

**From:** [Strong Towns Merced](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments: Stephen Leonard Park Project  
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During the last City Council meeting, a decision was made to appropriate \$350,000 (*a 2023 one-time funding to support an outreach program and new improvement projects for the South Merced area*) and a sum from the Economic Development allocation for the restoration of the vandalized Stephen Leonard Park building, without any discussion on the following:

1. What is the Business Plan and Placemaking Strategy for this facility (Youth Center, Career Development Hub, Health Center, Conference Center?)
2. How was the neighborhood engaged in the needs assessment
3. What Architectural firm has been retained to determine the actual needs and guide the optimal scalability of the Stephen Leonard building floor plan, electrical, plumbing, kitchen, egress, safety solutions and elevations
4. What Landscape Architectural firm has been retained to provide scalable solutions for the buildings surrounding land use, site security, carbon offsets and integration with the adjacent recreation infrastructure
5. Where is the to date Return on Investment analysis; who is the Project Manager
6. Is this another spend it or lose it dilemma

Without the above, there is no assurance this building has any scalability potential and that public funds are being optimized.

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**Strong Towns** | Merced

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