

City Planning Commission Remarks
June 24, 2010

Good evening President Miguel and Commissioners. My name is Jennifer Turpin and I am USF's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, which means I oversee USF's academic programs as well as our student service areas.

USF's mission is to educate leaders who will fashion a more humane and just world, and that mission permeates everything we do. USF has a long history of service to the citizens of San Francisco. This year over 3,000 USF students performed over 166,000 hours of community service in the city. That's why USF was recently ranked as one of the 100 top universities in the nation for civic engagement in a study called "Saviors of our Cities." Among USF's 88,000 alumni, 51 percent live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

You'll see many of our students here in the room, and that's because this project is important to them. Our student population is incredibly diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, and income. More than 36 percent of our students are students of color: Asian-American, African-American, Latino, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and nearly 10 percent are international. Our coed student body is about 40 percent male and 60 percent female, and represents 75 countries, and 47 states. And our student body is by no means privileged: About 30 percent of USF's students are the first in their families to attend college and 1/3rd of this year's freshman qualified for Pell Grants. That means that their families earn less than \$28,000 per year. This project is critical to their future success.

USF has been committed to science since the 1870s, when Jesuit Father Joseph Neri demonstrated the first electric light in San Francisco. Over the years there have been many great achievements in the sciences by our faculty and students and our scientists have made a tremendous impact on San Francisco, with studies on environmental justice in the city and outreach programs to teach math and science to disadvantaged kids.

We want to continue to be a beacon for science and for service to humanity, and in order to do that, we need to update the way we teach science. We have focused our sciences programs so that we can make contributions especially in the areas of human health, digital technology, and the environment – all areas that are in sync with the city's needs. Our contributions to the City of San Francisco have only just begun and the Center for Science and Innovation will help us continue our mission on into the future.

I'd like to introduce the architect for our project, from NBBJ, Kaz Baba. After Kaz presents the project to you, Dean of Arts and Sciences Marcelo Camperi will talk with you about USF's legacy in the sciences and why we so desperately need to modernize our facilities. Thank you.