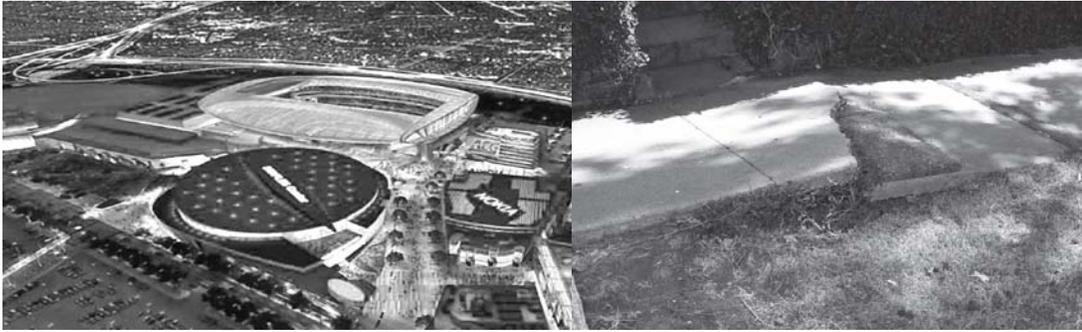


## Boon or Boondoggle? More Questions About the Downtown Stadium

Cary Brazeman



In our ad in the LA Times on Wednesday, LA Neighbors United called out “The Great Stadium Disconnect,” making the case that while a compact, environmentally friendly stadium downtown could be a very good thing, the jury is still out on whether it’s an acceptable deal for the city.

The ad raised several questions. There are more questions we couldn’t squeeze into that space:

#1 The existing convention center carries more than \$400 million in debt. Will any or all of that debt be retired by the private partner (the stadium developer) as part of this deal?

#2 The new project is currently proposed to add \$350 million in debt on top of the more than \$400 million. Will the new project and convention center generate enough fees and taxes to service the total indebtedness, or otherwise compromise the city’s ability to service the \$400 million?

#3 The private partner will own and operate a new “event center” space at the stadium. The private partner also is likely to operate the separate city convention center under terms we don’t know. This potentially puts the private partner in competition with the public partner (the city). What’s the incentive for the private partner not to hog all the good gigs and leave the city with crumbs?

The people of Los Angeles have a right to know the details of the stadium deal. This is our land. This is our money.

*(Cary Brazeman, a CityWatch contributor, is a Neighborhood Council member and founder of LA Neighbors United. Contact him through [www.LAneighbors.org](http://www.LAneighbors.org).) -cw*

### TrackBacks

- Ron Kaye, RonKayeLA.com, [“City of NFL Chumps on Championship Sunday,”](http://ronkayela.com/2011/01/city-of-nfl-chumps-on-champion.html) January 23, 2011 [[[http://ronkayela.com/2011/01/city-of-nfl-chumps-on-champion.html ]]]
- Greg Nelson, LA Times, [“Resist the NFL Blitz,”](http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-nelson-stadium-20110119,0,7934611.story) January 19, 2011 [[[http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-nelson-stadium-20110119,0,7934611.story ]]]