

## PUBLIC ADVISORY REGARDING COVID-19 AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to AB361, California Gov. Code Section 54953 and the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency 'HEALTH OFFICER RECOMMENDATION FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING (CONTINUED REMOTE MEETINGS FOR LEGISLATIVE BODIES)' dated September 30, 2021 the regular meeting of the:

### **LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)**

On Monday, July 18, 2022 at 6:30PM

**Will be held via Zoom teleconference ONLY**

#### **Public Viewing:**

The meeting will be broadcast through the Santa Cruz Libraries YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SantaCruzPL> which you can access through the Santa Cruz Libraries website by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking on the YouTube icon.

#### **Public Participation via Zoom:**

For those wishing to participate via Zoom you can join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device by entering or clicking on the following URL:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89998848771>

For those wishing to participate via Zoom using a telephone only, please call:

1 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 1 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)

1 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 1 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)

Slowly enter the **Webinar ID of 899 9884 8771**

The meetings will be recorded and posted for viewing after the meetings on the Santa Cruz Public Libraries website <http://www.santacruzpl.org/>

**Public comment: There are three ways to comment during this meeting. All comments must be received prior to the close of public comment on that agenda item:**

**1. How to comment on agenda items via email before the meeting begins:**

Members of the public may provide public comment by sending an email to the Library Board Clerk at [clerk@santacruzpl.org](mailto:clerk@santacruzpl.org)

- Identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email
- Emailed comments should be a maximum of 500 words, which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time
- All correspondences received prior to 5:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding a LAC Meeting will be distributed to Commission members to review prior to the meeting. Information submitted after 5 p.m. on that Friday may not have time to reach Commission members, nor be read by them prior to consideration of an item.

**2. How to comment on agenda items during the meeting and prior to the close of public comment on an item, using the Zoom Q&A feature:**

- Type your comment using the “Q&A” feature found on the Zoom control bar
- Identify the agenda item first, then type your comment
- Your comment will be read aloud

**3. How to comment aloud on agenda items, during the meeting and prior to the close of public comment on an item, via the Zoom “raise hand” feature:**

***If you are accessing the meeting using the Zoom app and using computer audio:***

- During the comment period for that agenda item, use the “raise hand” icon found on the Zoom control bar
- The moderator will announce your name or the last 3 digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak
- Unmute yourself using the microphone icon
- Identify the agenda item
- Introduce yourself using your first and last name
- You will have three minutes of speaking time

***If you are accessing the meeting using telephone audio:***

- During the comment period for that agenda item, press \*9 to raise your hand
- The moderator will announce the last 3 digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak
- Unmute yourself using \*6 – to toggle the mute/unmute feature
- Identify the agenda item
- Introduce yourself using your first and last name
- You will have three minutes of speaking time



(Revised as of 7/15/2022 at 5:00 PM)  
**LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY, JULY 18 at 6:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Lindsay Bass, Rena Dubin, Jennifer Mount, Mary Ripma, Mike Termini, Pamela Woll, and Tricia Wynne

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

*Any member of the audience may address the Board on any matter either on or off the agenda that is within the Board's jurisdiction. Note, however, that the Board is not able to undertake extended discussion or act on non-agendized items. Such items can be referred to staff for appropriate action which may include placement on a future agenda. If you intend to address a subject that is on the Agenda, please hold your comments regarding that item until it is before the Board so that we may properly address all comments on that subject at the same time. In general 3 minutes will be permitted per speaker during Oral Communication; A MAXIMUM of 30 MINUTES is set aside for Oral Communications at this time.*

**4. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

A. Library Director's Report – July 2022 (P3-4)

**5. REPORT BY FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

A. Friends of SCPL – Report (Oral)

**6. MEMBER REPORTS**

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

*All items listed in the "Consent Calendar" will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the action unless members of the public or the Board request specific items to be discussed for separate review. Items pulled for separate discussion will be considered following General Business.*

A. Minutes of May 16, 2022

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Minutes (P5-6)

- B. Recent Articles about Santa Cruz Public Libraries  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept and File Recent Articles about SCPL (P7-39)
- C. Resolution Authorizing the Library Advisory Commission to Utilize Remote Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution No. 2022-03 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 (P40-42)
- D. Library Policies  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept and file Policy #307, #308, #311 (P43-51)
- E. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Workplan FY 2021/2022  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept and file Workplan for 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. FY 2021/2022 (P52-60)

## 8. PRESENTATIONS

- A. New Staffing Model by Eric Howard, Assistant Director of Libraries, and Laura Whaley, Facilities Manager

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

*General Business items are intended to provide an opportunity for public discussion of each item listed. The following procedure is followed for each Business item: 1) Staff explanation; 2) Board questions; 3) Public comment; 4) Board deliberation; 5) Decision.*

- A. Resolution to Reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's Endorsement of the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Review and approve a resolution to reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's endorsement of the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project and oppose the Our Downtown, Our Future ballot measure aimed at stopping the project (P61-64)

## 10. SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Location	Anticipated Upcoming Agenda Items:
September 19, 2022	Virtual	•

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Library Advisory Commission to be held on Monday, September 19, 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom teleconference.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

The Santa Cruz City-County Library System does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment, please call the Library Administration Office at 427-7706 at least five days in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance, or email library\_admin@santacruzpl.org.



**July 18, 2022**

## **Library Director's Report to the Library Advisory Commission**

### **Library Team**

Interviews for various positions took place throughout June and July. Additional vacancies were added as staff retired or left to pursue other opportunities.

### **Current Vacancies**

Number of Vacancies	Title	Full/ Part Time hours	Status
1	Volunteer Coordinator Assistant	.50	Held
2	Library Assistant II	1.0	Interviews complete
1	Library Assistant II	.75	Interviews complete
8	Library Assistant II	.50	Interviews complete
1	Information Technology Specialist I/II	1.0	Recruitment Pending
2	Information Technology Specialist III	1.0	Recruitment in Process
3	Library Assistant III	1.0	Pending Recruitment
1	Library Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator	1.0	Held
1	Librarian I/II	1.0	Recruitment pending
1	Management Analyst	1.0	Interviews completed
1	Programmer Analyst	1.0	Pending Recruitment

### **Facilities**

The grand reopening of the Garfield Park Library was a success on Saturday, June 10, 2022, from noon to 4 p.m. Local community members stopped by to hear special guest remarks from Third District Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, and Santa Cruz City Manager, Matt Huffaker. Former Mayor Mike Rotkin treated the crowd to local Garfield Park Library history.

Second District Supervisor, Zach Friend and County CAO Carlos Palacios provided remarks at the lively June 15<sup>th</sup> Aptos Library groundbreaking event.

The Scotts Valley Library grand reopening is scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Delays occurred due to the delivery of the circulation desk, materials and rework of some interior electrical.

Supply chain delays have pushed the delivery of the Live Oak ceiling to August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The grand reopening will take place in late September or early October.

Work on the Live Oak Library Annex continues with an expected opening of June 2024.

Supply chain delays for delivery of the windows and glass walls have pushed the Branciforte reopening to September or early October. Branciforte and Live Oak are slated to be available around the same time.

### **Featured Programs and Services**

Santa Cruz Public Libraries was invited to participate in the Digital Navigators program announced through [Connected California](#). The program provides a team of Digital Navigators dedicated to bridging the digital divide, one patron at a time. How it works:

- Patrons connect with digital navigators via web form, email, text message, phone call, or library staff referral, in English or Spanish, anytime.
- They work remotely with the patron, including step by step assistance, connections to online resources and classes, and referrals to local resources.
- Library partners promote the service and refer clients who can best benefit. The program provides outreach materials and some limited funds to reimburse printing costs.

The program is free to libraries, and to all Californians. It is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

The Library Equity Team began meeting with the County to partner expand their Anne E Casey Foundation Equity work. Unfortunately, several members of the Equity Team move on this month to pursue other opportunities. Our Equity Team is in the process of recruiting new members of staff and will make a presentation on their progress in the future.

Librarians and Library Branch managers are preparing for a quarterly retreat to discuss programming and services for the next quarter and year ahead. The group plans to meet quarterly to gain more consensus on the programs and services offered that meet the goals of our strategic direction, encourage collaboration and allow our staff to set reasonable expectations on our capacity.

### **CLA and State Library Relations**

The California Library Association lobbyists issued the attached, News From the Capitol with State Budget information relevant to libraries.



## **LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

### **13. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Lindsay Bass, Rena Dubin, Jennifer Mount, Mary Ripma, Mike Termini, Pamela Woll, and Tricia Wynne  
**STAFF:** Library Director Yolande Wilburn and Assistant Library Director Eric Howard

### **14. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVE THE AGENDA</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	<b>Mike Termini</b>
<b>SECONDER:</b>	<b>Tricia Wynne</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Bass, Dubin, Mount, Ripma, Termini, Woll, Wynne</b>

### **15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

### **16. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Library Director, Yolande Wilburn, provided a written report

### **17. REPORT BY FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

Executive Director of the Friends, Bruce Cotter, was absent

### **18. MEMBER REPORTS**

Commissioners provided oral reports

## 19. CONSENT CALENDAR

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED CONSENT CALENDAR</b>
<b>A. Approved Minutes of April 18, 2022</b>	
<b>B. Accepted and Filed Recent Articles about SCPL</b>	
<b>C. Adopted Resolution No. 2022-02 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361</b>	
<b>D. Accepted Communications</b>	
<b>MOVER:</b>	<b>Mike Termini</b>
<b>SECONDER:</b>	<b>Rena Dubin</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Bass, Dubin, Mount, Ripma, Termini, Woll, Wynne</b>

## 20. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation on SCPL Programs & Services Inside the SC County Corrections Facilities  
by Jesse Silva, Librarian for the Santa Cruz Public Libraries

## 21. GENERAL BUSINESS

### A. Commemorative Flag Policy

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED COMMEMORATIVE FLAG POLICY 109A</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	<b>Mike Termini</b>
<b>SECONDER:</b>	<b>Rena Dubin</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Bass, Dubin, Mount, Ripma, Termini, Woll, Wynne</b>

### B. FY 22/23 Draft Operating Budget Proposal

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ENDORSE THE PROPOSED 2022-2023 LIBRARY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (LJPA) BUDGET</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	<b>Tricia Wynne</b>
<b>SECONDER:</b>	<b>Rena Dubin</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Bass, Dubin, Mount, Ripma, Termini, Woll, Wynne</b>

## 22. ADJOURNMENT

Final Adjournment of the Library Advisory Commission at 7:55pm to the next regular meeting on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom teleconference.





SANTA CRUZ  
PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
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## In the News and Media:

May 11 – June 16, 2022

Santa Cruz Sentinel **News**

**Santa Cruz's once and future library | Ross Eric Gibson**



San Francisco architects Spencer, Lee and Busse's 1964 concept for the Santa Cruz Main Library, drawing features from City Hall and the Andres Pico Adobe. The library opened on April 27, 1968. (Contributed)

PUBLISHED: June 14, 2020 at 5:13 p.m. | UPDATED: June 14, 2020 at 5:14 p.m.

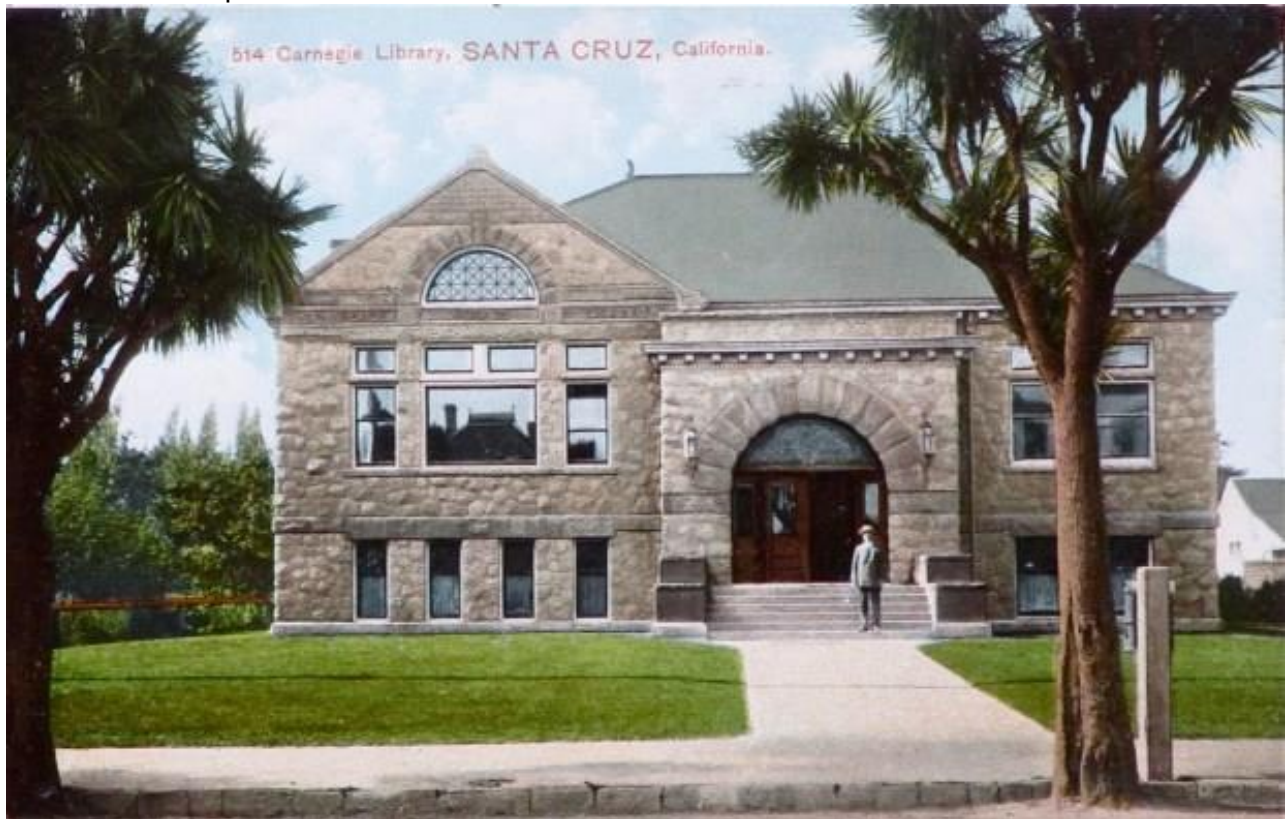
**By Ross Eric Gibson**

In 1904, the \$20,000 Carnegie Library was constructed in a monumental design by local architect Wm. Weeks. The Romanesque-style building sat on a wide parklike grounds. To accommodate pedestrian traffic, the building had entrances from Church Street and Locust Street. Though the building appeared one-story, there was a museum in the basement. After the 1906 earthquake, the undamaged library became temporary headquarters of the Building Trades Council earthquake recovery program. In 1916, the Santa Cruz Public Library made all county libraries but Watsonville into a branch library system, headquartered in Santa Cruz, to share materials.

### **Planning a modern library**

Sixty years later in 1964, the Carnegie Library had outgrown the building. As the collection of books expanded to 123,000, space for readers was reduced to just eight tables, with support offices and 25,000 volumes located off-site. Solutions were to either add a wing on the back of the library, or find another lot and turn the building over to the East Cliff museum. But it was

determined that, as the library collection grew, the weight of the books had caused structural issues, and since the Uniform Building Code would not allow an addition, new construction at this site became the plan.



The Santa Cruz Carnegie Library was opened in 1904, and for 60 years was a beloved landmark in the Santa Cruz Civic Center at Center and Church streets. (Contributed)

City voters approved a bond for a new 43,000 square foot Main Library for \$1,165,000, plus a new 7,500 square foot Eastside Branch for \$123,000 (as the old one felt like a telephone booth). It was essential that the new Main Library fit into the historic setting of the Center and Church streets Civic Center, which featured the 1937 City Hall in Monterey Colonial-style, the 1940 Spanish Art Deco Civic Auditorium, the 1925 Greek-style Wessendorf Chapel (now Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church).

On Aug. 31, 1964, San Francisco architects Spencer, Lee and Busse showed their proposed design to the City Council, incorporating the requested functional and aesthetic needs in an L-shaped building with elements of City Hall and the Andres Pico Adobe. While two-stories, a one-story perimeter roofline avoided overwhelming the one-story City Hall and nearby chapel by stepping down in height to a pedestrian scale. The concrete bricks and concrete roof-tiles would match in color with the walls and roof of City Hall. A set of buttresses flanked by tall windows provided light, while allowing wall space for bookcases, in a building to house 300,000 volumes. And notched corner courtyards lined with windows reduced the expanse of facade and provided garden nooks. Interiors had Frank Lloyd Wright touches of blond wood, coved ceilings, and textured wall coverings.

However, when some councilmen objected that the structure eliminated most of the landscaping, the developers said it was to accommodate their latest request for more parking, raising the earlier 14 space lot to 29 spaces. Mayor Norm Lezin wanted more landscaping, but Councilman Sam Leask said the lack of downtown parking would only prevent sufficient use of the facility. The

plan was approved, and library operations were moved to Grant School during construction. Likewise, the Eastside Branch was replaced with the Branciforte Branch Library, designed as a gabled craftsman structure to fit its neighborhood setting.



Construction on the Santa Cruz Main Library began in September, 1966, with cage of steel beams, and temporary framework holding up overhanging eaves. (Contributed)

### **A top research facility**

The Reference Desk in the Main Library was the pre-Google search engine, where staff worked diligently to answer questions, find sources, or track down materials in other libraries available through inter-library loan. When Annie McCaskill of the Land Title Co. died in 1981, her will created the library's McCaskill Fund of \$224,000 to found and maintain the Californiana/Local History Room. It included locked-case research collections of rare books. The Fund also established services for the blind and visually impaired, which ended up popular with the general public. One was the talking books collection, the other was newspaper microfilm viewers.

The Sentinel newspaper offices were across the street, so they moved their Clipping Files to the library (which the library has diligently kept updated), as well as bound copies of early Sentinel, News and Surf local newspapers. This way, the Sentinel didn't have to curate public use, but still had them nearby for their own research. Likewise, City Hall donated their historic Sanborn Maps across the street. The Genealogical Society archives were moved in, along with collections of early Street Directories and some Census Records. The bound newspapers were microfilmed to prevent over-handling of aging paper, and in 1987 Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Library and the Genealogical Society organized an ongoing indexing project, for easier access to the newspaper subjects and names.

Originally the children's room was downstairs, but it became the History Room when the children's collection was moved upstairs, so elderly researchers could avoid the stairs. Thus the Main Library developed a dual personality as a circulating library, and a first class research center. Over the years, numerous visitors from other counties or states doing "Research Tourism," often remarking how unusual this library is for its resources.

### **Expand or replace**

As headquarters of a 10-branch countywide library system, the Main Library is the largest facility, serving as a circulation warehouse. When the Sentinel moved its newspaper operations to Scotts Valley in 2008, it revived the Main Library's desire to combine their parking with the Church Street parking lot as an expansion site. Building a library wing here would not interrupt operations in the main structure. The concepts were first raised after the 1989 earthquake, as either a 1-or-2-story

wing, or a one-story expansion under a second-level parking lot, which could be used for open-air special events.

In 2016, voters approved a \$67 million bond and parcel tax “To modernize, upgrade and repair local libraries ... and construct/expand facilities where necessary ...” Advocates for this measure told the MAH researchers group the funds would be used for upgrading the existing facility. Giving the Main Library a \$27 million budget, the exploration of options began with a 2017 citizens advisory panel. They recommended moving the library to a massive 5-or-6-story parking garage to be built on Cedar Street between Lincoln Street and Cathcart Street, long a staging area for the Farmers Market and Antiques Fair. Their only alternative is renovating the downtown library into a smaller facility. The oldest option, adding a wing to the Main Library, is dismissively noted on page 8 of “Santa Cruz Downtown Library Renovation Cost Assessment” (Jayson Architecture 11/22/2019). It shows the outline of a two-story 19,000 square foot plan with seven parking spots. The Jayson report focuses on downgrading the existing facility, giving the Spanish-style building a Freeway-Vernacular makeover that is out of character with its setting. The floorplan shows the elimination of all research collections. Instead, the proposed vision is more of a clubhouse, eliminating perimeter bookcases in favor of glass walls to let sun and heat in, where people can lounge looking out picture windows, with a play yard for children to run and scream in back, plus a major reduction in the number of books available as part of a virtual bookless future. None of this understands how our library works as a place for reading, quiet, and low lighting to reduce page glare, view microfilm screens, or that the blinds in the Genealogy room are usually closed. Compared to the problems of historic landmarks, this kind of building would be considered structurally over-built to highest modern standards, and an excellent subject to restore. The idea the steel-reinforced concrete single-story wings are the most vulnerable part of the structure does not make sense, or that demolition is the solution. Nor that asbestos is a problem, since all public buildings and schools built before 1990 have asbestos, and it poses no threat when contained and undisturbed. Calling the building worn-out seems mostly to focus on outdated equipment, cosmetic issues and standard maintenance, which was the original plan to fix before the bond measure was passed.

Main Library manager James Lee worried the subcommittee’s focus was being overshadowed by extraneous issues beyond the core needs of the library (Sentinel, 6/3/20). If the purpose was to expand the library, the highrise site offers 30,300 sq. ft. with parking above, or 29,660 sq. ft. with parking adjacent and no history room, both below what a downsized current library would offer at 30,360 sq. ft. And even if you add air rights fees, the highrise is only a 5,000 sq. ft. gain, at a higher cost per sq. ft. than the existing building. Yet the on-site expansion was shown as a 19,000 sq. ft. gain, which combined with the existing structure would be a 62,000 sq. ft. Main Library. In fact, just by doing nothing, we gain the 10,000 sq. ft. that was going to be demolished, and keep our research collections.

## **Aptos Branch Library demolition prepares to get underway**

New library expected to be completed by summer 2023





Demolition is scheduled to begin this week at the Aptos Branch Library to make way for a new, improved library by next year. (PK Hattis — Santa Cruz Sentinel)

By [PK HATTIS](#) | PUBLISHED: May 16, 2022 at 4:11 p.m. | UPDATED: May 16, 2022 at 4:11 p.m.

APTOS — The Aptos Branch Library, in its current iteration, has been standing for more than 40 years. That’s about to change.

Santa Cruz County announced Monday that the demolition phase of the branch’s forthcoming redesign and reconstruction will begin later this week.

The project was officially approved by the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission in January and completion of the new and improved library is expected in the summer of 2023, according to a press release.

“The new 12,400-square-foot space will include greatly expanded and improved amenities,” the statement reads. “Providing a ‘net zero’ structure to the community that produces as much energy as it uses over the course of a year.”

The project is expected to cost \$14 million and is funded by Measure S and other community donors, according to the release. Measure S is a \$67 million bond measure passed by voters in 2016 with 70% approval, according to the [Santa Cruz Public Libraries \(SCPL\) website](#). Funds generated by the measure will go to maintenance and improvement projects for library branches in Santa Cruz County, including a recent flurry of activity for locations in Felton, Boulder Creek, La Selva Beach and Live Oak.

The Aptos Branch Library falls within district lines for Second District County Supervisor Zach Friend, who is also chair of the Library Financing Authority and began advocating for public libraries long before his public service tenure in Santa Cruz.

“My very first involvement as a kid in the public policy process was when my local branch neighborhood library in San Diego was slated for closure,” he told the Sentinel. At his mother’s urging, he wrote to his city council representative as part of a community effort to keep the library open. The call was heard and the library still stands today.

“It’s a once in a generational opportunity to recreate an essential Aptos community space,” Friend said of the Aptos Branch project.

The library, originally constructed in 1975, was 8,800 gross square feet, making this new development roughly 30% larger than the original, according to a [staff report](#). Plans for the new building include access to traditional books and online resources for all ages, study rooms, a gallery, a children's garden, an outdoor reading area and historic art and features in partnership with the Aptos History Museum.

Parking in the facility will also benefit from improvements. There will be 73 total vehicle spaces, electric car charging ports and space reserved for bike parking as well. Bogard Construction, a Santa Cruz-based construction company, will be heading up the building efforts.

"In a world where everything seems to have a cost to it right now, everything at the library is still free and accessible, irrespective of your background," Friend said.

## **Supervisors to discuss \$14 million homeless spending project**

An additional resolution seeks to reinstate mobile home rental dispute capabilities.

PUBLISHED: May 20, 2022 at 4:17 p.m. | UPDATED: May 20, 2022 at 4:17 p.m.

Relevant excerpt only, from <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2022/05/20/supervisors-to-discuss-14-million-homeless-spending-project/>

Lastly, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries continue to see progress on a number of fronts.

After a lengthy [redesign process](#), the formal relaunch and reoccupation of the Boulder Creek Branch Library is also expected, pending the board's approval of the lease agreement at the May 24 meeting. The branch recently held a [re-opening party](#) on May 7, where it flaunted some of its new and improved features including a complete remodel of the interior, improvements to the children's area and a redesign of various reading rooms and meeting spaces.

As the location in Boulder Creek makes it triumphant return, the Aptos Branch Library entered the beginning stages of its own makeover earlier this week. The building, originally constructed in 1975, [was demolished Wednesday](#) in what is a first step for a \$14 million redesign and reconstruction process. Construction is expected to be completed in summer 2023.

Both projects were funded by Measure S, a \$67 million bond measure passed by Santa Cruz County voters in 2016 with 70% approval, according to the Santa Cruz Public Libraries website.

### **If you go**

What: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors meeting.

When: 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Where: 701 Ocean St. Room 525 or Zoom: [us06web.zoom.us/j/85163210200](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85163210200).

## **Santa Cruz Sentinel** Editorials

### **Stephen Kessler | 'A Trojan Horse loaded with smoke and mirrors': Beware of former mayors bearing gifts**

May 14, 2022 at 6:00 a.m.

Housing advocate, political wit and former Santa Cruz mayor Don Lane is a man of many talents, but I didn't know he was also a surrealist poet and classicist until I read his latest attack on the Our Downtown Our Future initiative, which may soon be officially qualified for the November ballot. ODOF is the advocacy group of those whose voices were largely ignored during the city's elaborate machinations to gain approval of its plan to move the Church Street library out of Civic Center and build a new library as part of a parking-housing "mixed-use" complex on Lot 4, replacing 10 heritage trees with a block-long building, part of which could be eight stories tall.

Speaking for “a newly formed citizens’ group calling itself Santa Cruz for Real Solutions” — as if ex-mayor Cynthia Mathews-led Downtown Forward weren’t connected and powerful and well-funded enough — Lane is quoted in the May 4 Sentinel saying, “ODOF’s ballot measure is a Trojan Horse loaded with smoke and mirrors” that “will eliminate badly needed affordable housing” and is “a cynical attempt to undercut the public process” by which then city manager Martín Bernal and veteran City Councilwoman Mathews applied 100% of their political leverage to proceed with their plan despite whatever opposition. Their success was a foregone conclusion (speaking of undercutting the public process). Lane’s invocation of smoke and mirrors is an apt description of the city’s now-you-see-it-now-you-don’t strategy — also known as bait-and-switch — for using 2016’s Measure S money to abandon and demolish rather than renovate the library.

From a poetic standpoint I was intrigued not only by the smoke and mirrors but that they were inside a Trojan Horse, which if I remember my Homer correctly was a giant, stunningly impressive structure delivered as a gift to Troy, which deceptively contained Greek soldiers who, once in downtown Troy, as it were, proceeded to destroy the city-state. I wouldn’t have reached into the classical lexicon to describe it, but the library-housing-garage complex could indeed be seen as a Trojan Horse, a gift sent by the Mathews-Lane coalition to slaughter the trees on Lot 4 and occupy the last open space downtown that could one day be a public plaza.

As for affordable housing, ODOF explicitly proposes to build even more than the 125 units of the mixed-use complex on Lot 7, where the mixed-users plan to move the farmers market. Lot 7 is about the same size as Lot 4, and with no library taking up part of its footprint, a much larger housing — and parking — project could be built there, leaving both the farmers market and a renovated library where they are. In this column I have asked repeatedly why affordable housing can’t be built on Lot 7 as easily as on Lot 4, but this mystery has yet to be explained by any of our city leaders.

What has been clear from the outset, and this is why the “public process” has been a joke, is that the city never considered any other plan than its mixed-use Lot 4 library-garage until public blowback made them shrink the garage and add several stories of affordable housing — because anyone objecting to that could be dismissed as an anti-housing anti-library NIMBY obstructionist — never mind that such so-called obstructionists are calling for more affordable housing on a more appropriate site just a couple of blocks away, leaving Lot 4 and its trees and open space as is, for now, until popular demand can help convert it to a town commons.

You can be certain that in the months between now and November the big guns and big bucks of Downtown Forward and SCFRS will mount a scorched-earth assault on ODOF and its initiative. As your literary critic I will be keeping an eye on their smoke and mirrors, their Trojan Horses and whatever other mixed-use metaphors they may deploy in the effort to shape — or crush — public opinion.

Beware of former mayors bearing gifts.

*Stephen Kessler’s column appears on Saturdays.*

**Editorial | No on SC Measure F; Elect Panetta for Congress; Rivas for 29th Assembly**

By [EDITORIAL BOARD](#) | [editorial@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:editorial@santacruzsentinel.com) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

May 27, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

We have three final recommendations for the June 7 primary.

Voters in the city of Santa Cruz are being asked, under Measure F, to pay for an increase in the sales tax by one-half of one percent – to 9.75% – raising about \$6 million annually for needs the city identifies as the following:

“... to mitigate the impacts of homelessness, create affordable housing, reduce wildfire risk, maintain city facilities and essential infrastructure, fix streets, support downtown, maintain parks and recreation facilities for youth and seniors, fight climate change, and prevent reductions in important city services.”

Whew!

The only problem is that the revenue would not have to go to any of these programs; the ballot measure just identifies these as needs for which additional tax funds are needed. Because Measure F does not limit the use of tax revenue, it is a “general tax,” not a “special tax” that restricts the use of funds to specific purposes, it will require only a 50% majority plus one vote to pass.

It should be noted that Santa Cruz currently only gets 1.75% of the present 9.25% retail sales tax, with the remainder going to the state and a small amount to county transportation funding and the city-county library system.

We have a few problems with another sales tax increase request, however, and for the following reasons recommend a “No” vote on Measure F.

For one, many voters and residents are still angry over the 2016 Measure S countywide tax that has led to the multi-project library planned for downtown. We’ve called for a follow-up vote on this project, since the original measure said nothing about any such plan and many residents remain convinced they were deceived by the measure.

In addition, this is a regressive tax, since it falls on all income levels. The proposed tax would add 5 cents to the price of an item that costs \$10, or 50 cents to the price of an item that costs \$100. As usual with sales tax increases, such items as food and medicine would be exempt. But plenty of other things would fall under the increase.

Finally, we’d like to see the city be transparent on the costs of the many consultants brought in to help on various projects that remain underway and to be more specific with where this money is going, how much state money is already flowing in for identified needs (Santa Cruz city and county are getting \$14 million to combat homelessness) and how much would be allocated to each of the things listed in the ballot measure.

Of course, that would require a two-thirds vote, which would be a tough battle for the city to win. Opponents say that if there truly is a fiscal emergency, then Santa Cruz could look to a “modest increase” in the Transient Occupancy Tax (hotel tax).

We get that there are plenty of community needs. But voters should be wary about yet another tax hike without full accountability on where the money will be spent. No on Measure F.

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## Santa Cruz Sentinel *Letters*

### **Letter | Renovating current library would achieve civic goals**

May 13, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

Standing recently in the verdant City Hall plaza with supporters of Our Downtown, Our Future, I was struck by both the power of a great public space and by the insights in the Sentinel’s Ross Eric Gibson essay (“Santa Cruz’s Once and Future Library,” June 14, 2020). Directly across from the plaza stands the downtown library, carefully designed in 1964. The building complements the historic setting of the Center/Church streets’ civic district.

A respectful restoration of the downtown library that has served Santa Cruz for more than 50 years would achieve numerous civic goals, not the least of which would be the enhancement of



Civic Center itself. The district would be further improved by introducing a new entrance into the renovated library's Center Street façade, directly aligned with the City Hall plaza and the Black Lives Matter street mural. Let's honor history, modernize the library and elevate civic life.

— *Stephen Svete, Santa Cruz*

### **Letter | Many shortcomings with present downtown library**

May 13, 2022 at 5:00 a.m.

I recently had the opportunity for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Downtown library and feel in a fair position to share my thoughts on the discussion of remodel vs. a mixed-use facility.

The building has many shortcomings: there is no A/C, only an obsolete ventilation system that stopped working and it is too antiquated for repairs; the entire downstairs has close to no power outlets, which leaves few options for adding computers and other modern technology requiring electricity. The bathrooms are equally inadequate: there are two stalls each, not meeting ADA standards. The list goes on.

A new library will create a suitable community facility and an exciting opportunity: it will be designed to net zero energy. A remodel of the old building will not be able to accomplish this. It is very shortsighted trying to fix something so severely broken, with an end result that is smaller and inferior.

— *Nora Brink, Santa Cruz*

### **Letter | Public needs to know impacts of downtown initiative**

PUBLISHED: June 9, 2022 at 5:00 a.m. | UPDATED: June 9, 2022 at 2:42 p.m.

The Santa Cruz City Council made the right move by authorizing an impact report for the Our Downtown, Our Future initiative that aims to stop the new Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project that's now underway.

The Downtown Library is the hub for all 10 libraries in the county system, in addition to serving the downtown area. So any changes to the current plan for a new library downtown has the potential to negatively affect the function of the other nine locations.

Itemizing all the impacts of the initiative will be important, and the public deserves to know.

— *Robin Holland, Santa Cruz*

## **Santa Cruz Sentinel** *Coastlines*

By [DONALD FUKUI](#) | [dfukui@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:dfukui@santacruzsentinel.com) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: June 1, 2022 at 1:27 p.m. | UPDATED: June 1, 2022 at 3:38 p.m.

### **APTOS**

#### **Library friends group offer book sale**

A "Gigantic Book Sale" sponsored by the Friends of the Aptos Library 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 11 and noon to 3 p.m. June 12 at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Drive, Aptos.

The event offers a wide selection of books of all genres. For information, email [friendsoftheaptoslibrary@fscpl.org](mailto:friendsoftheaptoslibrary@fscpl.org).

### **SANTA CRUZ**

#### **Tech Talks set at Santa Cruz Public Libraries**

Santa Cruz Public Libraries will offer three free Tech Talks this June. On June 9, "Tech Talks: Data Privacy for Apple" will explore settings and apps to reduce your digital footprint. On June 16, Android users can learn data privacy. The final June Tech Talk on June 30 will cover travel and map apps for Apple.

All Tech Talks events are held virtually from 11 a.m. to noon on Zoom. Registration is required. For information, visit [santacruzpl.org](https://santacruzpl.org). Registrants will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link immediately upon registering for the event.

Tech Talks June lineup:

- June 9: Tech Talks: Data Privacy (Apple). To register, visit [bit.ly/TechTalk6922](https://bit.ly/TechTalk6922).
- June 16: Tech Talks: Data Privacy (Android). To register, visit [bit.ly/TechTalk61622](https://bit.ly/TechTalk61622).
- June 30: Tech Talks: Travel and Maps Apps (Apple). To register, visit [bit.ly/TechTalk63022](https://bit.ly/TechTalk63022).

## **SANTA CRUZ**

### **Garfield Park library host reopening**

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries, in partnership with the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public, announced the grand reopening of the remodeled Garfield Park Branch Library.

The celebration takes place from noon to 4 p.m. June 11 at the library, 705 Woodrow Ave. in Santa Cruz.

Opening day festivities begin with special guest speakers Yolande Wilburn, SCPL Library Director, Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor, Mike Rotkin and others. Children can enjoy storytimes with librarians, participate in making crafts, and be charmed by a roaming fairy from Happily Ever Laughter. Local musical favorites Samba Cruz will play from 1-3 p.m. All ages are invited to join us for refreshments and to plant seedlings of native flowers.

As part of the event, the community can tour the dynamic remodel, get a library card, borrow library materials and learn about the summer reading program.

# The PAJARONIAN



**Photo: Aptos library rebuild underway**

By: [TARMO HANNULA](#) May 20, 2022

*A crew from Bogard Construction use an excavator to demolish the Aptos Branch Library Wednesday on Soquel Drive at State Park. A new library is in the works and expected to be completed by Summer 2023. The \$14 million project was funded by voter-approved Measure S and donations from the community. The new 12,400-square-foot space will include expanded and improved amenities, including an outdoor reading room, garden, patio, rideshare and bike parking, group study rooms, a gallery, a community room and terrace, public art and historic features in partnership with the Aptos History Museum.*



### **1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN!**

written by [See Below](#) May 22, 2022



### **Spread the love**

Did you know that reading to children is one of the most powerful ways to boost their brain power?

The simple and enjoyable act of sharing books helps children learn pre-reading skills such as understanding the sounds letters make, developing a bigger vocabulary, and building background knowledge — all important skills that help prepare children for learning to read and entering kindergarten.



Santa Cruz Public Libraries' 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program is a fun and free way to start children on the path to success. Children who have not yet started kindergarten can participate. Follow these steps:

1. **Register:** Sign up at any Santa Cruz Public Libraries branch or online at [santacruzpl.beanstack.org](http://santacruzpl.beanstack.org). Pick up program materials at the library or print them from our website.
2. **Track Your Reading:** For each book read, fill in a circle on the reading log, write down each book you read in a journal or log books online with Beanstack.
3. **Every Book Counts:** Even if a child wants to hear the same book again and again, you can count it each time. You can also count the books children hear in storytime, in daycare or preschool, or with a friend or family member, as long as the child listens to the entire book.
4. **100-Book Milestones:** Each time you read 100 books, bring your reading record to the library to receive a special reward. Stickers are rewarded for each 100 books read. At 500 books, earn a free book! Each time you receive your prize, take home a new reading record for your next 100 books.
5. **1000 Books:** You did it! Come celebrate at the library, see the participating child's name placed on the 1000 Book Wall of Fame, and receive a prize.
6. **Keep on Reading:** Don't stop at 1000! Keep on reading together; there's more learning ahead!

Singing songs, saying rhymes, telling stories, and playing with children are all great ways to build their literacy skills. Visit the Santa Cruz Public Libraries often for free programs that are fun and educational for little ones and to find great books to share with children.

One thousand books may seem like a lot, but if you read just one book a night, you'll meet your goal in less than 3 years. If you read three books a night, you could reach your goal in one year! Ask the friendly staff for suggestions — they're here to help you on your journey to 1000 Books Before Kindergarten.

## EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR 2022

written by [See Below](#) June 10, 2022





### **Spread the love**

On May 19, the [Santa Cruz County Office of Education](#) honored the recipients of the 2022 Santa Cruz County Educator of the Year Award, which is awarded to staff who exemplify educational excellence and embody the values of the school community. They are:

*Teacher of the Year*

**Janet Stahl**

*San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School*



*Janet Stahl*

She joined the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District in 2004, where she has taught grades K-2 and Recovery Reading and helped spearhead making San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports school.

Stahl started her teaching career in the winter of 1988 with Modesto City Schools. She taught what was then called Sheltered English classes for 1-3 grades, was a Success For All reading teacher and team taught a full inclusion Sheltered English and Special Day Class at a year round school. She

developed a passion for teaching beginning readers and writers, creating a professional lending library and after school reading clubs for students.

Her favorite day of the year is the Santa Cruz County Reading Association Student Authors' Fair where she has the pleasure and delight of interviewing young authors and listening to them read their work. Stahl is retiring this year.

*Classified Employee of the Year*

**Patty Freedman**

*Alternative Education, Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Highlands)*



*Patty Freedman*

Freedman is a project specialist at the Santa Cruz Office of Education's San Lorenzo Valley Community School. She has lived in Santa Cruz County for the past 47 years with her husband and three children.

She joined the Santa Cruz COE in 2002 after working with SLVUSD as an instructional aide at Redwood Elementary School.

"I love the students, their families, our community in the San Lorenzo Valley and I am so grateful to have spent the last 20 years working in Alternative Education," Freedman said.

*Counselor of the Year*

**Daisy Nuñez**

*Socio-emotional counselor at Watsonville High School, her alma mater, and an adjunct counselor at Hartnell College*



### *Daisy Nuñez*

A first-generation Mexican-American raised by migrant farm working parents, Nuñez has worked in education for 14 years, striving to promote and contribute to a diverse environment that welcomes individuals of different social, gender, and cultural backgrounds.

She is a hopeologist and follows the philosophy that students are able to move toward healing and can achieve tremendous success when they are supported, heard and validated.

She has a bachelor's degree in global economics from UC Santa Cruz, a master's degree in education from San Jose State University, and a certification in thanatology (death, dying and bereavement) from the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

*Administrator of the Year*

### **Dr. Jessica Kiernan**

*Assistant superintendent, Soquel Union Elementary School District*



*Jessica Kiernan*

A loving mother, partner, daughter, and friend, she began her career in education in 1999. As a classroom teacher, she quickly saw the institutional inequity her students faced. No students from her middle school had ever gone on to honors level courses in high school.

Within three years, 36 of her students were prepared for and enrolled in honors-level courses. As an assistant principal, she found the same themes existed, so she organized a core of teachers to begin an AVID program, which within only three years became AVID certified schoolwide.

In her principalship, she found a new challenge in a different socio-demographic community. High test scores were easy to achieve, but building a whole-child mindset became the new charge. With nearly 40 staff, she traveled the country year after year seeking the best and next practices.

As a director and then as an assistant superintendent of education, she continued to engage in the quiet, yet focused path of understanding and truth-finding. Bringing together collaborative forces, speaking truths, seeking experts, and forging relationships have helped Jessica and her district to grow.

She is humbled daily by the work of the great friends and colleagues with whom she works and shares this quest.

*Community Partner of the Year*

### **Heather Norquist**

*Manager for Youth Programs and Services at Santa Cruz Public Libraries*



*Heather Norquist*

Norquist is recipient of this inaugural award. She works with a team of librarians to provide access to books and other library resources in a variety of formats, early literacy programming, support for academics, STEAM programs, the Summer Reading Program, and opportunities for creative expression and community involvement to the youth in our community and their parents, caregivers and teachers.

She has worked in Youth Services for 25 years, and was responsible for instituting the library's K12 outreach, offering Lunch@theLibrary popup programming at school food distribution sites.

Heather attended Live Oak Elementary and has lived here most of her life.

In her free time, Norquist enjoys singing with jazz combos and taking walks with her dog.

...

A selection committee chose these honorees from 74 nominations using the California Standards and criteria such as ability to create a passion for learning, high expectations for all students commitment to the community they serve.

Honorees receive a plaque and their names will be engraved in the Educators of the Year perpetual plaque hanging in the foyer of the County Office of Education.



## **I deliver books to Santa Cruz jails; don't tell me libraries don't matter**

BY JESSE SILVA JUN 12, 2022 | 9:13 AM





*Librarian Jesse Silva regularly delivers books and library programs to the more than 300 people currently incarcerated in Santa Cruz County. She also brings in kindness and social support. For some, she says, the library is the only outside contact her patrons experience during their months or years in jail. She argues that her work is vital and that we must support our libraries and recognize the essential role reading plays in rehabilitation.*

My father spent four years in prison before I was born.

We rarely discussed his time inside — from age 17 into his early 20s — but the trauma and abuse he clearly experienced marked my childhood, transformed him and determined my career path. Today, I am librarian with the Santa Cruz Public Libraries' County Corrections Facilities (CCF) program, which means I provide library services inside Santa Cruz County's jails and juvenile hall. I see the impact this work — the delivery of books and human kindness — has on people at their most vulnerable and needy. We must continue to support and expand it.

Every other week, I go with a colleague to the Rountree Facility in Watsonville and to juvenile hall in Felton, where we offer a small collection of library books for people to browse and check out. We provide each with a Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) account, and encourage them to come to a library when they reenter our community. Our patrons at the Santa Cruz Main Jail do not currently receive these services, but they can request books via a tablet system, and we deliver those to the sheriff's team and they distribute them inside.

We also offer the literacy program, People & Stories, a short-story workshop that brings relevant works to marginalized populations and ignites discussion through narrative.

I am drawn to this work, I think, partly because of my father's experience. But it's also because growing up poor in Santa Cruz, I used the public library as a sanctuary. The library made my education dynamic in a way the public school in my low-income neighborhood could not.

Too often today, people underestimate the value of libraries and what they do for those who are underprivileged. I know some might think libraries are archaic or that librarians can easily be replaced by Google.

That's preposterous.

Public libraries are as necessary today as they were in the 19th century. They support those who have little or no community and provide access to information to those who can't otherwise get it.

They create positive social change. They are places of shelter, refuge, learning, escape and compassion.

Bringing in a bit of compassion

Here in Santa Cruz, in April (the most recent month for which statistics were available), we had 348 people in our adult jails and, on average, 16-20 in our juvenile hall. Those inside our jails are disproportionately poor, experiencing mental health issues, homelessness and/or have substance use disorders.

They are disproportionately people of color. We know statistically that people of color are arrested more frequently and punished more harshly than their white peers, and are far more likely to be incarcerated for crimes of necessity or “survival crimes.”

... thank you for the service you are providing in here. It really helps my mental health and depression when I have books to read.

— Feedback from an incarcerated person on the Santa Cruz Public Libraries’ County Corrections Facilities program

I know who these people are because I serve them.

When I visit people who are incarcerated, I bring books and I advocate for literacy. But I try to also bring in a bit of compassion and social support.

People who are incarcerated are isolated. They have no autonomy, little to no contact with people on the outside, and their access to resources and information is restricted. Books offer a window to the outside and a means to briefly escape the confines of the facility.

A few years ago, while I checked out a book to an incarcerated patron, the person shared that they had no money to buy perks, like shoes, coffee or spices sold at the “store” inside. They had no family or friends visiting or waiting for them to get out. My visit was the only connection they had with the outside world.

For me and the library, it is a relatively simple thing to roll our crates of books inside. But for this patron, it was life-changing.

Our community needs to recognize how much quiet, sustained impact libraries have.

Why incarceration is detrimental to all and how books help

Carceral institutions are by their very nature inhumane. I believe no sentient being is meant to be imprisoned. I regularly witness the stress and trauma of incarceration. I felt its effects on my father — on my family — my whole life. Whatever happened to him while he was in prison haunted him the rest of his life. It led to substance use, PTSD, profound anticonformity and constant dysfunction in our family.



(Kevin Painchaud / Lookout Santa Cruz)

But such trauma can be offset a bit by a brief interaction with non-corrections service providers, and even more so when there is an exchange of books.

I know the work I do has an impact because I regularly get feedback.

Here are some recent examples I've received from those I serve:

*Thank you, to all Santa Cruz Public Library staff for making library services accessible to all in SC County Correctional Facilities. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this great program for the better part of 18 months. It definitely made my time in jail easier to cope with.*

*If there is a silver lining to incarceration, it has been to read and greatly enjoy "The Dark Tower" series by Stephen King. Thank you, as always, for providing his novel and all the other books. This inmate really appreciates this service.*

*... thank you for the service you are providing in here. It really helps my mental health and depression when I have books to read.*

*This story made me feel appreciation for strong, meaningful words. I really loved the way she made a living for herself. I can only think how much self worth or self esteem her honest words gave her.*

I firmly believe public libraries must support those who have little or no support, to provide access to information to those who might not otherwise have it, and to create positive social change in the communities they serve.

A connection with books, a love of reading and of the library has impacts well beyond incarceration. People develop lifelong bonds with the library, which can help with rehabilitation, reintegration and connection with family and friends and community.

How what is 'inside' comes 'outside'

Often, incarcerated people leave jail with no money and no support system, leading to increased recidivism. The public library, with its community partners and open access to free resources, can be a lifeline for people recently released.

Public library services work when they are relevant to those most in need — what lifts up one of us, lifts us all.



Some of the books that will be delivered to those incarcerated.

(Kevin Painchaud / Lookout Santa Cruz)

When we began to build a CCF book collection, we based it on the reading interests of people inside the jails. But then we discovered something wonderful. Many non-CCF patrons on the outside wanted to read the very same books.

That prompted SCPL selectors to order those books for the general collection, too.

The reading interests of those inside informed the outside collection, creating a more well-rounded, meaningful, and relevant collection for all.

Inside, access to library services can also ease the stress of incarceration for jail staff. Over the years, officers have told us that library days are their favorite days of the week. They report that the entire facility is more peaceful after we leave and everyone is immersed in their new library book.

In addition to book lending, we must continue to provide and expand programming and services. Currently, we offer a short-story workshop which brings relevant stories to marginalized populations, igniting discussion. Participants earn “milestone” certificates, which provide sentence time reductions for participating in education, vocation, cognitive-behavioral and life skills curriculum. These certificates can reduce terms of confinement and demonstrate how libraries support positive social change.

The CCF team is exploring how we can provide additional programs, including early literacy programs for parents and caregivers who are incarcerated and short story workshops for juvenile hall.





(Kevin Painchaud / Lookout Santa Cruz)

Why should libraries serve people in jails?

When people ask why public libraries should use precious resources to serve people who are incarcerated — i.e., why should **they** get publicly funded services — I remind them that public libraries are meant to serve everyone, regardless of their involvement with the justice system.

## **When is your new library ready? A Lookout guide to the emerging branches**



There's no shortage of natural light at the new Capitola Branch Library.

(Kevin Painchaud / Lookout Santa Cruz)

BY [GRACE STETSON](#) JUN 9, 2022 | 6:21 AM

*Four redone Santa Cruz County library branches have reopened and four more will throw open their doors by the end of the year. We check in on the generational investment of \$67 million county voters made in 2016.*

Six years ago this week, Santa Cruz County voters overwhelmingly approved Measure S, funding the next generation of public libraries. By a 70% majority, voters taxed themselves \$67 million to revamp or rebuild 10 county libraries from Boulder Creek to La Selva Beach, all by the end of 2025.



## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

That ambitious timeline is now more than halfway through, and Lookout updates the progress, answering the question: Where does my library fit in? We detail each of the changes below, branch by branch, and offer a handy map that both shows progress and links to the event schedules for each of the open branches.

This coming week marks two of the new starts. On Saturday, the new Garfield Park branch hosts a “[grand reopening](#),” with a celebration taking place from noon to 4 p.m. at 705 Woodrow Ave. in Santa Cruz. Then on Wednesday, beginning at 12:30 p.m., the Aptos branch [breaks ground](#) on its new construction. Brazilian music, crafts and a roaming fairy are promised.

Of the county library system's 10 branches, four — Boulder Creek, Capitola, Felton and La Selva Beach — have so far completed construction and reopened to the public. In the coming months, beginning this weekend, four additional branches — Branciforte, Garfield Park, Live Oak and Scotts Valley — will reopen to the public.

The large downtown Santa Cruz branch, a project that has been [contested by some](#), is scheduled to begin construction in 2023, to be completed by 2026. As of now, the project remains at a crossroads, with opposing group Our Downtown, Our Future recently filing a ballot measure to keep the library as is, aiming for voters to decide in November. City officials and library representatives say this action hinders not only the project from moving forward, but the construction of more affordable housing and a new community space in the city's downtown.

Yolande Wilburn, who joined the Santa Cruz Public Libraries as director in January, said she was so glad to see the community support for the library system when she first moved to town, and for the libraries themselves, many of which were first built in the 1960s.

More than just new buildings, the new libraries also reflect changing community needs.

“Many of our libraries haven't had major renovations, and we've changed the way we do things in libraries,” Wilburn said. “Libraries aren't these quiet, silent places anymore; if we want to provide these spaces for our communities, we need to build for them.”

Further, she notes, the Measure S funds tie directly to library safety. Many of the plans include asbestos removal, electrical wiring and spaces compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other updates, Wilburn said, could include solar power and further broadband access.





A rendering of the proposed Live Oak library branch annex.  
(Via County of Santa Cruz)

“People are really happy if we can add those pieces — some of them we may need to add later, and we’re planning for that,” she said, noting potential grant funding. “But those things are very important.”

Looking forward, Wilburn said it’s imperative that the Santa Cruz Public Libraries remain connected with the community, to best hear what else readers need.

That also means, she said, that the libraries will focus a great deal of efforts on hiring and staffing all 10 branches, one of the system’s “biggest challenges” during the pandemic. Currently, the library is budgeted for about 102 full-time-equivalent employees, and is working on recruiting as additional branches open.

“It’s not only about lifelong learning outcomes, but by having better, sustainable lives in having access to these library amenities,” Wilburn said. “It’s a great way to connect with others in the community and these resources.”



### [Community hub of the future: New Capitola Library a stunning step forward in design and utility](#)

Local nonprofit Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries (FSCPL) has worked to raise money for the libraries since the organization's founding in 1979. In 2020, the organization gave \$484,176 toward the library system; the following year, FSCPL exceeded its goal of \$1 million, raising \$1.017 million from capital campaign donors. It allocated that spending among three branches: \$470,000 toward Aptos, \$320,000 toward Branciforte and \$210,000 toward Garfield Park.

The projects have seen some delays — caused by standard construction slowdowns, weather issues and the COVID-19 pandemic — noted library facilities manager Laura Whaley, who has overseen the work over the past three years. Of course, that's all par for the course, she said: "Most of us don't go through big building projects in our lives ... it's never fast."

Rena Dubin, who has served on both the Library Advisory Commission (2020-present) and the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (2016-18), sums up the kind of accomplishment many involved with the work feel and the satisfaction they see among new visitors:

"People can see how welcoming and safe these spaces are."

So what's the status of your library? Here's Lookout's quick guide to the emerging system.

#### **Completed construction and reopened**

##### *Boulder Creek*

**Address:** 13390 W. Park Ave., Boulder Creek

**Hours:** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; noon - 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday

**Status:** Reopened in May

**New features, programs:** Interior remodel, including:

- New HVAC, plumbing, entry, electrical and lighting
- ADA upgrades
- Increased exterior lighting
- Redo of the children's area

**Footprint:** 4,500 square feet

##### *Capitola*

**Address:** 2005 Wharf Rd., Capitola

**Hours:** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; noon - 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday

**Status:** Reopened in June 2021

**New features, programs:** Complete renovation of previous temporary facility, including:

- Large meeting rooms
- Expanded children's wing
- Study and reading rooms
- Solar panels and energy-efficient design

**Footprint:** 11,700 square feet





The new Capitola branch.  
(Kevin Painchaud / Lookout Santa Cruz)

*Felton*

**Address:** 6121 Gushee St., Felton

**Hours:** 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; noon - 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday

**Status:** Reopened in February 2020, the first completed Measure S branch

**New features, programs:** New facility for the branch, replacing a 60-plus-year-old historic church building:

- Free computers and WiFi
- Teen and children's areas
- Community room
- Adjacent discovery park

**Footprint:** 9,000 square feet

*La Selva Beach*

**Address:** 316 Estrella Ave., La Selva Beach

**Hours:** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; noon - 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday

**Status:** Reopened in March 2021

**New features, programs:** Renovation of the existing building, with updates including:

- Replacing dilapidated interior finishes with new lighting, electrical and mechanical
- Lounge seating areas for children and adults
- Expanded deck with usable outdoor space

**Footprint:** 2,230 square feet



[A new challenge to Santa Cruz's downtown mixed-use library building](#)  
**Reopening soon**

*Branciforte*

**Address:** 230 Gault St., Santa Cruz

**Hours:** Closed for construction

**Status:** Finishing construction; set to reopen this fall

**New features, programs:** Renovation of existing building, built in 1967, including:

- Improved flexible and accessible areas for reading
- Electrical and telecommunication upgrades
- New community room and children's outdoor patio
- Landscaping nearly complete

**Footprint:** 6,800 square feet

*Garfield Park*

**Address:** 705 Woodrow Ave., Santa Cruz

**Hours:** Closed for construction

**Status:** Reopening Saturday

**New features, programs:** Renovation of the historic Carnegie library building (1915) with refreshed design, including:

- Central seating area around the fireplace
- Children's area

- More open space
- Refreshed outdoor space

**Footprint:** 2,300 square feet

*Live Oak*

**Address:** 2380 Portola Dr., Santa Cruz

**Hours:** Closed for construction

**Status:** Under construction; set to reopen in August

**New features, programs:** Renovation of existing building, including:

- Transition to an ocean-themed learning space for the children's area
- New acoustic wood ceiling and wall treatments
- Redesigned functional seating
- Custom designed wall to separate children's collections from reading lounge and homework room

**Footprint:** 13,500 square feet

*Scotts Valley*

**Address:** 251 Kings Village Rd., Scotts Valley

**Hours:** Closed for construction

**Status:** Under construction; set to reopen in July

**New features, programs:** Updates to the 2011 structure, including:

- New roof
- HVAC system
- Parking lot repairs
- Seismic and operational upgrades

**Footprint:** 13,150 square feet

**Looking ahead**

*Aptos*

**Address:** 7695 Soquel Dr., Aptos

**Hours:** Closed for construction

**Status:** Demolition took place May 18; set to reopen in fall 2023

**New features, programs:** New facility to replace original building, built in 1975, including:

- Flexible community, meeting and study rooms
- Garden and terrace areas
- Local history section
- Maximizing energy efficiency

**Footprint:** 12,000 square feet

*Downtown Santa Cruz*

**Current address:** 224 Church St., Santa Cruz

**Hours:** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; noon - 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday

**Status:** Planning underway for the new library/housing mixed-use project on Cedar Street

**New features, programs:** New facility, as approved by the Santa Cruz City Council, would include:

- 124 units of affordable housing
- 310 parking spaces
- A 35,000-square-foot newly designed library
- 5,000-square-foot roof deck

**Footprint:** 40,000 square feet

## Lookout Update: Downtown library vote moves toward November ballot

With the validity of their petition's signatures confirmed, critics of Santa Cruz's mixed-use downtown library project can now plan on taking their issues with the development to the city's voters.



One of the latest renderings of the downtown mixed-use library project, provided by the City of Santa Cruz and Jayson Architects.

(Via City of Santa Cruz)

JUN 15, 2022 | 1:47 PM



A vote on the siting of the new downtown Santa Cruz library branch continues to move toward the Nov. 8 ballot.

County Clerk Tricia Webber has confirmed that 4,912 of the signatures gathered by [Our Downtown, Our Future](#) (ODOF) are valid. That confirmation now pushes the vote forward, with the Santa Cruz City Council formally deciding at either its June 28 meeting or in mid-July whether to place the question before city voters; it is expected to do so.

ODOF has [contended](#) that the site — Lot 4 in planning parlance — unanimously approved by the city council is inappropriate, citing the inclusion of a parking garage and a change in the downtown farmers market location. The group wants the downtown library to stay at its current location, at Church and Center streets, and be renovated rather than replaced.

The current plan, [calling for a mixed-use library replacement on Lot 4](#), has been vetted and refined since 2016, when county voters approved \$67 million toward [renovating and restoring the county's 10 library branches](#).

That plan includes a 40,000-square-foot library, community space, car and bike parking, and 124 units of affordable housing.

[Group leader John Hall](#) told Lookout that his group believes voters should be able to pick what works best for them, particularly amid the ongoing climate crisis.

“We believe voters will see this as a better choice for the future of Santa Cruz as a community than a Lot 4 project that puts an estimated 60,000 cubic yards of concrete into an unneeded, fiscally irresponsible parking garage,” he said.

Zach Davis, a former member of the Downtown Commission and a downtown business owner and vendor at the farmers market, told Lookout: “I have faith in the democratic process, and I am confident that when evaluated on its merits the voters of Santa Cruz will show their support for the downtown library and affordable housing project by rejecting the ODOF ballot measure.”

[Santa Cruz City Manager Matt Huffaker](#) estimates losses of \$3.5 million toward affordable housing, and \$2.5 million in investments toward the library, should the ODOF ballot measure win approval.

“The proposed measure would mean a significant loss for our community and hamstringing the city’s ability to respond quickly to the escalating housing crisis,” he said. “Instead of a larger, modern and highly sustainable library, the community would receive a smaller library that doesn’t fully meet its needs.”



*GoodTimes*

# Santa Cruz Poet Laureate David Sullivan's 'Agents of Change'

The all-inclusive amalgamation of the arts showcases a diverse pool of artists working in a vast array of mediums at the Downtown Santa Cruz Library



By [Johanna Miller](#) June 15, 2022

Santa Cruz Poet Laureate David Sullivan will present a poetry workshop, reading and art show on Saturday, June 18 at the Downtown Library in Santa Cruz as part of the ongoing "Agents of Change" exhibit.

Two years ago, Cabrillo College literature and film instructor David Sullivan was named the poet laureate of Santa Cruz.

Poet laureates are appointed to represent and engage with their communities, writing original poems and performing them at schools, city council meetings and more. Sullivan says it has been "a great honor" to be Santa Cruz's poet laureate, despite the fact it has been during the pandemic.

PHOTO: Hamza Al Haidar

"It's been interesting to do this right now—a lot more Zoom time," he says. "But it's been so nice connecting with everyone. I feel lucky to live in a

place so diverse with creative talent."

When he received the honor, Sullivan was already looking for ways to connect different creative groups in his community. He started up his new art and poetry project, Agents of Change, to do just that.

"I wanted to do something positive and inclusive," he says. "I wanted to create Agents of Change as a way to make connections between different artistic fields."

Last week, an Agents of Change exhibition opened at the Downtown Public Library in Santa Cruz. The show features a variety of work, including many different artistic mediums (painting, photography, lithographs and more) and poems.

Calls for artists and poets were sent out early this year, asking participants to create pieces that represented the subject of change. The broad theme resulted in a diverse pool of work, Sullivan says.

"It's been great to see the kind of response and the variety of subjects people have tackled," he says. "From the wildfires to the pandemic, women's issues, Black Lives Matter ... I really think we are in a tumultuous time, a reassessment of what we value and how we connect in this world."

Many noted local artists will be showing work, including photographer Shmuel Thaler, Watsonville poet laureate Bob Gomez and Cabrillo College instructor and Hive Poetry Collective member Nikia Chaney. Sullivan says a number of artists and poets have teamed up to create pieces together.

"That was unexpected, but wonderful," he says. "I'm really looking forward to having people coming by the library this summer and seeing these incredible works."

Sullivan is a writer himself, with a number of books under his belt, and his English 1B at Cabrillo class puts together the Porter Gulch Review, a literary and arts publication, every year. His latest book, *Black Butterflies Over Baghdad*, was released last year. The book of poetry highlights Iraqi artists, with translations of Iraqi poets. Sullivan says the book grew out of another he wrote a decade ago, *Every Seed of the Pomegranate*.

“That book was half in the voices of U.S. soldiers and citizens and half in the voice of Iraqi soldiers and citizens,” he says. “This book is all about listening to the Iraqis in their own voices. It tries to listen and understand a different culture, and give a voice to the people.”

Sullivan worked directly with the poets and artists to put *Butterflies* together.

“They all have tremendous hospitality—every time I meet the Iraqis it’s just been incredible,” he says. “They have such a dark, black humor about them. Which helps them survive through everything. It’s been very moving, their openness and willingness to talk and teach me has been amazing. I feel very privileged.”

Sullivan says he hopes that the Agents of Change show will inspire people to expand their worldview and be more understanding to others.

“We are in a situation where we are so disconnected, not listening to each other,” he says. “Both art and poetry emphasize passionate connection and understanding to those who are different from us. They are vital tools to open us up and make us think outside the box. I would hope something would get stirred in people by some of the pieces. That they investigate and reach out to others that they maybe didn’t talk to before. We must begin to lead with kindness and compassion.”

*Agents of Change* will run through early September at the Downtown Library, 224 Church St., Santa Cruz. On Saturday, June 18, there will be an Agents of Change poetry workshop from 11am-noon, and an art show and poetry reading from noon-1pm; free. For information, visit [bit.ly/3tsOMbM](http://bit.ly/3tsOMbM).



## **Santa Cruz City Council Prepares for the Future of the Downtown Library and Affordable Housing Project**

5/24/2022 7:00:00 AM

<https://web.santacruzchamber.org/news/newsarticledisplay.aspx?ArticleID=1956>

For nearly seven years, the Santa Cruz County Library System has been working to update or completely modernize the downtown Santa Cruz Library and the branch libraries throughout Santa Cruz County. A lot of progress has been made since the voters approved Measure S: Construction of the Felton Library, upgrading the La Selva Beach Library, the construction of the new Capitola Library, improvements to the Boulder Creek Library and the Scotts Valley Library, improvements for the Branciforte and Garfield Libraries, and demolishing the Aptos Library to prepare the site for a new state-of-the-art library building. Yet, the Downtown Library and Affordable Housing Project (the hub of the county library system), while in architecture design and moving through the planning process, is facing a ballot initiative challenge.

We’ve written about this subject multiple times in the past couple of years expressing the Chamber’s unwavering support for this project. The Chamber Board recently voted to oppose the ballot measure that is planned to be on the November 2022 ballot. According to Santa Cruz City

Attorney Tony Condotti, “The Our Downtown Our Future (ODOF) initiative would halt the new library, affordable housing project planned for Cedar Street between Cathcart and Lincoln streets.”

The location of the project is Parking Lot 4 where the Downtown Santa Cruz Farmers Market convenes on a weekly basis. This project is critical to the future of downtown where the Chamber envisions a vibrant area that includes a centrally located architecturally delightful library building that will complement other downtown projects like the new Metro North and Metro South mixed-use projects, new health and dental clinic, a Santa Cruz Warriors facility, and a permanent farmers market designed with practical community needs in mind.

In the span of the last four years, I have attended dozens of community meetings, city council meetings (in-person and via zoom) and other public hearings as the project moves through the laborious public vetting process.

On Tuesday, I again listened in to the Santa Cruz City Council meeting as the council voted to direct staff to produce financial impact reports for two ballot initiatives planned for the November election. For this article we’ll focus on only one ballot measure: the Our Downtown Our Future, which will impact the Downtown Santa Cruz Library and Affordable Housing Project.

The reports will detail how the measure might affect the city, including impacts on:

- > Land use, including housing availability.
- > Funding for transportation, schools, parks and other public infrastructure.
- > The community’s ability to attract and retain businesses.
- > Agricultural lands, open space and traffic congestion.

The latest action step by the Santa Cruz City Council is to establish a financial analysis of what a potential ballot measure could do to the City’s long-term vision of our downtown. Ballot measures have a way of making promises to the community while delivering unintended consequences and resulting in short- and long-term negative impacts. The City Council requests the city staff come up with an analysis that tells the real story about this ballot measure (ODOF).

## Reviews

### Google my Business

Boulder Creek received a 5 Star Review on May 10

Remodeled and reopened.

Capitola received a 5 Star Review on May 11

Librarian is nice and environment outside is cool!!

Downtown received a 5 Star Review on May 19

Weary librarians that appear all-smiles to a select few including children and the elderly but boy do they cast a judgmental eye on the rest of us. I’m sure that some of their downtown guests need a little extra attention as some folks apparently have arrived with all of their worldly belongings and stay from open til close. A colorful cast of characters. I’ve had so many crazy looks from the staff that it’s dehumanizing. Seriously. I know it’s a



library and I'm respectful, quiet and clean. But it's also just a library. This heavy Us against Them vibe is just bizarre. Besides that weirdness though the place is super chill. Free access to computers, free copier/ printer pages -up to 30 each day- bathrooms, awesome periodical selection, a huge genealogy department that's even staffed on certain days and an entire floor for kids and young adults upstairs and away from all of us adults. The location downtown is near two parking lots- one pay and one free. It's part of the City Hall Campus so while you're there be sure to step across the street and check City Hall out. It's a great Spanish colonial rancho style building with absolutely amazing landscaping and rose garden. The library closes at 6 M-F and 5 on S&S. Grab a book. Reading is better than any thing you'll see on Netflix YouTube or Tik Tok.

Live Oak received a 3 Star Review on May 20

Looked closed.

Garfield Park received a 5 Star Review on May 22

Looks like they are still working on it

Capitola Received a 1 Star Review on May 28

Less than one star for parking lot.....really tight one way parking lot, so if you are visually impaired or disabled I suggest avoiding this branch altogether. Also, the shelves are pretty empty and there's lots of dead, empty space. This is what we waited years for?????

La Selva Beach received a 5Star Review on May 29

Great place, by the beach, with easy Wi-Fi access. Nice and quiet, with fantastic walking trails and scenery...all free!👍

Capitola received a 5 Star Rating with no review on June 15

## STAFF REPORT

AGENDA: Monday, July 18, 2022

DATE: Tuesday, July 12, 2022

TO: Library Advisory Commission

FROM: Stephanie Duck, General Counsel

SUBJECT: Resolution Re-authorizing the Library Advisory Commission to Utilize Remote Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2022-03 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.

### DISCUSSION

Pursuant to AB 361 and as codified at California Government Code section 54953, legislative bodies may use modified teleconferencing rules to conduct public meetings during a proclaimed State of Emergency under certain circumstances, including that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.<sup>1</sup> The State of Emergency proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic remains in effect today. In February 2022, the Santa Cruz County Health Officer, together with eleven other Bay Area health officers, issued a press release announcing alignment with the California Department of Public Health's indoor masking guidance, which requires that all individuals wear face coverings indoors in specified high-risk settings, and strongly recommends that all individuals continue to wear face coverings while in indoor public settings.<sup>2</sup>

The Library Advisory Commission adopted its initial AB 361 findings at its meeting of April 18, 2022, and adopted subsequent findings at its meeting of May 16, 2022. To continue teleconferenced meetings under AB 361, the law requires that the Library Advisory Commission adopt findings within thirty (30) days after its initial teleconference, and every thirty (30) days thereafter, that it has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency, and either (i) the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; and/or (ii) state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.<sup>3</sup>

Attachment:  
Resolution No. 2022-X

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Gov't Code § 54953(e)(1)(A)-(C).

<sup>2</sup> See *Press Release*, Twelve Bay Area Health Officers to Lift Most Indoor Mask Mandates on February 16 (Feb. 9, 2022), [https://www.santacruzhealth.org/Portals/7/pdfs/Coronavirus/02.09.22%20ABAHO%20Masking\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.santacruzhealth.org/Portals/7/pdfs/Coronavirus/02.09.22%20ABAHO%20Masking_FINAL.pdf); See also CDPH, *Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings* (Updated February 28, 2022), <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>.

<sup>3</sup> Cal. Gov't Code § 54953(e)(3).

**SANTA CRUZ LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION'S  
FINDINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS AS A RESULT OF  
THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY AND HEALTH OFFICER RECOMMENDATION  
FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING**

**WHEREAS**, the **Santa Cruz Library Advisory Commission ("LAC")** is a legislative body under the Ralph M. Brown Act as defined under Cal. Gov. Code section 54952(b); and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 ("AB 361"), urgency legislation effective immediately, that amended Government Code section 54953 to permit legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act to continue to meet under modified teleconferencing rules provided that they comply with specific requirements set forth in the statute; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(1)(A), a legislative body may meet under the modified teleconferencing rules during a proclaimed state of emergency, and where local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and which remains in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 30, 2021, Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel strongly recommended that legislative bodies in Santa Cruz County continue to engage in physical/social distancing by meeting via teleconference as allowed by AB 361 and confirmed that she will regularly review and reconsider this recommendation and notify the public when it is no longer recommended; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(3), within 30 days of the date the legislative body first holding a teleconferenced meeting under the modified rules, and every 30 days thereafter, a legislative body can continue to hold such teleconference meetings provided it has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and determined either that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person or that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

**WEHERAS**, on April 4, 2018, the **LAC** held its initial teleconference meeting under AB 361; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 16, 2022, the **LAC** held a subsequent teleconference meeting under AB 361; and

**WHEREAS**, the **LAC** has once again reconsidered the circumstances of the current state of emergency and finds that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of members of the public to participate safely in person and further finds that the Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing, strongly recommends that all individuals wear face coverings in indoor public settings, and requires that all individuals wear face coverings in specified high-risk indoor public settings; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of public health and safety, and due to the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the **LAC** deems it necessary for the legislative bodies of the **LAC** to continue utilizing the modified teleconferencing rules set forth in AB 361;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the **Santa Cruz Library Advisory Commission ("LAC")** makes the following findings by a majority vote:

**Section 1.** The foregoing recitals are true and correct, and adopted as findings of the **Santa Cruz Library Advisory Commission** and legislative bodies of the LAC.

**Section 2.** Effective immediately, and for the next 30 days, the **LAC** and its legislative bodies will meet via teleconference as authorized under AB 361 and Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

**Section 3.** No later than thirty (30) days from making today's findings, or at the next scheduled meeting, the **LAC** will reconsider the circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency and, if necessary, adopt subsequent findings to continue holding teleconference meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the **Santa Cruz Library Advisory Commission** in Santa Cruz County, State of California, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Santa Cruz Library  
Advisory Commission

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Clerk

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Counsel



## STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 18, 2022  
TO: Library Advisory Commission  
FROM: Yolande Wilburn, Library Director  
RE: Library Policies

### RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File:

Policy #307 Freedom to View  
Policy #308 Freedom to Read  
Policy #311 Library Bill of Rights

### DISCUSSION

The Library System is governed by policies in order to maintain standards to ensure a safe and healthy environment for staff and patrons.

The Library would like the LAC to review the attached three (3) policies that are up for renewal.

Attachments:

Policy #307 Freedom to View  
Policy #308 Freedom to Read  
Policy #311 Library Bill of Rights

Prepared by: Kira Henifin, Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Approved by: Yolande Wilburn, Library Director



## The Freedom to View Statement

JPAB Policy # 307

Approved: 7/1997

Last Revised: 8/2022

Five-year Review Schedule: 8/2027

The freedom to view, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore, we affirm these principles:

1. It is in the public interest to provide the broadest possible access to films and other audiovisual materials because they have proven to be among the most effective means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
  2. It is in the public interest to provide for audiences films and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
  3. It is our professional responsibility to resist the constraint of labeling or prejudging a film on the basis of the moral, religious or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker, or on the basis of controversial content.
  4. It is our professional responsibility to contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.
- 

Adopted by the Education Film Library Association in February, 1979, and endorsed in June, 1979 by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association.

Adopted by the Santa Cruz City/County Library System [citizen] Board in December 1987, and by the Library Oversight Committee at its first meeting on November 3, 1988.

Confirmed by the Library Joint Powers Authority Board in July 1997.

ALA Website:

## Freedom to View Statement

The **FREEDOM TO VIEW**, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, or other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

**Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council**

## FREEDOM TO READ

JPAB Policy #308

Adopted: 6/1953

Revised: 8/2022

Five-year Review Schedule: 8/2027

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has

given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

- 1. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.**

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We

need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

- 2. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.**

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

- 3. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.**

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

- 4. There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.**

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters' values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

- 5. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.**

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to



determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

**6. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.**

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive.

Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

**7. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.**

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said.

Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We

realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society.

Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

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This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee;  
amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

## The Library Bill of Rights

JPAB Policy # 311

Approved: 7/1997

Last Revised: 8/2022

Five-year Review Schedule: 8/2027

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services:

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
7. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

First adopted by the American Library Association in 1949, with subsequent amendments approved and incorporated over the years.

Adopted by the Santa Cruz City/County Library System [citizen] Board;  
adopted at the first meeting of the Library Oversight Committee on November 3, 1988;  
confirmed by the Library Joint Point Powers Authority Board, July 1997.

## **STAFF REPORT**

DATE: July 18, 2022  
TO: Library Advisory Commission  
FROM: Eric Howard, Assistant Library Director  
RE: 4th Quarter Workplan FY 2021/2022

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Accept and File Workplan for 4th Qtr. FY 2021/2022.

### **DISCUSSION**

Attached, please find the fourth quarter workplan. The fourth quarter plan runs from April through the end of June and the report attempts to capture the Library's operations and high impact programs and services within this quarter across five areas: 1. Learning 2. Digital Inclusion 3. Transformative Spaces 4. User Experience 5. Organizational Capacity.

## WORKPLAN:

1. LEARNING	<p><b>Adult Programming:</b> <i>Creative Aging and Life Skills</i></p> <p><b>Youth Programming:</b> <i>Kindergarten Readiness</i> <i>Student Success</i> <i>Safe Afterschool</i> <i>School Partnerships</i></p> <p><b>Outreach:</b> <i>Bookmobile</i> <i>Jails</i> <i>Kermit</i> <i>Events</i></p>
2. DIGITAL INCLUSION	<p><b>Tools</b>      <b>Resources</b>      <b>Innovation</b></p>
3. TRANSFORMATIVE SPACES	<p><b>Aptos</b>      <b>Felton</b>  <b>Boulder Creek</b>      <b>Garfield Park</b>  <b>Branciforte</b>      <b>La Selva Beach</b>  <b>Capitola</b>      <b>Live Oak</b>  <b>Downtown</b>      <b>Scotts Valley</b></p>
4. USER EXPERIENCE	<p><b>Staffing</b>      <b>Collections</b>  <b>Convenience</b>      <b>Security</b>  <b>Localization</b></p>
5. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY	<p><b>Administration</b>      <b>Friends of the Library</b>  <b>Volunteers</b>      <b>Staff Training</b>  <b>Succession Planning</b></p>

## 1. Learning Accomplishments:



## Quarter 4

### ADULT

“I am so thankful for the info you share with us. It is so helpful!!!”

- Patron testimonial from the fourth quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Library held 289 programs for adults, with 1,434 patrons in attendance. The fourth quarter runs from April to the end of June. The following are some of the highlights for adult services from that period:

#### **Life Literacies and Civic Engagement:**

- *Book to Action grant*
  - Hosted a community event with Conor Dougherty, award-winning author of "Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America," and renowned local author Jonathan Franzen in a conversation about the complex social and economic factors driving housing--and homelessness--in America. The event was held simultaneously in person at the Downtown Library and online in Zoom with a total 143 participants. It was made possible by a partnership with the Homeless Garden Project.
  - Provided copies of "Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America" to the community free of charge (while supplies lasted), made possible by grant funding.
  - Created and distributed hygiene kits with items including soap, toothpaste, and period products to people experiencing homelessness, made possible by grant funding.
- *Santa Cruz County Workforce Collaborative*
  - Offered 72 sessions of individualized career development help.
  - Held a Job and Services Resource Fair attended by 75 people at London Nelson Community Center in partnership with the Homeless Garden Project. The fair brought together workforce development and wrap-around service providers to connect with people experiencing barriers to housing employment and offer a pathway forward. Service providers included the Community Action Board (CAB) SmartHIRE and Homeless Preventions Programs, Grey Bears, Cabrillo College, Goodwill Central Coast Career Center, Encompass, Santa Cruz County Veterans Services, Your Future is Our Business, and the National Farmworkers Program.

- Held 4 workshops in English and Spanish on Resume and Interview Skills and Library Tools to Boost Your Job Search. Recordings of the workshops are now hosted on the Library's Youtube channel.
- *Financial literacy and Life Skills*
  - Partnered with Santa Cruz Community Credit Union (SCCCU) to provide free educational workshops on Elder Financial Abuse and Identity Theft. These workshops also facilitated new relationships between SCCCUC, Adult Protective Services, and the Seniors Council to support each other's work and amplify their outreach to vulnerable populations.
  - Began hosting Homeless Garden Project (HGP) open office hours in the Life Literacies Center to introduce people experiencing homelessness to the job training, transitional employment and support services HGP provides.
  - Partnered with Senior Network Services' Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) to teach older adults how to compare Medicare plans and learn what's new in 2022.
- *Community Building*
  - Began hosting Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office Neighborhood Courts conferences to support community-driven restorative justice alternatives that improve the quality of life in our community

### **Learning and Connection:**

- *Genealogy programming*
  - Held a beginners' genealogy workshop taught by the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County to teach beginning researchers how to do their own research into their family's history.
  - Held 3 monthly lectures with the Genealogical Society via Zoom taught by international experts on the topics:
    - French Immigrants to California with an expert live from France
    - Research in the Azores with an expert live from the Azores. This was attended by over 100 people!
    - How to Create a Location Resource Guide for Reasonably Exhaustive Research with an expert live from Pennsylvania
- *Diversity Center*

- Began a monthly Queer Gaming Group in partnership with the Diversity Center to create a safe space for LGBTQ+ community members to gather and benefit from the educational and community-building aspects of gaming
- *Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation*
  - Partnered with Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation to begin a weekly Bridge Club to support social connection and intellectual stimulation
- *History and Culture*
  - Hosted Santa Cruz Poet Laureate David Sullivan’s signature project “Agents of Change” art exhibit and poetry writing workshop. Agents of Change is a collaboration between local visual artists and poets, a traditional art show enhanced by poets reacting to specific works of art.
  - Held 2 writers’ workshops on how to write a book proposal and how to find an agent.
  - Hosted a talk by world history expert Dr. Robert Strayer on “Ukraine and Russia: Contextualizing a War,” held simultaneously in person at the La Selva Beach Library and online via Zoom.

### **Outreach**

- Returned to in-person services at County Correctional Facilities.
- Participated in the annual Santa Cruz Pride parade and festival.
- Participated in the annual Juneteenth festival.
- Participated in the annual Santa Cruz History Fair.
- Expanded Bookmobile Services.

## **Quarter 4**

### **YOUTH**

In the fourth quarter, the Library held 202 programs for youth 0-18, with 3,106 patrons in attendance. Staff interacted with many caregivers, in addition to the children. The STEAM and Craft programs continue to be popular, as do the chess clubs and storytimes. Although they don't

accommodate large numbers, Homework Help and R.E.A.D. are very much appreciated by the students who participate.

*I apologize for taking so long to email you. I am [the mother of 2 boys] Here's a little recap about [my son's] journey in the R.E.A.D program. He started in 2nd grade with Marjorie. He could barely read a few words the first day he met with her. You know the book No, David No? He started at that level, probably Kindergarten. She was patient and encouraged him at every appointment. [My son] was motivated to meet with Marjorie because of the Minecraft program that he could attend after meeting with her. I am very thankful Minecraft was available because he had a lot of resistance to R.E.A.D. It was quite painful for him because it was so challenging for him.*

*Fast forward to today, [my son] is reading so much better! Yesterday he sat in the library and read his book while his brother played chess at the library. I know that meeting weekly to get one on one time with reading has helped. Andrea has focused on areas that he needed improvement such as reading at a consistent pace and understanding what he just read/comprehension. He has developed a love for reading and I am so proud. I have recommended this program to a few friends and they plan to sign up next year. They would have signed up recently but had prior commitments.*

*As for [my younger son], I had him join the program because of the report card he received from his teacher. Andrea and I both agree that he is a strong reader and one on one time with her has been great for him too. She says he is doing great and while it has been harder to see huge improvements with him as compared to what I have seen with [my older son] I know he is improving. His teacher reports his reading comprehension is improving. I hope we can continue this program for years to come!*

*- Patron Feedback*

### **Early Literacy/Kindergarten Readiness:**

- Storytime resumed at Downtown in April, at Boulder Creek in May and at the Garfield Park Branch in June. Numbers are steadily increasing each week.
- Preschool storytimes continue to be well-attended and this quarter they have celebrated Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Pride Month, Juneteenth, and other observed holidays and celebrations during these fun and active storytimes.
- Staff continue to provide outreach services, such as Cuentitos- bilingual storytimes at Early Education Centers.
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten officially launched in April. Between April 1st and June 30th, 270 youth between 0 and 6 enrolled in the program.

### **Student Success**

- Librarians at Felton conducted a class visit and tour for a homeschool group, including a book talk and digital resources presentation. The students made a thank you card

telling staff how much they learned about the library and science and that they look forward to coming back to borrow more books.

- Staff recorded a teen resume workshop with Suenos from Watsonville. The video will be available on the SCPL youtube page.
- Summer Reading: We launched the Summer Reading Program on June 1. As of June 30, 1086 kids, 187 teens, and 463 adults registered for the program.
- STEAM @ Home kits continue to be very popular. During the quarter, 5 different kits were available and 1,015 total kits were distributed.

### **Teens:**

- The Advisory Council of Teens (ACT, Mid/South County) have been very busy this quarter. They selected the teen incentive prizes for summer reading; selected and planned programs on financial aid, choosing your college major, and CHP teen driving workshops; and assisted with programs (Minecraft and teen art) and special events (the Aptos Friends Book Sale and Japanese Cultural Fair with origami instruction).
- The Advisory Council for Teens @ North County: ACT has been meeting in the San Lorenzo Valley now for about 9 months. This quarter they: provided feedback for the Felton Teen Room renovation, planned for an Art Contest for the Fall to provide art for the teen room and volunteered at SCPL events such as the Boulder Creek Opening and performed programs like Coding 101
- The Library partnered with the Diversity Center to pilot a new program for teens, Diverse Youth Meetup, in the Life Literacies Center at Downtown. The intent of this program is to provide transformative and equitable programs and services to youth (12-18) who identify as LGBTQ+ youth and their allies via collaborative engagement with community partners, volunteers, and library staff. Program topics include health, workforce development, financial literacy, virtual life skills, social skills and other life skills such as how to travel.

### **School Partnerships:**

- Librarians tabled at the Gault Elementary Open House on April 28th and connected with over 100 kids and their families. Information about summer reading was distributed.

### **Community Collaborations:**

- Santa Cruz Public Librarians were contributing members of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education LGBTQ+ Book Selection Task Force
- Early literacy storytime presenters introduced Samantha Basch of the UCSC Infant and Child Development Lab to storytime attendees, who invited parents to participate in their research studying children's learning in the first years of life.
- Staff attended the Youth Action Network events, and attended the pop-ups in Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Live Oak. The events attracted a consistent 50 to 80 people at each tabling event.



- Librarians tabled at the Juneteenth event held at London Nelson. They coordinated and led a craft and answered questions from the public regarding hours, programs, and services.
- Santa Cruz County Public Health – Community Health Education- Family walking groups visited Capitola on two different Saturdays to learn about library programs and services, sign up for library cards, decorate bookmarks, and obtain Shelf to Shore passes. The majority of the participants were Spanish speaking.
- Día de los Niños- Essy and Lorena coordinated a systemwide event for Día de los Niños on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1. At all open branches, there was a Seek and Find activity for participants to find popular children’s book characters and mark them off their bingo card. Then, they received a prize pack consisting of a new book, a Día de los Niños sticker, and a coupon for a free concha from El Rosal Bakery.
- Kids Day: Library staff tabled at this downtown event, attended by 260 children. Staff passed out SRP bookmarks and seed packets with a bee identification guide.
- Earth Day Wildflower Giveaway Grab and Go: Kits were distributed at all the branches and at Kids Day downtown.

## ***2. Digital Inclusion Accomplishments:***

### **Quarter 4**

- Provided individualized tech help sessions and offered 31 appointments at Downtown, 40 appointments at Felton, 39 appointments at Capitola, and 21 appointments at La Selva Beach
- Held 9 Tech Talks digital literacy classes on the following topics: Internet Search Strategies, Mobile Device Security, Digital Legacy Planning, Password Management, Data Privacy, Travel and Maps Apps, Unlimited Learning through Apps  
Post-workshop surveys asked participants whether the workshop helped them use their devices more efficiently and effectively and whether they intended to apply what they learned. On a scale of 1-4 participants averaged 3.8 for the first question and 3.7 for the second question
- Began offering hybrid in-person and virtual Zoom-based programming.

## ***3. Transformative Spaces Accomplishments:***

## Quarter 4

The Library celebrated the reopening of its Boulder Creek Library Branch on May 7<sup>th</sup> and Garfield Park Branch on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### 4. *User Experience Accomplishments:*

## Quarter 4

#### **Collections and Services:**

- Lendable Tech: purchased 60 additional hotspots and added them to the collection.
- Parks passes: In addition to the existing 10 California State Parks passes that circulate in the Get Out & Explore packs, SCPL added 44 day use parks passes to the collection. These parks passes were provided by the First Partner's Office and the California State Library. They provide free vehicle day-use entry to over 200 participating state park units.
- Prepared opening day collections for Boulder Creek and Garfield Park.

### 5. *Organizational Capacity:*

## Quarter 4

#### **Staffing:**

- The Library promoted Sarah Jones as its new Library Specialist to support training throughout the organization.

#### **Friends:**

- In partnership with the Felton Friends Chapter, staff have developed partnerships through its Community Led Learning Program with the SLV Museum, The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History and local artist, Stacy Monowitz.

#### **Training:**

- Youth Librarians took part in the "Reimagining School Readiness" workshop presented by the Bay Area Discovery Museum, California State Library and Pacific Library Partnership.

**DRAFT**

## **STAFF REPORT**

DATE: July 18, 2022

TO: Library Advisory Commission

FROM: Vice Chair Rena Dubin

RE: Resolution to Reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's Endorsement of the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and approve a resolution to reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's endorsement of the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project and oppose the Our Downtown, Our Future ballot measure aimed at stopping the project.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **MEASURE S**

On February 11, 2016, the SCPL Facilities Financing Authority placed a \$67 million bond measure on the June, 2016 ballot. With 70% approval, voters agreed to fund the bond, designated as Measure S. Measure S has enabled the modernization of branches throughout the Santa Cruz library system. Felton Branch Library used their allocation of funds (along with help from donors) to build a new library at a new location. Aptos and Capitola Branches removed the old branch libraries to build new ones on the same site. The Live Oak, Scotts Valley, La Selva Beach, Branciforte, Boulder Creek, and Garfield Park Branches are using their funds for repairs and modernization.

#### **DOWNTOWN LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

To determine the best use of Measure S funds, the Santa Cruz City Council directed the creation of a Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) in the fall of 2016. The DLAC investigated several options for the Downtown Library Branch: building a new library in the current site; remodeling the current branch; or building a new library as part of a mixed-use project including a parking garage.

The DLAC met twelve times in 2017, with opportunities for public comment at each meeting, and email correspondence. The DLAC also conducted focus groups and a community survey in which 2,273 people participated. The findings were presented in 2018 to the Santa Cruz City Council.

The DLAC unanimously concluded that a new library as part of a mixed use project was the only option that allowed for a modern library "with a fiscally responsible price."

#### **LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION ENDORSEMENT**

On February 12, 2018, this body, the Santa Cruz Library Advisory Commission, endorsed the DLAC report with a unanimous vote (with one absence and one abstention) on Motion #2018-02.

### **SANTA CRUZ CITY COUNCIL**

From 2018 through today, the Santa Cruz City Council has voted to support the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project by moving the process forward, even though the Council changed configurations four times since the first vote in 2018.

### **SANTA CRUZ COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Santa Cruz City Council voted to put a hold on the decision regarding how to proceed with the Downtown Branch Library in 2019, and formed a Council Subcommittee to reevaluate the options. Jayson Architecture was tasked with analyzing the two proposals.

Jayson Architecture found that renovating the existing library would reduce the square footage to 30,230 square feet (or 33,780 square feet including outdoor gathering spaces), which would significantly reduce the programmable area. The library's collection and materials, particularly the adult collection, would also be dramatically reduced. Because the Downtown Branch Library is the largest library in our system, a loss of collections affects not only the Downtown Branch Library but has system-wide repercussions. Jayson Architecture also found that even with additional improvements, they would "still only bring the level of overall quality to a low-medium level."

After a thorough investigation throughout a year-long process, the Subcommittee unanimously approved the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project.

### **NEW DOWNTOWN BRANCH LIBRARY DESIGN PROGRESS**

The Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project has been moving forward with a robust community process. Jayson Architecture have conducted multiple public meetings at various stages of the design process and created a design that incorporates the community's input. The design is in the final stages and now includes changes from the public's recommendations: more affordable housing units; two light-filled and window-filled stories plus a mezzanine; a green roof; and an outdoor rooftop gathering space. The design has a high sustainability rating, a feature important to Santa Cruz residents, and is able to be Zero Net Energy. The overall library footprint was increased to 38,086 square feet (or 41,492 square feet including the rooftop gathering space).

### **DISCUSSION**

The duty of the Library Advisory Commission is to be a voice of the community and provide advice and feedback regarding issues pertaining to the library. A ballot initiative to stop the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project has gathered enough signatures to appear before voters in the November 2022 election.

As this body is charged with making necessary recommendations as they pertain to the provision of library programs and services, it is appropriate and consistent for the Commission to comment on this issue.

The attached resolution is provided to the full commission for consideration and deliberation along with the following supporting background documentation: 1) [the Final 2018 DLAC report](#); 2) [the Santa Cruz City Council agenda packet for June 23, 2020 \(starting on page 949\)](#); and 3) [the Jason Architecture Santa Cruz Downtown Library Mixed Use Project Council Update presented May 10, 2022](#).

**DRAFT RESOLUTION NO. XXX**

**Resolution to Reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's Endorsement for the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project Planned on Cedar and Lincoln Streets**

WHEREAS, Measure S was approved by voters in 2016 and will contribute to funding the downtown Santa Cruz library project; and

WHEREAS, Measure S ballot language allows for the construction and expansion of facilities where necessary and has helped fund new construction of the Felton, Capitola and (soon) Aptos branch libraries; and

WHEREAS the Downtown Library Advisory Commission (DLAC), formed in 2017, was asked to make recommendations on the desired programmatic scope of Downtown Library branch services and evaluate three site options – a new branch at the current site, a remodel at the current site, and new, mixed-use site; and

WHEREAS the DLAC submitted to the Santa Cruz City Council their unanimous recommendation to relocate the Downtown Branch Library to a mixed-use project on Cedar, Lincoln and Cathcart Streets (Lot 4) on January 25, 2018; and

WHEREAS the DLAC met publically twelve times, received 76 public comments, reviewed 210 email messages, issued a community survey with 2,273 responses, and hosted 92 people at public input meetings prior to arriving at their unanimous decision; and

WHEREAS the DLAC report and recommendation were unanimously endorsed by the Library Advisory Commission on February 12, 2018 with one absence and one abstention; and

WHEREAS the Santa Cruz City Council convened a subcommittee of City Council members that met over the course of a year (May 2019 - June 2020) to 1) engage with stakeholder groups and the community, 2) explore all library project options, and 3) solicit key additional information before making their recommendation to move forward with the mixed use project concept; and

WHEREAS the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project option was evaluated alongside the November 2019 Jayson Architecture Santa Cruz Downtown Library Renovation Cost Assessment as part of the subcommittee process; and

WHEREAS the 2019 Library Renovation option, when compared to the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project, would not provide 5,000 more square feet, would not preserve the current size of the library collection system-wide, would not provide a full line of adult services including dedicated space for local history and genealogy, would not reduce operational maintenance costs for parking, utilities, security and landscaping, and would not allow the library to remain open for the two-year construction period; and

WHEREAS following this year-long Council Subcommittee Process, the Council voted to move forward with the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project and include a new modern library, a decision consistent with the prior DLAC report and recommendation; and

WHEREAS the City Council has maintained mechanisms to work closely with Library leadership and staff to make the Library a full partner in ongoing Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project decisions; and

WHEREAS the City Council has continued to respond to and incorporate public input and feedback into the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project over the last four years; and



WHEREAS Jayson Architecture has incorporated public input to create an improved library design that is vibrant, filled with light, net zero in its energy consumption, and positioned as a focal point of downtown Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS the City and its fundraising partners are confident in their ability to close the remaining budget gap for the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project through grants due to its innovative combination of library facilities and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS Jayson Architecture estimated in 2019 a \$7.3 million budget gap to cover the \$34.3 million Library Renovation project, which would still result in “a low-medium quality facility and will lack many of the amenities the public has come to expect in a modern library,” making fundraising difficult; and

WHEREAS the Downtown Farmers’ Market has been working in partnership with the City for several years to identify and establish a permanent location for the market;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Library Advisory Commission that this body reaffirms its support of the Santa Cruz Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project and opposes any ballot measure that will further delay the development of a beautiful and vibrant community asset designed to improve the ability for all age groups and demographics to access information, education, enrichment and inspiration.

## WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING:

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### LAC - Resolution in Support of the Mixed Use Library and Housing Facility

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Bruce Cotter <[bruce@fscpl.org](mailto:bruce@fscpl.org)>  
To: [clerk@santacruzpl.org](mailto:clerk@santacruzpl.org), Rena Dubin <[fam@furfamily.net](mailto:fam@furfamily.net)>

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 9:18 AM

Dear Commissioners;

I am writing in support of Commissioner Dubin's resolution to express the LAC's support for the proposed Library and Housing Facility in downtown. I write first as the Executive Director of the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries who passed a similar resolution earlier this year stating our unequivocal support for this project.

I am also writing as a citizen of Santa Cruz county, who lives in Felton, and who has grandchildren who live in the Live Oak area of Santa Cruz. I understand the importance of the downtown library as the hub for the entire county wide system. I also understand that if the ill-conceived ballot measure brought forward by ODOF passes, the entire region will have a library that will be much less than it could be, and that critically needed affordable housing in the downtown area will again have been blocked by short sighted political activists.

As a former member of the LAC, I know how supportive you are of strong libraries in Santa Cruz County, and how hard you work to ensure that they are maintained and can grow. Please take this action and ensure the future of our library system.

Warmest Regards,

Bruce

--  
H. Bruce Cotter  
Executive Director, Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries  
PO Box 8472, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8472  
831-427-7716 (office)  
603-337-5656 (cell)  
[fscpl.org](http://fscpl.org)



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### Support for LAC Agenda Item #9, LAC Meeting 7/18/22

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Janis O'Driscoll <[president@fscpl.org](mailto:president@fscpl.org)>  
To: [clerk@santacruzpl.org](mailto:clerk@santacruzpl.org)

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 10:55 AM

Members of the Library Advisory Commission:

On behalf of the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, I urge you to reaffirm your support of the Downtown Library Affordable Housing Project by voting yes on Agenda Item #9 at next Monday's meeting.

The staff report clearly summarizes the way the project option developed following Measure S approval and it reminds us of the hours of research and consideration, all with public input, that Library Staff, Friends, the Downtown Library Advisory Committee, and LAC members have contributed so that we have the responsive inclusive project that we see today. The new Downtown Library will be a true community gathering space for all.

More than that, the project demonstrates the **strength of collaboration** in civic services. Affordable Housing, so desperately needed, shares space with a child care center and a state-of-the-art public library open to everyone. It is a wise and responsible use of public funds.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the public library and thank you for reaffirming the Library's place in the community.

Janis

--  
Janis O'Driscoll  
President, Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries  
[President@fscpl.org](mailto:President@fscpl.org)



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**Downtown Library resolution**

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**Don Lane** <donlane132@gmail.com>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 9:22 AM

Dear Commissioners

I urge you to support Commissioner Dubin's resolution to reinforce support for the NEW Downtown library and to oppose the ballot measure that would stop that new library. We have a terrific opportunity to create a great new library for the young people of our community and 125 homes for families and households in the Santa Cruz area that are in great need of quality affordable housing.

Thanks very much for your service to the people of our community, especially those who rely on libraries to improve and enrich their lives.

Don Lane  
Santa Cruz

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**Support for the Downtown Library at a new location**

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**Friends of the Aptos Library** <friendsofheaptoslibrary@fscpl.org>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 11:32 AM

I am writing in support of the SCPL to build a new Library and Affordable Housing Project at the Cedar street location and oppose the Our Downtown Our Future initiative.

As a frequent and constant user of the library I think it is essential that our downtown main branch be the best that it can be. The studies conducted clearly show that simply remodeling the existing downtown library will not offer our community a first-rate, 21st century facility, but rather a diminished library. A new building is also the fiscally responsible thing to do.

As an educator and as a learner, I encourage the Board to reaffirm its approval of the new library at the new location on Cedar and Lincoln Street. Our students, our children, our families, and our large community of readers deserve no less.

Ofelia Garcia  
Early Childhood Development educator

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**RE: Library Advisory Commission meeting**

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**fred willoughby** <redmtn2@comcast.net>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 11:42 AM

RE: Library Advisory Commission- in support of taking stand on the Our Downtown Our Future initiative

July, 13, 2022

Dear Library Advisory Commission members,

Your work in evaluating all the options for using the Measure S funds to produce the best possible main library was thorough and has led to a possible superb library Santa Cruz and the library district can be proud of.

I thank you for your dedication and applaud the idea of taking a stand against the Our Downtown Our Future initiative that would erase all of your stellar work and wisdom.

Tim Willoughby  
Scotts Valley

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## Upcoming Review of Downtown Library by LAC

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Deborah Peronto <d-peronto@sbcglobal.net>  
To: "clerk@santacruzpl.org" <clerk@santacruzpl.org>

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 1:06 PM

Dear Library Advisory Commission Members,

Please adopt a resolution reaffirming your support for the Library Affordable Housing Project. This project has huge benefits for the residents of the City of Santa Cruz who typically use the Downtown Library and for the community of Santa Cruz County.

All branches of the library depend upon the size of the library to support the entire system in terms of physical resources for books and technical resources for the system. To attempt to revise the way the system has been structured and managed for almost 20 years after the completion of rebuilds or remodels for the other nine branches will cause hardship and reduced services across the county. With rising inflation and the increased cost of gas, requiring all library patrons in the county to drive increased distances for services will cause hardships to those people who use the library the most. It will also put more people on the road in a county where traffic is already a problem.

The proposed library has so many positives:

- Affordable housing downtown
- Green energy
- Modern services and technology
- Parking in the same building
- Rooftop garden and reading areas
- Day care... to name a few.

Please support this resolution and Oppose the "Our Downtown Our Future" initiative.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Debby Peronto

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## Downtown Library and Affordable Housing Project

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Casey Beyer <casey.beyer@santacruzchamber.org>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 1:55 PM

Library Advisory Commission

RE: 9 A (General Business) — Resolution to Reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's endorsement of the Downtown Library and Affordable Housing Project

Dear Commissioners:

I write on behalf of the Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce in support of the staff report to reaffirm the LAC's endorsement of the Downtown Library and Affordable Housing Project.

The Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce has followed the Downtown Library Project for the past six years since voters approved Measure S in 2016.

Following the latest actions by a group of community citizens they have placed an initiative on the November 2022 ballot entitled "Our Downtown Our Future,"

The Chamber opposes this initiative for many reasons. Specifically it would significantly delay the downtown library project. In essence, the initiative would eliminate the ability for the City to build the library on Lot 4 at the corners of Cedar and Lincoln and Cathcart in downtown Santa Cruz.

The Downtown Library Project is the cornerstone of the County-wide Library system. In June 2016 voters approved a \$67 million bond to modernize, upgrade and repair local libraries in Aptos, Boulder Creek, Capitola, Felton, La Selva Beach, Live Oak, Scotts Valley and the three branches in the City of Santa Cruz.

The architectural design of the Downtown Library is in the planning and design process. It calls for a 35,000-square-foot library, 5,000-square-foot outdoor rooftop patio, and a childcare center; the library would be the hub to serve the entire county library system.

Citing the City of Santa Cruz staff reports dating back several years, the work of the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) and the votes by two City Councils, all determined that the best path forward for the Downtown Library was through a cost-effective mixed-use project. If this initiative were to pass on a November 2022 ballot, the City would lose a Downtown Library and Affordable Housing project that has been approved twice by the Council and could lose millions of dollars in affordable housing grant funding and tax credits linked to the 125-unit affordable housing project.

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 significantly reduces the cost of building and increases the chances of acquiring funding.

The Downtown Library and Affordable Housing Project is in the last year of that planning process. Let's not throw away this opportunity toward an idea that exists only in the minds of people who have no expertise in creating affordable housing and a modern library.

The Chamber of Commerce envisions a vibrant downtown that includes a centrally located architecturally delightful mixed-use library structure. It will complement other downtown projects like the new Metro station, a new health and dental clinic, a new Santa Cruz Warriors facility, and a permanent farmers market designed with practical community needs in mind rather than one confined by an initiative.

The Chamber respectfully requests that the LAC vote in support of the staff report.

Respectfully submitted.

Casey

Casey Beyer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Santa Cruz County  
Chamber of Commerce  
(831) 457-3713

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## Endorse the Downtown Library Affordable Housing Project

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Carolyn Livingston <carolynlservices@gmail.com>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 4:50 PM

Please reference the Library Advisory Commission's Agenda Item #9, General Business, A. Resolution to Reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's Endorsement of the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project.

Santa Cruz for Real Library and Housing Solutions Committee is committed to improving our downtown with this wonderful project that was approved by the Santa Cruz City Council. The Downtown Library Affordable Housing Project will be developed on Lot 4 on Cedar and Lincoln Streets with a new modern library, 124 units of affordable housing, a child care facility, replacement parking and a nearby permanent home for the Farmers' Market that includes access to utilities and an all-weather structure.

Thank you for considering a resolution to reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's endorsement for the Downtown Library Affordable Housing Project.

Carolyn Livingston Campaign Services  
831-426-7461

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**Please endorse the new library, affordable housing project in downtown Santa Cruz**

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'Vivian Rogers' via SCPL Board Clerk <scplboardclerk@santacruzpl.org>  
Reply-To: Vivian Rogers <vrogers27@yahoo.com>  
To: "clerk@santacruzpl.org" <clerk@santacruzpl.org>

Thu, Jul 14, 2022 at 9:03 AM

Dear Members of the Library Advisory Commission,

I ask that you reaffirm your endorsement of the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project and oppose the Our Downtown, Our Future ballot measure.

A new library at this new location will provide more resources and programs for our diverse communities - not only for those living in the city of Santa Cruz but for the entire county!

Thank you for ensuring that we receive the best library possible for everyone.

*Vivian Rogers*

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**LAC re Downtown Library resolution**

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Michele Mosher <michemosher@gmail.com>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Thu, Jul 14, 2022 at 9:02 AM

To: Library Advisory Commission

As a founding member of Felton Library Friends, I helped to advocate and fundraise for the new Felton Branch Library, which replaced a well-loved but inadequate building. Now that the stunning new building is a reality, I've seen how much people are enjoying using it, and what a source of civic pride it is. After seeing Jayson Architecture's plans for the new Downtown Branch, I feel it 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 childcare center and over 100 affordable housing units adjacent. Let's support getting this beautiful mixed-use project built for the benefit of users from all parts of our county.

Sincerely,  
Michele Mosher  
Felton  
831-566-9436



To: Library Advisory Committee members Lindsay Bass, Jennifer Mount, Rena Dubin, Pamela Woll, Mary Ripma, Mike Termini, and Tricia Wayne

Re: Resolution to Reaffirm the LAC's Endorsement for the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project Planned on Cedar and Lincoln Streets

I am writing in support of Rena Dubin's proposed resolution to reaffirm the committee's support of the Santa Cruz Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project and opposition to any ballot measure that will further delay the development of a modern, cost-effective, and green library space that that will provide access to information, education, and enrichment for the Santa Cruz community.

As a graduate student in Library and Information Science at SJSU, I am aware of cities and public libraries evolving to meet the needs of communities—the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing project is no exception. After touring the current downtown branch, talking with SCPL staff, and reading the DLAC's 2018 report, it is clear to me that the current downtown library branch is beyond the point of renovation. The most cost-effective approach for the *best* library downtown is the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project.

I look forward to working within or alongside the Santa Cruz Public Libraries in the future and know that the downtown branch is the heart of this public library system. I urge the committee to consider the future of Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the community it serves in ten, twenty, or even fifty years.

Land/space is becoming increasingly costly and limited for housing and public services.  
*Mixed use spaces are the future.*

Libraries are no longer repositories for books—they are spaces for digital exploration, research, education, community building, and making. For free. For everyone.  
*Modern libraries are the future.*

The planet's climate is changing, and we must change with it.  
*Green buildings are the future.*

This project meets all the requirements of a changing planet, evolving downtown, growing population, and more equitable information landscape.

Sincerely,

Laura Albrecht  
MLIS Student, San José State University  
Board Member, Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries  
Santa Cruz Public Libraries user

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## Library Advisory Commission Meeting - Item #9 on the July 18, 2022 LAC Agenda

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Martin Gomez <mjgomez@sbcglobal.net>  
To: "clerk@santacruzpl.org" <clerk@santacruzpl.org>

Thu, Jul 14, 2022 at 1:54 PM

Dear Members of the Library Advisory Commission,

My name is Martín Gómez. In 2016 I was living in the City of Santa Cruz as was appointed to be a member of the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC). I am writing to ask you to support the agenda item #9 - the **Resolution to Reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's Endorsement of the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project**.

As a member of DLAC and a retired library director, I have first hand knowledge on the critical role that the proposed Downtown Library & Affordable Housing project plays for the entire 10 branch library system. I am now a resident of the County and a reaffirmation for this project by the LAC will send a strong message to the community about the value of this project, the efficiencies that it brings, and how well it supports the vision for a modern, 21st century library.

Thank you for your consideration,

Martín Gómez  
(415) 999-9601

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## Library Advisory Commission - Library Affordable Housing Project

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Toni Campbell <lilyjustine65@gmail.com>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Thu, Jul 14, 2022 at 3:52 PM

LAC Advisory Members:

I sincerely hope that all of you will vote for the resolution on your 7/18 agenda to reaffirm your Commission's support for the Library Affordable Housing Project. With the possible exception of the Dientes/Santa Cruz Health project (which will also include affordable housing), there is no project more progressive and more needed than the Library/Affordable Housing Project.

The co-location of a library, affordable housing, a child care center, and parking makes excellent financial sense. I think it's also important to note that a multi-use building will maximize the use of prime downtown Santa Cruz real estate.

Virtually every other branch of the SCPL has now completed or very soon will complete the bricks-and-mortar work funded by Measure S, jurisdictional funding, and philanthropy. It's well past time for the downtown branch to follow suit with a building that will be shared by multiple entities.

Toni Campbell  
3665 N. Main St.  
Soquel  
831 476 2619

To the Library Advisory Commission

From: Judi Grunstra, librarian

Date: July 14, 2022

Subject: LAC meeting 7/18 Agenda Item 9

Please enter these comments and observations into the public record of this meeting. Thank you.

I have read the Staff Report, and the sections on the Background of Measure S were concise and seemed accurate, up until a certain point.

The last sentence in the paragraph titled “Downtown Library Advisory Committee” needs to be clarified. The final sentence should read “The DLAC unanimously concluded that a new library as part of a mixed use project was the only option that allowed for a modern **44,000 square foot library** with a fiscally responsibility price.” The DLAC was adamant that they did not wish to accept a smaller library (as suggested in Noll & Tam’s Alternative 1A, which left 8000 sq ft of the building unimproved, due to funding shortages).

In the section titled “Santa Cruz Council Subcommittee”, you note that Jayson Architecture’s proposal for a renovation would “significantly reduce the programmable area.” In fact, Jayson’s plan significantly INCREASED the proportion of public space in the admittedly (by former Director Nemitz) poorly organized 44,000 sq ft space.

Existing library: 65% of the space is for the public; 35% for private (staff);

Renovation: Increased public space to 87%; 13% private.

As for the claim about “loss of collections,” this can be disputed for many reasons. Given the increased square footages of new libraries in Capitola, Felton and eventually Aptos, why could those buildings not accommodate the collections that heretofore “resided” at the downtown branch? Prescient planning might have figured this in. Additionally, the trend of shorter bookshelf units might also be a reason for less room for the collections (print, non-print). Let’s see comparisons of the linear feet of shelving in each of the branches before and after renovation/new construction. The LAC should request this. Furthermore, designing a library with a wall of windows decreases the amount of space for shelves for the collection (that could be against regular walls). The library building’s design should be in service to what the public wants (i.e. a strong collection), not sacrifice the collection for the sake of the architectural “wow” factor.

The Childrens’ collection would increase in the greatly expanded space in Jayson’s renovation.

Under “New Downtown Branch Library Design Progress” – first I must point out another clever move by the city’s Economic Development Dept., in changing the

name from the Library Mixed Use Project to the Library & Affordable Housing Project, yet NEVER MENTIONING THE PARKING GARAGE. Deceptive indeed, to omit what could be a \$20 million albatross around the taxpayers' necks. For accuracy's sake, the project should be called the Library & Affordable Housing & Parking Garage Project. Let's not play games.

As for the overall library footprint of 38,086 sq ft (an ever-changing number), or the larger figure of 41,492 sq ft), the question again must be answered: **How will this be paid for???**

**Now on to the Draft Resolution itself:**

*"Whereas the DLAC met publicly twelve times...and hosted 92 people at public meetings prior to arriving at their unanimous decision:"*

Are you referring to the December 3, 2018 meeting in the library meeting room? At that meeting, approximately 90% of those 92 people were opposed to moving the library into a mixed use building. The document including those comments is readily available. (so you should change "public meetings" to "a public meeting on December 3, 2018.")

Also, in noting the community survey that the DLAC issued, it is notable that the survey OMITTED ANY QUESTION THAT MIGHT HAVE GAUGED COMMUNITY OPINION ON MOVING THE LIBRARY.

*"Whereas the Santa Cruz City Council convened a subcommittee..."*

What specifically does #3 refer to? "solicit key additional information" before making their recommendation..." What "key additional information" please?

*"Whereas the 2019 Renovation option...would not provide a full line of adult services....and would not allow the library to remain open for the 2-year construction period...."*

I have read of no efforts to locate a temporary library space from which to provide essential library services during renovation. During closure of all libraries due to Covid, library staff continued to provide a variety of programs and services virtually, provided computers and hot spots, printing services, and books for all ages. Bravo to them! The inconvenience and yes, cost, of a temporary facility should not be an over-riding reason to demolish the existing building at its historic location. It is not as dire a scenario as the proposed destruction of several Heritage trees on the site of the new library. The architect should have been informed of the city's Heritage Tree Ordinance and modified the design to save at least a few of those trees. That has not happened.

*"Whereas Jayson Architecture estimated a \$7.3 million budget gap to cover the \$34.3 million Library Renovation Project...amenities the public has come to expect in a modern library, making fundraising difficult."*

That is speculative. The Friends of the Library have successfully raised funds for renovated branches and could do so in what essentially would be a “new” facility. The Friends have not even established a branch dedicated to the Downtown library, whereas many of the other branches have a dedicated Friends chapter. The “Whereas” about the Farmers’ Market is not relevant to the LAC’s Resolution about the LIBRARY, though it is certainly a concern for the community. And the final paragraph, “*opposes any ballot measure that will further delay the...community asset...*” it must be pointed out that if the City had moved ahead with renovating the library upon passage of Measure S, we likely would have had a beautiful and functional (and “vibrant”) downtown library as we speak. It is the City who delayed it, incurring millions of dollars of escalation costs, engendering anger and mistrust amongst citizens. The timing of Covid and resultant closing of libraries would actually have alleviated many of the inconveniences that have been held up as obstacles by proponents of the Mixed Use project.

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## Support for Resolution to Reaffirm LAC Endorsement of Downtown Library Project

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Martha Dexter <mmdexter@gmail.com>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 6:53 AM

Hello,

I write in support of the proposed resolution to reaffirm the Library Advisory Commission's endorsement of the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project.

I served on both the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) and the Library Advisory Commission (2016-2020).

Our research on the DLAC was thorough and exhaustive and our outreach to the community was extensive. All of our meetings were public and included public comment. Our recommendation to build a new library in a mixed use project has been reinforced many times over with other research conducted by the City Council and the project has only improved in the years since we made the recommendation.

I'm excited about the opportunities the new library will afford our community and I'm especially pleased that the Library Advisory Commission proposes to reinforce their earlier support for the project. The resolution as proposed outlines the many reasons why the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing project is a win-win for the library and the entire Santa Cruz community.

Thank you for all the work you do in support of library patrons and the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

Martha Dexter  
Resident of Santa Cruz city  
Former member, Downtown Library Advisory Committee  
Former member and Former chairman, SCPL Library Advisory Commission

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## email for LAC

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cindy jackson <cinjack6860@gmail.com>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org  
Cc: Janis O'Driscoll <President@fscpl.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 1:06 PM

Would you please see that the following is received by the members of the LAC?  
thank you!  
Cindy Jackson

Dear Library Advisory Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to vote for the resolution on your 7/18/22 Agenda to support the Library Affordable Housing Project and oppose the Our Downtown Our Future initiative.

The citizens of Santa Cruz County will get a bigger, better, greener library and library building with the Library Affordable Housing Project than if we renovate the current downtown library building. We will achieve cost benefits by sharing the infrastructure of the building with affordable housing, parking and retail tenants. We will achieve a much greener, eco-friendly building with a new building than if we were to renovate the decaying building in which the downtown branch currently resides.

Please vote to support the Library Affordable Housing Project and give us a wonderful new library in a wonderful new building.

Cindy Jackson

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## Support for Resolution of the new Downtown Library, Agenda item #9

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Debbie Israel <rabbidebbieisrael@gmail.com>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 1:10 PM

Please approve the Resolution in favor of the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project. As someone concerned about equity, I want the best library system possible for the Santa Cruz community. The Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project will guarantee that residents have a library branch that has maximum capacity for the materials, programs, and services the community needs.

Thanks,  
Rabbi Debbie Israel

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## Agenda item #9, Library Advisory Commission

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1 message

Levi Glatt <levibglatt@gmail.com>  
To: clerk@santacruzpl.org

Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 1:13 PM

Hi,

I support the Downtown Library & Affordable Housing Project, and I encourage the Commission to approve the resolution at the upcoming meeting.

I have been going to the downtown library since I was a baby for Storytime, so I know how much it needs help. Now that I am at UC taking Environmental Studies classes like Smart Green Cities, I can appreciate the true environmental impact a Rooftop Garden and Zero-Net buildings can offer. The renovation project can't even have solar panels on the building! I am very concerned about climate change, but I don't understand why building on a parking lot that just replaces the parking spaces that is being covered by much needed Affordable Housing is as much of an issue as Walkable Neighborhoods and Zero-Net energy consumption.

Thank you,  
Levi Glatt



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## LAC meeting\_a few questions

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Judi Grunstra <judiriva@hotmail.com>  
To: "clerk@santacruzpl.org" <clerk@santacruzpl.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 2:49 PM

Hello Ivan, Since the LAC typically does not engage in back-and-forth dialogue during Public Comment on agenda items, I wonder if you can answer these questions prior to the meeting, about Agenda Item 9. Hopefully I can get these questions answered before the evening meeting. If not, then during the meeting, by the Chair or Vice Chair.

Who wrote the Staff Report? Vice-Chair Dubin?  
Was there a sub-committee of the LAC who wrote up the background info?  
Did the City Attorney advise the LAC on the Resolution?

Thanks.

Judi Grunstra

Yolande Wilburn <wilburny@santacruzpl.org>  
To: Judi Grunstra <judiriva@hotmail.com>  
Cc: "clerk@santacruzpl.org" <clerk@santacruzpl.org>

Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 4:43 PM

Dear Ms. Grunstra,

After Chair Bass consulted the City Attorney regarding any possible conflict of interest, the Commission was cleared to create a resolution and place it on the agenda to reaffirm their previous position. The attorney provided no wording or information for the report. Vice Chair Dubin wrote the staff report without the aid of a subcommittee. Existing documents related to the project were used to write the background.

Respectfully,

Yolande Wilburn

Director of Libraries  
Santa Cruz Public Libraries  
117 Union Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
831-427-7700 Ext. 7611



On Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 2:49 PM Judi Grunstra <judiriva@hotmail.com> wrote: