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Pima County Board of Supervisors

October 16, 2023

Hon. Fred DuVal, Chairman
Arizona Board of Regents
John Arnold, Executive Director
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Dr. Robert C. Robbins, President
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Subject: Concerns Regarding the Impact of University of Arizona Cancer Center Chapel Project the Upcoming Project on Pima County's Cultural Resources

President Robbins and Chair DuVal,

I write to you today as a Pima County Supervisor representing District 2 with a pressing concern that pertains to the cultural heritage of our community. I urge you to consider the potential negative repercussions of the forthcoming University of Arizona Cancer Center Chapel project on the cultural legacy of the University and Pima County.

The issue at hand revolves around the University's project, which, if executed as planned, will significantly destroy a cultural asset that makes Pima County unique. The University's proposal to desecrate a significant architectural space and use the architectural elements for decoration in a new building is deeply concerning. The Arizona Cancer Center Chapel was designed by the renowned internationally recognized architect Paolo Soleri.

This project threatens to strip the iconic components of this art chapel from their original context diminishing their cultural significance, thereby undermining the chapel's historical value. Pima County's cultural identity is intricately woven into the fabric of our architectural heritage and masterworks like the Arizona Cancer Center Chapel, removing these pieces creates a void within our cultural landscape.

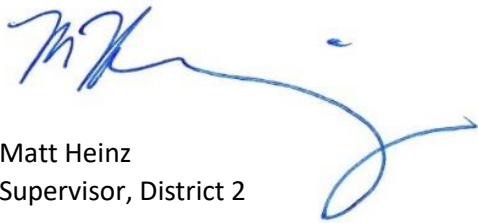
The University of Arizona Cancer Center Chapel is not merely a room in a building; it represents a pivotal chapter in architecture history. This chapel is a living testament to our artistic and architectural heritage.

Beyond its architectural value, the Paolo Soleri Chapel holds the potential to be a cultural treasure comparable to renowned art chapels around the world. By preserving this unique place and making it accessible to the public, we can elevate Pima County's status as a destination for those who appreciate our rich cultural heritage.

I respectfully request that the University of Arizona reconsider the proposed changes to the chapel and initiate a collaborative dialogue with all stakeholders who understand the chapel's significance to Pima County's cultural heritage and tourism sector. Preserving the chapel in its current state is not just an homage to Paolo Soleri but also a tribute to Pima County's culture.

I extend my deepest gratitude for your attention to this matter and earnestly hope for your unwavering support in preserving the University of Arizona Cancer Center Chapel. Its preservation is of paramount importance for the enrichment of our culture and the vitality of our heritage tourism, ensuring that Pima County's cultural assets continue to inspire and resonate with generations to come.

Sincerely,



Matt Heinz
Supervisor, District 2

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