

FORMAL NOTICE OF PETITION INTENT

SANTA MONICA'S FIRST AI-NATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

CIVIC AUDITORIUM • DIGITAL-UNI • AI PIONEERS ATHLETICS



PRESERVE THE LANDMARK • ACTIVATE THE FIELD • BUILD THE AI GENERATION

AUGUST 26, 2026

The Honorable Caroline Torosis, Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Zwick and Members of the Santa Monica City Council

Santa Monica City Hall | 1685 Main Street, Room 209 | Santa Monica, CA 90401

Via email: council.mailbox@santamonica.gov

RE: FORMAL NOTICE OF INTENT TO PURSUE A MUNICIPAL INITIATIVE PETITION - CIVIC AUDITORIUM TRANSFORMATION

Dear Mayor Torosis, Mayor Pro Tem Zwick, and Members of the City Council:

I am writing as Founder of Digital-UNI and as a Santa Monica parent to provide **formal notice of my intent to pursue a municipal initiative petition** asking Santa Monica voters whether the Civic Auditorium should be evaluated and reserved for transformation into **Santa Monica's First AI-Native High School**, an applied AI education campus, and a workforce and compute center, subject to public process, lawful site control, approvals and financing.

Purpose of the measure. The proposed measure would establish a voter mandate for a transparent City evaluation of the transformation concept; preservation and rehabilitation of the landmark; an AI high school, workforce programs and compute infrastructure; and approved shared athletics programming. It would not itself grant Digital-UNI ownership, a lease, funding, permits, accreditation or development approval.

Why public consideration is warranted. The Civic has been closed since 2013 and requires substantial rehabilitation. The City has stated its commitment to reviving and reopening it while exploring preservation and reuse. The proposed campus would replace long-term vacancy with a secure, supervised youth, education and workforce environment while coordinating responsibly with existing homelessness, mental-health and substance-use services in the Civic area.

THE FIELD AND AI PIONEERS

Historic Belmar Park is a 3.5-acre multipurpose sports complex adjacent to the Civic. Subject to City permits, scheduling, SMMUSD priorities and existing community use, Digital-UNI proposes AI Pioneers soccer and football training, youth clinics and sports analytics, with basketball inside the renovated campus. The field and team identity are central to student belonging—not an afterthought.

Ballot-petition process. The City's Elections page states that a municipal initiative requires signatures from 10% of registered City voters, while a charter amendment requires 15%, and that a \$200 fee is due when a Notice of Intent to Circulate is filed. Digital-UNI will ask the City Clerk and election counsel to confirm the proper legal form, classification, text, title-and-summary procedure, deadlines and signature requirement before circulation.

Legal status of this letter. This correspondence is notice to City leadership of the intended civic campaign; it is not itself the statutory Notice of Intention, does not authorize signature gathering, and does not place a measure on the ballot. Qualification depends on compliance with the California Elections Code, Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapter 11, the City Charter where applicable, signature verification and all actions required of the City's elections official and Council.

Requested action. Please acknowledge receipt; refer this notice to the City Clerk and City Attorney for procedural guidance; identify whether the proposal is properly framed as an initiative or charter amendment; and schedule a public or staff briefing on the concept. I also request that this correspondence be retained as part of the City's public record concerning the Civic Auditorium's future.

Santa Monica voters deserve a lawful, fact-based opportunity to consider whether this landmark can serve the next generation. Digital-UNI intends to build the community petition page under the AI High School section at www.digital-uni.net while the formal municipal initiative documents are prepared and reviewed.

Respectfully,

Brahim Boumakh

Founder, Digital-UNI

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CC: Santa Monica City Clerk; Santa Monica City Attorney