The Sofia

Originally advocated for by then-Mayor Joe Serna in 1999, the B Street Theatre and its children’s programs were long in need of a permanent home. The new performing arts complex, named for Sofia Tsakopoulos, opened in 2018 and includes two theaters and a rehearsal space, a lobby, full-service restaurant, open-air courtyard, and rooftop deck. The project also inspired a new hotel adjacent to it and several other projects nearby.

Founded in 1986, B Street Theatre began as a touring theater for children and originally obtained land for a new home as a donation from Sutter in 2005 but took more than a decade of fundraising and planning. With Steve’s urging, the City granted B Street a \$3.5 million forgivable loan, in exchange for which B Street agreed to hold performances at two schools in each school district every year for 20 years.

Verge Center for the Arts

June 2014

Steve’s advocacy and belief in local artists led then-City Manager John Shirey to make a \$50,000 grant from the City, which allowed the Verge to take advantage of a low-interest loan program to buy and renovate its current home. Initially founded in 2008 by Jesse Powell, the Center moved its gallery in 2010, then headed by Director Liv Moe, to 625 S Street to establish low-rent artist studios and a large exhibition space to continue presenting shows. Steve also worked with the Center for Contemporary Art to merge with the Verge to create a stronger, unified modern arts organization.

Washington Elementary

Reopened: September 2016

Steve worked with Sacramento City Unified School Boardmember Jay Hansen (no relation) and the school district to reopen Washington Elementary School in midtown with a focus on arts and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), which has been a very successful neighborhood school under the leadership of Principal Dr. Gema Godina. The school was crucial to accommodating families expected to move into new housing in the central city.

“We have a lot of families who were thinking about leaving our central city because there wasn’t a school. This helps us retain those families, and it gives the housing we’re trying to build more of a lift.”



SEPTEMBER 2017 - ONGOING

Winn Park Building Restoration

Built in 1937 under the Works Progress Administration, the Winn Park building is a former fire alarm station where emergency fire calls were dispatched. Vacant since 2005, Steve secured \$1 million to restore this long-neglected park building so it could be reactivated, and he secured \$300,000 for improvements to the surrounding park.

Wings of the City

March 2019

In partnership with the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento, during national debates over immigration and a wall at the US-Mexico border, Steve worked to place a series of nine sculptures from Mexican artist Jorge Marín in three locations in downtown Sacramento. Meant to evoke idealization of concepts related to spiritual virtues of humankind, freedom, and a defiance of gravity, the sculptures were on display from March 2019 through early 2020. Four were located on Capitol Mall in between 8th and 9th Streets. The other five were placed between L and J Streets along 11th Street in Cathedral Square.

“Capitol Mall and our City have been changing very dramatically in the last few years. The city is soaring and now we have the wings to prove it.”





LGBTQ & Equality

2017 Reaffirmation of Sanctuary City Status

January 2017

Working with Councilmember Eric Guerra, Steve helped update Sacramento's Sanctuary City Resolution to provide protections from harassment and in response to executive orders signed by the Trump Administration seeking to build a wall on the border with Mexico and to block federal aid to local governments that do not cooperate with federal authorities to track and report undocumented immigrants. The City of Sacramento reaffirmed its stance to remain a sanctuary city, even under threat of missing out on federal aid.

The efforts around sanctuary cities nationwide defined the resistance era of state and local responses to Trump's overreaches.

Lavender Heights Designation, Rainbow Crosswalk, and Sign Topper Recognition

2016

In partnership with the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and others, Lavender Heights was officially recognized by the City as a location of significance to the LGBTQ community with beautiful new rainbow crosswalks and distinctive sign toppers that were partially funded by community donors. The recognition serves as a memorial and landmark referencing the history of Sacramento's vibrant LGBTQ community; and to attract local and regional residents and tourists to the area's many LGBTQ-owned clubs, restaurants, salons, galleries, and retail stores.

APRIL 2020



Lavender Courtyard

After six years of work with Mutual Housing of California and the LGBTQ community, Lavender Courtyard finally broke ground on a project that offers affordable, LGBTQ-welcoming senior housing at 16th and F Streets. Studies show that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer seniors experience discrimination in health and social service delivery and in housing. LGBTQ seniors frequently report being victimized by staff and residents of senior facilities. Upon moving into traditional senior communities, many LGBTQ elders feel compelled to go back into the closet after years or decades of being able to live out and proud. Many are afraid to reveal their sexual orientation or gender identity to service providers and health professionals, making it difficult for them to get appropriate care and referrals.

“In the midst of a dark economic crisis, this is a big boost to our morale in the city and for the people that desperately need affordable housing.”

Thank you, Steve Hansen.

For eight years, Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Hansen stood tallest as the champion for the LGBTQ community, and in few instances did his work contain more impact than the support and energy he lent to the creation of Lavender Courtyard by Mutual Housing.

Hansen made construction of Lavender Courtyard – the region’s first LGBTQ-friendly senior-living community – one of his top priorities from the time Mutual Housing California first acquired the midtown property at 16th and F streets. He has continued to lead on the Lavender project all the way through to its construction phase that commenced in October and that will transform an empty lot into a neighborhood jewel.

“(Lavender Courtyard) is a cool project that will help catalyze the next phase of 16th street,” Hansen told The Sacramento Bee in 2015. “This project is going to carry some energy and vitality to a part of the street that is in need of some love.”

When the project is completed in 2022, Lavender will stand as a testament to Steve’s combined vision with Mutual Housing to protect the Stonewall generation from the kinds of discrimination that often marks the elder years of LGBTQ people. Lavender residents will live close to transit lines and supportive services, where they will be treated with respect and dignity, in a neighborhood where rainbow flags festoon businesses and public gathering places, in a place where they will truly feel at home.

Supporting Lavender Courtyard wasn’t always easy for Steve. He faced down insults and slanderous innuendo directed at him by a small group of hostile neighborhood opponents who tried to halt the project. He countered their false protestations in private meetings in his office and in public sessions at City Hall, to ensure that Lavender would become a reality.

Steve Hansen was always our go-to councilmember when it came to keeping the Lavender project moving toward its ultimate groundbreaking this year. We will always remember and acknowledge him as the primary force on the Sacramento City Council when it came to building a community that meets the housing needs of LGBTQ seniors, in a society that is still stumbling and learning when it comes to accommodating all aspects of its diversity.

We are sure that Steve isn’t finished yet when it comes to creating a more equitable society. And we know that when Abraham Lincoln’s “more perfect union” finally takes shape, it will be the result of the hard and brave work of civic leaders like Steve Hansen.

Roberto Jimenez

CEO, Mutual Housing California

LGBTQ Community Center

September 2019

With Steve's leadership, Sacramento City Council authorized spending \$750,000 previously allocated in the 2019-20 city budget for the LGBTQ Community Center to buy a permanent site. The center landed on an 11,250-square-foot building at 1015 20th Street, offering "the space to catch up with the size of the program," according to CEO David Heitstuman. In its new location, the center is able to house all its staff under one roof, expand its services, provide better accessibility, and host more events. The new location finds the LGBTQ Center right in the middle of Lavender Heights.

"It's home sweet home for the LGBTQ community."

Municipal Equality Index

November 2013

When Steve took office in 2012, the City of Sacramento had received a low grade on the Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index, a measure of local governments' commitment to equality for LGBTQ residents and employees. Within two years the City received a perfect score through Steve's leadership, with bonus points for such things as providing services to LGBTQ youth and people experiencing homelessness and having openly gay elected officials.

"When I was elected as the first openly LGBTQ person, I made it my mission to get a 100% on the Municipal Equality Index. This year alone, we've really stepped up in a big way to fund the LGBTQ Center to provide help for homeless LGBTQ youth, most of whom are trans youth of color."



Protections for LGBTQ Employees

December 2013

Steve was instrumental in adding gender consideration to municipal nondiscrimination laws and ensured equal health care benefits for transgender employees.

Study Mission to Border in 2019 - Plight of LGBTQ Migrants

April 2019

In April 2019, Steve traveled to the US-Mexico border with 30 LGBTQ elected officials, artists, athletes, and activists, organized by Equality California and All About Humanity, to meet with LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers who were subjected to violence and oppression in their home countries, but were being blocked from seeking safety in the United States by the Trump Administration.

JUNE AND NOVEMBER 2019

LGBTQ Pride Flag and Transgender Pride Flag at City Hall

The pride flag was flown for the first time at City Hall in 2019 and is now flown outside City Hall annually during Pride Month (June). The flag was raised on the 50th anniversary of the New York City Stonewall uprising. The Transgender Pride Flag was also flown for the first time in November 2019 for the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.



“For the City of Sacramento, we have been a pioneer in the region providing protections for LGBTQ people long before any other city in the region and sometimes before the state. We passed our domestic partnership registry in 1992 and we’ve had a heightened awareness. We continue to have important debates about how to ensure that the most vulnerable members of the LGBTQ community can be taken care of. It’s only right we raise the flag as a symbol of not only our progress, but our continued efforts to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our LGBTQ community enjoy equality as they rightfully should.”



Built Environment & Housing

Affordable Housing Projects

WAL

April 2015

Sacramento's first affordable housing project for artists is at the Warehouse Artists' Lofts. This mixed-use, mixed-income community for artists was an adaptive reuse of historic Lawrence Warehouse, a six-story structure built in 1914. Local artwork can be seen on display throughout.

Lavender Courtyard

See Page 18.

Additional Affordable Housing Projects

- 1717 S Street – This project will set aside units for workers who earn less than 50 percent of the area's median income. The 159 units are expected to open in late 2022.
- 19/J – An example of affordability by design.
- Bel Vue
- Hardin
- La Valentina
- Marshall Hotel
- SHRA projects

Capitol Park Hotel

August 2019

Steve proposed and led the opening of the city's newest low-barrier triage shelter at the Capitol Park Hotel and worked with Mercy Housing to develop a plan for it to eventually turn into permanent supportive housing for the formerly homeless. After 2020, it will be converted into 134 units of permanent supportive housing.

Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Efforts at Alder Grove and Marina Vista

July 2013-2015

The Choice Neighborhoods program is a federal (HUD) program that leverages public and private dollars to support local initiatives that address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing. Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) received a \$2 million Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to study and plan for the redevelopment of the Alder Grove & Marina Vista public housing communities at the West End of Broadway. The community will be fully connected to new transit, employment centers, services, retail, and cultural amenities.

MAY 2020

Farm to Fork Al Fresco

To mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on Sacramento restaurants and employees, the City assisted businesses in temporarily adding and expanding outside dining options to accommodate Covid-19 social distancing standards. This allowed employees to stay employed, businesses to remain open, and patrons to enjoy Sacramento’s dining options.

“Restaurateurs and restaurant staff have been hit really hard by this pandemic, but our city is safely moving into reopening through our Farm to Fork Al Fresco program. With help from Visit Sacramento and our business districts, I am thrilled to see this project launch for all restaurants in the City of Sacramento.”

Central City Specific Plan 2015

In 2015 the Downtown Housing Initiative was launched to bring 10,000 new housing units in the next 10 years to Central City Sacramento by getting CEQA programmatic approvals and creating an infrastructure financing plan to ensure that growth was sustainable. The Central City Specific Plan takes that initiative further by looking at growth opportunities for the next 20 years and beyond.

In partnership with neighborhood organizations, development partners, and utilities, Steve helped shape a vision for development over the next decade that can support housing at all affordability levels and makes it easier than ever to build high quality housing in the central city.

The Core and Cove 2018

The Core and Cove are new housing developments in the River Oaks area of Natomas providing single and multi-family home options in some of the largest remaining vacant lots in the City of Sacramento. Steve worked with the neighborhood to reshape these developments to include neighborhood amenities and a walkable/bikeable design to seamlessly blend with the community.

LETTER TO STEVE

Councilmember Steve Hansen,

Thank you for keeping your eye on the prize, “Making the Central City a Great Place to Live, Work and Play”. You helped to reopen Washington Elementary School, encouraged infill housing developments for all income levels, supported neighborhood public art projects and lived up to your commitment to revitalize 12th and 16th Streets. You should be proud of the many seeds you’ve planted, that will continue to flourish, mature, and grow. On behalf of your neighbors in Alkali & Mansion Flats, we look forward to working with you as a committed community member.

All the Best, Sean Wright



2015

K Street/Downtown Revitalization

K Street is in a state of change, and it started with a breakthrough to finally build up the 700 block with 137 units of affordable housing led by Ali Youssefi at CFY Development and restore the historic storefronts to bring local businesses back to the heart of the city, which was led by Bay Miry of D&S Development. What used to be a very vibrant area has since lost that activity with the suburban sprawl of the '60s. But in recent years, downtown has seen much of that energy return. The Golden 1 Center has spurred new activity. Cambria Solutions bought the building at 730 K Street and turned it into the headquarters for their IT/management consulting firm. Downtown housing investments such as the Bel Vue, the Hardin, the MAY building, and the Nikky Mohanna housing development at 10th and K Streets continue to spring up. The Kings and CFY Development have filed permits to work on a 150-unit complex with 10,000 square feet of retail space at 8th and K Streets, and just a couple blocks away is Anthem Cathedral Square at 11th and J Streets. Sacramento Commons will bring 436 apartments to the area. Other projects include the Hyatt Centric at 7th and K Streets, the Kimpton Sawyer, and the Exchange at 4th and J Streets.

“K Street continues to be the cultural and civil backbone of our city. Its success has almost become a fixation for me.”



Nathaniel Colley Office

October 2020

With Steve’s leadership, City Council adopted an ordinance to place the midtown office of Nathaniel Colley on the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources. Colley, the first licensed Black attorney in the city, commissioned James C. Dodd, the first licensed Black architect in Sacramento, to build

the one-story structure at 1810 S Street. Steve has also called for Colley’s family home to be landmarked and to have the new Sacramento County Superior Courthouse in the Railyards to be named in his honor.

**Preserving Rich History
Historic District Plan**

November 2019

Steve secured \$300,000 to renew our Sacramento Historic District Plans to protect our historic neighborhoods and clarify to staff and property owners about what kind of design is compatible within each historic district. Previously, the City process relied on a broad set of criteria that didn’t provide specifics on site planning, compatible infill design within historic settings, design guidance, or standards unique to Sacramento’s historic districts. This proved frustrating for preservation community and owners alike. The new plans clarify standards and speed up applications.

Mills Act

August 2018

Enacted in 1972, the Mills Act grants cities and counties the authority to provide tax relief to owners of historic buildings who actively participate in the restoration and maintenance of their properties. Sacramento adopted its Mills Act program in August 2018. Steve led the charge to revive the program after previous budget cuts.

“This program is a benefit to buildings in distress. I’m very proud of our Sacramento history, but we’ve also seen buildings obliterated by freeways and large swabs of communities of color displaced downtown. So, we’re redoubling our efforts in preserving what we have left to ensure the private owners of these buildings can preserve history.”

**R Street Complete Streets -
13th to 18th Street**

2015 to 2018

This project reconstructed the street right-of-way into a safe, pedestrian-friendly, and multi-use public right-of-way. The R Street corridor has a variety of historical buildings and warehouses, and has attracted many high-profile projects, such as the Ice Blocks project.

Sacramento Commons

August 2019

This superblock site was approved for more housing under Steve’s effort to bring more residents to downtown. Two new Sacramento Commons mid-rise apartment buildings of 436 apartments will replace a row of 84 two-story garden apartments that were built in the 1960s and torn down recently. Steve said the project represents appropriate densification of housing in the central city.

“New housing like this helps ensure that we continue to meet the growing needs of our city.”

Streamlining Ordinance

April 2020

Allowed projects reviewed by City of Sacramento's planning and design staff to review and approve projects that conform to zoning and planning guidelines rather than going through an expensive and long process involving the planning commission, which resulted in projects being reviewed more quickly while improving the requirements for public notice and public input.

Water Meter Program Reform and Acceleration

February 2015

Steve led the charge to reform and accelerate the City's installation of water meters, reducing the cost of the program by more than \$40 million dollars and creating a best value bidding program to reduce contractor errors, such as broken gas lines and shoddy work. The state experienced significant drought conditions from 2013-2016, reinforcing the importance of metering water services as a water conservation tool. In response to the drought, DOU received Council approval in 2015 to accelerate the installation of water meters to improve water conservation efforts within the city. The City of Sacramento will be 100% metered by the end of 2020.

West Broadway Specific Plan

August 2020

The West Broadway Specific Plan (WBSP) area is characterized by a patchwork of large parcels with poorly connected, disparate land uses such as industrial sites and public housing complexes. The WBSP provides a framework for integrating new development with existing uses into a more livable neighborhood. The plan streamlines the housing development process, provides a vision for future riverfront planning, and will help create a more walkable neighborhood, improve multimodal connectivity, and disperse and slow traffic. By increasing housing opportunities near the urban core, it will help reduce long commutes and dependence on cars, reducing the per capita use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions to help meet air quality standards.

West Sacramento & Sacramento Mayors' Climate Commission

June 2020

Steve served as a commissioner on the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change. The Sacramento City Council unanimously adopted the Commission's final report for achieving carbon zero by 2045 in Sacramento and West Sacramento. The Commission's recommendations define a set of bold and necessary strategies to achieve the cities' carbon zero vision, including a set of equity strategies, foundational principles, and actions to reduce emissions in the built environment, mobility, and community health and resilience sectors.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Tenant Protection and Relief Act

Steve created the Tenant Protection Program to assist residential tenants with increasing rental rates by establishing limits on annual rent increases. It also provides protection from unwarranted lease termination for longer term tenants. This program helps provide renters in the City of Sacramento with more stability when it comes to remaining in their rental units. Steve led the effort to pass Sacramento's anti-rent gouging ordinance, TPR, stopping predatory landlord behavior and protecting tenants.

“This is the most significant thing any Central Valley city has done to stabilize the housing market.”



Public Health & Parks

Healthy Parks for Healthy Residents

Anne Rudin Peace Pond

May 2018

Steve, former mayor Heather Fargo, and many other prominent members of the community wished to recognize former Mayor Anne Rudin for her many contributions to the City of Sacramento. Anne Rudin was first elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1971 under a new City Charter section which provided for election of council members by districts and mayor at-large. She was the first woman to win election to the City Council in 20 years, and only the third since the city was incorporated in 1921. She was re-elected twice. In 1983, against tough opposition, she became the first woman elected mayor of Sacramento. She was re-elected in 1987, serving until 1992 when she chose not to run, but to pursue public service in other ways.

Barandas Park Improvements

July 2019

The new dog park was opened on July 19, 2019 in the South Natomas Community. The new all-weather shade

canopies were installed in late December of that year. The 12.74-acre adult sports and family-oriented park includes an adventure playground, amphitheater, central promenade with tree grove, dog park, gazebo, trees, turf, nature area, site furniture, soccer field, softball/regulation-sized soccer combo field, and walkways.

Cesar Chavez -

La Cosecha

December 2015

City Council approved the development of 5,000 square feet of landscaped patio space around the City-owned building on the west side of Cesar Chavez Plaza. The restaurant and expansive seating area, which opened in 2017, complements activities like Concerts in the Park and farmers markets. The City invested \$485,400 in improvements to the park and building.

Fremont Park

October 2020

Steve helped bring upgraded electrical power to the park to support special events like Chalk it Up, Movies in the Park, and more.



OCTOBER 2019

Ali Youssefi Square

Formerly Saint Rose of Lima Park, Ali Youssefi Square was renamed after the late developer who passed away from cancer in 2018 at age 35. Youssefi's work included the Warehouse Artist Lofts, the Harden, and a strong influence on the 700 Block of K Street. The quote on his monument was selected by his wife, Azzie, and reads, "Stars in the universe that burn the brightest, live shorter lives than others. And with their high-energy light, they transform all that basks in their luminosity."

"From his vision for an inclusive Sacramento, to championing the arts, preserving historic buildings, and creating affordable housing, Youssefi Square is dedicated to Ali's legacy and his belief in a better tomorrow."



Land Park Amphitheater

January 2019 – ongoing

The Land Park Amphitheater is more than 100 years old and was built as a depression-era WPA project between 1935-1942. Today, the amphitheater still has no bathrooms or dressing rooms, no ticket booth, and a lack of ADA compliance, which causes safety hazards. With implementation of the designs funded by City Council, the Land Park Amphitheater can become an enjoyable and accessible staple of the community.

O'Neill Park

October 2020

Steve granted \$35,000 and land to support Street Soccer USA Sacramento's project to install two street soccer courts for their continued effort in fighting poverty and strengthening communities through soccer. The organization also received a \$190,000 grant from Union Pacific Railroad.

Olympians Park

November 2014

Located next to and developed in conjunction with the Mill @ Broadway, Olympians Park includes a quarter-mile jogging loop, sport courts, bike path, walking paths, event lawn, amphitheater, riparian garden, dog park, playground, and picnic areas.

Plaza Cervantes

November 2015

Improvements to Plaza Cervantes near Sacramento City College on Freeport Boulevard included new sidewalks, drought tolerant landscaping, and a colorful bronze sculpture by artist Tony Natsoulas called "The Balancing Act, Too" that was relocated from the Downtown Plaza.

River Otter

February 2020

River Otter park received a new half basketball court and a new concrete walkway leading up to the court.

Roosevelt Park

2019 – ongoing

Roosevelt Park was improved with the replacement of the existing restroom with a new accessible restroom building, a new fitness court, a reconstructed softball facility, upgraded field lighting, landscaping improvements, and a new basketball court sponsored by the Sacramento Kings.



Hanami Line

Steve contributed \$100,000 from District 4 Park Impact Fees for the Hanami Line project to plant cherry trees using geometric patterns to honor and remember the fruit tree orchards that many Japanese immigrants helped establish in the Sacramento area. The park site geometries are inspired by the ancient Japanese art of origami and will be paved with a blue Seigaiha pattern. Pink Flair Cherry Trees and Yoshini Cherry Trees will be planted along the Robert T. Matsui Park walkway, which is strategically aligned with Sacramento's Japanese sister city, Matsuyama.





Southside Park

Ongoing

Southside Park will be improved with the demolition of the old restrooms, resurfacing of the playground, a relocated new prefabricated restroom, updated utilities, installation of concrete walkways, accessibility improvements, and installation of minor play equipment. Additionally, a new stage shade structure will be added, and the pond will be improved with full water circulation, aeration, and electrical upgrades.

Healthy Initiatives

Alchemist CDC

2013

The Alchemist CDC program allows recipients of CalFresh assistance to use their benefits to buy fresh food at many local farmers markets in midtown, downtown, and the Sunday Farmers Market under the freeway. This increases equitable access at farmers markets by setting up booths that run an EBT machine and scrip system, enabling CalFresh recipients to buy fresh, healthy, local produce. CalFresh provides qualifying lower income individuals financial assistance in purchasing food for themselves and their families.

Flavored Tobacco Ban

April 2019

Steve took on big tobacco and their targeting of low-income communities of color by prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco and vape products in the City of Sacramento and reducing conventional tobacco sales in those communities. It is now illegal in the City of Sacramento to sell flavored e-cigarette cartridges, menthol cigarettes, and other flavored tobacco products.

Food Literacy Center

December 2019

The Food Literacy Center will expand its operations by opening a working farm at Leataata Floyd Elementary School near the Marina Vista and Alder Grove housing complexes at Broadway, using it and adjoining space to teach children how to grow, harvest, and cook vegetables. This urban farm and community garden will serve Food Literacy’s mission to inspire kids to eat their vegetables by teaching children in low-income elementary schools about cooking, nutrition, gardening, and active play for improved health, environment, and economy.





JANUARY 2018

Downtown Streets Team

The Downtown Streets Team is a volunteer work experience program for homeless individuals, trading volunteer street cleanup shifts for gift cards and case management services. Volunteers clean and beautify areas around downtown and Broadway in District 4 and other areas of the city. Downtown Streets Team, which is based in San Jose, launched its Sacramento program in January 2018 alongside the opening of Sacramento’s winter triage shelter on Railroad Drive. Steve worked to double the funding for the team and expand their area to make more of an impact along the Broadway corridor

Midtown Farmers Market

April 2013

Steve help start the Midtown Farmers Market and helped it be relocated to the beautiful shaded location on 20th Street between J and L Streets. The Midtown Farmers Market showcases local agriculture, prepared foods, and artisans and crafters while providing an opportunity for midtown residents and business owners to discover regionally grown foods.

SMAQMD

2018

After the devastating wildfires during the fall of 2018 and the associated smoke impacts of the Sacramento area, Steve worked with the SMAQMD and Assemblymember

Kevin McCarty on AB 661 to improve community-wide response planning for future wildfire smoke incidents impacting public health.

Urban Agricultural Ordinance

March 2015

Steve worked with community advocates to pass a nationally recognized urban agriculture ordinance and incentive package. This made it legal for people to grow and sell produce to consumers directly from their properties and from temporary farm stands. Additionally, Steve helped to pass another ordinance to offer tax incentives for people to convert vacant lots for agricultural use. Sacramento County then followed the City’s lead to pass similar regulations to a broader region.



Transportation Mobility

12th Street Cycletrack

September 2015 – ongoing”

This project will transform North 12th Street Corridor from Richards Boulevard to H Street into a Complete Street with installation of a separated bikeway along the west side of North 12th Street. The project also includes construction of new sidewalks, landscaping, aesthetic improvements, street and pedestrian lighting, and traffic signal improvements.

Bicycle Master Plan

August 2016

For the first time, the City Council-approved Bicycle Master Plan included an explicit equity framework to bring safety and mobility improvements to the communities that need them most. The purpose of the plan is to set forth bicycle related investments, policies, programs, and strategies to establish a complete bicycle system. The plan guides the development of bikeways, supports facilities like bike parking, and programs such as education and encouragement of biking as a safe mode of transportation to help the City of Sacramento reach General Plan emission targets. The vision for this plan is to create a safe, comfortable, and continuous network of bikeways attracting and serving cyclists of all ages and abilities from all neighborhoods and thereby integrating bicycling as a fundamental part of Sacramento’s everyday transportation system.

Broadway Complete Streets

August 2019

Steve championed the planning and funding effort to convert Broadway to a safer place for people on bikes and on foot to enjoy. Broadway Complete Streets will anchor multi-modal transportation connections and improve access for all modes through the introduction of a four lane to three lane road diet, new buffered bike lanes, new market pedestrian crossings and refuge islands, and multi-modal improvements at two intersections. The City has secured federal, state, and local grant funding to cover 80% of the costs so far. Construction will begin by 2022.

Capitol Mall Re-Do

Ongoing

Capitol Mall was California’s first post-war redevelopment project, leading the nationwide emphasis on “beautification” projects. Currently, Capitol Mall is an antiseptic and static boulevard framed by early modernist buildings. The project needs \$150,000 to \$200,000 for the next phase to put vehicle traffic through the middle of the mall, making for easier traffic management. The Capitol Mall Re-Do would also reduce four lanes to two and expand pedestrian space from 16 feet to 50 feet. CADA has committed \$100,000 and SACOG has committed \$500,000, with the total cost expected to be up to \$16 million. Designs are set to be finalized by 2022 with construction starting in 2023.



MAY 2018

Bringing JUMP/Lime to Sacramento

As part of a regional working group, Steve helped bring JUMP Bikes to Sacramento in May of 2018, making Sacramento the fourth city with JUMP Bikes after Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Santa Cruz. Lime Scooters were then introduced in Sacramento in 2019, giving the city options for rentable surface street transportation.

Del Rio Trail

March 2018

In partnership with Councilmember Schenirer and the South Land Park Neighborhood Association, Steve championed a rails-to-trails project to better connect South Sacramento with the central city by a multimillion-dollar off-street trail project. The Del Rio Trail helps implement Sacramento's Bikeway Master Plan and will provide more opportunities for cyclists and walkers to have more active transportation modes. The trail will serve as an alternative commute route for people to bike to work rather than drive on freeways and boulevards.

EV Charging

December 2017

The City Council approved the City's EV Strategy, the Sacramento's first strategic outline plan for electric vehicle and other zero-emission mobility. Having access to low-cost and convenient EV charging on our city streets makes it easier for residents and visitors alike to shift to electric vehicles and away from fossil fuels. This strategy will work toward a holistic mobility system that enables all residents, including low-income and disadvantaged community residents, to get where they need to go in the cleanest way possible. The strategy is expected to reach full implementation by 2025.

Freeport Boulevard Complete Streets

November 2016

Steve helped turn a four-lane thoroughfare into a calmer two-lane street with a center turn lane and bike lanes on each flank. The project was initiated by CK McClatchy High School and Sacramento City College students commuting to school. The re-do created the longest bike-lane corridor in the city, running from Meadowview Road into midtown.

“We should no longer tolerate streets that are not safe.”

Grid 3.0

December 2018

Steve worked with central city neighborhoods and active transportation activists to replan our streets to add miles of parking protected bike lanes, road diets, and one-way to two-way street conversions with the goal of making the grid a safe and fun place to walk and bike. Further, Steve supported restricting drive-through restaurants and surface parking lots in our central city. New gas stations, drive-through restaurants, and warehouses were banned within a quarter mile of Sacramento's light rail stations through a transit-oriented development ordinance.



MAY 2017

Sunday Streets

Steve organized and led the City's first Sunday Streets open street event on Broadway in 2017. More than 5,000 attendees came out to experience Broadway without cars. As part of a global movement to temporarily close streets to vehicle congestion and activate them with community-building events, Sunday Streets featured more than 40 "activation areas" where folks could participate in a game of four square, soccer, Cross-Fit demos, vinyasa, arts and crafts, bike training, and more.



I Street Bridge

July 2019

With the prestigious bridge engineering firm T.Y. Lin International, Steve helped design a beautiful, modern new lift bridge to replace the existing rail bridge, providing a necessary connection across the Sacramento River between the Railyards and West Sacramento. This bridge will serve automobile, bicycle, transit, and pedestrian uses. Approach viaducts to the existing bridge will be demolished, resulting in better access to the waterfront.

Our Community CarShare

May 2017

As chair of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air District, Steve helped implement a new electric car sharing pilot program, available to low-income Sacramento residents. The program offers easy and free access to eight zero-emission Kia Soul EVs. SMAQMD administers the program as part of CARB's Clean Mobility Options for Disadvantaged Communities.

Paratransit

2016-2020

Steve served on the Paratransit, Inc Board of Directors for three years and helped ensure the independence and sustainability of the organization by implementing a new agreement with regional agencies that protected its funding and structure.

Parking Modernization

October 2015

The Central City Parking Master Plan will improve vehicle turnover, traffic control, air quality, and customer convenience, as well as reduce meter-violation tickets and encourage people to use parking garages instead of street-side parking. This also implemented remote payment through a mobile phone application and an innovative + (Plus) system to allow users to avoid parking tickets at meters. Provision of parking had previously been in a reactive mode, with parking studies conducted to avert the next looming parking stage. This plan will allow for the City to be proactive in mitigating current and future parking issues.

Transit-Oriented Development Ordinance

Steve led the planning effort to prohibit auto-oriented land uses near transit stations, making it easier for housing and jobs to locate near our transit infrastructure. A 2020 amendment incentivized transit supportive uses near light rail stations, and preserved transit areas for appropriate development opportunities.

SacRT Reforms and Modernization

Ongoing

Along with Board Chairs Phil Serna and Jay Schenirer, Steve led the effort at Sacramento Regional Transit to turn around the agency financially, bring in new leadership, and implement SacRT Forward – a route optimization plan to improve transit service, develop new priorities and initiatives, and program new funding for transit including light rail vehicle replacement, system modernization, and replacement of older buses with new electric buses. Steve helped advance and expand the nationally recognized Smart Ride System, new express electric bus service from UC Davis to Sacramento, and a new Airport Express service with Electrify America.

LETTER TO STEVE

During his seven-year tenure at SacRT, Director Hansen left an indelible and lasting impact throughout the Sacramento community. From spearheading SacRT's rolling art exhibit of trains wrapped and designed by local Sacramento artists, to ushering in a new era of reinvigorated transit service for the region as the Golden 1 Center opened, Steve's influence is visible throughout the organization. As Board Chair, he oversaw the transition of ADA paratransit service operations, a new zero emission electric bus connection between the cities of Davis and Sacramento, and the launch of an Airport Express bus service for the first time in agency history. I truly admire him for his leadership and compassion, and I am appreciative for everything he accomplished for the good of SacRT and the Sacramento region.

Chris Flores

Sacramento Regional Transit District

San Joaquin Corridor

April 2020

The San Joaquin Corridor project is a \$500.5 million plan that will better connect Sacramento, the Bay Area, and the San Joaquin Valley by rail. This corridor helps meet an increase in demand for alternate community options to the Bay Area, as well as for leisure travelers, and will include six new train platforms with five in the Sacramento area. Steve worked with UC Davis experts and the community to design safety improvements and a new midtown station to connect the new intercity rail service with SacRT.

Shared Rideables Ordinance

February 2019

This ordinance established shared rideable business requirements to help achieve the City's goals of encouraging active transportation and providing adequate shared rideable parking. It includes a plan to require companies to place more bikes in opportunity areas, such as underserved communities and along transit corridors. Steve helped bring shared personal mobility devices to Sacramento, achieving a one million miles of low-carbon trips in just one year.

Urban Bicycling 101 Class - Ticket Diversion

January 2017

Steve helped create an innovative and equitable approach to traffic enforcement by making sure that people who received moving violations weren't burdened with expensive tickets and could go through an education course as diversion.

West Broadway Specific Plan

See Page 27.



JANUARY 2017

Vision Zero

City Council passed the City's nationally recognized Vision Zero policy, placing safety consideration at the top of transportation decision-making and helping us meet our climate change goal of getting people out of cars and into alternative modes of transit. Vision Zero's goal is that the City of Sacramento will work collaboratively in a data-driven effort to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2027.

“We can add all the stop signs in the world, we can put spikes on the road, but if drivers are not paying attention, all the flashing signs won't stop people from hurting others.”



Leaders for Livable Communities

IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS



“If you care about resilient, sustainably developed communities this is where you’re going to get the tools, resources, and ideas to help make that happen.”

Steve Hansen
Councilmember,
Sacramento, CA

missi
unities

ICY

public
l availa
the cit

Additional Accomplishments

Additional Accomplishments



Creation of New Commissions

Active Transportation (January 2018) and Creative Economy Commission (September 2019)

Freeport Commercial Retail Project & New Raley's at Former Capitol Nursery Site

April 2020

For more than five years, Steve led the charge with neighborhood stakeholders to design a modern, walkable new commercial retail project that included the new flagship Raley's, which opened in April 2020 on Freeport Boulevard. Steve was honored to be the first customer at the new store.

Honorary Sign Toppers

October 2016

City Council approved honorary sign toppers in Alkali, Newton, Lavender Heights, and Capitol Mansions neighborhoods. These street sign toppers recognize the contributions and/or significance of distinctive neighborhoods and community leaders in Sacramento.

Local Government Commission

2014-2020

Steve served on the board from 2014 through 2020, including serving as chair from 2018-2020. LGC supports

local policymakers through nationally recognized events, cost effective technical assistance, and policy guidance on Climate Change, Community Design, Energy, Water, and National Service. Steve has served as Board Chair of LGC for two years and has helped the organization grow its programs, budget, and increase national presence as an expert in bringing sustainable solutions to cities.

Repeal of the 1942 City Resolution Endorsing Japanese Internment

May 2014

On May 27, 2014, the Sacramento City Council unanimously repealed Resolution 43-207. The racist resolution, which had been on the books for more than 70 years, contained offensive and ahistorical language regarding Japanese residents and urged that "all Japanese be confined in concentration camps, and that they not be returned to any Pacific Coast state." Steve authored the resolution to overturn Resolution 43-207 and recognize the contributions and importance of the city's Japanese residents and heritage. He also worked with the Japanese community to create the Sakura (Cherry Trees) Grove at Southside Park to honor the history of Japanese Americans in the neighborhood who were interned during WWII.

Commission Appointees

LETTER TO STEVE

As a commissioner for District 4, I'm most proud of an accomplishment that we were able to achieve this year (2020). First, we as a commission developed an equity statement that we are considering a guiding principle to the issues that we discuss, and what we take action on, including what recommendations we forward to Council for their considerations. We are the first commission in the city to develop an equity statement, so it's pretty exciting that we took this step, and we hope that other commissions follow suit.

Without Councilmember Hansen's support and encouragement, I would have never seen myself in this position. Serving on this commission has been such a great opportunity for me to give back, and to learn so much more about the work that City staff and council members do each and every day to make our city a great place to live. Through this work, I have been inspired and I know I will continue to find other opportunities in the future to serve our city. I am honored to have supported the council member in his vision to help make Sacramento a better place for pedestrians, cyclists, and all users of the road.

Jennifer Berdugo
Active Transportation
Commission

LETTER TO STEVE

The thing I'm most proud of on Measure U is the way in which our committee has coalesced over the past year and focused our attention on ensuring equity through the expenditure of Measure U funds; more specifically, our work on proposing Participatory Budgeting, a democratic process of involving Sacramento residents in making decisions about how to allocate a portion of the City's budget.

Steve was, from the very beginning, a tremendous source of support for me and the committee. He introduced me to his staff and to other folks in City Hall who have been helpful in understanding and participating in city governance. He has also been a great listening ear and offered invaluable advice and feedback for how to approach various issues to gain support for our work. I will miss his advice, support, and counsel and wish him the best of luck in his next endeavor.

Dana Kivel
Measure U Advisory Committee

LETTER TO STEVE

Over the past five years, Steve has been an invaluable thought partner, resource, and friend as we have worked to transform Sacramento's arts and creative economy infrastructure.

I appreciate that no matter what I am working on, I can count on Steve for advice and material support. From supporting my appointment to SMAC against stiff competition, to bringing the arts commission's Race & Cultural Equity Statement forward to the City Council, to ensuring that the principles contained within the equity statement guided the entirety of the CARES Creative Economy Recovery grant process, Steve has always stepped in at critical moments to ensure that Sacramento's diverse arts community has the infrastructure and financial support it needs to grow and thrive.

Finally, the new Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission will have representation from each council district, which will help the city's creatives access the resources and support they need, thanks in no small part to Steve. I, and the city's arts community, owe him sincere thanks for his tireless efforts.

Maya Wallace
Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission

LETTER TO STEVE

Steve Hansen is a person who says, “Why not?” when he is told “No.” He keeps asking “Why not?” until that “No” turns into a “Yes.” Steve’s persistence has led to so many wonderful park projects in District 4. This approach to project creation has helped me to become a better Parks Commissioner and community advocate for District 4.

The diligent and persistent work Steve did with the Sacramento City Unified School District and the Food Literacy Center to bring the Floyd Farms to Leataata Floyd Elementary School will create generations of new gardeners. Steve’s collaborative approach was also instrumental in the creation of our beloved Truitt’s Bark Park. The location for the dog park had been a blighted block for decades. Now it is a popular gathering spot for midtown’s residents and their dogs.

The other project that will have an impact on generations of Sacramento residents is the Ali Youssefi Square at 7th and K Streets. The monument to this visionary is meant to honor Ali Youssefi’s work and inspire others to follow in his footsteps to keep working to make Sacramento a better place.

Steve’s approach to public service took inspiration from the art piece on J Street that encouraged us to consider that “Every Day is Your Chance to Make This City a Little Better.” Steve rose to that challenge and inspired others to do the same.

Julie Murphy

Parks and Community Enrichment
Commission

LETTER TO STEVE

Dear Steve,

Thanks so much for the opportunity to serve as a commissioner on the City’s Planning and Design Commission; it has been a fascinating 8 years! I’m very proud of a number of accomplishments, including efforts to:

- Promote and approve compact and transit-oriented development;
- Streamline the entitlement process; and
- Provide greater certainty to neighborhoods and developers about what can be built and what cannot be built.

I appreciate your help on all these issues. Our regular talks often helped me to balance decisions about project realities and the larger policy issues they generated. Your knowledge of law, land use code, and the history surrounding project proposals allowed me to better understand the context in which I had to make a decision. Thank you.

Todd Kaufman

Planning and Design Commission

LETTER TO STEVE

Steve, I proudly served as your appointee on the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission serving as a member in 2018 and 2019 and chair in 2020. I am proud that we promoted strong reforms in the areas of discipline/accountability, use of force, body worn cameras, diversifying SPD, and many others. Who we elect matters. Because of you and this appointment, SCPRC is on a stronger trajectory for reform. You made a lot of progress for Sacramento. I look forward to your next endeavor. Best wishes from your longtime friend.

Mario Guerrero

SCPRC Chair 2020

LETTER TO STEVE

I was proud to see my local community center, Belle Cooledge, really step up in providing support and services since Covid-19 hit, particularly in these holiday seasons with the trick-or-treat, rolling apple hill, and lighted Candyland drive-throughs. When I was younger, I didn’t see so much happening at Belle Cooledge Community Center - I spent a lot of time at Belle Cooledge Library - and that was something I’d designated as liking to see change during one of our youth commission meetings last year.

For me, I really remember Steve inviting the LGBT commissioners to the flag raising at City Hall this summer after our first joint City Council and Youth Commission meeting. That was really cool for me as a young queer woman to be recognized as part of a larger community for pretty much the first time.

Sarina Rye

Youth Commission

DECEMBER 2018

Small Business Recovery Program

The Small Business Recovery Program provided up to \$25,000 in forgivable loans and technical assistance to businesses and nonprofits located in the City of Sacramento impacted by Covid-19. The program was funded with \$10 million of the \$89 million the City received from the federal CARES Act.

Regional Sanitation

2013–2020

Steve served on the board of the Regional Sanitation District during a pivotal yet difficult time, when the board was mandated to build a new \$1.5 billion wastewater treatment plant, dubbed EchoWater. Regional Sanitation is overseen by a Board of Directors consisting of the five Sacramento County Supervisors, five council members from the City of Sacramento, two council members from the City of Elk Grove, and single representatives from Yolo County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and West Sacramento.

Strong Mayor

2014

Steve successfully led the effort to defeat the Strong Mayor initiative while Kevin Johnson was in office and made sure that the City Council remains a forum for all Sacramento communities. However, Steve asked for one part of the initiative to survive – the formation of an ethics commission to enforce a new ethics code at City Hall. Measure L proposed an ethics committee, but critics argued it lacked proper enforcement powers.

LETTER TO STEVE

I've had the opportunity to work with more than 700 local policymakers across the state and the nation through the Local Government Commission, and I can confidently say that Steve Hansen is one of California's top sustainability leaders.

Steve's leadership has been instrumental to the City of Sacramento, the surrounding region and to elected officials around the state. His forward-looking role in advancing bikeshare, expanding bike lanes, encouraging infill housing, and improving transit (just to name a few) have all served as models for communities throughout California.

Serving on the Local Government Commission's board, most recently as chair, Steve has had significant statewide and national impact. He has shaped policy and inspired other elected officials through his presentations and contributions to our annual national New Partners for Smart Growth and statewide Yosemite Policymakers conferences.

Steve played an essential role on the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change, which unanimously adopted a set of strategies for achieving carbon zero by 2045 in Sacramento and West Sacramento. Since then, the City has moved forward on a number of recommendations – from the establishment of a senior-level climate position and an Environmental Justice Collaborative Governance Committee to the pursuit of an ordinance to achieve all-electric construction that will eliminate the use of fossil fuels in buildings.

With Steve's support and guidance, the Local Government Commission has grown substantially in scale, reach, and impact over the past seven years. His leadership has made a real difference as we tackle critical statewide challenges around affordable housing policies, transit-oriented development, active transportation, and shared mobility. In that time, we've rolled out large new programs such as CivicSpark, an AmeriCorps program that now places close to 100 fellows each year in communities across California – including Sacramento – to work on climate-resilience projects.

On a personal note, Steve has been instrumental in launching major initiatives for nonprofits near and dear to my heart, including Street Soccer Sacramento and the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity.

Steve, as a friend, colleague, constituent, and nonprofit leader, I consider myself beyond blessed to have experienced and benefitted from your knowledgeable and dedicated leadership. You have and will continue to shape the future of our region, the work of the Local Government Commission, and the successes of all the people you've inspired.

I am so proud of you; I can't wait to partner with you and support you in your next chapter!

With admiration and appreciation,

Kate Meis Wright

Executive Director, Local Government Commission




2012-2020

PBID Engagement

Steve served on the boards of the Old Sacramento Business Association, the Midtown Association, the Downtown Sacramento Partnership, the Broadway Partnership, the Downtown Sacramento Revitalization Corporation, and worked closely with the R Street Partnership and the River District PBID.







**“Justice, peace, and community
will get us through.”**

- Councilmember Steve Hansen