

October 16, 2019

Vibiana LA
214 S Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chef Neal Fraser and Amy Knoll Fraser,

It has come to our attention that the extreme anti-abortion and anti-LGBT group Live Action is hosting their Life Awards Gala at Vibiana a month from today. Upon learning that Live Action is using Vibiana to raise funds, we found it prudent to explain what that money will likely go to.

Live Action is the creation of anti-abortion activist Lila Rose, who has a well-documented history of publicly making sexist, racist, transphobic, and homophobic comments on her social media pages, along with the heavily slanted and medically inaccurate material published by her anti-abortion website. She has worked with individuals – including a former Live Action employee – who now face felony charges in California civil court for allegations of invasion of privacy and other criminal activity surrounding the production of heavily edited propaganda videos against Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Federation. The rhetoric sparked by these sham videos has resulted in an increase of violence against abortion clinics and providers. The message of these videos was quoted directly by the mass shooter who attacked the Planned Parenthood health center in Colorado Springs in November 2015, leaving three dead.

Despite the harmful and even violent output of Live Action's work, they have continued to spread dangerous misinformation, often unchecked. As recently as last month, Live Action published a video with a blatantly false claim that "abortion is never medically necessary," and Facebook removed a medically accurate fact-check of Live Action's video posted by a third-party. The lie Live Action promoted on Facebook can cause people to forgo necessary medical care, which can result in serious illness and even death from preventable causes. Despite these risks, Live Action spreads misinformation in order to promote a regressive, anti-abortion agenda.

We are optimistic that, as restaurateurs and philanthropists in the Los Angeles community, you consider your support of charitable causes to be a great responsibility. We want to make sure you are aware of the true nature of the group whose event is scheduled to occur at your establishment, and the message it communicates to women and all people. We implore you to reconsider allowing such a morally bankrupt group to fill their coffers at Vibiana.

Cordially,

Erin Matson, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Reproaction
Pamela Merritt, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Reproaction
Alice Huling, Counsel at Campaign for Accountability