

'Grammy' Sponsor Expresses Interest in Building Hall Near NoHo Subway Station

(March 15) The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences - host of the annual "Grammy" awards - has expressed interest in building a six-story building on MTA property next to the Metro Red Line's North Hollywood station. The proposed site of nearly two acres is located on the west side of Lankershim Boulevard between Chandler Boulevard and Weddington Street, southwest of the the North Hollywood Metro Red Line Station.

To be known as "Encore Hall," the mixed-use building would provide ground-level retail space and 160 units of affordable housing, including assisted living for seniors. The Academy must secure control of the site by June 30 in order to meet public agency deadlines for the project, which will be built with state and local funding.

CEO to negotiate an agreement

The Construction Committee on Wednesday sent to the Board without recommendation a motion by Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Director Jaime de la Vega that would direct CEO Julian Burke to negotiate a "final agreement" with the Academy and report to the Board no later than May 31.

The CEO would be directed to enter an exclusive right to negotiate (ERN) for six months with the Academy and its development team for the purchase and/or long-term lease of the two MTA parcels. The Academy will be asked to make a presentation at the Board's March 23 meeting and provide documents about the proposed building.

According to the motion, Encore Hall would be linked to other projects near the subway station, including the El Portal Theater and the Leonard Bernstein Center for Learning. It could become part of a regional musical arts attraction for students, tourists and residents.

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