

Stryder and Phoenix Simms
Santa Fe, NM
September 15th, 2020

Greetings Paul and All,

The photo, the logo, the mission and the folk a beautifully harmonized in what you've done. It stands alone as a worthy achievement and reflects love and attention. Your efforts have come together with David's to shine a light on his decades long demonstration of creative ingenuity and craftsmanship, as well as a living document of sustained permaculture through methods of organic fertilization, water optimization and management, architectural invention and appropriation, employing a synthesis of antique and modern genius. The events of the past half year have, as it turns out, resoundingly amplified the justification for granting The Lagunitas Project, not only the license to continue but pledges from the powers for funding to continue David's research and development and have its physical effects preserved and data published and distributed with the intention of developing water rehabilitation practices such as these pioneered by David Hoffman for these past 30 years, to all four corners of this catastrophically dehydrating zone of the world.

While those in charge of the most precious natural resource in this country have proven themselves increasingly unprepared for the water crisis that is full upon us now and building strength, David's visionary invention, ironically, has crash landed, at the crucial moment, just in time to begin significantly addressing the unprecedented shortages that Californians and all other states in the West presently face. Poignantly, the fires and draughts on top of grid locked politics plus present and potential future pandemics combine to provide The Lagunitas Project with a strange sort of advantage over the status quo. There won't be enough water to rebuild California the way it used to. The quicker we can implement sane technologies that make the most of whatever moisture comes along, the fewer of us will suffer in the long run.

I'm from Pueblo, Steel City, a plains town in Colorado. When I was in high school I had a girlfriend that asked us for donations of empty aluminum cans because they knew a man that was building a castle up in the Wet Mountains, 25 miles away and he could use those worthless cans for insulation in his walls. This was the early seventies, before such things were recycled for cash. In the sixties, a man with a plan made a magnificent structure by hand and in the process he turned ordinary trash into treasure.

As a relevant side note. Cans later became popular building material in Earthship architecture which synthesized recycling and shelter strategies in a later wave of sustainable building that emerged in the eighties and nineties and remains a valued asset to the places where it exists, especially their birthplace in Taos, New Mexico. Handily, here is another example of alternative and experimental construction and the attendant lifestyles having a net positive effect on multiple metrics that effect the wider community.
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/earthships>

So this fellow named Bishop near my old home town bought that property in up in San Isabel for less than two hundred bucks in the sixties with visions of a castle up on the hill. And he leveraged everything he had for most of his life to erect it. There was no way it could conform to building codes, but he did a good job and now it too is an amazing asset to the place it was erected.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop_Castle

That guy Bishop was also a little bit like David. He got there a long time ago and just started dreaming out loud all over his place, creating shelter and workspace, and his dream of a better life through interaction with the earth and hard sweat, expanding out from there with nothing less than an honest intention to do something that contributed to the community and maybe even the entire world.

We really need more stories that turn out well right now, endings that show lenience to the much beleaguered populace. What would really be fair to David is the same thing that would be fare to his neighbors, to let the intention for which his dream was founded be realized to its greatest possible extent. This was never going to make David rich. It was meant to make the world a better place and that it does, by all sorts of metrics. So I hope there's at least just enough time to let the dire developments of the past

six weeks let alone the past six months, prevail on the heart of the powers, once and for all, to recognize this rare and vital resource.

Sincerely,
Stryder and Phoenix Simms