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AGORA ANNOUNCES 52 BEDS OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING & BROAD STUDENT SUPPORT
Affordable Beds to be Set Aside for Extremely Low and Low-Income Students

Westwood, CA – The Agora, a dynamic student housing project proposed for 900 Hilgard Avenue in Westwood (<https://agorawestwood.com>), has announced a dramatic proposal to provide significant low-income housing in Westwood. The Agora has committed to providing at least 52 student beds that will rent for less than \$500 per month, making it Westwood’s first privately-owned student housing project in years to offer such a large amount of low-income housing.

“We are going to have 462 beds at The Agora, of which at least 52 beds will rent for less than \$500 per month,” said Dr. Ted Khalili, co-principal developer of The Agora. “With the remaining beds at \$1,000-\$1,200 per month, The Agora will be more affordable than the majority of housing available to students.”

The announcement continues to demonstrate the Agora’s commitment to providing a new, inclusive, diverse and health-and-wellness oriented student housing community where students of all income levels can live and learn, together.

“We hope that this project will be the first of many to come into Westwood that will take meaningful steps to mitigate the utter lack of affordable housing in our community. As a coalition our advocacy will not waver until all students can affordably live near our University,” said the Westwood Forward Student Leadership Committee in a resolution unanimously approved in support of The Agora. Westwood Forward, a coalition of students, businesses, homeowners, renters, workers and community organizations, garnered thousands of votes in 2018 for the creation of a new neighborhood council in Westwood, the North Westwood Neighborhood Council.

Last week, the UCLA Graduate Students’ Association, representing UCLA’s 13,000 graduate students, voted to support the project. “We are grateful to see the outpouring of support for The Agora from residents across Westwood,” said Dr. Eraj Basseri, UCLA graduate and co-principal developer of The Agora. “When you talk to community members who aren’t under peer pressure due to local neighborhood politics, they support The Agora overwhelmingly. They tell us time and again that UCLA desperately needs more student housing!”

“900 Hilgard is the ideal location for more student housing, because it’s basically across the street from campus and up the street from the Village,” said Aaron Green, spokesperson for the Agora. “Westwood has the highest rents of any community in California. Not building more student housing keeps Westwood unaffordable, and that’s unacceptable. Something has to change.”
