



**BreatheSoCal.org**

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January 2, 2025

Dear L.A. Supervisors,

On behalf of Breathe Southern California, I am writing to express our support for the visionary La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan. The Tar Pits, as the world's premier site for Ice Age research, stands as a unique and invaluable asset. It's not just a scientific marvel, but also the heart of the Miracle Mile cultural corridor, a beloved institution uniquely combining science, history, recreation, and community access in a natural urban oasis.

As a public museum committed to serving our diverse local populations, the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles has been an excellent steward of the Tar Pits. We have worked with NHM for years on implementing public health education and intervention that addresses the correlation between how environmental changes affect air quality and lung health. We have hosted our Lung Power programming with NHM, providing families with asthma prevention education and advocacy in a fun, entertaining environment. Our main headquarters is located across the street from the Tar Pits, and Breathe Southern California, as a key partner in this endeavor, utilizes the area to conduct educational field trips with our members and patients.

The master plan will aid the Natural History Museum's reach and impact by doubling the Tar Pits' capacity to accommodate 75,000 students a year and 800,000 annual visitors from around L.A., the United States, and the world. This expansion will allow for more exhibition and classroom space, enhanced educational programs, and improved recreation facilities on the transformed grounds. For instance, the new facilities will enable us to host larger educational events, reaching more students and families. The future Tar Pits will be the most accessible destination along Miracle Mile, with arguably the greatest potential to leave a lasting impact on people's lives and our planet's future.

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We urge you to approve this vital plan, which is crucial to propel the 100-year-old Tar Pits into the next century and ensure its continued significance and impact. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at [gflores@breathesocal.org](mailto:gflores@breathesocal.org) or 323-935-8050 ext.231.

Sincerely,

*Gilmar J. Flores*

Gilmar J. Flores, MPH  
Director of Programs and Research  
Breathe Southern California & Emphysema Foundation of America

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