



September 9, 2016

Mr. Rodney Fong, President
San Francisco Planning Commission
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Academy of Art University

Dear Commissioner Fong:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing 2,500 local businesses, urges the Planning Commission to approve the Academy of Art University's application to allow for the continued use of student housing facilities along the Sutter Street corridor and 601 Brannan for academic programs.

While the City works with the University to resolve various Planning Code issues, the continued use of these facilities is important to students and programs of this major academic institution in San Francisco. The thousands of students and faculty add to the character of these neighborhoods and support small local businesses. We believe the incorporation of these locations in the AAU's urban campus is compatible with neighborhood uses.

The Academy of Art University draws people from around the world seeking a quality arts education in our world class city. It is one of many institutions that make our knowledge based economy thrive. And the economic spinoff from its students and faculty benefits businesses of all sizes and types.

For these reasons, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce encourages the Planning Commission to approve the continued use of these various facilities for student housing and academic programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Lazarus'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc. Each member of the Planning Commission, Rebecca Delgado Rottman