

## In the News and Media:

February 22 - April 11, 2022

### *Regional Library news*



### **Hearst Television Investigation: Virtual reality increasingly used to convey climate urgency**

'Forecasting Our Future' survey reveals only a quarter of U.S. large communities say changing climate controversial in their area

<https://www.wisn.com/article/what-is-swift/39259149> Updated: 10:56 AM CST Feb 25, 2022

#### **SEATTLE —**

Standing in their backyard a few minutes from downtown Seattle, each wearing a white headset and holding a pair of wireless touch controllers, Yurguis Moreno Bordama and his teenage son, Mateo Moreno-McQuarrie, look at the future foretold.

"Look, the entire place is flooded," Mateo said, looking at a virtual depiction of what his South Park neighborhood is predicted to look like by the time he reaches middle age.

"By 2040. Wow. That's only – that's less than 20 years from now," he said as he read on-screen prompts filled with information about how a changing climate will affect a portion of land at the nearby Duwamish River and walked through a simulated landscape with recognizable landmarks.

"Wow, that looks so, so realistic," his father said.



Hearst Television

Yurguis Moreno Bordama and his teenage son, Mateo Moreno-McQuarrie, experience a climate-related virtual reality simulation from the Seattle Public Library

### **'Kind of crazy'**

The family is one of the first to experience a new program created by the [Seattle Public Library](#) and researchers at the [University of Washington](#) and University of Minnesota.



Hearst Television

The central branch of the Seattle Public Library

Just like checking out a book, families can check out projections of a changing climate in their own home. Program organizers hope to begin the individual check-out process once the pandemic subsides. The goal is to convey climate research through a visceral experience that transcends generations and backgrounds. Researchers hope it will be life-changing.

"I didn't realize it was possible for the sea level to rise that much," Mateo said in an interview afterward. "Like, it was at our waist, where normally it wouldn't even be at our feet. And I think that's kind of crazy."



Hearst Television

Yurguis Moreno Bordama and son Mateo Moreno-McQuarrie speak to Chief National Investigative Correspondent Mark Albert in their south Seattle backyard

The family already knows the power of increasingly extreme weather, having been chased out of their non-air conditioned home last year during a [record-breaking heat wave](#) – climate refugees in their own city. Seattle, and the rest of Washington state, has seen [a trend](#) of progressively higher-than-average temperatures over the past three decades.

"Definitely something is changing," Moreno Bordama, Mateo's father, said in the interview.

"Whether you want to accept it or not, it is happening. It is definitely happening."

### **Survey: 60% to take climate steps**

The threat is not just in the Pacific Northwest.

To gauge the impact nationwide, the Hearst Television National Investigative Unit sent [an exclusive survey](#) to every county in America and all cities over 50,000 people asking how a changing climate and increasingly severe weather events are impacting them.

Of those governments that responded to the 'Forecasting Our Future' questionnaire, 60 percent said they do plan to take steps to address the effects of a changing climate. Less than a quarter said the issue has been controversial in their community.

But of those 23 percent who reported the topic has been divisive, some said their taxpayers thought climate initiatives were "unnecessary" ([Otter Tail County, Minn.](#)), the issue "exaggerated" ([Larimer County, Colo.](#)) and "irrelevant" ([Crawford County, Kan.](#)), even that their own residents are in "denial" ([Hooker County, Neb.](#)).

### **Universities, cities expand VR climate projects**

Juan Rubio leads the Seattle Public Library's virtual reality project, which is being rolled out to community groups to share with families, including Yurguis Moreno Bordama and his teenage son.

With the VR headsets, "you relate more to it and then you're going to really care more about climate change," Rubio said. "It's more live, it's less dry."





Hearst Television

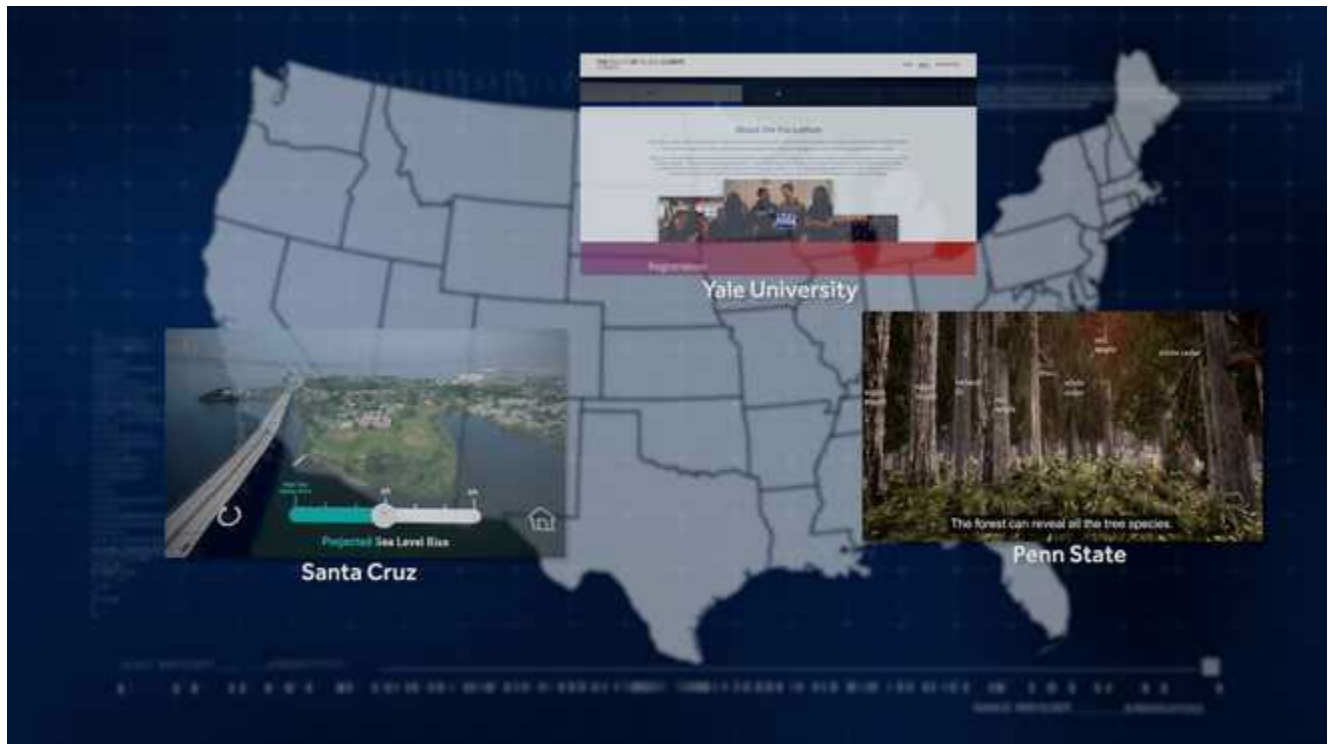
Juan Rubio leads the virtual reality project at the Seattle Public Library

Other groups are experimenting with climate-related VR projects, as well.

In California, [Santa Cruz public libraries](#) teamed up with the city to design their own [virtual reality experience](#) of rising sea levels in that area.

Yale University in Connecticut started a VR climate change '[hackathon](#)'; it's on hold for the pandemic, but hopes to reconvene this fall, a spokesperson said.

And at Penn State, researchers worked with the Menominee Indian tribe of Wisconsin to create a [VR experience](#) predicting climate change's impact on forests.



Hearst Television

The technology has promise considering the growth in virtual reality headsets. Sales rose more than 70% last year from 2020, according to International Data Corp.

### **How bad climate gets 'up to us'**

Heidi Roop, one of the researchers who worked on the Seattle VR experience and who is now an [assistant professor](#) at the University of Minnesota studying climate science, took a journalist recently into the climate simulation, watching through headsets as digital waters rose first knee-deep, then waist-deep, in a south Seattle neighborhood."



Hearst Television

Heidi Roop, a climate scientist at the University of Minnesota, demonstrates a climate virtual reality experience with Chief National Investigative Correspondent Mark Albert

"We know we're already living the negative consequences of a warmer world," Roop explained, "but how bad it gets and what future we have to live in – that is up to us."

"We talk about the future, but do we act in service of the future? And this is one of the big challenges of climate change," she said.

### **The future is now**

That future is now for Mateo and his father, Yurguis, who have already seen searing heat – and now simulated rising waters – threaten their community.

"You're experiencing something that touches you," Moreno Bordama said. "I think you're more willing to do something about it."

*Mark Albert is the chief national investigative correspondent for the Hearst Television National Investigative Unit, based in Washington D.C. April Chunko, Jeannie Kopstein & Kevin Rothstein contributed to this report.*

**Know of climate-related stories you'd like us to cover for our 'Forecasting Our Future' series? Have a confidential tip or inside information? Send information and documents to the National Investigative Unit at [investigate@hearst.com](mailto:investigate@hearst.com).**

## Central Fire to use old Aptos library for firefighting training exercise

<https://www.ksbw.com/article/central-fire-to-use-old-aptos-library-for-firefighting-training-exercise/39180184>



Phil Gomez   
Reporter



THE APTOS LIBRARY IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE ONE LAST TASK NEXT MONTH BEFORE IT IS DEMOLISHED. ACTION NEWS EIGHT REPORTER PHIL GOMEZ IS LIVE IN SANTA CRUZ WITH MORE ON WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THE SPACE....PHIL?? AFTER SERVING THE APTOS COMMUNITY FOR ALMOST FIFTY YEARS, CENTRAL FIRE WILL USE THE APTOS LIBRARY FOR ONE LAST EXERCISE... FIRE TRAINING CENTRAL FIRE DOES NOT PLAN ON USING REAL FIRE FOR THE TRAINING THAT WILL INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SAFE SMOKE THEY'LL SIMULATE FORCIBLE ENTRY, HOSE DEPLOYMENTS AND CONDUCT SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISES. BEGINNING MARCH FIRST AND FOR THE NEXT TEN DAYS THE COMMUNITY WILL SEE MULTIPLE FIRE AGENCIES DURING THIS TRAINING EXERCISE BUT AGAIN THERE WILL BE NO ACTUAL FIRES INCLUDED IN THE TRAINING FIRE AGENCY'S HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TRAIN TOGETHER SINCE THE PANDEMIC BEGAN. <5:33 "IT STARTED IN FEBRUARY, 2020. WE STARTED WITH THIS COMMAND AND CONTROL PIECE AND WE'VE BEEN SLOWLY BEHIND THE SCENES TRYING TO WORK IT TOGETHER. THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST REAL LARGE COUNTY-WIDE DRILL WHERE WE'LL START TO TRY SOME OF THESE COMMAND AND CONTROL ASPECTS FOR A COUNTY-WIDE PROGRAM.> RIGHT AFTER CENTRAL FIRE COMPLETES ITS TRAINING EXERCISES THE APTOS LIBRARY WILL BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE ROOM FOR A FOURTEEN MILLION DOLLAR MODERN LIBRARY. IT'LL BE FOUR THOUSAND FEET BIGGER AT TWELVE- THOUSAND 400 SQUARE FEET AND USE QUITE A BIT LESS ENERGY THE FUNDING COMES FROM 'MEASURE S' FUNDS



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# KSQD

COMMUNITY RADIO

## Talk of the Bay

### LIBRARIAN ON BOOK BANNING AND FREE SPEECH

Posted by [Rachel Goodman](#) | Mar 20, 2022 | [Education](#), [Local](#), [Politics](#), [Rachel Anne Goodman](#), [Talk of the Bay](#) |



Listen at <https://ksqd.org/librarian-on-book-banning-and-free-speech/>

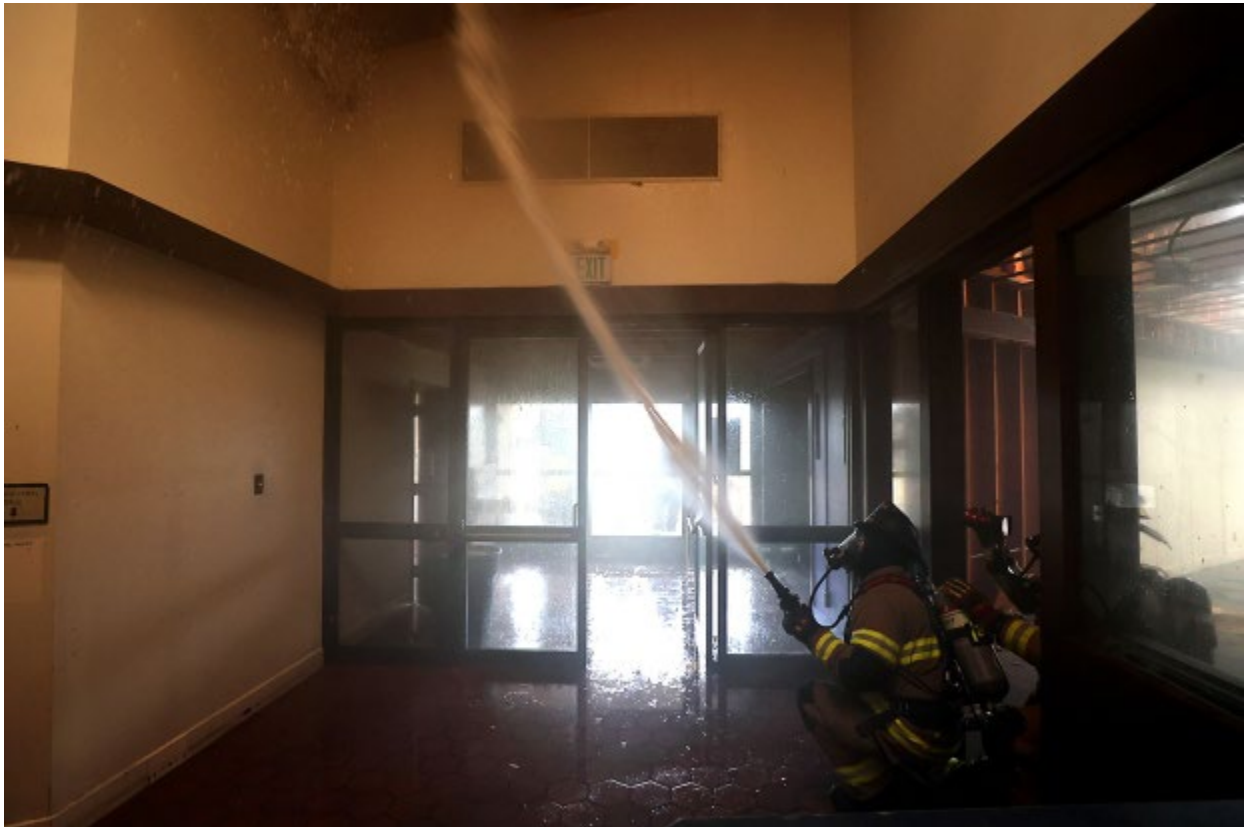
Collection Services Manager, Sarah Harbison of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries takes free speech seriously. In this interview, she comments on recent efforts to ban books and the role libraries have played in

protecting first amendment rights. For a good article documenting attacks on librarians, check out this article by [the Washington Post](#).

**Santa Cruz Sentinel** *News*

## **Photo Gallery | Aptos library aids with fire training**







Capt. Nigel Miller from Central Fire carries a hose during the training. (Shmuel Thaler - Santa Cruz Sentinel)

By [SHMUEL THALER](#) | [sthaler@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:sthaler@santacruzsentinel.com) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: March 9, 2022 at 2:15 p.m. | UPDATED: March 9, 2022 at 5:24 p.m.

A two-person team from Central Fire hones interior hose technique as the team sprays water in the entrance of the Aptos Library during training staged in the vacant building this week and last. Hosted by Central Fire, the drill utilized the skills and leadership of a cadre of dedicated instructors from Central, Watsonville, Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley. The 8,000-square-foot Aptos Branch Library will be razed to make room for a 12,400-square-foot replacement









## Photo | A frank talk in Santa Cruz examines homelessness



The downtown Santa Cruz Library on Thursday was transformed into an event venue as authors Jonathan Franzen and Conor Dougherty engage in a frank and in-depth conversation about the complex social and economic factors driving housing and homelessness in America. The free and sold-out event was a partnership between the Homeless Garden Project and the Santa Cruz Public Libraries. Dougherty is the author of “Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America,” a recently published nonfiction book about the nation’s affordable housing problems told through a cast of characters in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is also an economics and housing reporter at The New York Times. Franzen, who has been a member of the Santa Cruz community since 1998, is a nationally renowned author of six novels and five works of nonfiction and is the recipient of a National Book Award for fiction. Through its Books to Action project, Santa Cruz Public Libraries provided a copy of Dougherty’s “Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America” to in-person attendees free-of-charge. The authors’ conversation was the first public event held in the library’s first floor circulation area. (Shmuel Thaler – Santa Cruz Sentinel)

By [SHMUEL THALER](mailto:sthaler@santacruzsentinel.com) | [sthaler@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:sthaler@santacruzsentinel.com) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

April 8, 2022 at 2:45 p.m.

## Guest Commentary | Initiative does not support affordable housing

April 6, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

Submitted by Don Lane and four others

Housing Santa Cruz County, Affordable Housing NOW, Santa Cruz YIMBY, Housing Choices and other individuals working to create affordable housing strongly oppose the “Our Downtown Our Future” initiative.

As advocates for affordable housing we are appalled that those who want to kill the Downtown Library Project would use the gimmick of implying their initiative is about affordable housing. The initiative would kill a 120 to 125-unit 100% affordable housing project that will serve families and individuals with very low incomes. Architectural work is in the final stages and hard to secure financing is well underway. Years of planning, community input, debate, compromise, and thousands of dollars in design work would be wiped out.

Initiative proponents are trying to convince you that their scheme would produce more affordable housing. It would not. However, if you read the details, you will be struck by the obvious intention, to take away possible locations for the farmers market thus forcing it onto only one site, all done without the concurrence of the farmers market board. The city has been working with the Farmers Market for years to establish a permanent site that meets the farmers market needs. The primary location is lot 7. The proposed initiative would prevent the market from locating there.

The initiative claims that its provisions for prioritizing city parking lots for affordable housing will somehow create that housing. Instead of talk, the city is already using city-owned land to produce new affordable housing: Pacific Station North, 95 units. Pacific Station South, 70 units, the Library Project, 125 units. Additionally, the parking lot the city leases across the street from the new library project will close this summer and construction begun on 65 affordable housing units.

The city also began a lively and engaging process to hear from the community on preferences for the use of the current library site. Feedback showed a strong preference for affordable housing and community commons that could also be a long-term home for the market. This is a site that could easily accommodate homes for another 75 low-income households. The initiative would eliminate those possibilities. Choosing between housing essential workers, seniors or the homeless in our community and a second-rate compromised library building remodel, we choose people.



One fact initiative proponents conveniently ignore is that some of the lots the fanciful initiative would give preference for housing are too small for viable affordable housing projects. It typically takes five to eight years, not including construction, to turn an idea into a project.

The Library Housing Project is in the last year of that process. Let's not give that away for one or two imaginary projects that exist only in the minds of people who have no expertise in creating affordable housing.

The real target of the initiative is the parking portion of the project that does not add a single new parking space to downtown, it simply replaces some but not all the spaces in lots that will be closing. This replacement parking would provide some parking for four affordable housing projects with 355 units, all close to construction stage. The projects will not have parking lots, allowed by city incentives to reduce vehicle use. This also because it significantly reduces the cost of building and increases the chances of acquiring funding.

We urge you to read their initiative and compare the facts of the Library Housing Mixed Use Project with the initiative's propaganda. If you were hoodwinked by their pitch and signed the petition, you can have your name removed by calling the City Clerk, 831-420-5030.

*Submitted by: Don Lane-HSCC, Tim Willoughby -Affordable housing NOW, Rafa Sonnenfeld-YIMBY, Andrew Goldenkrantz-COPA leader, Jan Stokley- Housing Choices.*

## Santa Cruz Sentinel **Letters**

### **Letter | Library mixed-use project will provide new resources**

**PUBLISHED: March 1, 2022 at 5:00 a.m. | UPDATED: March 1, 2022 at 7:04 p.m.**

The old downtown library has served our community for many years, but a new one will provide so many of the resources our community deserves. It will be a green, highly-functional and aesthetically-pleasing space, with dedicated areas for children, teens, community meetings and computer/internet resources. The old Library has served us well, but based on engineering and technical studies it has been found that many functional, operational and non-compliance issues exist. All which would be too expensive to remedy. The new Library Mixed Use Project is a great example of various community groups working together to serve diverse community needs. Let's take care of our community by moving forward with a beautiful new library.

— Lynn Marcus-Wyner, Aptos

### **Letter | Present library already has space for vital resources**

February 28, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

The former Executive Director of the Friends of SC Public Libraries recently remarked that “Just like a book, a library should not be judged by its cover, but by what’s inside.” How true! She then listed study rooms, genealogy, books, a larger teen room and a much needed children’s space as reason to build a new library, away from the Civic Center.

Just for the record, all the things she listed were/are provided for in the Jayson Renovation proposal for the downtown branch, including public outdoor space. All would be rebuilt beautifully. All would provide space for vital resources.

In fact, in the present library we already have many study areas, a room dedicated for genealogy (or quiet study), a teen room and a large children’s space! All currently providing space for vital resources. Please keep this in mind.

— *Jean Brocklebank, Santa Cruz*

### **Letter | Library Mixed-Use Project a win for downtown**

March 19, 2022 at 7:00 a.m.

I reviewed the Measure S ballot language with the downtown, City Council-approved Library Mixed-Use Project. Measure S stated, “to modernize, upgrade and repair local libraries in Santa Cruz, Aptos, Live Oak, Scotts Valley, Boulder Creek, Capitola, Felton and La Selva Beach, replace failing roofs, outdated bathrooms, electrical systems/structurally damaged facilities, support growing use by children, seniors, veterans and others, expand access to modern technology and construct/expand facilities where necessary.”

After Measure S passed with 70% approval, the Strategic Planning combined with the Facilities Master Plan process started detailing plans based on the needs for each local library. Felton successfully built a beautiful library at a new location, the Farmers’ Market Board approved moving to a new, permanent downtown location and we have an option to build more affordable housing at the former library location. The downtown City Council-approved Library Mixed-Use Project is a win-win-win. For more information go to <https://www.downtownforward.org>.

— *Carolyn Livingston, Santa Cruz*

### **Letter | A ‘visionary’ plan for downtown and library**

March 19, 2022 at 7:00 a.m.

The diversity of Santa Cruz residents defines us. Our diverse population overwhelmingly passed Measure S – to update our historic library – with a vision for a modernized, 21st century library that would transform our Civic Center. It’s an opportunity to invigorate the Center where our City Hall, Civic Auditorium, and Library join together music and culture, education and governance.

Valuing sustainability and the environment characterizes us as well. As architects understand: the greenest building is the one that is renewed, not wasted. The renovation design is completed; let's begin.

This vision rejects the city's plan to cover over our largest public space downtown with eight-stories of concrete, cutting down the magnificent old trees. Let's reimagine the Farmers' Market Lot as a central, open event and gathering place – filled with families and visitors.

A downtown green plaza, reinvigorated City Center and Library, affordable housing near open space – visionary.

— *Robert C. Morgan, Santa Cruz*

### **Letter | A new downtown library brings significant value**

PUBLISHED: March 25, 2022 at 5:00 a.m. | UPDATED: March 25, 2022 at 7:16 a.m.

I've seen firsthand how much people have been enjoying the welcoming new Felton Branch Library, which replaced a well-loved but inadequate building. The superb new Capitola Library has enhanced that community. After seeing Jayson Architecture's plans, I feel a new Downtown Branch would be a similarly valuable addition to Santa Cruz. Filled with natural light, it incorporates comfortable reading areas, space for community meetings, a large patio with seating under trees, and more — all in an architecturally striking building, with a child care center and more than 100 affordable housing units adjacent.

You may still be envisioning a library buried beneath a parking garage- if so, take a look at the plans at [cityofsantacruz.com/mixeduselibrary](http://cityofsantacruz.com/mixeduselibrary) and see for yourself how that is definitely not the case. Let's get this beautiful modern library built for users from all parts of our county to enjoy.

— *Michele Mosher, Felton*

### **Letter | Measure S ballot language doesn't include tear down**

March 25, 2022 at 7:15 a.m.

Ms. Livingston in "Letters to the Editor" quoted the exact language of Measure S. In that "Measure S" language I cannot in my wildest imagination see tearing down the existing library located in the Civic Center location and moving it three blocks away and building an entirely new library with a parking garage and housing. I voted for Measure S trusting the language was transparent and accurate. Of those who voted, 70% voted for a remodel of the existing library and keeping it as a stand-alone independent proud institution that reflects the intellectual nature of our city. This is not transparency in government.

— *Tim Kensit, Santa Cruz*

### **Letter | Plan doesn't find library expansion necessary**

March 28, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

After reading through Measure S, specifying build new “when necessary,” I took a look back at the 2014-23 SCPL master facilities plan:

“Although the master plan does not find that the Downtown Library needs to be expanded, due to the age and condition of the building the Attain plan strongly recommends extensive renovation or full replacement. Major renovation would replace most of the 45-year-old building’s aging systems, upgrade interior (and possibly exterior) finishes, and upgrade the building to meet current codes; the project could also include major reorganization of the interior to create new spaces, enhance operational efficiency, and improve customer wayfinding (p.43).”

“Renovation or replacement” does not mean that all-new construction is necessary at a different location. It simply isn’t. Renovate the library at its historic location in our civic plaza, keep the farmers market where it is and yes, build affordable housing on City Lot 7.

— *Kristen Sandel, Ben Lomond*

### **Letter | Eager to visit a modern, expanded library**

March 28, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries mobile app is fantastic – I can reserve from any branch, pick up at my branch, search for e-books or audiobooks and then access them through the app, see due dates for what I have out. Kudos to our library system for embracing modernization – it has been revolutionary for me. As a UCSC staffer, I attest the SC Public Library app has been the best available tool during recent times so ideal for increased reading.

What’s missing? I never “go” to the library. The only reason I’ve had is to pick up and drop off. As I learn about the new mixed-use library project and its benefits — WiFi to work, cozy reading areas, a café to meet, a rooftop garden to socialize, parking, and an event space – now that’s a place I am eager to visit.

— *Monica Parikh, Santa Cruz*

### **Letter | Campaign’s goal is to keep current library location**

March 31, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.



The letter (Sentinel, March, 27) stating that Our Downtown, Our Future’s ballot initiative is “dishonest” in claiming to “save” the farmers market is dishonest in its assertion! How odd is that? If passed, the measure (available to read at ourdowntownourfuture.org) will “recognize as a policy priority that the city-owned parcel ... known as Lot 4 is the preferred long-term location of the Downtown Farmers Market as well as other fairs and public events, with other ground-level uses incompatible with this priority strongly discouraged.” We want to support the farmers market where it already succeeds. And yes, we do want to “save” Lot 4’s Heritage trees.

Someone who misleads should not be trusted to reveal our campaign’s “real goal.” We favor a 21st-century library at its present Civic Center location, creating far more affordable housing than promised on Lot 4, and developing permanent facilities for the farmers market on Lot 4.

— *John Hall, Co-chair of Our Downtown, Our Future*

### **Letter | Santa Cruz downtown library meshes with civic core**

April 2, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

I agree with the March 30 letter that the Half Moon Bay and Los Gatos public libraries are beautiful 21st century libraries. Please visit them or look them up online. Notice they are both free-standing buildings full of light and open space.

They demonstrate perfectly why our Santa Cruz downtown library should be rebuilt in its current location and not be moved and built as part of a mixed-use structure attached to eight stories of parking and housing.

Our downtown library’s current location matches the Los Gatos library location described as revitalizing its civic core and “prioritizing enduring connections to the Town’s Civic Center and historic Pageant Park.” I realize that Santa Cruz is not Los Gatos but our downtown benefits from the enduring connection of our downtown library to our Civic Center and City Hall by rebuilding our downtown library in its current location.

— *Sara Bassler, Santa Cruz*

### **Letter | Good buildings are destroyed in Santa Cruz County**

April 2, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

Why is the Santa Cruz library system destroying perfectly good buildings?

A standing building with all the necessary components to fulfill it’s dedicated need is being used for fire practice. I understand practice makes perfect but when fire suppression systems are in

proper working order, the chance of a fire destroying it is highly unlikely. I also understand cost and prudent fiscal discipline. Now we are footing the bill for a new building that is not necessary.

The library system in itself is passe, a relic of the past when technology has put a system together that pretty much has a copy of or transcript of any written document scribed in the last 2,000 years. Money would have been better spent on a parking lot to allow shoppers to walk to Swenson's folly instead of trying to park on the cramped street the county approved of in Swenson's village.

— Arnold L. Versaw Jr., Aptos



**APTOS TIMES: MARCH 1, 2022**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Fire Training at Aptos Library



The County of Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz Public Libraries will partner with local fire agencies on a unique training opportunity to increase fire preparedness and response.

Beginning Tuesday, March 1, and continuing through March 11, public safety personnel from paid and volunteer fire agencies throughout Santa Cruz County will conduct search and rescue training and building ventilation techniques using the shuttered Aptos branch library.

The 47-year-old building will be demolished following the training exercise to make way for a modern and larger branch library.

Residents can expect to see emergency vehicles in the Aptos Library parking lot, as well as simulated emergency activities including forcible building entry, hose deployments and the use of non-toxic theatrical smoke, which is being deployed with the permission of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District.



No actual fires will be included in this training exercise.

Any hazardous building materials in the 8,000-square-foot structure are to be removed prior to the exercise by Coastwide Environmental. Residents are asked to refrain from calling 911 to report activities associated with the training.

With a design driven by community input and funded by Measure S, the new \$14 million library is being built by Bogard Construction with architectural services by Anderson Brulé Architects.

The 12,400-square-foot building is expected to be a "net zero" structure producing as much energy as it uses over the course of a year. ■



## Letter to the Editor: Better and Better

BY [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#) POSTED ON MARCH 2, 2022

I wanted to give a public thank you to the folks at Jayson Architects for creating an outstanding design for the new Downtown Branch Library. The architects asked for feedback from the community, and worked hard to successfully incorporate what we want! People asked for more public gathering space downtown, so this design incorporates a beautiful, spacious, outdoor 5000-square-foot rooftop garden. It will be an ideal place for events, programs, meeting friends, reading a book or working on a laptop! The design also features tons of natural light, acoustic soundproofing, a teen room and an exciting children's area.

As part of the mixed-use aspect of the project, many of us want more affordable housing for low-income residents, and the architects delivered. Their new design features over a hundred units of 100% affordable housing!

It is wonderful to see how this project keeps getting better and better. Thank you for listening to our community, Jayson Architects!

Rena Dubin

Downtown Library Advisory Committee

**SANTA CRUZ LOCAL**  
sound local news

**Downtown Santa Cruz library renderings released (March 23, 2022)**

[https://santacruzlocal.org/2022/03/23/downtown-santa-cruz-library-renderings-released/?utm\\_source=Santa+Cruz+Local&utm\\_campaign=a2ffe5b97d-Newsletter+for+members+March+23&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f5d347e2d2-a2ffe5b97d-351824849v](https://santacruzlocal.org/2022/03/23/downtown-santa-cruz-library-renderings-released/?utm_source=Santa+Cruz+Local&utm_campaign=a2ffe5b97d-Newsletter+for+members+March+23&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f5d347e2d2-a2ffe5b97d-351824849v)



*A draft rendering of the mid-block Cedar Street entrance of the planned Downtown Santa Cruz library shows textured glass windows and a rooftop garden. (Jayson Architecture)*

Santa Cruz city leaders on Tuesday shared preliminary renderings, timeline details and possible funding opportunities for a new downtown library. The library would replace a parking lot where the farmers market meets on Cedar Street between Lincoln and Cathcart streets.

The council also discussed:

- [A new law aimed to add small homes.](#)
- [An update on state housing goals.](#)
- [An eviction moratorium set to expire.](#)



In December, the [council approved a conceptual design](#) for the new library and housing complex with:

- A two-story library of 30,000 to 35,000 square feet.
- Behind the library, a three-story parking garage with five floors of affordable housing above it.
- 100 to 125 affordable homes.

Tuesday, Santa Cruz Economic Development Director Bonnie Lipscomb shared the first detailed draft renderings of that concept. The drawings show possible facade materials and a roughly 4,500 square-foot-rooftop deck above the library.

Lipscomb said that city staff recently met with leaders of the Santa Cruz Community Farmers' Markets about a possible interim location for the downtown farmers market. Discussions have focused on a city-owned parking lot at the northwest corner of Front and Cathcart streets. That location is not final, Lipscomb said.

The farmers market could eventually be relocated to the site of the current library at 224 Church St. In June, the [council discussed a possible vision for the future of the downtown library site](#), which included:

- Affordable housing.
- Community-oriented (not commercial) ground-floor options.
- A civic plaza or park focused on daily uses for downtown residents, such as a dog park.
- Potential to host the downtown farmers market.

Plans for the Church Street site are not final and could be decided by the council next year, Lipscomb said. Farmers market leaders are open to the Church Street location but are concerned about the timing of construction, Lipscomb said.

Construction of the new library is expected to start by summer 2023 and take 18 to 24 months, Lipscomb said. It is expected to open in late 2025 or early 2026. Construction at the existing library site could begin after that move.

City leaders have applied for a \$10 million state grant to help fund the new library construction. Cost estimates are preliminary, but in December, [the estimate was \\$104 million to \\$107 million](#).

More renderings and funding details are expected at the city council's April 26 meeting. A full application with detailed plans is expected to be submitted to the city planning department by late May.

—Kara Meyberg Guzman



*Another draft rendering of the Cedar Street entrance of the planned Downtown Santa Cruz library shows housing above and behind the rooftop garden. (Jayson Architecture)*



## Visiting a state park? Your library card can get you in for free

BY [HAYLEY SMITH](#)

APR 7, 2022 | 4:13 PM

In an effort to provide more equitable outdoor access for all Californians, residents can now [use their library cards](#) to check out day passes for free access to more than 200 state parks, officials announced this week.

The move is part of a partnership between California State Parks and the California State Library, which will distribute at least three of the new “California State Library Parks Pass” hangtags to all branches in the state, including mobile libraries.

Library card holders will be able to check out the pass for the allotted number of days allowed by their local library, then return it for others to use, officials said.

“Parks and libraries have the potential to be powerful symbols and agents for California’s open spaces,” State Parks Director Armando Quintero said in a statement about the program, adding that it will “advance outdoor access to all Californians via

public libraries, inspire stewardship for the state park system and build a healthier California.”

Though research has found that spending time outdoors is associated with better mental and physical health, many Californians face barriers to access the parks. At Leo Carrillo State Park in Malibu, for example, all-day parking costs \$12 per car.

What’s more, 40% of Californians have no access to open space within walking distance of their home, and 60% live in “park-poor” neighborhoods — or areas with less than three acres of parks or open space per thousand residents — according to the state’s [2021-22 State Budget](#), which outlined initiatives to provide outdoor access for all residents.

The library parks pass pilot program was funded through a \$9.1-million one-time general fund in the budget, officials said. Other initiatives in the investment include the [California State Park Adventure Pass](#), which provides free day-use passes for fourth-graders and their families, and the [Golden Bear Pass Program](#), which provides passes for families enrolled in CalWORKs, the state’s public assistance program.

“Spending time in nature is crucial to our mental health and well-being,” said First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, who partnered with the state agencies to secure funding for the program. “With the California State Library Parks Pass, anyone with a library card will be able to unlock the benefits and beauty of our majestic state parks.”

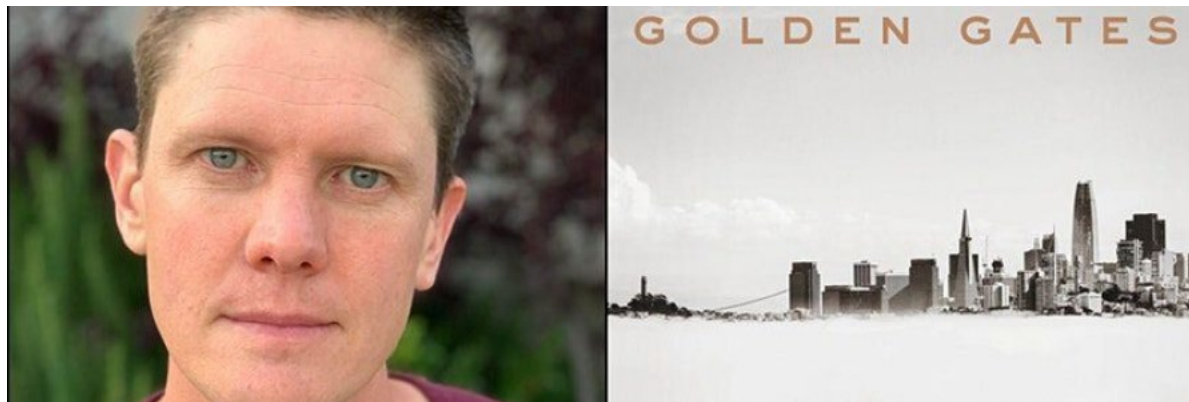
The pass entitles users to free day-use entry for one passenger vehicle with a capacity of nine people or less, officials said. They will not be honored at state parks operated by federal or local government and private agencies. More information, including a list of ineligible parks, is [available here](#).

There are 1,184 public libraries in the state, and more than 23 million Californians have library cards.

This story originally appeared in [Los Angeles Times](#).



## FIGHTING FOR HOUSING IN AMERICA



Posted [March 23, 2022](https://santacruzparent.com/fighting-for-housing-in-america/) <https://santacruzparent.com/fighting-for-housing-in-america/> Conor Dougherty, author of *Golden Gates*, in conversation with Jonathan Franzen

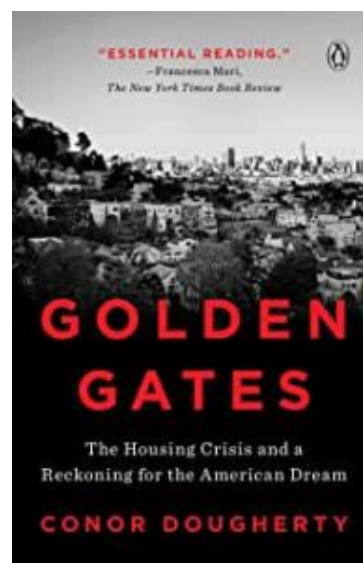
The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL), in partnership with the Homeless Garden Project, is excited to announce the kick starter event for their Book to Action Program, running April 7<sup>th</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Join Conor Dougherty, author of “*Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America*,” and Jonathan Franzen in a conversation about the complex social and economic factors driving housing—and homelessness—in America.

The event takes place in-person 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Downtown Branch, 224 Church St, Santa Cruz, or online via Zoom. In-person attendees will be given the option to write questions for the authors. Anyone needing assistance with this process will be accommodated.

The event is free and registration is required. Register via Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/housingconv>

Conor Dougherty is the author of “*Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America*,” a nonfiction book about the nation’s





affordable housing problems told through a cast of characters in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is also an economics and housing reporter at The New York Times. He grew up in the Bay Area and lives in Oakland, Calif., with his wife and two children.

“Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America,” by Conor Dougherty is A Time 100 Must-Read Book of 2020, a New York Times Book Review Editors’ Choice, California Book Award Silver Medal in Nonfiction, finalist for The New York Public Library Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism, named a top 30 must-read Book of 2020 by the New York Post, and named one of the 10 Best Business Books of 2020 by Fortune.

Jonathan Franzen is the author of six novels, including “Crossroads,” published in October 2021, and five works of nonfiction, most recently “The Kraus Project” and “The End of the End of the Earth.” Franzen is the recipient of a National Book Award for fiction, the EuroNatur Prize for his work in conservation, and the Utah Award in the Environmental Humanities. He has been part of the Santa Cruz community since 1998.

Through their Book to Action project, SCPL is providing copies of “Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America” to in-person attendees, free of charge (while supplies last).

This Book to Action program is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

#### ABOUT THE HOMELESS GARDEN PROJECT

The Homeless Garden Project provides job training, transitional employment and support services to people experiencing homelessness. In direct complement, the Project operates a community education and volunteer program that serves the broader community offering education and experience in sustainable agriculture practices, volunteer opportunities and reducing stereotypes and the stigma of homelessness. All programs take place in the Homeless Garden Project’s 3.5-acre organic farm site and related enterprises. Learn more about the Homeless Garden Project at [homelessgardenproject.org](http://homelessgardenproject.org) or via Facebook, or Instagram.

#### ABOUT THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) delivers information, education, enrichment and inspiration through a network of 10 neighborhood library branches, a web-based digital library, a Bookmobile and community-based programs. SCPL serves children, teens and adults with innovative programming, professional services and community facilities that spark imagination and support discovery. Residents can explore a wide range of interests from academic research, book clubs and literacy programs to digital photography, locally-produced music and local

history. Learn more about SCPL at [SantaCruzPL.org](https://www.santacruzpl.org) or via Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter and YouTube.

# Santa Cruz CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Santa Cruz News | Date 3/22/2022 7:00:00 AM**

## **Downtown Mixed-Use Library Project Moves Forward**

<https://web.santacruzchamber.org/news/newsarticledisplay.aspx?ArticleID=1947>

A few months back, we wrote about the ongoing discussion on the future of the Downtown Mixed-Use Library Project. You can read that article here:

<https://web.santacruzchamber.org/news/newsarticledisplay.aspx?ArticleID=1928>

This storyline today is to provide an update on the progress of the project to date. Yes, despite a signature gathering effort to place an initiative on the November ballot, the City staff, an architect design team and an affordable housing developer are moving forward on this mixed-use project. The City Council received a brief update at its council meeting on Tuesday. For those of you who like to observe city government in action the video is here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10JYYpngOEj9L7Jlk\\_uea1Be0gSijVstC/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10JYYpngOEj9L7Jlk_uea1Be0gSijVstC/view)



The staff report updated the architect design renderings, provided the City Council with a roadmap on community outreach, financial resources secured to date, as well as other grant funding sources for which the City has submitted applications to state agencies. As you can see, these designs show a very different (and more appealing look) than what was previously a quick snapshot graphic some two years ago — before the City Council approved the contract with Jayson Architecture. These images have been provided by the Jayson Architecture team. They are the most current iteration of the project design (still being refined). They show two versions of the elevation along Cedar Street, between Lincoln and Cathcart: two-story light-filled library with second-floor rooftop outdoor space (upper right), and multistory affordable housing visible behind the library.



When I was a resident in another beach town in southern California, the City of Manhattan Beach had an old dreary box-shaped library structure that was built in the 1950s. The City Library was part of a Los Angeles County library system where the participating cities revitalized their old buildings. Similar to what we have in Santa Cruz, the City of Manhattan Beach Library had outlived its usefulness and students and seniors who used the library on a regular basis constantly complained that the cold, dark interior was not a conducive space to read and study.



It took some doing but after years of community engagement a design revitalized the City's downtown library adjacent to a parking structure and across the street from housing. Take a look at their final library that provides an open-air feeling with glass walls that face the Pacific Ocean. Here in Santa Cruz, we are on a course that will create a modern mixed-use library for the next generation in our downtown. We can and we must move forward.

## Reviews

### Yelp

Capitola received a 5 Star Review on March 9

I made an appt to get computer help on 3/8/22. Both the volunteer and employee were extremely helpful. Great service!

### Google my Business

Felton received a 1 Star Review on March 1

The library is beautiful, but the librarians were very rude! Best to sit outside and read away from the.

Felton received a 5 Star Rating with no review on March 14

Capitola received a 5 Star Review on March 22

A great new library for Capitola. This area needs it. Library does nothing more than enrich the community around it. The staff was very helpful. I see the library as a media center for it's neighborhood. Thank You



Capitola received a 5 Star Review on March 22

Quiet nicely done helpful staff First visit