
Subject: Re: LucasFilms to become Lucas Housing Authority ?

Posted by [Duggy](#) on Tue, 15 May 2012 00:49:00 GMT

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From Newsgroup: rec.arts.sf.starwars.misc

On May 15, 3:03 am, thinbluemime wrote:

> George Lucas Proposes Affordable Housing

> By Donna Kimura<http://www.housingfinance.com/news/ahf/051412-ahf-Geor>

> ge-Lucas-Propos...<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/sideshow/george-lucas-proposes-building-a...>

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> Filmmaker George Lucas has pulled the plug on building a new film studio

> and floated another option for the Northern California site—affordable

> housing.

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> After years of trying to develop a new facility in Marin County, Lucas

> recently dropped his application to build on a property known as Grady

> Ranch, citing a long battle with neighbors.

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> “The level of bitterness and anger expressed by the homeowners in Lucas

> Valley has convinced us that, even if we were to spend more time and

> acquire the necessary approvals, we would not be able to maintain a

> constructive relationship with our neighbors,” said a letter announcing

> his plans.

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> But, that’s not the end of the story. Lucas, the man behind “Star Wars,”

> has unveiled part two.

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> “We hope we will be able to find a developer who will be interested in

> low-income housing since it is scarce in Marin,” said the letter. “If

> everyone feels that housing is less impactful on the land then we are

> hoping that people who need it the most will benefit.”

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> While some have seen the move as a shot at the protesting neighbors, the

> idea has advanced a step further.

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> The Marin Community Foundation has stepped in to work with Lucasfilm to

> explore options to develop the site with affordable housing.

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> “We are thrilled that George Lucas is seeing this as an opportunity to

> address one of the most critical issues in Marin County—making it possible

> for a broad range of individuals and families to afford to live in Marin,”

> said Thomas Peters, president and CEO of the Foundation. “In many

> instances, this is housing for people who work in the county but can’t

> afford to live here and for people who grew up here but who now cannot

> afford safe, secure housing in their home county. And we have always paid

> particular attention to the need for affordable housing by the county’s

> expanding senior population.”

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- > The Foundation's work has included providing loans and grants to nonprofit housing developers.
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- > Marin County is one of the most expensive housing markets in the nation.
- > The median price for an existing single-family home was \$672,620 in March compared with the statewide median of \$291,080.
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- > It is also one of the most expensive markets to rent an apartment. The "housing wage," an estimate of the full-time hourly wage a household must earn in order to afford a decent two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent while spending no more than 30 percent of income on housing costs, is soaring \$36.63 in the county, according to the "Out of Reach" report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.
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- > In comparison, the state housing wage is lower but still a high \$26.02, meaning a minimum-wage earner would have to work 130 hours per week to afford a decent two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent.
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- > It looks like the Foundation and Lucasfilm will now move toward working with affordable housing developers. Perhaps, the force will be behind them in developing the property.

Month old news.

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