

From: [Patrice](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: [CAUTION: Verify Sender Before Opening!] Please Support a Commons in Downtown Santa Cruz
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 3:08:45 PM
Attachments: [Dear Library Sub Committee.docx](#)

Council Members Brown, Cummings, Meyers and Ms. Rotella

Dear Council Library Subcommittee Members:

I am writing to ask you to support establishing a “commons” for downtown Santa Cruz, rather than another parking lot.

We need to take a stand for developing areas that bring us together, and Santa Cruz desperately needs a place to gather. As you know, with the addition of the Kaiser Permanente clinic on Cooper Street, even this meager, occasional, meeting place for the community is now more constrained, open only by prior agreement (yes, as it always has been, but now less frequently).

We need to try to make housing more affordable by making more of it, and not just downtown. The idea that the City Council majority would vote against the “Corridor Plan”, killing additional housing but then support a 600 car garage in order to obtain perhaps 20 housing units is inconsistent, at best. I am solidly in favor of additional housing and support the plans in place for increased density in downtown, don’t get me wrong; but I am also very aware of the deep need for a “commons”. This is certainly not a new idea; Larry Pearson, founder of the Pacific Cookie Company downtown, has reminded us all that the need& desire for creating a commons was considered long ago during the Vision Santa Cruz planning process after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

In addition to more housing, we need to take climate change seriously and design for fewer cars; we need to make driving into the heart of downtown less appealing, not easier, and we need to have a pedestrian friendly, family friendly, gathering place for all of Santa Cruz, not just people in cars who will be able to park in the giant parking lot and enter into a library without ever having stepped foot on the sidewalk in downtown. The plan to put the library under the garage will damage the pedestrian friendliness and walkability of downtown.

Placing the main downtown parking lot at Lot 4 will direct every car that comes downtown to drive right into the heart of it. This will increase the level of cross traffic massively. This will not be a successful method of promoting alternative transportation modes (like walking). This arrangement flies in the face of what every other city in the world (with planning) is doing right now, this move will do damage to everything around it.

We need to pay attention to the opportunities for public transit downtown & in Santa Cruz. (I wrote this note as I sat on public park bench in Morelia, MX. The park is full of people, it is clean, there are cafes, street vendors, families, kids, dogs, students, and jitneys (small vans that can carry about 10-12 people) stopping & letting people out & picking folks up. We could have the same things in Santa Cruz, and they could be all electric.

Please note, I have had a business downtown for 17 years, and own the building that my business is in; so I am really “putting my money where my mouth is” so-to-speak. Having a sustainable business, and a sustainable downtown is of great importance to me, to my employees, and to my customers; if I truly though a 600-car garage would help my business, and help downtown, I would be extremely supportive, and I am not.

Sincerely,

Patrice Boyle

Soif Wine Bar
105 Walnut Avenue
E: patrice@SoifWine.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Good evening, I am reading a statement by Bonnie Belcher, who cannot participate via Zoom. She is a lifelong Santa Cruzan.

Dear Committee Members:

I am the promoter of the Downtown Antique Faire. My comments pertain to the Community Benefits criteria. The Antique Fair began 27 years ago, after the Loma Prieta earthquake. It is now one of the longest running antique fairs in California. Location is of the utmost importance. We have had to move our downtown location 4 times, and Lot 4 and Lincoln St. has been the absolute best location by far. Visibility and accessibility from Pacific Avenue is crucial for our continued success.

The fair has become a downtown tradition that attracts people from near and far. Those people patronize local merchants while here.

Most of my vendors are at least 55 years or older, and virtually all of them depend on the money they earn at the show.

My concern is that the Antique Fair and Farmer's Market will be displaced and have to move yet again. In order to remain economically viable, we would have to have space for the same number of vendors, not fewer. Those space rents have to remain affordable.

Apart from this, the thought of having another parking garage with its concentrated area of vehicle emissions right in the center of town, across from a church and on top of a library, no less, is equally of concern to me.

I feel the present location of the library is the best location for our residents – children, seniors, and everyone in between.

Lot 4 is one of our last open spaces downtown. Having to move from Lot 4 would likely mean the end of the fair. I hope you see the value of the Antique Fair, a long-running and rather special kind of attraction.

Read at June 2, 2020 Meeting of the Sub-Committee

From: [Kristen Sandel](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); [Martin Bernal](#); [Economic Development](#); [Kristen Sandel](#)
Subject: City Lot 4 Mixed-use Development--XRSC letter
Date: Sunday, June 7, 2020 6:43:37 PM
Attachments: [xr.png](#)



Dear City Council Members,

We are writing on behalf of Extinction Rebellion Santa Cruz to express our opposition to the proposed mixed-use project slated to permanently displace the Farmer's Market and occupy City Lot 4. We ask you to invest instead in creating a greener, more ecologically focused future for Santa Cruz by keeping the library in its present site at the heart of the civic center, and establishing a permanent Farmer's Market at Lot 4.

As a planet we are now seeing the consequences of decades of unsustainable and profit-driven policies, and the refusal to address the profound effects of climate change. Santa Cruz has benefited greatly from its tremendous natural resources, but our local response to the climate crisis has fallen short. In 2019 Santa Cruz County released a formal Declaration of Climate Emergency, and in 2012 the city of Santa Cruz put in place a ten-year Climate Action Plan (CAP), yet the city continues to consider projects which contradict its own goals of significantly reducing both greenhouse gas emissions and automobile traffic.

In light of the global environmental crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, which is causing enormous economic damage to Santa Cruz County and the larger Bay Area, the mixed-use garage/library project is unsound. We are likely in the beginning stages of a world-wide recession caused by the pandemic, and Santa Cruz County, particularly downtown Santa Cruz, is very vulnerable to economic disruption. Most spending downtown is discretionary, not essential. Santa Cruz may be facing a significant hollowing out of its businesses, making the construction of a 400 space parking garage a financial commitment which the city can ill afford. Not only is it unnecessary, according to the study done by parking consultants hired by the city, it will emit large amounts of GHGs from concrete used in its construction, and encourage the use of cars rather than moving Santa Cruz towards better public transit and more cyclist and pedestrian friendly streets. It also burdens the city of Santa Cruz with substantial debts that will have to be repaid yearly, regardless of the economic situation. This is especially troubling given the projected \$19.4 million budget shortfall the city faces over the next three years. The council should not choose the risky promise of a redundant and environmentally damaging development project over its ability to fund long-term services.

As the COVID-19 crisis has shown us in very stark terms, our communities are interconnected in deep ways. When one part of that system fails, all are affected. It is a disservice to the

people of Santa Cruz for the council to prioritize development profits over the long-term well-being of its residents. Open public space is a valuable asset, and it is a matter of social and environmental equity to ensure residents have free and available gathering spaces. As elected officials, you have been entrusted by voters to serve the entire community--including those who lack the economic power to influence development, but who would benefit from a renovated library, a permanent green commons on City Lot 4 for the Farmer's Market and community use, and a city council which values the voices of all its citizens.

In an era of rapid and alarming ecological collapse, Santa Cruz now has an opportunity to continue pursuing the promise made in its Climate Action Plan of a greener, more sustainable city for all residents. It's clear that climate instability is a powerful force for change--if we fail to meet it by making critical changes of our own, and soon, we face an increasingly uncertain and difficult future.

These are extraordinary times, and we need imaginative solutions. Santa Cruz needs creative, courageous leadership, and we are looking to you to provide it. This has always been an innovative, vibrant and unique community. Please help Santa Cruz continue to thrive for decades to come.

Thank you for considering our views, and for your hard work.

Sincerely,

Kristen Sandel, XRSC Local Engagements Working Group
Jennifer Brugman, XRSC Action Prep Working Group

From: [Elaine Andersen](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Katherine Beiers](#); [Renee Golder](#); [Cynthia Mathews](#); [Martine Watkins](#); [ladykpetersen@gmail.com](#); [brooksforcitycouncil@gmail.com](#); [jbertrand@ci.capitola.ca.us](#); [ebottorff167@yahoo.com](#); [samforcapitola@yahoo.com](#); [rlj12@comcast.net](#); [dtimm@scottsvally.org](#); [jdilles@scottsvally.org](#); [dlinds lind@earthlink.net](#); [jimreedSV@gmail.com](#); [john.leopold@santacruzcounty.us](#); [zach.friend@santacruzcounty.us](#); [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](#); [greg.caput@santacruzcounty.us](#); [bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us](#); [jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us](#); [Martin Bernal](#); [tfriend@scottsvally.org](#); [carlos.palacios@santacruzcounty.us](#); [bobwhite6288@sbcglobal.net](#); [saybass@gmail.com](#); [hbrucecatter@aol.com](#); [fam@furfamily.net](#); [jim.landreth@impactseven.org](#); [maryaustinripma@gmail.com](#); [triciawynne1@gmail.com](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); [Susan Nemitz](#); [Elaine W. Andersen](#)
Subject: Downtown Branch of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 10:51:14 AM

Downtown Library Subcommittee (Mayor Cummings, Vice Mayor Meyers, Councilmember Brown) --

As you discuss the various options for the Downtown Branch of the Santa Cruz Public Library System. I hope that you can see it in your hearts to realize the importance of the Downtown Branch for the whole county. The decision that the Santa Cruz City Council makes will have an effect on the whole county.

I have worked for the Santa Cruz Public Libraries for 23 years. In that time, I have seen all of the fantastic services that the Library can provide for the members of our community. It takes all of the necessary pieces to be able to provide the services that our community needs and expects. The necessary pieces are all interconnected. Some examples of the necessary pieces are space, people, and materials.

All of the research that I have seen says that 40,000 square feet is the minimum amount of space necessary to have the services that are needed in the Downtown Branch of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries. Since, the new building should be expected to last for over 50 years -- The Cities and the County will have regrets, if the Library does not have all of the space needed for the resources that are needed.

I'm not concerned about where the Library is situated. I'm not concerned about what else is in the building. I am concerned about having a Library that: 1) has the space that is needed, 2) has good functionality & safety, and 3) is architecturally beautiful.

I'm copying this email to the other governmental groups that are concerned about your recommendation to the Santa Cruz City Council. This is with the hope that the other governmental groups will use their moral persuasion to influence the Santa Cruz City Council. Many of the services that are provided at the Downtown Branch help the whole county. For example: a community member goes to the La Selva Beach Branch and asks a question of the staff at the Library, the staff member may not have the resources or the knowledge to answer the question, the staff member would then contact the Downtown Branch Librarian on duty -- And, the question would be answered. The whole county will be damaged if a Library that is too small is built.

Thank you --
Elaine Andersen

copied to:
Santa Cruz City Council
Capitola City Council
Scotts Valley City Council
County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors
Library Joint Powers Authority Board
Library Advisory Commission
Amanda Rotella, subcommittee staff
Susan Nemitz, Director of Libraries

From: [Oliver Ziff](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Branch
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 12:31:35 PM

Hi Amanda,

This is the note I put on the recent survey. I am reposting it here because I am concerned we get the best library possible. Thanks for working on this subcommittee.

Oliver Ziff

I am in the minority: I support the idea of building a parking lot/library where the current Wed. Farmers Market occurs. I think we would get the best bang for the library buck that way. However, because so many in the community oppose it, we may have to demolish the downtown branch and rebuild at the present site. If that happens, I would caution against building a smaller facility. The Downtown Branch is the only one with a separate Young People's Room (upstairs) and also serves as a homeless center. Even if we have to pursue additional funding in the time of Covid cuts to the City budget, I think we need to build a facility at least equal in square feet to the existing building. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: [Allie Wilson](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Commons Advocates
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:50:51 AM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, and Councilmember Brown,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please choose Option B: reconstruction of the Library at the Civic Center. Preserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

A free-standing iconic Downtown Library at the Civic Center is far preferable to a library in a big-box mixed use project.

Building a \$54 million dollar (\$1.8 million/year for 30 years) parking garage is not justified on the basis of projected parking demand.

Incorporating a library and affordable housing in a project based on building unneeded parking makes no sense.

The costs exceeding Measure S revenues in order to include upgrade alternatives beyond the base plan for the Downtown Library at the Civic Center can be paid from revenues from sale of "air rights" for development of affordable housing on other city-owned lots.

I want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library, and it is a far better location for the Farmers' Market than the parking lot behind Pizza My Heart.

Please keep the successful Antique Faire where it is!

I want a first-class library, but NOT in a place that undermines the 2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character of Cedar Street.

Building an unnecessary \$54 million parking garage cannot be justified by including affordable housing units. Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality.

The 2017 Downtown Plan has an unrealized goal of creating public space that can best be fulfilled at Parking Lot 4.

The plan to build an unnecessary parking garage violates the city's Climate Action Plan.

A Downtown Commons will serve as an "anchor" that can help broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis.

Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

With Hopeful Optimism that the City Council Council will "do the right thing," in preserving our shared, unique history of Downtown Santa Cruz,

Allie Wilson
30 year resident of Santa Cruz

From: [Allie Wilson](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Commons Advocates
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:50:51 AM

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Allie Wilson
30 year resident of Santa Cruz

From: [Patrice Boyle](#)
To: DCA-Steering-Committee@groups.io; [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Subject: Downtown Library Garage Project
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:30:33 PM

To the Library Sub Committee

Dear Subcommittee Members,

This letter is in response to a request from Cynthia Mathews to the Director of the DTA to gather support for the Library/Garage Project.

I have been on the Board of Directors of the DTA for almost 6 years, and have been active in polling membership on many subjects. Moreover, as a BOD member, it has been an important of this position, that I represent the all of the merchants downtown, striving to think of the big tent, not just of my particular interests or location. I have made an effort to listen to as many people as possible. So, I thought it would be proper to respond to this request.

The DTA did indeed PROVISIONALLY endorse the Garage Library, with 3 caveats, 2 of which have not been satisfied.

1. The complete parking study/review was not completed as requested.
2. The strategic plan was not completed or even started, as requested. Notwithstanding Matt Farrell's conflating the two efforts and perhaps syntax, PUMA consulted to help form a strategic plan for the financial management of downtown Santa Cruz, it was not a fully engaged strategic plan for how downtown is to move forward. There is no infrastructure to inform and hold the yet-to-be-arrived-at values of the community.
3. The DTA community is not of one voice on this subject, and in fact, has had no full board meetings or general surveys or member meetings specifically on this subject. The DTA has had 1 informative Legislative Committee on this meeting, which occurred long after the vote to provisionally support the project. The DTA board meeting to address this issue was held almost in a vacuum, as the past Director had thought it best to not broach the subject at all because the financing of the project was undetermined. Once the financing piece was in place, as you may recall, the City Council vote on the item was rushed in order to beat the impending City Council elections, so the DTA then had a quick meeting to comment on the project.
4. The DTA members all acknowledge the requirement for planning and the benefit of a strategic plan.
5. The need for a commons/plaza/downtown park, has long been a discussion for the DTA and downtown community. Speaking as one who participated in the downtown revival after the '89 earthquake, Larry Pearson, brought this up at a legislative subcommittee (and only the 2nd meeting on the subject). There is a significant need for a space that will allow open air and off street gatherings for: dance festivals, children's days, public music events (like Jazz in the Plazz, Los Gatos), food festivals, and other events that will draw families, cyclists, and pedestrians, etc., to downtown SC.
6. Everyone supports a better library.
7. Given the current economic downturn, the support of the DTA community could now be significantly different on this subject.

Sincerely,

Patrice Boyle
Soif Wine Bar
105 Walnut Avenue

From: Abra Allan <director@downtownsantacruz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Patrice Boyle <patrice@soifwine.com>; Stuyvesant Bearns <stuyvie@lupulosc.com>
Subject: Fwd: A big favor

Hi Patrice and Stuyvie,
I thought I would start with you on this inquiry being that the two of you had the strongest feelings in opposition to the library project on the board.

Cynthia Mathews is asking me to write a letter on behalf of the downtown Association in support of the project. The project was technically endorsed by the DTA with some criteria. So, I'm trying to just get a sense of how to come at this right now.

Why don't the two of you review the email and the points that she brought and tell me your thoughts and your suggested path forward here?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cynthia Mathews** <mathews@cruzio.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 3:56 PM
Subject: A big favor
To: Abra Allan <director@downtownsantacruz.com>

I know you're swamped, but we are facing an imminent decision point for the DT Library/Housing/Parking project, and we would really appreciate getting a letter from the DTA affirming its support. The subcommittee will meet on June 12 to discuss its recommendation (meeting not open to the public), and the item will most likely be on the council's agenda on June 23. Ideally the letter could get to subcommittee members prior to the 12th. Justin is the key.

Could you do this?

Here are some possible points to make, any of which would work for downtown. The main thing is to say that the DTA is on the record supporting this approach. Give some numbers: # of business members in the DTA; # of employees DT, whatever seems to make the case.

The project is a unique opportunity that will support the recovery and continued vitality of downtown far into the future.

Adequate parking

- Existing surface lots are being supplanted with infill development: **parking is disappearing and new demand being created**
- We have a highly successful Transportation Demand Management program for downtown workers (“Go Santa Cruz”), but 50% of downtown workers commute from south of Aptos; **alternative programs alone are not sufficient**
- Visitors are an essential part of downtown vitality: retail, restaurant and entertainment. The vast majority of visitors to Santa Cruz come from Northern California within a 2-hour drive time. They need adequate facilities to park and then enjoy downtown on foot.

A new 21st Century library will be a **destination and source of civic pride**, serving the entire community. (Quote Chip’s observation in Boulder?)

The project **will add 60-120 affordable units**, which are desperately needed to meet community housing demand, and will strengthen downtown. The city already has multiple qualified affordable housing developers who are eager to be a partner in this project. A large percentage of downtown workers are low-wage service workers who could benefit from this housing.

Mixed use projects are the trend for successful downtowns: cost-effective partnerships that reinforce the synergy of commerce, lifestyle, housing, civic and community functions, with adequate infrastructure for all.

Anyway, there you have it. Please let me know if this something you can do.

I will be also asking downtown business people who are personally supportive — additional names welcome.

Thanks
Cynthia

From: [Jeanne Thompson](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library Location Decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:42:22 AM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, and Council Member Brown,

As a resident of Santa Cruz for 41 years, I would hope that I have a strong voice in city matters. In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please choose Option B: reconstruction of the Library at the Civic Center. Preserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

- A free-standing iconic Downtown Library at the Civic Center is far preferable to a library in a big-box mixed use project.
- Building a \$54 million dollar (\$1.8 million/year for 30 years) parking garage is not justified on the basis of projected parking demand.
- Incorporating a library and affordable housing in a project based on building unneeded parking makes no sense.
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- Please keep the successful Antique Faire where it is!
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including affordable housing units. Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality.

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Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Jeanne Thompson

From: [marve eriksen](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library location decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:46:35 AM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, and Councilmember Brown,

I am including the text below because I agree with everything in it and it is written better than I could have. But I really really want you to know that I am and have been since it was proposed completely against the Option A: mixed use project and its proposed location. PLEASE CHOOSE OPTION B AND PUT FORTH THE IDEA OF A DOWNTOWN COMMONS WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF ALL OF US!

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please choose Option B: reconstruction of the Library at the Civic Center. Preserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

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Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Sincerely
Mary Eriksen
45 year resident

From: [Brian Voegtlen](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library location decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:30:06 AM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, Councilmember Brown,

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Brian Voennell
1025 Laurel Street.

From: [Jeanne Thompson](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library Location Decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:42:22 AM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, and Council Member Brown,

As a resident of Santa Cruz for 41 years, I would hope that I have a strong voice in city matters. In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please choose Option B: reconstruction of the Library at the Civic Center. Preserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

- A free-standing iconic Downtown Library at the Civic Center is far preferable to a library in a big-box mixed use project.
- Building a \$54 million dollar (\$1.8 million/year for 30 years) parking garage is not justified on the basis of projected parking demand.
- Incorporating a library and affordable housing in a project based on building unneeded parking makes no sense.
- The costs exceeding Measure S revenues in order to include upgrade alternatives beyond the base plan for the Downtown Library at the Civic Center can be paid from revenues from sale of "air rights" for development of affordable housing on other city-owned lots.
- I want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library, and it is a far better location for the Farmers' Market than the parking lot behind Pizza My Heart.
- Please keep the successful Antique Faire where it is!
- I want a first-class library, but NOT in a place that undermines the 2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character of Cedar Street.
- Building an unnecessary \$54 million parking garage cannot be justified by

including affordable housing units. Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality.

- The 2017 Downtown Plan has an unrealized goal of creating public space that can best be fulfilled at Parking Lot 4.
- The plan to build an unnecessary parking garage violates the city's Climate Action Plan.
- A Downtown Commons will serve as an "anchor" that can help broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis.
- Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Jeanne Thompson

From: [Kyle Kelley](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library Location Decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:49:08 AM

Hey all,

Please move forward with building the new library. The old one does not have enough space for our current population. Building a new one will give us additional affordable housing while also providing more resources for the community. No matter what, I support the library staff as they're the main people there to provide day support to people who are homeless or don't have access to computers. It's a vital resource and our entire community (not just the housed) needs access to materials for the long future. Many students at Santa Cruz City schools don't have access to a home computer -- the library is the main place. *Please* build up a new library for current and future generations. We don't all have the same resources at home. Education is the key to Santa Cruz's future and to uplift everyone who is currently here.

As a bonus, imagine the uses that can be made with the old library's location -- we can create even more affordable housing as well as other community benefits. Please help make downtown a thriving place for everyone to meet their needs.

-- Kyle

From: [Kyle Kelley](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library Location Decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:49:08 AM

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From: [Dana Peleg](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library location decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:32:47 PM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, and Councilmember Brown,

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[Dana G. Peleg Wikipedia עמוד](#)
Author & Hebrew-to-English, English-to-Hebrew Literary Translator
[2018 Andersen Honour List \(no. 159\)](#)
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"תאנים אחובות", "אשתמי", "קדושת" ברשת

"They are all gone. They knew less than we do. If we are not beyond them, we are unworthy of them - and unworthy of the children who must go beyond us." Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "Herland"

From: [Brian Voegtlen](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library location decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:30:06 AM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, Councilmember Brown,

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Brian Voennell
1025 Laurel Street.

From: [marve eriksen](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library location decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:46:35 AM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, and Councilmember Brown,

I am including the text below because I agree with everything in it and it is written better than I could have. But I really really want you to know that I am and have been since it was proposed completely against the Option A: mixed use project and its proposed location. PLEASE CHOOSE OPTION B AND PUT FORTH THE IDEA OF A DOWNTOWN COMMONS WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF ALL OF US!

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Sincerely
Mary Eriksen
45 year resident

From: [Kyle Kelley](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library Location Decision
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:49:08 AM

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From: [Dana Peleg](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
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"They are all gone. They knew less than we do. If we are not beyond them, we are unworthy of them - and unworthy of the children who must go beyond us." Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "Herland"

From: [christian.sweeney](#)
To: jcumings@cityofsantacruz.co; [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown library
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:49:32 AM

Hello!!

Just wanting to share my thoughts on the downtown library location. I'd LOVE to see the library reconstructed in historical position!!

Even more so, would be SOOOO THANKFUL to see our beautiful and special heritage TREEEEES SAVED and downtown farmers market in it's original place! I take the senior I'm a caregiver for each week

Thanks so much!!! Yayyy Santa Cruz!!

Grace and peace,
Christian Sweeney

Sent from my iPhone

From: [christian.sweeney](#)
To: jcumings@cityofsantacruz.co; [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown library
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:49:32 AM

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Christian Sweeney

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Maureen Davidson](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: Fab library at the Civic Center, bustling downtown commons a few blocks away, yes a highly livable Santa Cruz
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 5:10:12 PM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

As a resident and property owner I do appeal to you to abandon the idea of a fortress/library/parking structure/tomb of a livable city on Parking Lot 4 and instead encourage you to consolidate the public services already offered at the Civic Center and build a marvelous library there. A real Civic Center. I love our accessible City Hall, its very approachability bespeaks the kind of place I am pleased to live in. The Civic Auditorium, with all its acoustical drawbacks, is redolent of history, an arena of changing decades where one can see one's peers aging along with you at events that are much-loved and part of the charm of this place. The library in that Center is already fulfilling the role that libraries were intended to fulfill...once simply a place to access books and records, but we all know that libraries in our time serve also as babysitters, community centers and places of refuge for those who have no place to call home. So be it, unashamed we must embrace that role and make sure that the new library design accommodates all the "real" services our libraries fulfill. It can be done and has been done elsewhere.

I was privileged to be part of a "blue ribbon committee" studying downtown Ventura over a decade ago, when consultants in urban design came at considerable cost to educate our committee on what makes a great downtown.

The answer was a lively streetscape with living spaces above retail, with no dead spaces (without doors and windows) and foot traffic at night created by the fact that people live there. Santa Cruz already has that--on Pacific and Center streets above the commercial properties, but also our pint-sized town has a host of little neighborhood streets spilling out onto the commercial streets, it's great!!! But a parking garage is the very definition of dead space...and in Santa Cruz there is more than enough parking space now, more than enough.

The City has indeed made great strides in reducing dependence on the automobile...the City staff projection that led, it seems, to the decision to build another Parking structure...overestimates future parking demand; as staff has acknowledged, it does not take into account parking rate restructuring, Jump bikes, Uber and Lyft, the City's downtown employee bus pass program, and other factors that will decrease demand.

*The Council's November 2018 declaration of a climate emergency encourages decisions that move away from actions like increasing infrastructure for CO2 producing vehicles. A parking structure on the scale envisioned is ecologically unsustainable.

*Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example.

Thank you for reading.

Maureen Davidson

From: [Donna Murphy](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Fwd: Input re: Multiuse Library Project
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 3:16:27 PM

Realized I should have copied you on this....

Begin forwarded message:

From: Donna Murphy <donna@dm5.biz>
Subject: Input re: Multiuse Library Project
Date: June 4, 2020 at 3:13:18 PM PDT
To: Sandy Brown <sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com>, Justin Cummings <[jcummings@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:jcumings@cityofsantacruz.com)>, dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com

Downtown Library Subcommittee

Sandy Brown
Justin Cummings
Donna Meyers

Dear council members:

I listened with great interest to the presentation Tuesday and ask that you consider the following as you complete almost a year of study and finalize your recommendation about the Downtown Library. You have the ability to **maximize** and **leverage** limited public money and land to accomplish multiple important needs and goals.

The proposed mixed use library is a win-win-win project.

- It maximizes the overall quality, accessibility, and size of the library, and prevents closure and relocation costs. It doubles the space for teens and youth, and preserves the most collections. Moreover, the multi-use option is more flexible for adding solar and other environmental improvements. You will get a new building that will last generations.
- It provides 100% affordable housing downtown, close to public transit and local jobs, and the council can direct that much of this housing be for the lowest income categories.
- The 400 parking spaces will replace 375 spaces disappearing in the next few years and better serve the central and lower Pacific retail businesses. They also will serve patients & employees of the proposed Dientes and Community Health clinics, alleviating the need for expensive, duplicate parking at a later date.

For each dollar invested, triple benefit is received. Any other option results in an inferior, smaller library with too few restrooms, no gutters, no landscaping, and outdated windows upstairs; places a parking burden on low wage workers and future projects; and sacrifices much needed housing.

It is worth repeating. You have an unprecedented opportunity to give this community the best, largest library possible as well as 60 to 120 affordable housing units downtown, while providing efficient parking where it is most needed in the central core of downtown.

Maximize impact, use our land resources wisely, and give citizens an affordable place to live, please.

Sincerely,

Donna Murphy
831-239-3349

Donna Murphy
831-239-3349

From: [Judi](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Jayson presentation Dec 13
Date: Monday, December 16, 2019 4:07:24 PM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Meyers:

I was a bit surprised that the Dec. 13 meeting presented the same information by Abe Jayson and Katie that had been presented at the October 24th meeting. Though I assumed the subcommittee members would be the ones asking questions of Mr. Jayson, it was valuable to provide an additional opportunity for the public to learn about the proposal and to hear the Library Director's views.

On Dec 12, I attended a meeting at the Aptos branch library, the third community meeting to gather public input on that Measure S project. What has become painfully clear is that the public has been denied a similar community outreach opportunity regarding the downtown library. Aptos had 3 community meetings; the other branches had several community meetings EARLY in the process, each successive meeting being used by the consultant to hear the community's priorities and concerns. If we had had that opportunity, we (and you) likely would not have been in this situation, scrambling to fit within the 8-year Measure S time frame.

But here we are. The time crunch is real. Construction costs continue to escalate.

I urge the subcommittee to heed Abe Jayson's professional observation that the location of the existing library makes sense from a city planning viewpoint – i.e. in our Civic Center. This matters to many people. There has been no community consensus about what would take the place of the library at this location. That is not good city planning.

A number of the "extras" are really "must haves" (more bathrooms, acoustic dampening) and since more city funding is needed in order for those to be included, I will remind you that the City Manager stated at the beginning of this process that the city would contribute some additional monies. A few million dollars for a building that will serve thousands of people over the next few decades is not unreasonable. After all, the golf course will be receiving hefty annual support from the city, and that serves far fewer people. Some of the items (patio, landscaping) could likely be added later, even through the efforts of local organizations. Additional money to add "green/sustainable" features would be welcomed by all, if financial feasible.

Interestingly, the Aptos renovation/rebuild will be done via the "design-build" process, which states the available budget at the outset. Susan Nemitz has experience with this process from her prior position, and has found that to be an economical and successful method. Why can't we use that approach here?

Even if Measure S (short-sightedly) did not ask voters for enough funding to have a glamorous "civic showpiece", with your support we can move ahead with this renovation, refining it to become an important and beloved focal point of our downtown. I don't agree with Ms. Nemitz that the community will be disappointed with this renovation. Mr. Jayson has the obvious enthusiasm and experience to create, with the community, a very good project.

Thank you.

Judi Grunstra

From: [Judi Grunstra](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: [CAUTION: Verify Sender Before Opening!] Survey responses for Sub-Committee
Date: Monday, June 1, 2020 7:09:33 PM
Attachments: [CRITERIA table_envir.risks.community_benefits_and_other.docx](#)
[CRITERIA EVALUATION Table DLAC.docx](#)

Dear Amanda, I worked a long time on my responses to the survey, which I attach here in 2 parts. You know me well enough to trust that my attachments are safe to open! Will you (or someone else other than the Sub-committee members) be tabulating the responses in simplified form? I fear that reducing the results to "Jayson" or "Group 4" or "Equal" eliminates the supporting rationale behind each response.

I hope the Sub-committee will read the lengthier paragraphs that come after the responses in the tables. Otherwise, why would they have asked?

If you prefer that I hand you a printed copy at the June 2 meeting, I can do that.

Thank you.

Judi Grunstra

CRITERIA EVALUATION – LIBRARY RENOVATION or GROUP 4

	JAYSON	GROUP 4
Best meets Facilities Plan goals (Attain)	Equal “A ‘structural remodel’ of the Downtown Library would be one strategy for renewing the building for another 40-50 years.”	Equal
DLAC Criteria		
Timing	Jayson	Complex nature of mixed use will take longer to design, approve and build
Dedicated parking	Jayson (direct entry/exit to parking lot, not likely in a parking structure.)	
Flexible Community Room	Equal – both have after-hours access, with kitchen and restrooms	Equal
Cost	Cost/sq ft Equal/close	Cost/sq ft Equal/close
Security	Jayson (longer distances from service desks in a 1-story building)	
Teen Space	Equal – both are larger than called for in DLAC report. Both have adjacent “maker space.”	Equal
Local history/Genealogy	This ranked low in the DLAC survey	Group 4
Childrens Area	Equal	Equal
Outdoor Space	Jayson (opportunity for attractive landscaping, outdoor areas)	Equal
Life Literacy Center	Equal	Equal
Computer/Wi Fi	Equal	Equal
Adult Programs	Equal	Equal

To be determined		
Number of bathroom stalls Quiet space Small study rooms Good sight lines Library “feel”	Jayson (2 floors easier to monitor from service desks) Jayson (freestanding library distinguishes it; the large 1-story space feels cavernous, like an airport terminal)	
These are of lesser importance		
Art		
Used book store		

OTHER LIBRARY SPECIFIC CRITERIA

The libraries have been closed since March due to the corona virus. The Library Director has reported to the Joint Powers Authority that re-opening will likely take place in stages over the next 2 years. Before the pandemic, there was concern that closing the library during a renovation would inconvenience patrons who did not have access to computers, charging stations, etc. Now, however, the library has provided those technologies by other means, distributing charging stations to local non-profits serving the homeless, distributing computers to seniors, and providing WiFi outside all of its buildings.

Because library staff has been greatly reduced, the question “where would staff work during a renovation project?” has also become less problematic, because the libraries are closed, and when they re-open there will be fewer open hours. There will be no seating, no face-to-face reference service.

Programs and services are being offered digitally (“virtual” programming), even for childrens’ story time.

For these reasons and more, this would seem an optimal time to commence with a renovation of the library at its existing location.

CRITERIA – ENVIRONMENT

Meets Climate Action goals	JAYSON	Building a garage to provide parking for more cars contradicts the city’s climate goals. Heritage trees would be destroyed. There would be increased traffic and auto emissions in the midst of our downtown. The huge building would contribute to the “heat island effect.”
Green Building		Neither project would be LEED certified Group 4 says “Potential for solar” but no cost given
Surface lots used for housing		This particular lot (#4) is a superior location for the Farmers Market (to Lot #7). There are other downtown city-owned properties where affordable housing could be built.
Disruption	JAYSON	Far less disruptive to rebuild the existing library, than to close off blocks downtown for years. Downtown businesses are already suffering, and don’t need additional prolonged construction disruption (noise, dust, etc.) Also, disruption of Farmer’s Market operation.
Emissions impact	JAYSON	Emissions of construction equipment over long period; increased car emissions associated with additional 400 cars in garage.
Housing “blueprint”		Not part of “apples to apples” discussion

CRITERIA – RISKS AND COSTS

Cost per sq ft	Close to Equal	
A freestanding building entails fewer risks than a library in a project that includes housing and a garage.	JAYSON	Risk of fire from untended candle, cooking, smoking. Risk of engine fire (garage).
Debt service	JAYSON	Group 4 project would entail potential \$3 million annual debt service, multiplied by 30 years. We are in an unprecedented economic situation, with greater city spending priorities than this project.
Escalation costs	JAYSON	There could be unanticipated delays with the mixed use project, further driving up escalation costs. The Jayson project appears to be achievable more quickly.
Measure S timeline	JAYSON	See above

CRITERIA - COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Increases Outdoor Civic Space	JAYSON		Re-aligned entrance allows for “pop up” events on Center St. Civic Center. Potential for attractive landscaping. Does not obliterate the last open space in an increasingly built-up downtown.
Advantages of the location	JAYSON		The existing library is part of our civic center. There is no advantage to moving it 3 blocks closer to the hub-bub of Pacific Ave. Present distance from bus station is not a hardship.
Not part of “apples to apples” comparison			
Support residents downtown			
# of Affordable Housing Units			Jayson project cannot include “air rights” so there is no “apples to apples” . Group 4 should have presented plans for the library based on 31,465 sq ft, vs Jayson’s 30,230 sq ft. (should not have included 5,280 sq ft made possible by “air rights.” Studio and 1 BR apartments do not address the need for housing for families.
General Plan goals			
Downtown Plan			Group 4 project does not contribute to a “pedestrian-friendly” downtown (a Town Commons on Lot 4 would). A Commons was called for in the post-earthquake recovery plan. Massive building on Lot 4 contrasts with the “village” feel for Cedar St.
Lifespan			
Adaptability			Of the library or the entire building?
Irrelevant to discussion at hand			
Supports visitors			A Town Commons on Lot 4 would do so
Supports businesses			A Town Commons on Lot 4 would do so
Supports actions of previous councils			
Replace lost parking			Experts have told the city there is adequate supply; it needs to be better managed. Changing patterns of car ownership, ride sharing, etc. could make another garage a very expensive “white elephant.”
Enables reduction in on-site parking requirements for adjacent affordable housing			In essence, this means all city tax-payers are being asked to subsidize parking for other residents, but without their consent. Developers profit at our expense. Not fair!

Other Community Benefit Criteria

Missing here is a discussion of the lack of a plan for what the city has in mind for the site of the existing library were it to be demolished. That reflects poor city planning.

Also missing is an acknowledgement of the value of retaining the library in the city's Civic Center, next to City Hall and the Civic Auditorium. This means something! Otherwise this proposal to remove the library from the spot it has occupied for 150 years would not have generated such anguish! The public never called for such an action.

This project, from its very start, has caused a lack of faith in local government that some consider a "bait and switch" regarding what voters were led to believe they were voting for. This may cause voters to hesitate to vote for future bond measures.

Keeping the library where it is provides for an opportunity for a needed central gathering space, a Town Commons anchored by the Farmers Market, but activated throughout the rest of the week (and year). There are so many wonderful ideas that could be realized in such a space! Other communities are creating such spaces.

Other Feedback for the Sub-Committee

It is unfortunate that the usual opportunity for public participation in this important decision will be greatly curtailed due to the prohibition against large public gatherings, because surely this issue would have brought large crowds, as it has in the past. Though everyone is trying hard to adapt, not everyone is technologically able to participate.

Additionally, there should be another Zoom meeting to hear from the public AFTER the June 2 Sub-committee meeting but before the Sub-Committee makes their recommendation. It could be focused on details of Jayson's proposal and Group 4's proposal(s), ideally with their presence, so they can answer questions that even the sub-committee may have.

With so much economic and social uncertainty, the prudent thing to do would be to reconstruct and modernize the library we have. Library staff will appreciate the improvements, as will the public, for many years to come.

From: [Laura Marcus](#)
To: [Cynthia Mathews](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Letter of Endorsement for the Downtown Library Mixed Use Project
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 12:45:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Dear Council Member Mathews,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Dientes Community Dental Care in support of the Santa Cruz Downtown Library Mixed Use Project. Utilizing the bonds in Measure S to fund this project will allow the Santa Cruz Public Library to build a modern library for our community to enjoy. Moreover, it will provide much needed affordable housing, parking, and local business opportunities.

The proposed project will enhance library services and will bring the library into the 21st century with more educational resources and spaces for children, teens, and young adults to read and study. Additionally, it will offer a space that will be a permanent home to our local farmers market and other community events, local business rental space, and a parking structure to support the project.



There are only a few city-owned lots that can be used for affordable housing. Utilizing the funds from Measure S, we can be an active part of the housing crisis solution for City of Santa Cruz residents.

This is an urgent matter. Measure S funding will end in 2024 and if we do not act now, we could lose this opportunity to reinvigorate our downtown and create a community hub for learning, living, and connecting.

The City of Santa Cruz has a noteworthy affordable housing project that can become a reality by approving this project. I hope that you will stand with Dientes and support the Downtown Library Mixed Use Project.

Thank you!
Laura



Laura Marcus
Chief Executive Officer
Dientes Community Dental Care
5300 Soquel Avenue, Suite 103, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831.464-5420 direct | 831.252.0120 cell | 831.464.5416 fax
laura@dientes.org | www.dientes.org  

**Dientes Stands
with Dreamers**

WE SUPPORT DACA

“When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less

and less important whether I am afraid.” Audre Lorde

From: [John Hall](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Library alternatives evaluation criteria, and a new proposal
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 2:08:47 PM
Attachments: [DowntownCommonsAdvocates-StakeholderPresentation&EvaluationCriteria20200605.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, and Councilmember Brown,

Thank you for the opportunity for stakeholders to present views at last Tuesday's meeting. On behalf of Downtown Commons Advocates, I attach a copy of this email, and an extended copy of my Tuesday statement along with 23 additional criteria for evaluation of the alternative Downtown Library options.

The more that Downtown Commons Advocates examine the alternative options, the more we are convinced of the urgent need for the Library Subcommittee to exercise common sense, reject Options C and D, and choose Option B, as the surest, most straightforward basis to move forward, rather than risk the Measure S bond money by pursuing undeveloped and unstable resources for Option C or D, the choice of which would inherently lengthen the planning process.

Of course all of us support additional affordable housing as well as a great library and an adequate supply of parking. And I hope we all support the creation of meaningful public space downtown as well. These are all necessary elements of the city's future. The challenge has been how to maximize those goals in an overall plan. Based on the element of Group 4's proposal concerning "air rights," I would like to propose a way of achieving what I hope we all want – a great library, affordable housing, and a permanent Farmers' Market within a Downtown Commons, with adequacy of parking to be addressed through other initiatives and projects.

Proposal. If the city can charge for air rights in the development of housing on lot 4, there is no reason it cannot charge for air rights for the development of other city-owned property downtown, for example, lot 7 and the lot behind Petroglyph. The revenue generated by sale of air rights does not have to be allocated to any particular use. Such revenue can be applied to fully funding the alternatives spelled out by Jayson Architecture for reconstruction of the Downtown Library at its present site. We can have a great library that helps build out the Civic Center, a great Downtown Commons and pavilion for the Farmers' Market on lot 4, and significant development of affordable housing elsewhere downtown.

I would be happy to discuss this possibility and the broader issues as any time. Meanwhile, my thanks for your work and best wishes for your deliberations.

John Hall
Convener

Downtown Commons Advocates
downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com

John Hall
jrhall103@mac.com

From: [Rena & Harlan](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Subject: Library Subcommittee Questions from the Friends SCPL
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 3:44:43 PM
Attachments: [Questions Regarding the Downtown Renovation Plan Onsite.pdf](#)

Hello,

As Board Members of the Friends of the Library, we have grave concerns about the proposed renovation plan at the current site.

We would appreciate clarity from the architects regarding the following:

-

EXCLUSIONS.

-

Although this proposal is \$7 million over budget, it does not include some significant costs, like:

-

Moving and relocation costs.

-

This is a necessary expenditure. What is a reasonable estimate?

-

Furniture.

-

According to pages 97 and 106, there is no allocation for any “moveable” furnishings, including conference tables, office tables, or chairs and seating of all types. Obviously, seating and tables are necessary in a library. What is a reasonable estimate?

-

PUBLIC RESTROOMS.

-

Public restrooms are one of the biggest problems in the Downtown Branch, according to both staff and the public. Single-stall bathrooms are completely unworkable from a safety standpoint. The larger renovation plan speaks of adding multi-stall bathrooms.

-

What are the requirements for public restrooms from a health and safety point of view?

-

Are the multi-stall bathrooms larger than the single stall bathrooms? By how much square footage? If we needed to add more square footage for necessary bathrooms, what would we

need to give up? What does that translate to in terms of lost collection volumes, lost meeting rooms, etc?

- How would the safety issues be addressed? How will the proposed design help problems such as drug use and bathing in library restrooms?
- Although the bathrooms would be to code, would the number of proposed bathrooms meet the expressed capacity of the Downtown Branch?

- TEEN ROOM.

- Staff and library users say teen space at the current library is woefully inadequate. However, the renovation proposal is to cut the current space almost in half, for a total of 760 square feet.

- The plans in the report show shelving but no seating or tables. How many seats will there be for teens in a 760 sq ft room?
- According to American Libraries Magazine (Sept, 2016 issue), “the allotment of space in public buildings clearly illustrates which groups matter and which groups do not.” What message does this send our teens?

- PERIMETER.

- The expansive perimeter of the building, including the entrance, has been identified as a major problem for the current library, as the open space encourages loitering.

- How is the proposed entryway designed to minimize loitering?
- How would the proposed design allow for bike parking in an area where there is significant flow and minimal loitering, to minimize theft and maximize people feeling safe leaving their bikes?
- Approximately how many feet would the building be from the sidewalk?
- Would the landscaping costs that are budgeted on page 112 satisfy landscaping for the entire

perimeter, or would there still be empty spaces?

- How many years would the landscaping take to mature to cover the space?
- How many parking spaces will the renovation create?
- What security systems are included to monitor patron safety inside and outside the library?

•

LACK OF FLEXIBILITY.

○

The renovation proposal demolishes 10,000 square feet permanently.

- The demolition will occur around the entire perimeter. Will this allow for any expansion in the future? How expensive would it be to “bump out” a building?
- Would the way the water, electricity, and other utilities are hooked up to the building preclude expanding the building at a later date? Would the hookups create additional problems or excessive cost?

•

INCONSISTENCIES IN THE REPORT.

○

Multiple figures are found in the report regarding the square footage of the renovated building.

- Sometimes the square footage is listed as approximately 32,000 square feet.

•

See: the executive summary; page 7; page 98.

■

Sometimes the square footage is listed as approximately 30,000 square feet.

•

See: also page 7; the scenarios considered discussion.

■

What is the exact square footage of the proposed renovation?

●

On page 9, the ratio of public vs. private space in the renovated library is 13% which is significantly below the 15-19% regional comps. Where will the library functions be housed? Is this sufficient staff space?

●

When using low quality product finishes, what impact will that have on the effective useful life expectancy of the library before repair or replacement is needed compared to a higher grade products?

●

Does the base renovation incorporate any green building features to lessen environmental impacts? If so, what green building features are included in the base renovation?

We have significant worries about the renovation plan for the Downtown Library. The proposal is more than **\$7 million over budget**. Additionally, according to the report, the resulting library would be “a low-medium quality facility and will lack many of the amenities the public has come to expect in a modern library.”

The impact is dire for the collections the library can provide; the proposal cuts collections for the Downtown Branch by a third, and by 12% system wide.

As representatives from the Friends of the Libraries Board, we hope that you will not consider this a viable option for the Downtown Branch.

Thank you,

Martín Gómez, President, Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, former member of the Downtown Library Advisory Committee

Rena Dubin, Chairperson of the Advocacy Committee, FSCPL, former member of the Downtown Library Advisory Committee

From: [Ofelia Garcia](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); +dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com; +sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com;
+jcummings@cityofsantacruz.com
Subject: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Monday, November 11, 2019 9:50:45 AM

Dear members of the subcommittee,

I would like to add my voice to support creating a new mixed-use building for the Santa Cruz Public Library downtown branch.

As a frequent user of the library and an educator I urge you to adopt a forward-looking approach and give our community the 21st library we deserve. That's what we, the voters, wanted when we supported Measure S.

While I respect the concerns of those who might think renovation is sufficient, I am convinced that will not serve the current and needs of our city and county.

Please move us forward with a clear vision for our SC Public Library system's real needs and well-deserved future with a new, modern (not a remodeled) building.

Thank you,

Ofelia Garcia
ofeliag@mac.com

From: [Joe](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 11:20:21 AM

Dear Council - I believe the Jayson report regarding renovation of the current library shows that such a facility will be short lived in its usefulness. The report shows that current library facilities would be reduced, not expanded and it does not include the cost of a temporary facility during construction. Also there is no provision to address affordable housing.

In short -The Jayson report clearly shows a remodel will NOT serve the future needs of our community.

You were elected to represent the entire community. I think it would be irresponsible to spend taxpayer's money on such a project without getting a more detailed account of the costs and benefits of the mixed use building in comparison. I urge you to do your homework and get a full analysis of the mixed use project so you can make an informed decision.

Joe Ferrara

Atlantis Fantasyworld

Downtown Commissioner

From: [Margaret Suddards](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Location of downtown library
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:19:26 PM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, and Councilmember Brown,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please choose Option B: reconstruction of the Library at the Civic Center. Preserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

*A free-standing iconic Downtown Library at the Civic Center is far preferable to a library in a big-box mixed use project.

*Building a \$54 million dollar (\$1.8 million/year for 30 years) parking garage is not justified on the basis of projected parking demand.

*Incorporating a library and affordable housing in a project based on building unneeded parking makes no sense.

*The costs exceeding Measure S revenues in order to include upgrade alternatives beyond the base plan for the Downtown Library at the Civic Center can be paid from revenues from sale of "air rights" for development of affordable housing on other city-owned lots.

*I want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library, and it is a far better location for the Farmers' Market than the parking lot behind Pizza My Heart.

*Please keep the successful Antique Faire where it is!

*I want a first-class library, but NOT in a place that undermines the 2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character of Cedar Street.

*Building an unnecessary \$54 million parking garage cannot be justified by including affordable housing units. Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality.

*The 2017 Downtown Plan has an unrealized goal of creating public space

that can best be fulfilled at Parking Lot 4.

*The plan to build an unnecessary parking garage violates the city's Climate Action Plan.

*A Downtown Commons will serve as an "anchor" that can help broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis.

*Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Thank You
Margaret Suddards

316-0888
234-5175

From: [Margaret Suddards](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
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Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Thank You
Margaret Suddards

316-0888
234-5175

From: [AL 245](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:33:03 AM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

*There is a timely path forward for the Library without pursuing a risky partnership in an unneeded \$81 million parking garage. Jayson Architecture has presented a plan for a viable and attractive 21st-century library on its existing site and within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure. Let's move ahead with the Library there!

*I want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library.

*There is not enough projected parking demand to justify an \$81 million dollar (\$2.7 million/year for 30 years) mixed-use garage structure: the City staff projection overestimates future parking demand; as staff has acknowledged, it does not take into account parking rate restructuring, Jump bikes, Uber and Lyft, the City's downtown employee bus pass program, and other factors that will decrease demand.

*I want a first-class library, but NOT in a place that undermines the 2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character of Cedar Street.

*The Downtown Library costs exceeding Measure S funds would be subsidized by Parking District revenues if it were included as part of a garage structure; Parking district funds could similarly be used to enhance the Jayson Architects proposal for the Downtown Library on its present site.

*The Council's November 2018 declaration of a climate emergency encourages decisions that move away from actions like increasing infrastructure for CO2 producing vehicles. A parking structure on the scale envisioned is ecologically unsustainable.

*Building an \$81 million parking garage cannot be justified by including a small number of small sq. ft. affordable housing units, which will now be more expensive given the loss of AB411 funds. Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality.

*The 2017 Downtown Plan has an unrealized goal of creating public space that can best be fulfilled at Parking Lot 4.

*A Downtown Commons will serve as an "anchor" that can help broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis.

*Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example.

I am a resident of the downtown Santa Cruz Area, and so these concerns are VERY close to home for me.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Sincerely,
Astrid Leitner

From: [toni miras](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 11:18:36 AM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

*There is a timely path forward for the Library without pursuing a risky partnership in an unneeded \$81 million parking garage. Jayson Architure has presented a plan for a viable and attractive 21st-century library on its existing site and within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure. Let's move ahead with the Library there!

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*I want a first-class library, but NOT in a place that undermines the 2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character of Cedar Street.

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*Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Sent from my iPad

From: [Dori-Ann Goodison](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:40:05 PM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market!

Jayson Architecture has presented a plan for a viable, timely and modern plan for the existing site with benefits for all - and is within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure. Please consider moving forward with the plan for the existing site.

Here are the issues my family and I, residents of downtown Santa Cruz, consider most important:

We want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library.

A Downtown Commons will serve as an "anchor" that can help broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis.

The parking structure and library proposal undermines the 2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character of Cedar Street.

Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Steve and Dori-Ann Goodison
408-234-3211

From: mary.odegaard
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019 2:34:48 PM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

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*The Council's November 2018 declaration of a climate emergency commits the city "to reducing auto dependency through a robust Transportation Demand Management program, and other measures as appropriate." A parking structure on the scale envisioned is environmentally unsustainable.

*Building an \$81 million parking garage cannot be justified by including a small number of small sq. ft. affordable housing units. Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality.

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Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Pace e Bene, Mary O

From: [Lisa Graham](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:38:26 AM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

*There is a timely path forward for the Library without pursuing a risky partnership in an unneeded \$81 million parking garage. Jayson Architure has presented a plan for a viable and attractive 21st-century library on its existing site and within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure. Let's move ahead with the Library there!

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*The 2017 Downtown Plan has an unrealized goal of creating public space that can best be fulfilled at Parking Lot 4.

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*Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

sincerely,
Lisa Graham

CEO, Agile Monkey Inc.
Master Instructor, Balanced Body Education
[Follow Lisa on Instagram](#)

Agile Monkey Pilates Studio
www.agilemonkey.net
[yelp](#) - [facebook](#) - [instagram](#)
phone: (831) 458-4125

From: [Beverly Jennings](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019 12:49:07 AM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

*I want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library.

*There is not enough projected parking demand to justify an \$81 million dollar (\$2.7 million/year for 30 years) mixed-use garage structure: the City staff projection overestimates future parking demand; as staff has acknowledged, it does not take into account parking rate restructuring, Jump bikes, Uber and Lyft, the City's downtown employee bus pass program, and other factors that will decrease demand.

*I want a first-class library, but NOT in a place that undermines the 2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character of Cedar Street.

*There is a timely path forward for the Library without pursuing a risky partnership in an unneeded \$81 million parking garage. Jayson Architects have presented a plan for a viable and attractive 21st-century library on its existing site and within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure. Let's move ahead with the Library there!

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Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

From: [Ann Durbin](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 10:08:05 AM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

Santa Cruz as a city has neglected certain beautiful spaces such as the tree-shaded Parking Lot 4 and the river levees, spaces that would be valued resources that another municipality would celebrate. Think of any number of European market villages with a shady square and open spaces, room for market stalls, seating here and there, and shops & restaurants all around. Residents as well as visitors enjoy these open spaces; they are suitable for community events, such as markets and fetes; retail grows up around them, and a town's culture takes place within them. I feel that dropping a multistory car park into the heart of the place described baldly as Parking Lot 4 would waste the beautiful potential of this space. I agree that it's a bad idea to build that parking structure, even if it brings us a newer library, even if it adds a few units of housing. As we become less dependent on cars, and it won't be that long, the mega parking capacity won't even be needed.

Without knowing a great deal about architecture, I am really pleased with the Jayson plan for revamping the existing library where it stands.

Borrowed language that I agree with: A Downtown Commons will serve as an "anchor" that can help broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis. Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example. These kinds of projects kill the city at street level. Keep a tree-shaded Downtown Commons for use by pedestrians and consumers.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Ann Durbin

From: [fred geiger](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); [downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com](#)
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:21:19 AM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

*There is a timely path forward for the Library without pursuing a risky partnership in an unneeded \$81 million parking garage. Jayson Architecture has presented a plan for a viable and attractive 21st-century library on its existing site and within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure. Let's move ahead with the Library there!

*I want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library.

*There is not enough projected parking demand to justify an \$81 million dollar (\$2.7 million/year for 30 years) mixed-use garage structure: the City staff projection overestimates future parking demand; as staff has acknowledged, it does not take into account parking rate restructuring, Jump bikes, Uber and Lyft, the City's downtown employee bus pass program, and other factors that will decrease demand.

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Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ryan Sarnataro](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:07:07 PM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

I attended the meeting where staff presented their parking assumptions. All I can say is that the idea Santa Cruz will continue experience an increase in parking requirements is deeply flawed. The larger trends in ecology and economy point towards reduced vehicle ownership and increases in travel by alternatives that do not require leaving a vehicle in place for the working day.

Santa Cruz of all places should not be betting on more cars for the next 30 year let alone be forced to market downtown parking in order to pay construction bonds. Chances are in a decade or two the transportation landscape will have moved away from drive and park.

Let's keep the farmers market where it is.

Let's build a new library without a garage on the existing site. There is a plan for a 21st-century library within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure.

Ryan Sarnataro

Santa Cruz resident for 24 years

From: [Laurel Grace](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com; CityCouncil@Cityofsantacruz.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Thursday, December 12, 2019 2:29:53 PM

Council members Brown, Cummings, Meyers,

I am a Boulder Creek resident who works three days a week at The Well Within in downtown Santa Cruz. I am communicating at this time to speak in support of the arguments put forth by the Downtown Commons Advocates opposing the proposed building of the 81 million dollar parking garage on lot four in downtown S.C.

In addition to all the excellent points made in the email forwarded below I wish to say a few things. Every week I attend the Farmers Market to enjoy the gathering of locals there to sell food and wares under some of the most beautiful trees standing in S.C. From my work place on Cedar Street I have observed in the last year at least ten mature healthy trees within two blocks which have been removed and not replaced. Surely it is common knowledge by now that trees play a very important role in sequestering carbon. In September of this year (9/27 if my memory serves) a rally was held culminating in parking lot 4. This rally was attended in large part by school children and young people concerned about the increasingly disastrous effects of climate change. How darkly ironic it would be to destroy the trees in the very location where adults stood making promises to the children in attendance about doing whatever possible to reduce the effects of global warming. Efforts to improve public transportation should be prioritized over building enormous parking garages; a "build it and they will come" attitude is not what is needed now either for the enhancement of the character of our city or for the health of the environment we and our kids depend on.

I sincerely hope that alternatives to the behemoth proposed parking garage are being considered.

Thank you.

Laurel Wanner

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers, In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

*There is a timely path forward for the Library without pursuing a risky partnership in an unneeded \$81 million parking garage. Jayson Architecture has presented a plan for a viable and attractive 21st-century library on its existing site and within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure. Let's move ahead with the Library there! *I want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library. *There is not enough projected parking demand to justify an \$81 million dollar (\$2.7 million/year for 30 years) mixed-use garage structure: the City staff projection overestimates future parking demand; as staff has acknowledged, it does not take into account parking rate restructuring, Jump bikes, Uber and Lyft, the City's downtown employee bus pass program, and other factors that will decrease demand. *I want a first-class library, but NOT in a place that undermines the 2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character of Cedar Street. *The Downtown Library costs exceeding Measure S funds would be subsidized by Parking District revenues if it were included as part of a garage structure; Parking district funds could similarly be used to enhance the Jayson Architects

proposal for the Downtown Library on its present site. *The Council's November 2018 declaration of a climate emergency encourages decisions that move away from actions like increasing infrastructure for CO2 producing vehicles. A parking structure on the scale envisioned is ecologically unsustainable. *Building an \$81 million parking garage cannot be justified by including a small number of small sq. ft. affordable housing units, which will now be more expensive given the loss of AB411 funds. Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality. *The 2017 Downtown Plan has an unrealized goal of creating public space that can best be fulfilled at Parking Lot 4. *A Downtown Commons will serve as an "anchor" that can help broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis. *Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example. Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

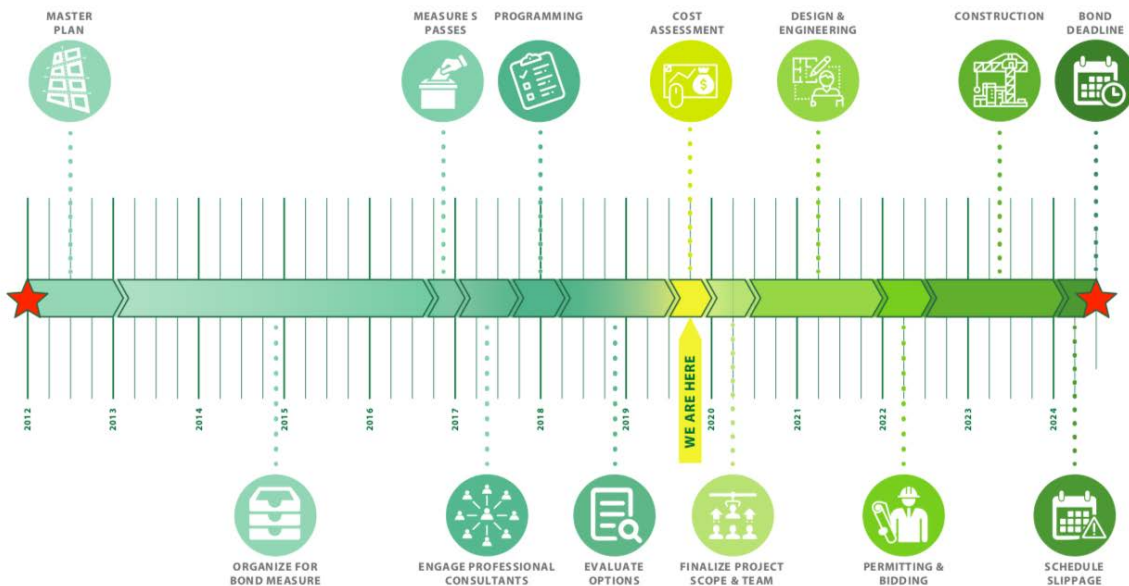
From: [Valerie Morgan](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons is a better choice
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 4:44:23 PM
Attachments: [nmbolpkiamfhhehh.png](#)
[ceckfjchcblpopi.png](#)
[nclckheaffigbj.png](#)

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

--There is a strong path forward for the Library without pursuing a shakey partnership in an unnecessary \$81M parking garage. Jayson Architecture has presented a plan for a viable and attractive 21st-century library on its existing site and within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure. Most residents want to move ahead with the Library at its current location.

--Jayson Architects presented a timeline for completion of the renovated library and emphasized that this timeline has a "wiggle room" of three months in order to utilize Measure S funding within its designated time frame of the Bond deadline.



--My vote for Measure S funding was predicated on the Library Master Facilities Plan documents' design of Maintain, Gain and Attain recommended designs. Changing the focus of these designs makes me feel promoting a garage/library structure is duplicitous. I would not have voted for Measure S if this garage/mixed use project had been proposed.

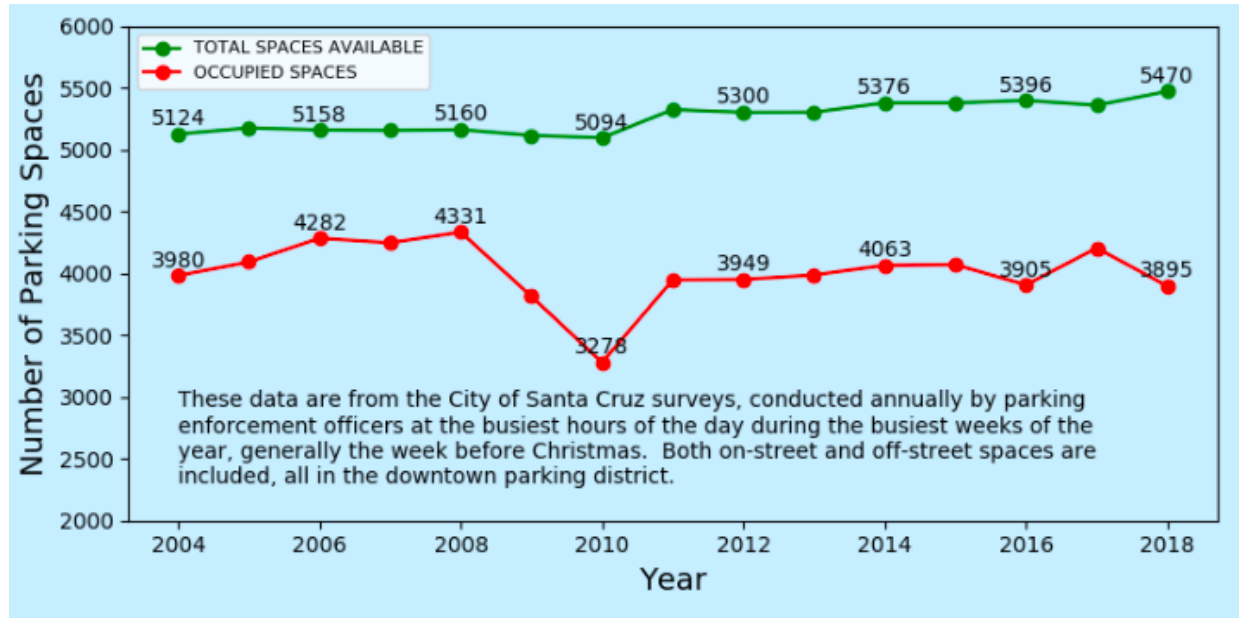
--I value open, public space in Downtown. I think keeping this space open for everyone's use is not only a matter of aesthetic need --the beauty of well designed open space has a positive effect on people's health and well-being, but also an opportunity to engage residents to interact with one another in an open space best utilized as a commons. A garage discourages talking with one another.

--Preserving Lot 4 in for its current use is a question of social equity. Today the space is open for all to use. A parking garage on Lot 4, our last large open space Downtown, significantly reduces the use of this space by anyone who does own not a car--those who don't drive: the young, the aged, the physically disabled, those unable to afford a car.

--A thirty thousand square foot library, with an efficient design provides, all the space residents need for a positive library experience. For example, Los Gatos library is thirty thousand square feet and is a state of the art facility that accommodates that community.

--I want to preserve the beauty of the heritage Magnolias in Lot 4. The open space is an invaluable asset to the community. On a sunny day, the Lot is bathed in sunshine and fresh air. Why would we take this away for a parking garage and library

--As well documented by the parking experts who have studied Downtown parking, our parking demand is decreasing. (parking inventory from December 2018, our busiest shopping week; From Siegman).



--The City staff projection overestimates future parking demand; as staff has acknowledged, it does not take into account parking rate restructuring, Jump bikes, Uber and Lyft, the City's downtown employee bus pass program, and other factors that will decrease demand.

--As parking experts in 2015 recommended, and Patrick Siegman in March, 26th, 2018 at City Council meeting, we should use many strategies to manage our parking demand *before* we build a five story garage. These things would be far less expensive and a better use of money. See Siegman's recommendations below:

Parking & Traffic Reduction Strategies

Category	Parking & Transportation Demand Management Strategy
Managing Curb Parking	1. Set performance-based prices for curb parking
	2. Return parking revenue to the districts where it is generated, to pay for public services
	3. Create residential parking benefit districts, revenues pay for neighborhood improvements
	4. Improve parking enforcement & data collection using modern technologies
Managing City-Owned Lots & Garages	5. Implement time of day pricing
	6. Charge for employee parking by the day, and discounted rates for monthly permits
	7. Set user fees to ensure availability and make City-owned lots and garages self-supporting (consider assistance for low-income employees)
	8. Assess highest & best use of city-owned lots & garages
	9. Offer incentives for converting underused private lots into shared public lots
	10. Reserve sites for future public parking structures if and when needed
Regulating Private Developments	11. Remove minimum parking requirements
	12. Require unbundling of parking costs from the cost of other goods & services
	13. Require provision of spaces for carshare vehicles
	14. Require provision of free transit passes to residents and employees
	15. Require parking cash-out benefits for employees
Improving Transportation Choices	16. Establish deep-discount group transit pass programs
	17. Review & expand local transit networks
	18. Continue improving bicycle facilities & programs

--It doesn't make financial sense to build a parking garage: Parking district funds could be used to enhance the Jayson Architects proposal for the Downtown Library on its present site. Parking district funds slated to pay for the \$87M thirty year bond (2.7M debt burden every year) could be used to augment funds to put bells and whistles on the renovation--10% of the cost of the 87M bond will enhance the library with everything we want. When an economic downturn occurs the decrease in parking revenue will compromise payment of the debt and put Santa Cruz residents, or businesses, on the hook for paying this 2.7M/year debt.

--An affordable housing argument has been offered to justify this mixed-use project. This remains very vague: what is the funding mechanism for these units? How many will there be? How many parking spaces will be displaced by the units (undermining the case for the need of a garage)? How will funding be leveraged now that AB 411 has failed? A strong case can be made that refutes the notion of affordable housing in a garage as the most effective use of housing funds--not yet identified. Perhaps the Council should entertain the thought of affordable housing incorporated into the renovation?

--Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality.

--Creating a nexus of space between the City Hall, the Civic Center and a renovated library not only enlivens that space for civic connections and public use, but also preserves Lot 4 as open space, offering many opportunities for public use.

--The Council's November 2018 declaration of a climate emergency encourages decisions that move away from actions like increasing infrastructure for CO2 producing vehicles. A parking structure on the scale envisioned is ecologically unsustainable. Renovating the current library is less resource intensive than build the proposed mixed use structure.

--The project does not align with principles of the 2012-2020 Climate Action Plan--increases emissions through construction of GHG intensive garage; encourages fossil fuel vehicles and does not fully utilize TDM measures to decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled.

--The 2017 Downtown Plan proposes a goal of creating public space -- that aspirational can be best realized at Parking Lot 4.

--A Downtown Commons will encourage more community interaction, serve as an opportunity to engage residents with more communal events, broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis.

--The project will create unsightly garage along Cedar street and discourage walkable, community oriented streets along Cathcart and Lincoln as well as Cedar.

Thank you for your work and for considering my views. Please make the right decision for our children and their children's children for Downtown Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,

Robert Morgan

From: [Keresha Durham](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Donna Meyers](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Our Downtown Library-Heart of our Town
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:42:11 AM

Dear Mayor Cummings, Vice-Mayor Meyers, and Councilmember Brown,

As 39 year residents of Santa Cruz, we own a home and live in downtown Santa Cruz; downtown is our backyard, we walk around downtown daily and care deeply about this heart of the city's design. In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please choose Option B: reconstruction of the Library at the Civic Center. My family uses the library a lot and we feel this B option will preserve Parking Lot 4 and save our Farmers' Market and Antique Fair and largest public event area. Here are the issues my family consider most important.

1. For our climate and the environment, new construction and building an unnecessary parking garage is the most polluting and violates the city's Climate Action Plan. It will destroy 10 large, carbon-sequestering heritage trees. A free-standing, iconic, renovated Downtown Library at the Civic Center is far preferable to a library in an unaesthetic, concrete, big-box mixed-use project.
2. We want to keep the 2017 Downtown plan for a "village atmosphere", not a big city. The cost of building a \$54 million dollar (\$1.8 million/year for 30 years) big box library/parking garage is not justified on the basis of projected parking demand and during a Great Covid-19 Recession.
3. Incorporating a library and affordable housing in a project that is based on building (as the City consultants confirmed) "unneeded parking" makes no sense.
4. The costs exceeding Measure S revenues in order to include upgrade alternatives beyond the base plan for the Downtown Library at the Civic Center can be paid from revenues from sale of "air rights" for development of affordable housing on **other city-owned lots.**
5. We want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, heritage trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library! It is a far better location for the Farmers' Market than the parking lot behind Pizza My Heart.
6. Please keep the successful Antique Faire where it is!

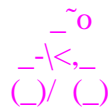
7. We want a first-class library, but NOT in a place that undermines the **2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character.**
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Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. **Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!**

Sincerely,
Keresha Durham and family

--

Keresha Durham~ educator, environmentalist
"care-sha"



For a quality future for all living things, the earth needs small families

Balance population with finite natural resources

From: [Keresha Durham](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Donna Meyers](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Our Downtown Library-Heart of our Town
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:42:11 AM

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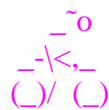
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Sincerely,
Keresha Durham and family

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Keresha Durham~ educator, environmentalist
"care-sha"



For a quality future for all living things, the earth needs small families

Balance population with finite natural resources

From: [Kristen Sandel](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Parking garage/housing/library project
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 5:45:25 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I attended the Group4 final presentation on June 2, and came away with quite a few questions regarding the housing possibilities. We desperately need affordable housing in Santa Cruz county, but what assurances can the city give that the developers of any potential apartment units would make any portion of them affordable? I understand that there is an ordinance in place for new developments requiring a percentage of units be affordable, but I also believe that a developer may choose to pay an "in-lieu" fee instead to the city of Santa Cruz affordable housing fund. Is this correct, and if so, isn't it entirely up to the developer whether they build affordable housing or pay the in-lieu fee instead? The fact that the city's affordable housing fund has only \$3 million in it--and that there's been very little new affordable housing built--seems to indicate that the in-lieu fee system doesn't dissuade developers from ignoring the affordable housing requirements entirely.

I think this is an aspect worth considering when you vote on the Lot 4 proposed development.

Thank you,

Kristen Sandel

From: [Bob Morgan](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Please note: Final Draft--No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons is a better choice
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 7:21:07 AM
Attachments: [nmbolokiamfhhehh.png](#)
[ceeckfjchcblopj.png](#)
[nclckheafffgbfj.png](#)

Dear Council Members,

I apologize that I sent an unedited draft of my letter to you yesterday, Thursday, 11/21. Please disregard that draft.

The letter below has been edited. I submit it for your records.

Best regards,

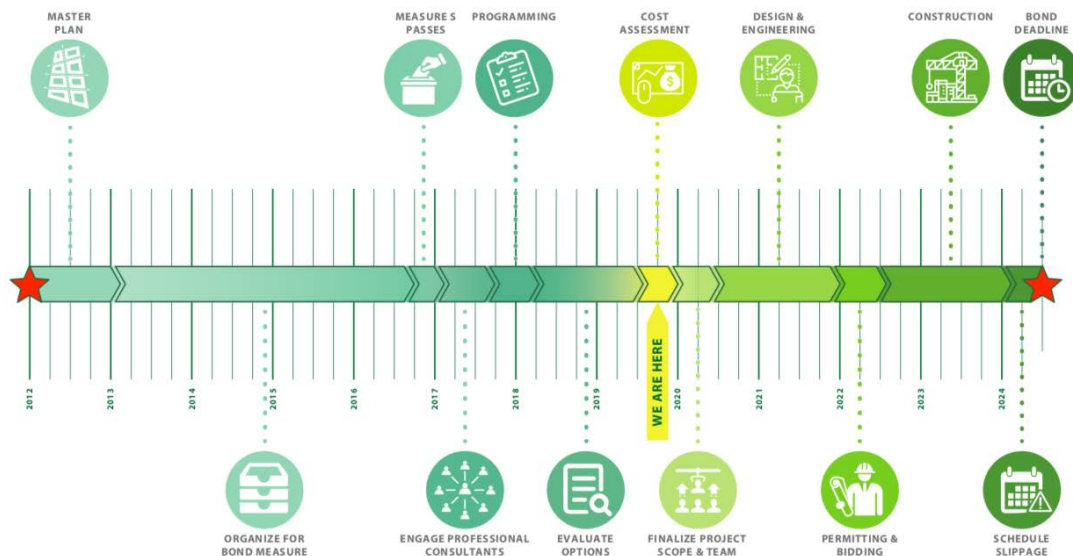
Bob Morgan

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--Jayson Architects presented a timeline for completion of the renovated library and emphasized that this timeline has a "wiggle room" of three months in order to utilize Measure S funding within its designated time frame of the Bond deadline.



--My vote for Measure S funding was predicated on the Library Master Facilities Plan documents' design recommendations of Maintain, Gain and Attain. Changing the focus of these designs seems duplicitous. I would not have voted for Measure S if this garage/mixed use project had been proposed.

--I value open, public space in Downtown. Keeping this space open for everyone's use is not only a

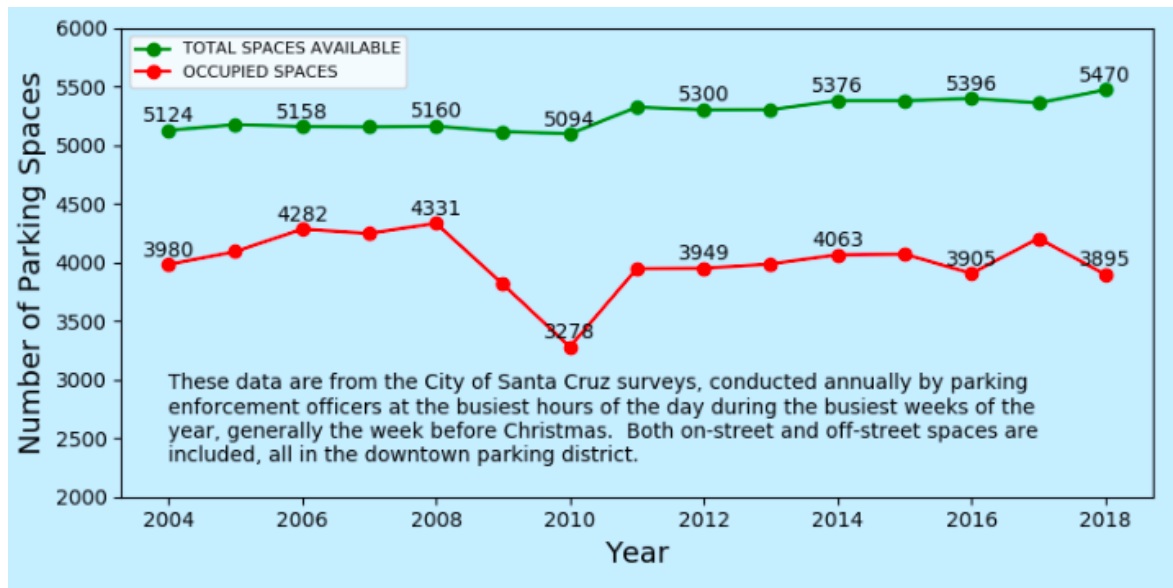
matter of aesthetic need --the beauty of well designed open space has a positive effect on people's health and well-being, but also an opportunity to engage residents to interact with one another in an open space best utilized as a commons. A concrete, multi-story garage discourages socializing with one another.

--Preserving Lot 4 in for its current use is a question of social equity. Today the space is open for all to use. A parking garage on Lot 4, our last large open space Downtown, significantly reduces the use of this space by anyone who does own not a car--those who don't drive: the young, the aged, the physically disabled, those unable to afford a car.

--A thirty thousand square foot library, with an efficient design, provides all the space residents need for a positive library experience. For example, Los Gatos library is thirty thousand square feet and is a state of the art facility that accommodates that community.

--I want to preserve the beauty of the Heritage Magnolias in Lot 4. The open space and mature trees are an invaluable asset to the community. On a clear day, the Lot is bathed in sunshine and fresh air. Why would we take this away for a parking garage and library?

--As well documented by the parking experts who have studied our Downtown parking district, our parking demand is decreasing. (parking inventory from December 2018, our busiest shopping week; From Siegman).



--The City staff projection overestimates future parking demand; as staff has acknowledged, it does not take into account parking rate restructuring, Jump bikes, Uber and Lyft, the City's downtown employee bus pass program, and other factors that will decrease demand.

--As parking experts in 2015 recommended, and Patrick Siegman presented in March, 26th, 2018 to City Council, we should employ many strategies to manage parking demand *before* we build a five story garage. Doing these things would be far less expensive and a better use of money before we build. Let's be fiscally prudent. See Siegman's recommendations below:

Parking & Traffic Reduction Strategies

Category	Parking & Transportation Demand Management Strategy
Managing Curb Parking	1. Set performance-based prices for curb parking
	2. Return parking revenue to the districts where it is generated, to pay for public services
	3. Create residential parking benefit districts, revenues pay for neighborhood improvements
	4. Improve parking enforcement & data collection using modern technologies
Managing City-Owned Lots & Garages	5. Implement time of day pricing
	6. Charge for employee parking by the day, and discounted rates for monthly permits
	7. Set user fees to ensure availability and make City-owned lots and garages self-supporting (consider assistance for low-income employees)
	8. Assess highest & best use of city-owned lots & garages
	9. Offer incentives for converting underused private lots into shared public lots
	10. Reserve sites for future public parking structures if and when needed
Regulating Private Developments	11. Remove minimum parking requirements
	12. Require unbundling of parking costs from the cost of other goods & services
	13. Require provision of spaces for carshare vehicles
	14. Require provision of free transit passes to residents and employees
	15. Require parking cash-out benefits for employees
Improving Transportation Choices	16. Establish deep-discount group transit pass programs
	17. Review & expand local transit networks
	18. Continue improving bicycle facilities & programs

--It doesn't make financial sense to build a parking garage: Parking district funds could be used to enhance the Jayson Architects proposal for the Downtown Library on its present site. District funds slated to pay for the \$87M thirty year bond (\$2.7M debt burden every year) could be used to augment funds to put bells and whistles on the renovation--10% of the 87M bond will enhance the library with everything we want. When an economic downturn occurs the decrease in parking revenue will compromise payment of the debt and put Santa Cruz residents, or businesses, on the hook for paying this \$2.7M/year debt.

--An affordable housing argument has been offered to justify this mixed-use project. This remains very vague: what is the funding mechanism for these units? How many will there be? How many parking spaces will be displaced by the units (undermining the case for the need of a garage)? How will funding be leveraged now that AB 411 has failed? A strong case can be made that refutes the notion of affordable housing in a garage as the most effective use of housing funds--even these not yet identified. Perhaps the Council should entertain the thought of affordable housing incorporated into the renovation?

--Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality.

--Creating a nexus of space between the City Hall, the Civic Center and a renovated library not only enlivens that space for civic connections and public use, but also preserves Lot 4 as open space, offering many other opportunities for public use.

--The Council's November 2018 declaration of a climate emergency encourages decisions that move away from actions like increasing infrastructure for CO2 producing vehicles. A parking structure on the scale envisioned is not environmentally sustainable. Renovating the current library is less resource intensive than building the proposed mixed use structure.

--The project does not align with principles of the 2012-2020 Climate Action Plan--it increases emissions through construction of GHG intensive garage, encourages fossil fuel vehicles and does not fully utilize TDM measures to decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled.

--The 2017 Downtown Plan proposes a goal of creating public space -- that aspiration can be best realized at Parking Lot 4.

--A Downtown Commons will encourage more community interaction, serve as an opportunity to engage residents with more communal events, broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis.

--The project will create an unsightly garage along Cedar street and discourage walkable, community oriented streets along Cathcart and Lincoln; it will extend high building frontage along Lincoln and Cathcart, decreasing sun exposure along those streets and creating a "canyon-like" sense of spatial perception for walkers, a very different feeling one has now walking tree-lined along Lot 4.

Thank you for your work and for considering my views. Please make the right decision for the people who live in Santa Cruz and others who come to Downtown because it is a special place, one whose uniqueness deserves perserving.

Sincerely,

Robert Morgan

From: [Dennis](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Cc: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please support Option C for the new library!
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 7:28:28 PM

As a retired librarian with 39 years of experience, including the renovation of historic libraries and the building of new library structures, I strongly support option C as presented to the Library Subcommittee on June 2.

The “sound bite” reaction of “don’t bury the library” ignores the thoughtful cost-benefit analysis that has been done. It also ignores the possibility of increasing downtown housing.

Most new public library buildings in California are mixed-use projects to leverage the funds available. It is a successful model that has been used throughout California and that acknowledges the challenges of public works projects in our state.

Also, parking of individual vehicles will continue to be needed in the future, whether they be electric or hybrid, particularly as the scattered small city lots are eliminated as those lots are developed.

Thank you to all staff and committee members who have contributed so much time and effort to this project.

Dennis Hagen
Santa Cruz, CA

From: [Bonnie Lipscomb](#)
To: [Robert](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Re: Library mixed use project
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:56:38 PM

Thanks, Robert. I appreciate your thoughtful response. He has an auto response as he is receiving a high level of emails. I will verify he received, but, knowing him, he will get back to you this week. I am also copying our project manager, Amanda Rotella, on this email as well.

Best,
Bonnie

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 10, 2020, at 1:44 PM, Robert <robertm510@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Bonnie

It's been some time since we communicated.

I wanted to share with you a email I sent to Justin Cummings as head of the subject subcommittee

I sent it to Justin's City email address and was concerned that he may not have the opportunity to see in that I received a auto reply about CV-19

Therefore The following is a copy for you hoping you might have the opportunity to share this with him and other appropriate members for their consideration

Thank you in advance

Robert Mariolo
831-239-0912

Dear Justin

Regarding the library downtown mixed use project I would like to explain to you some thoughts for your considerations

I neither oppose or a proponent of either project however if you mixed use program is to go forward I would strongly request you to consider that the parking be placed completely underground and by doing so it allow for more additional parking places as well as providing considerably more additional space for low income housing

I feel it would be irresponsible to go forward with this project the way it's proposed and that it be reviewed what additional housing that can be provided if the parking were underground and how that would better benefit downtown Santa Cruz

I know the cost would probably be impacted however this is a project that the community is going to be living with for about 100 years and we need to do it the right way to serve the community for that longer period of time and use above ground space for parking is a total waste of that specific piece of property Also if you look at all major cities almost all new projects the parking is underground and I know they're going to say it's gonna cost more and I know that they're going to argue that the water table etc. etc. is gonna be a problem however Amsterdam all of their parking is underground and Amsterdam is below sea level

Therefore I conclude that the parking can be placed under ground and the engineers that know how to do that are available maybe not in this area but in other areas we need to explore that before this project is approved
Respectfully submitted for your consideration and the consideration of the subcommittee prior to going forward with this project
If you have any questions and like to discuss this with me further please feel free to contact me at this email address and I also will note my cell number I look forward to working with you and discussing this further thank you very much

Robert Mariolo
Sent from my iPhone
[831-239-0912](tel:831-239-0912)

Robert

From: [Bonnie Lipscomb](#)
To: [Robert](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Re: Library mixed use project
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:56:38 PM

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Robert Mariolo
Sent from my iPhone
[831-239-0912](tel:831-239-0912)

Robert

From: [Valerie Mishkin](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 11:33:18 AM

Please obtain a full analysis on the mixed use library plan. It will serve the community much better than the demolishen and rebuild plan. We need a larger library, not smaller. We need housing. We need parking. Thank you for considering the broadest needs to be met by the best use of our land and funding. Valerie Mishkin
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Regina Kelbert](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019 1:55:12 PM

Dear Library Subcommittee Members,

I am a resident of Aptos and I want the best library for our entire community.

I do not believe that a partial demolition and renovation of the current facility will provide Santa Cruz with the library we deserve, especially since we can leverage our library bond monies to serve an even greater number of needs in our community.

I am writing to ask you to please seek a more detailed analysis of the scenario unanimously recommended last year by the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) -- the mixed use approach, which includes affordable housing and up to 47,000 square feet of library programming space.

It will be in everyone's best interest to have a new library without having to work around the limitations of asbestos removal and unsafe/limited structural constraints. The current library was built in 1968 and is well past its useful lifetime for a well-used civic structure. I live in a ranch house built in the mid-1960s - it too was full of asbestos and the removal was a very costly and time-consuming undertaking.

Our flagship library is the downtown branch. The demo-rehab scenario is woefully insufficient in meeting the growing needs of our community, specifically because the demo-rehab will result in 30% less square footage, a 30 % reduction in library collections which would affect the entire 10-branch system, and a limited Teen space, a feature strongly supported by the community.

Additionally, a temporary facility would have to be rented while the new facility is under construction, costing the system millions of dollars in un-budgeted transition costs. Access to computers, already in high demand, would be even more burdensome than it is now. This is not equitable to folks who need to participate in 21st century online resources and rely on the libraries for access. Because of cost constraints, structural improvements would only be done to minimal standards and it would be a poor performing building environmentally.

Please ensure we have the best information and be progressive-thinking when it comes to building our Downtown library. Santa Cruz deserves an innovative, creative and community-centered, as well as cost-effective solution.

Thank you,

Gigi Kelbert
Aptos, CA

From: [cbdfields48](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Thursday, December 12, 2019 2:22:17 PM

The proposal for a mixed used facility in downtown Santa Cruz to house a new library is a win win for all. We will get a larger more flexible use library plus much needed housing. It includes parking too, so that will not be a loss. There are other parking lots, places where the farmers market can be. Please favorably choose this mixed use proposal. As a resident of Santa Cruz, I will be glad to use it and to see what additional benefits it will provide.

Barbara Fields

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From: [Nancy Jackson](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 4:27:57 PM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nora Brink](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [+dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com](#); [+sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](#);
[+jcummings@cityofsantacruz.com](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 5:38:43 PM

Dear Subcommittee Members,

I am herewith urging to obtain a full analysis for a new down town library, as we need at least 40,000 sqft of public space. Remodeling downtown in its current location will not be enough.

Kind regards,
Nora

Nora Brink, CMCA®, CCAM®
Officer-Broker DRE# 01513101
Distinct Property Management, Inc.
2030 N. Pacific Avenue, Suite A
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone.fax: 831.420.0202 x1
After-Hours Emergency: 800.395.9136
www.mydistinct.com

Open Houses If you have questions about our Open Houses, please check this weekend's schedule here: www.mydistinct.com/open-houses/

From: [Annette Hagopian](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 9:06:00 PM

I support exploring a mixed-use library to the same extent the Jayson report lays out specifics about renovating the current building. I think the Jayson plan is woefully inadequate, and that to make a decision we need to compare apples to apples— that is, we need a more fully-fleshed-out multi-use plan to compare to the Jayson renovation plan.
-Annette Hagopian

Sent from my iPad

From: [mika younce](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 11:21:40 PM

Our community needs a new library.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Teresa Mendoza](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); +dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com; +sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com;
+jcummings@cityofsantacruz.com
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 11:47:27 AM

Dear Library Subcommittee:

Please stick to the original detailed **analysis of the scenario unanimously recommended last year by the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC)** -- the mixed use approach which includes affordable housing and up to 47,000 square feet of library programming space. Anything less than this is not acceptable.



Teresa Mendoza, REALTOR/Broker Associate
Sereno Group Real Estate
720 Front St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
DRE # 00969697
vm text : [831.239.5252](tel:831.239.5252)
efax: 888.675.3140

From: claudiabrown@gmail.com
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019 12:43:02 PM

I want to add my support to the Downtown Forward vision for the library mixed use scenario. I believe we need much more density to accommodate a vibrant community, to reduce homelessness and to reduce traffic. Building mixed use facilities downtown is a good start.

(And thanks for your support of the new plans for West Cliff)

Claudia Brown

Homeless Matters Board President

Cell: [510 918-2458](tel:5109182458)

www.santacruzhs.org

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From: [James Toohey](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 3:18:50 PM

Dear Committee Members,

Please reconsider the plan for a multi-use library facility downtown as recommended by the Downtown Library Advisory Committee. From what I have been able to read it seems to not only be an improved library option (collection space, available computers, teen space) but also have the advantages of being a multi-use space to benefit the community.

Thank you,

Jim Toohey
Coordinator of Vocational Services
The Bay School
1026 Capitola Road
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062
(831)462-9620 x322

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From: [John Hall](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 3:57:12 PM

Dear Members of the Library Subcommittee,

Because the [recent Downtown Forward email to its subscribers](#) contains a number of misleading, irrelevant or outright false statements, I am including their letter below [all bold type and underlinings are their emphasis] with **annotations to correct the record in red**. One has to wonder why they can't get their facts straight and make objective claims in emails to subscribers.

The Library Subcommittee will find it challenging to cut through the dross and make a solid reason-based decision. In my view, when the interests of the Library and urban planning for the Downtown as a whole are given their due, the most effective decision is to reconstruct the Library on its current site, following the proposal of Jayson Architects. I hope you will agree.

John Hall

The City Council Library Subcommittee recently received a report prepared by Jayson Architects, describing the reality of what could be built with Measure S bond funds at the site of the current downtown library. It's a dismal picture! **Partial demolition and renovation of the current facility, as described in this report, will NOT provide the library our community wants and desperately needs!**

This statement is ungrounded in any cited facts and exaggerated in its tone. The proposal of Jayson Architects does not yield a dismal picture. It offers a frank assessment of what portions of the existing structure can be used to reconstruct existing sound structures to create a 21st-century library.

We need you to contact the Library subcommittee members NOW, urging them to seek a more detailed analysis of the scenario unanimously recommended last year by the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) -- the mixed use approach which includes affordable housing and up to 47,000 square feet of library programming space.

The present library is already overbuilt in size, with an excessive proportion of its space, relative to library norms, devoted to staff space. The proposal of Jayson Architecture provides an efficient use of space for patrons, with far greater energy efficiency and lower operating costs than would be possible in any mixed-use plan. Reconstruction on site has other important advantages, notably, great access to natural light and the creation of outdoor areas of the library for patron and staff use.

It is not within the program criteria of the Downtown Library to build affordable

housing. Such housing is needed, but not within a library structure.

The Jayson report also described two other library options at the current site, but those were judged infeasible, so a **full cost estimate and site plan were only done for the demo/rehab scenario**. The short version of the report is this: Major elements of current library (built in 1968) are well past their useful lifetime and there are serious structural issues.

This is one of several completely irrelevant points in this misleading email: the Jayson plan does not use existing elements that have “structural issues” or are “past their useful lifetime.”

The demo-rehab scenario is also woefully insufficient in meeting the growing needs of our community, specifically:

- It would result in a library that actually has 30% less square footage than the current library.

As mentioned above, the existing library building has a disproportionate amount of staff space. Actually, the reduction is 28.2% according to the Jayson Architecture proposal. As you know from Jayson’s slide #29, they have proposed a careful retuning of library space, one that will use space efficiently and fulfill all library functions.

° It would require a 30 % reduction in library collections, affecting the entire 10-branch system.

Actually, libraries across the country are downsizing collections in our age of high technology, and this feature of the Jayson proposal simply embraces that broader trend.

- Teen space, a feature strongly supported by the community, would be practically non-existent.

As I indicated above, the Jayson proposal is smart in how it retunes the mix of library spaces. It reduces total patron space only very minimally, partly by combining lesser used activities within multi-function spaces. Jayson Architects made clear in their presentation that, if the City moves ahead with their basic plan, the allocation of spaces could be adjusted based on community input.

- A temporary facility would have to be rented while the new facility is under construction, costing the system millions of dollars in unbudgeted transition costs.

The basic point is certainly true, although the estimate seems exaggerated. A temporary facility must also have been used in the 1960s when the original Carnegie library was replaced by the present library. Bookshop Santa Cruz, after the 1989 earthquake, showed that book services can be provided in transitional structures, and there are presently unoccupied downtown structures that could be used. (Savings in yearly operating costs — discussed below — would more than make up for the funding of a temporary structure.)

- Access to computers, already in high demand, would be even less than it is now.

An unsubstantiated statement and one, like others, that assumes that details are cast in stone, whereas Jayson Architects emphasized that the plan would be refined with community input.

- The plan has no capacity to include affordable housing

Affordable housing is not in the remit of the Downtown Library, and building affordable housing does not depend on locating the Downtown Library in one location or another.

- Because of cost constraints, structural improvements would only be done to minimal standards and it would be a poor performing building environmentally.

Their final statement is also unsubstantiated, and it is one that would not stand up to even a superficial comparison with a mixed-use structure that would include up to 55.5% more library space [according to their 47,000 sq. ft. statement above]. Moreover, on the basis of per sq. ft. yearly operating costs, a fully functional library of a small size would inherently be environmentally better performing. Based on Library Director Susan Nemitz's request for \$10/sq.ft./year operating costs, approximately \$120,800 per year would be saved in the Jayson proposal versus the existing library, and even more compared to the proposed larger library in a parking garage. That amount of savings per year could fund a temporary facility and augment the library's construction budget for finishes, computers, etc.

[John R. Hall](mailto:John.R.Hall@ucdavis.edu)

Research Professor of Sociology

University of California - Santa Cruz and Davis

<https://sociology.ucsc.edu/about/directory-emeriti.php?uid=jhall5>

<https://ucdavis.academia.edu/JohnHall>

From: [Bob Lamonica](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); +dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com; +sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com; +jcummings@cityofsantacruz.com
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 12:22:54 PM

Hi There,

I support a new modern library, affordable housing, shared parking, and versatile civic space. I urge the council subcommittee obtain a full analysis of the library mixed use scenario and do the right thing!

Bob Lamonica

From: [Stacy Nagel](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2019 11:56:55 AM

Please seek a more detailed analysis of the scenario unanimously recommended last year by the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) -- the mixed use approach which includes affordable housing and up to 47,000 square feet of library programming space. Partial demolition and renovation of the current facility, as described in the Jayson Architects report, will NOT provide the library our community wants and desperately needs. I support a new modern library, affordable housing, shared parking, and versatile civic space. I urge you to obtain a full analysis of the library mixed use scenario and do the right thing!

Stacy Nagel

From: [John Hall](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Cc: [Downtown Commons Advocates](#)
Subject: Re: Please email Council Library Subcommittee!
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 6:03:29 PM

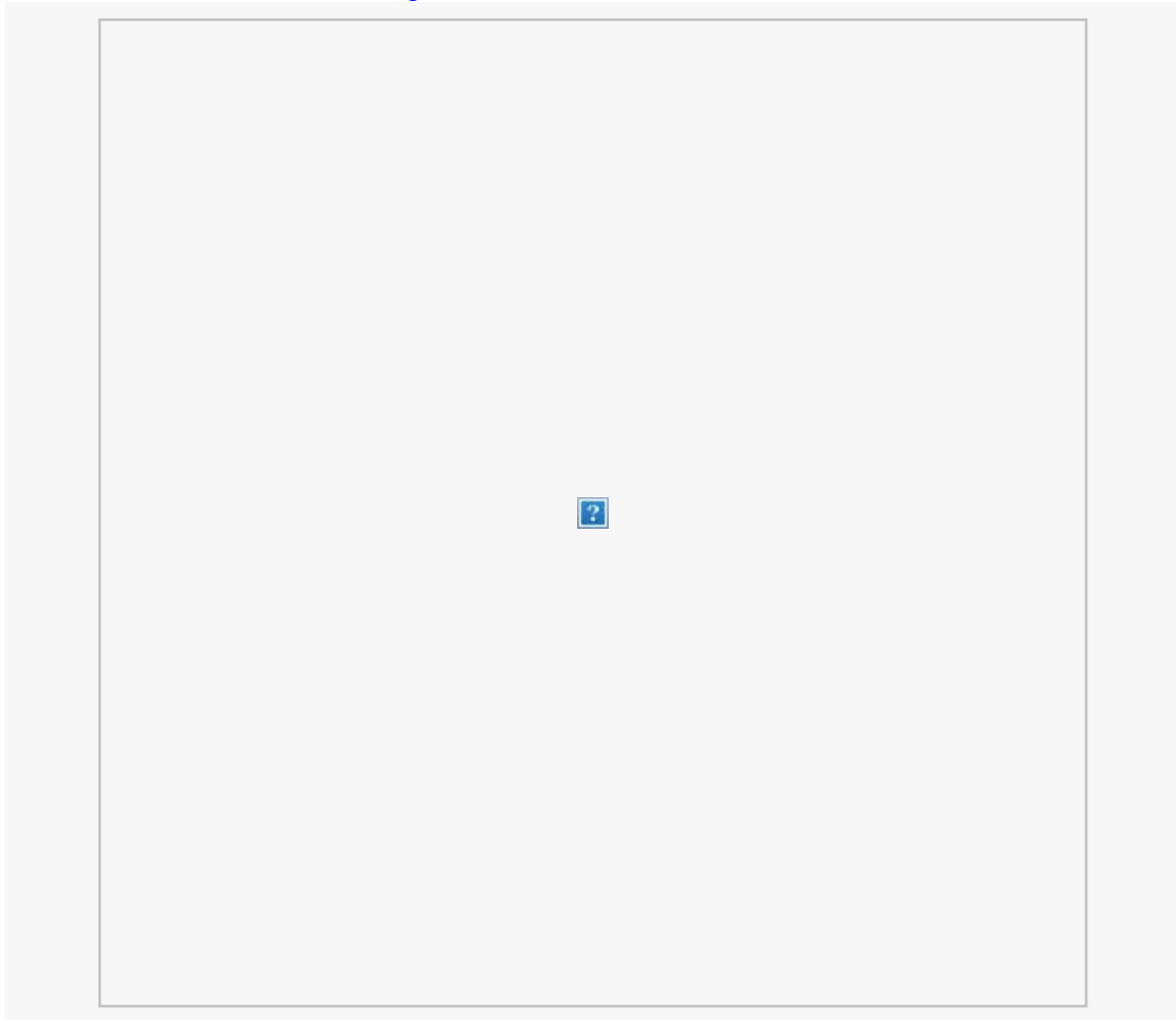
Dear Council Library Subcommittee,

Please make parking lot 4 a common (downtown commons) area and permanent farmers market.

Thanks, Rich Furnish

On Tue, Nov 19, 2019, 9:14 AM Downtown Commons Advocates

<downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com> wrote:



Downtown Commons Advocates

Time for action! Please help save the Farmers Market and lay the groundwork for a future Downtown Commons. Emailing is easy!

On October 24 the Santa Cruz City Council Library Subcommittee received [a preliminary report from Jason Architecture](#). It proposes a clear path forward, within budget, to get a first-class 21-century Downtown Library at the Civic Center. The alternative proposal would incorporate the \$27 million Measure S-funded library in an unneeded \$81 million 6-story parking garage covering the entirety of parking lot 4, where the Farmers' Market is now held. We will have a stronger, more vibrant downtown if we create a Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market there.

I hope you will share your views with the Subcommittee (Sandy Brown, Justin Cummings, Donna Meyers) as soon as possible. According to the current timeline, the Subcommittee will receive the final Jason Architecture report at a December 13th meeting and make a recommendation in time for a January City Council meeting. To email all 3 subcommittee members (plus their staff person, Amanda Rotella), just click the link below. The email message that you will then see has bullet points on the issues. You can either send the email as-is or create your own message, for example, by concentrating on one or two of the bullet point issues and deleting the others. Your own words are more powerful than just signing and sending on the bullet points, but any signal of support for a Downtown Commons on lot 4 helps. (We're interested in your views, and your email will cc Downtown Commons Advocates, but you may delete the cc email address if you wish.)

It's good to let the Subcommittee know if you are a Santa Cruz city resident or a visitor (from near or far) who enjoys coming to the Farmers' Market where it is. We need your support no matter where you are from.

Please add your advocacy for a Downtown Commons. Together, we will get this to happen!

John Hall

On behalf of Downtown Commons Advocates

[Click to email Library Subcommittee](#)

Click to visit [and like] our Facebook page!



We are a group of business and community members advocating for a permanent home to the Farmers Market at its current location in Downtown Santa Cruz.

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From: [Peter Thomas](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Re: survey
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 3:18:33 PM

Here is my letter to the sub committee.

I am a book artists who has visited libraries around the country. Libraries can be show pieces of a community and they can be gathering places and they can be places to support study. I support keeping the library in in its current location, making the best improvements possible with the money we have available. I don't see that Santa Cruz needs a showpiece library, but by keeping it where it is, we do have the start of a gathering place, a community center (when combined with the civic and the city government buildings).

I don't see that a library inside a parking structure, under housing, as either a show place or a gathering place. And who knows what the future holds... We heard a kid in the elevator of the Phoenix public library say to his mom: "Mom, I think in a few years this place is just going to be a museum of books." It is not impossible and the current structure would make a much nicer museum than the middle story of a parking structure.

Yours,

Peter Thomas
Cell phone # 831-515-2757

On Jun 4, 2020, at 3:00 PM, Amanda Rotella <ARotella@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Peter,

Thank you for your comments and for taking the survey. The subcommittee members worked hard to create a matrix of criteria that can be applied across both projects, which is why some of the criterion my apply to the mixed us project and some criterion to the renovation project.

You are welcome to provide any additional information in an email to the subcommittee members, but please be sure to copy me so that I can be tracking on the communication.

Sincerely,

Amanda

From: Peter Thomas [<mailto:peterandonna@cruzio.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Amanda Rotella <ARotella@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: survey

I just took the survey

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTCB4N25ptdFQYPottnz4l4bQ5KzikFSCFPFSpLgwPRhbzrQ/viewform>

This survey seems to be written for the option to build the library inside a new parking garage complex rather than for refurbishing the existing one. I support redoing the current library in its current space.

Is there another survey that is written for the option of leaving the library where it is?

Yours,

Peter Thomas

Cell phone # 831-515-2757

From: [Dean Silvers](#)
To: [Donna Meyers](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: remodel the public library; don't destroy the farmers' market site
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:30:47 AM

Dear City Council Members,

Most of us voters were under the impression that the library bonds were to be used to **remodel** the current downtown library. Few of us would have voted for that bond if we had thought that the funds would be used to abandon the current library site (with the present building to be "later" used for what?) and then build an enormous structure on the site used by the farmers' market, the antique fair, and other wonderful public events that so many of us treasure.

Having traveled the world, I have noticed that many old cities have farmers' markets to which residents can walk, with such places as Madrid and Paris having numerous farmers' markets! If you displace our downtown farmers' market, do you then expect folks to drive to the ones at UCSC or Cabrillo? How does making people more car dependent (for such basic necessities as food) help with lowering the carbon footprint of our town?

Besides this switch in plans that you are considering, there are also the associated and unknown additional costs that the new library site would require. There are additional reasons for NOT moving forward with that type of library project. It will create an enormous building. Car use is changing, with many people trying their best to be less dependent on automobile use. So, why is the "progressive" city of Santa Cruz spending so much money on a new parking garage? How does encouraging car use fit with the city's Climate Action Plan? And one wonders how well cars, a library, and housing will mix.

I bought my house near downtown Santa Cruz because I wanted to be near a place with a "village character." The proposed monstrosity will ruin the character of Cedar Street.

Please move forward with remodeling the current library and abandon this un-ecological, out-of-scale, and too costly idea of a mixed-use library/parking/housing structure on Parking Lot 4.

Thank you,
Dean Silvers
316 Myrtle St.
Santa Cruz

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Dean Silvers
316 Myrtle St.
Santa Cruz

From: [Judi Grunstra](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Subject: Respect for your time but also recognition of public
Date: Thursday, May 28, 2020 1:34:17 PM

Dear Justin, Donna, and Sandy,

I would like to respectfully request that you schedule one additional Zoom meeting between the June 2 Group 4 presentation and when you deliberate on the pros and cons of the two projects for the library.

To keep it focused on the two **library** proposals, the meeting could be limited to the public's comments on the proposals, rather than an open-ended time to hear yet again about the housing or garage portions of the project. Interested members of the public who have spent considerable time informing themselves about the specifics deserve an opportunity to share any discrepancies in the "apples to apples" figures, which we will study between the time of the June 2 meeting and the requested meeting.

Because of the lockdown of our city's usual public meeting places, many people who would have physically shown up at City Council meetings will likely not participate via Zoom. That will be even more unfortunate when it comes time for this item to appear on a full Council agenda. So please, at least give the public one additional opportunity to participate in this decision that has serious implications for downtown's future.

Thank you.

Judi Grunstra

From: [John Hall](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Cc: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#)
Subject: RFP/Q for library in the mixed-use garage
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 8:20:22 AM

Hello, Amanda,

I have heard that the Library Subcommittee is preparing to put out an RFP/Q concerning the predominant alternative to the Jayson Architecture proposal — building a library in a mixed-use garage structure on parking lot 4.

As I'm sure you know, such comparisons are tricky. I would think it appropriate to have the RFP/Q specify not only the cost estimation for the library as part the garage project, but also the library share of costs of the mixed-use project that will be necessary because of the inclusion of a library, i.e., infrastructure and services [water, sewage, etc.]. Beyond that, it would be important to know the cost of what the library would be getting provided with funding from other sources, e.g., the 'shell' structure, and where that funding is coming from.

Only with such information would it be possible to get a valid comparison of library costs across projects. To sum up, it is not simply the cost of tenant improvements borne by the Library system but all costs necessitated by construction of the library at that site, whether paid from Library sources or other sources.

Thanks, and let me know if you have any questions.

John

[John R. Hall](#)
Research Professor of Sociology
University of California - Santa Cruz and Davis
<https://sociology.ucsc.edu/about/directory-emeriti.php?uid=jhall5>
<https://ucdavis.academia.edu/JohnHall>

SAVING THE SOUL OF SANTA CRUZ

Guidelines for the Preservation of the Character, Historical Qualities and Beauty of Santa Cruz

Carmella Weintraub, November, 2017

It is said that the soul of a place is the sum total of the essence of its highest ideals and should be an expression of its commitment to the good, the true and the beautiful. This quality of soul comes only after the evolution through phases of its development, some of which is challenging and some a natural progress. Then, on both the personality level and the cultural level, integration comes and the soul essence solidifies into a clear and palpable sense of integrity and direction. After facing many changes and challenges in the last 25 years, I feel the soul of Santa Cruz in on the line and I want respectfully offer my perspective.

I came to Santa Cruz in 1969, the year of the Woodstock Festival, an event that heralded the arrival and growing strength of the counterculture and the beginning of the Aquarian Age. This coincided with my serendipitous landing in a town that seemed on the verge of virtually living the values of that time. I must say, I resonated. The energy here was so positive and real.

The town, which I had known since the 1940's – my great aunt and uncle lived in Paradise Park - had not changed that much since that time. It was still a sleepy little burg, full of senior citizens, retirees in their quaint little one of a kind cottages and students and faculty of the newly minted University and a main drag that sported some nice stores, Leaks and the Morris Abrams store in addition to the Cooper House and numerous small businesses.

I found a city that was bordered on one side by the Pacific Ocean and on the other by giant redwood forests. Between these was a magical strip, which included many charming homes and multiple historic public buildings, built between the Victorian age and the 1950's. In addition, there was a huge amusement part called the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, an iconic symbol of the natural and playful part of human nature. The City on the Hill, the University community, overlooked this whole picture. The arts community, music and entertainment and surfers, boaters and colorful hippies rounded out the palpable spirit of Santa Cruz.

How could one go wrong? Unparalleled pristine beauty, intelligence on the hill and creative energy all around. How could one resist all of that? I moved here. I was 30 years old, give or take a few, and made a life here, knowing this place was special. Finding a job in social services saved me from living on the edge in a place without a huge economic base to support its populace.

The scene blossomed in the 1970's, in the middle of some awesome cultural institutions, both of the Catalysts (old and new), the Cooper House, with live music and dancing by Ginger, Bookshop Santa Cruz, The Teacup Restaurant, the annual Spring Fair and lots and lots of live music groups, art and literary groups. People "owned" the town. Pacific Ave. was turned into the Pacific Garden Mall in 1968 (originally called Downtown Oasis) a plan inspired by Chuck and Esther Abbot.

The mall was basically a non-stop party of music, mirth and exchange of ideas and provided a place where town residents started to mix with University students and their professors, several of whom held forth at the Pergolesi coffee shop behind Bookshop Santa Cruz to lead a weekly forum of the latest ideological point of view. Hanging out at Logos book store was the pastime du

Jour. People were out in droves to see and be seen, to enjoy Don McCaslin, the Brothers Karamosov and to enjoy the radically individualistic social scene that was fueled by the general zeitgeist of the times. Tom Noddy, the Bubble Man, even made it to the Johnny Carson show.

It was a fun, unselfconscious time, and even with the advent of recreational drugs, it was still slow, but upbeat, rich and enjoyable, a culture of free spirits, unfettered by the strictures of a culture of conformity.

Perhaps feeding off of some present, but unacknowledged, understanding of what we really had here, social action began to take place in the mid- 1970's, focused on preserving the natural settings of Santa Cruz, for all time. During this magnificent period, many Open Spaces were saved for the enjoyment of future generations. Pogonip was saved and annexed by the City in 1978 and would not be developed for housing. In 1974, a committed group of Santa Cruz citizens organized to keep Wilder Ranch from the ravages of north coast development. Later, in 1978, Lighthouse Point was saved, also from development, and later converted to a State Park, a status which endures until now providing perhaps the most beloved gathering spot in our city. Even later in the '70s Arana Gulch became a permanent greenbelt and would remain committed to its pristine original nature- green, wet and wild.

Money was beginning to creep into the culture of Santa Cruz, but not in a greedy or ostentatious way. Houses on Westcliff were sold and other large ones built but still, there was the original feeling of Santa Cruz. A place for many people, visitors and residents alike to enjoy a place of rest, rejuvenation, relaxation and renewal. It was a magical time and things were about to change dramatically.

At the end of the 1980's, there occurred a sudden and major shift. The Loma Prieta earthquake hit, decimating the Pacific Garden Mall and killing 3 people. I was downtown with my young children at the time and witnessed this tragic event. The damage was so extensive that the Mall lost its Historic status because 19 of 36 buildings that qualified for the appellation just two years prior to the quake were lost. Future generations would never see the examples of 1890s to 1929 architecture. The Cooper House, deemed unsafe by City officials, came down, despite the protests of hundreds of tearful onlookers.

This loss was a metaphor for much more that was lost in the Earthquake because in the ensuing years many aspects of Santa Cruz changed. In the nanoseconds following the earthquake, the town was plunged into a crisis of major proportions. The town was in shambles and soon so was the spirit of Santa Cruz. We had lost our center.

Very quickly, outside professional urban planning consultants were called in to consult on what our town should look like, despite their lack of familiarity as to what the DNA of Santa Cruz had always been. Our hip little town soon became a "chic" little town and started a trend that was to continue until this very day.

After the earthquake, the local ambience and architecture changed very rapidly and often surprisingly with less public input than was probably fair. Costco, our first city big box store, opened in 1994. A few years later, in a sudden departure from our historic heritage, Gateway Center opened in 1997, much to the chagrin of the small business owners who had their charming and historic buildings knocked down. Replacing these historic businesses with what turned out to be a strip mall in the shape of a square, housing businesses at the gateway to our town, in non-descript box like stores with no apparent nod to the look and feel of our town. As if that were not enough shock. Soon modern design, coupled with a garish green

paint on metal standards, appeared in the form of lighting on River St., ostensibly to create a welcoming look to the historic center of town. In the opinion of many citizens, this goal was never achieved.

There were many shocked people, including myself, but as local architect –activist Mark Primack stated, at the time, after only two people showed up at the design review planning meetings, “the citizens of Santa Cruz will get what they deserve”. I am recalling all of this because I believe we are at a similar juncture now. If we don’t get actively involved in setting the course of development in this town, we will again be the recipients of something we do not want nor deserve.

After this particular surprise, more change came about and currently continues to come about, fast and furiously as the City fathers (and mothers) move quickly to fill in every empty space in Santa Cruz city limits with high density potentially generically designed “infill”, a phenomenon that is currently in process now, led by the Santa Cruz City Council and City Planners.

To that end, currently on the table or in process are these projects:

- The Corridor Plan, putting high density, tall and bulky buildings and hotels on Ocean St. Soquel Ave, Water St. as well as Mission St.
- The Active Transportation Plan, a plan containing 260 separate projects all over the city to encourage bicycle and walking transportation and safety. Some of the projects disturb neighborhood unity, safety and aesthetics with signage and changes the neighborhood residents do not want to see in their established places of habitation. Other projects invite unbidden crime to enter quiet neighborhoods that are particularly vulnerable.
- The Wharf Plan, potentially putting high density, tall buildings on the wharf, creating issues in congestion, questionable aesthetics and future dangers if sea levels do rise, this plan will permanently ruin the sightlines of the historic Monterey Bay.
- The Hyatt hotel in place of the former Unity Church, out of place in this particular crowded neighborhood with congested streets.
- Potentially moving the present downtown **City Library** to the space displacing the Farmer’s Market and putting in a multilevel parking garage where none currently exists, at that site. Not only will this disrupt community life, but it will further change the ambience of the downtown area, creating further unsightly and dense concrete jungle-like experience there. It is also a betrayal of the children and young people who will be affected by an urban library which is not on a physical scale to their size. Small is beautiful and so are our young people. Remember also, that our library is for everyone, including the homeless. Our downtown area will still have plenty of empty buildings for City of Santa Cruz employees who have been very patient with the lack of cohesive planning for appropriate offices for them to work from.
- Increased non-aesthetic designs (so far) on the planned San Lorenzo River high-end housing development. No plan for controlling aesthetics (eg. Neo-Navajo and excessively modernistic designs which have no visible relationship with the heritage of Santa Cruz)._

- Increased development of the tech industry coupled with high speed Internet cable and 5G networks across our city.
- Destruction of more historical housing and buildings, especially on high profile streets.
- More freeway lanes going to and from Watsonville, yielding more pollution and greenhouse gases. Coming in 202, as well as a needless Rail trail.
- Private development of housing that does not meet the economic needs of most local citizens, low income and homeless populations.
- Allowing cell phone towers all over our county on public right of ways. Verizon leased from Crown Castle, all private corporations and the City has not attended to the health of its citizens in reference to not objecting to the ubiquitous and dangerous towers.

Why is this all-important and where are we going with this? And why?

What can we do?

Taken together and followed by potentially more changes, these planned projects would change the face of our city in radical ways. We need to determine our personal response to these intended changes and act on our convictions on behalf of all stakeholders, including visitors and future children. We need, as a community, to take stock of exactly what values we hold dear and exactly what we are losing by not honoring these values.

First, let's be clear, these concerns are not about maintaining the status quo or about nostalgia. They are about maintaining our spiritual, aesthetic and moral center in the face of an increasingly inhuman environment which is killing people and compromising the sanity of many us of citizens, young and old and obliterating natural resources and open space.

There are many practical issues associated with planned changes for Santa Cruz, many of which are long term concerns. First, can the infrastructure we have now support new development, especially those that will house many residents or visitors? Currently, our infrastructure of roads, sidewalks and buildings need repairing before money is spent on private development. Secondly and importantly, can we continue to supply water and other resources to new development and still service existing citizens? While new hotels can support the sagging tax base, the concern that current water users have is valid. We have contributed here for years. Thirdly, why are taxes not levied on the multi-million-dollar homes that are being built? The alternative, sales tax, creates an overdependence on materialism and shopping. Fourthly, how are all economic levels of citizens going to be able to remain here to enliven the mix of cultures and points of view we have historically enjoyed?

These are all valid, reality-based concerns for our citizens but there are also meta-issues which cannot be addressed at town hall meetings and these involve concerns that are often talked about in private conversations and they affect a large constituency of residents, visitors and future generations of same. Let me express, as a long-term resident of this town, how I experience the many hidden values of our town and what we can do to save these before it is too late.

I feel Santa Cruz (Holy Cross) is a sanctuary, a holy sacred space for all who venture into these environs. The operative word here is ALL. Over the years, we have developed something special here and Santa Cruz' charm and values are a magnet for people all over the United States and the world as well. I submit that Santa Cruz is a center of counter culture for a reason and is known

worldwide for the way we live. As our mainstream culture speeds up, creates crowded, concrete communities overloaded with technology and cars and speed, we have maintained a commitment to something slower, saner and unique. It is perhaps a one-of-a-kind experience. Indeed, Santa Cruz IS an experience, a state of mind that is almost indescribable. We have much to offer a world-weary population and we must adhere to the core values and the gifts we offer to the planet. And they are many. Our human lives actually rely on the necessity of regeneration, relaxation, recreation and rest. Our nervous systems actually demand this and the price we pay for not adhering to these necessities is illness, sometimes severe and often expressed as continuing low grade stress.

We have many healers here and it is, in my opinion, because we are a healing community. People need what we have, all people. We must remain faithful to the part we play in healing the homeless, the frazzled, the young and the restless and let's not forget our seniors, the original inhabitants of this retirement community. We owe this to them as well as our children and future generations.

The chance to experience nature at its finest on miles of currently protected beaches and hundreds of square miles of redwood forests is priceless and nurturing and is, in essence, the basis of our healing atmosphere. The pace in Santa Cruz is not syncopated or staccato but, instead, more lyrical and softly entrained to the rhythm of the ocean and its playful inhabitant creatures. *This* is our DNA. Nature is our "brand" and in keeping with that, countless human beings can remain a *natural* human and even more can come here and remember what it is to be fully human. Through the enjoyment of our natural resources, we can experience the joyful and natural state that is evoked by our beautiful beaches and the countless other recreational opportunities that our environment offers.

In a time when cultural mania is increasing to megalomania and the metropolis becomes megalopolis; we have an example, here, of how to balance this trend. Hyperactivity is a national illness and it is up to us to remain a clear beacon for an alternative way to live. Indeed, Santa Cruz has the ability to provide an active model for a viable life-style alternative. A lot is riding on our commitment to modeling how it is to be fully human, related to nature, to each other and our fellow inhabitants of the planet. In these meta-respects, we *are* a model city.

Coupled with our natural resources, our University culture and our small, human size homes and public buildings, each with its individual look, we have created a culture of connected individualism, environmental sanity and ecological consciousness. Artists, musicians, creators, imaginers, young and old, people of diverse orientations, rich and poor, come together to create a culture of character and diversity which is unmatched anywhere. Why would we want to ruin this by importing any of the insanity that is what ruins most other large communities. To do so would, in and of itself, be insanity of the highest order.

We should not become a Silicon Beach. We do not need to be a bedroom community of Silicon Valley and we do not necessarily need to grow. We should not become Monterey and we are not Carmel with its quaint arts community. We simply need to continue to be ourselves and honor what has come to be an amazing place centered as we are on the edge of the Pacific Rim.

I believe we are here with a spiritual charge to balance the insanity of the techno, bureaucratic, corporate industrial complex. With the protection of the forest on one side and the sea on the other, we are a virtual island of sanity. We are a true oasis of intelligence and creation and beacon of individual freedom to each be who we are as essence and to also share in the rich and diverse community that we share. We must as what we can do to retain the paradise that we have. In the

spirit of dialogue, I humbly offer the following suggestions to perhaps stimulate a discussion about how we can help maintain a commitment to existing beauty and value in this town,

OUR TASKS

- Support activities and leaders who will not gentrify, technologize, monetize or materialize (nor caffeinate) our community nor exploit human or natural resources to these ends.
- Support the continuance of spiritual development and higher consciousness here, thus encouraging each individual to reach his or her full potential.
- Support spontaneous grass roots level creativity, especially collaborative kinds of projects and events for all ages and stages of life.
- Support those activities which do not exploit our natural and historic collective resources on behalf of a few, whether that is government, private citizens or outside developers.
- Support aesthetic building and public art and design which is in keeping with our historic legacy. This entails keeping the landscape “low rise” as opposed to high rise.
- Support those policies which do not allow crowding out the citizens of this area who are operating in the lower socio-economic levels.
- Support those changes which do not increase speed, concrete, cars or exclusive money. Economic development must be based on values of economic moderation and inclusiveness of all levels.
- Support activities, people and policies that allow us to keep our natural rhythm, size and connectivity. Choose that which supports harmony, diversity, inclusiveness and diversity.
- Support the development of a process for ongoing public input and voting on each proposed development that has the capacity to change the DNA of our community. Encourage referendum process.
- Support density in what is already here, change zoning laws to allow development of the many small outbuildings that abound in the city of Santa Cruz.
- Support individuals to accept responsibility and accountability for the role he or she plays in the evolution of our planet and indeed, our very existence.
- This includes responsibility for not over-populating the planet, for not condoning any form of violence or brutality and for respecting all beings as worthy of dignity and acceptance.
- Support citizen oversight of small cell 5G networks which will affect the health of all citizens, but especially the young, the old and the sensitive, vulnerable populations.

We need to unify our energies and goals for this town and listen closely to every voice. The planet and we have a lot at stake. It is not too late to save what we have created in this village by the sea. We are capable of leading the nation in propagating values that lead to quality human lives as well as the other kingdoms with whom we share the planet, lives unburdened by values not

developed in our true interests- that of being happy, healthy and connected with our whole planet and Universe.

Lastly, it is important that we elect leaders who understand the language of the soul. This means making collaborative decisions and working through a channel of what *feels* right, not only what a few *thinks* is right. Leaders need to listen carefully to all citizens who choose to speak up and it is my feeling that it needs to be longer than 2 or 3 minutes per speaker (as it currently stands in the City Council). Santa Cruz people know the language of the soul and we need to speak up on behalf of what we might lose if we don't make our values known. We have way too much to lose if we stay silent. Many citizens, present and future are depending on us to serve the highest good of all.

Carmella Weintraub Carmella@got.net

**Mixed Use-Renovation Decision Criteria Suggestions for Library
Subcommittee
Submitted by Tim Willoughby**

Library

Which option(s) provide:

- a. the most cost effective use of the limited budget
- b. which option(s) make the most effective/efficient use of city land
- c. which option(s) allow for repurposing of other city-owned properties for mixed use housing
- d. which option(s) provide space for retaining existing functions: county-wide library collection, children's area, teen area, Veterans counseling, Genealogy, community meeting space
- d. which options(s) enhance or add to the above existing functions
- e. which options(s) provide the best , most functional and efficient, staff work space
- f. which option(s) are best for security considerations
- g. which option(s) have the lowest operating/maintenance expenses
- h. which options(s) have the best potential for energy efficiency/green building
- i. which option(s) would provide the best space and accessibility for presentations, events, etc.
- h. which option(s) provide the maximum square footage for the library
- i. which option(s) provide the opportunity for the library to be solar powered
- j. which option(s) provide the best ability to comfortably serve a variety of user groups and activities

Affordable Housing

Which option (s) have the most potential for providing affordable housing using city land site(s)

Which option(s) allow for repurposing of other city-owned properties for mixed use housing

Parking

- a. Which option(s) address the coming loss of parking spaces on leased properties
- b. Which option(s) best provide for library staff and patron parking
- c. Which option(s) provide the most parking for future occupants of housing, employees, and patients of health care facilities planned for lower Pacific Ave.

Other

- a. Which option(s) are most consistent with Santa Cruz social justice values for: the homeless, low-wage workers, low-wage commuting workers, the handicapped, children, seniors, working families

b. Which option(s) have the most potential for a long-term vision for downtown including: businesses providing job opportunities, expansion/rehabilitation of lower Pacific Ave, viable permanent location for Farmers Market

c. Which option(s) are located closest to the downtown METRO transit center
d. Which option(s) augment downtown businesses that provide a major portion of the city's tax base for its operating budget

e. Which option(s) would be the most likely to encourage fundraising donations should it be necessary to cover construction overruns or for upgrading the base level of library amenities (like wood enhancements, carpeting, lighting fixtures, more space, etc.)

From: [Debra Jones](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: survey on downtown library
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 11:49:00 AM

Amanda-

I'm including my comments on the survey here. I'm not sure why the survey was constructed as it is, but it doesn't allow a selection of the respondents' ranked priorities, but it does allow comments. I am pasting my comments into this email, not to be obnoxious or rude, but I feel the library subcommittees and Friends of the SCPL and the Library director have been so set on a certain direction that they fail to hear legitimate criticisms of their basic assumptions. For reference, I suggest you listen to or read Stephen Kessler's commentaries on the downtown library/parking fiasco in the Santa Cruz Sentinel. Many people I speak with seem to feel that the city has a plan, specifically for the present library's location, and for the downtown flat parking lots that they are not forthcoming about. Thus, I feel that the needs of a downtown library branch are being railroaded by city management for their other unstated goals.

As I believe I pointed out in my comment's below, the city's overarching problems are not an insufficient library (although it would be great to have a nice new remodeled building), but a growing and as yet unsolved homeless issue. I've watched this problem grow, from the 70's when first worked downtown to now when most people avoid the downtown branch for this reason. The present library director seems to think it is the responsibility of the library to service, house, and support the needs of the homeless. I question this assumption. The library will define itself in that role, and that is what it will become, and that is not the highest and best use of the library or the direction I believe a 21st century library should go. I don't want to see the library become the hapless inheritor of the community wide social problems. If that happens, the literacy and literary and learning needs of the community will be unmet.

My comments:

The downtown library should not be a homeless day care center. If there are to be open and free computer terminals for anyone to use, let them be at a different location. A certain number to be used for library related purposes is necessary. Santa Cruz first needs to take care of its homeless problem before creating a new improved space for people who have nowhere else to go all day. Otherwise, the downtown branch will be taken over again, as it is presently. I estimate only 10% of the people in the library are using the facilities that only a library can provide. The other 90% could be better served in a Starbucks with free coffee.

Check the book stacks, check the circulation numbers, do a survey on who uses the library and why. A wishlist of what a perfect library might offer is irrelevant to our population and the needs and problems we have. All of the above criteria are very nice, but they beg the problems that we have.

I am a retired librarian, working at the downtown branch from 1976 to 1990, later working at Cabrillo and UCSC. I've voiced these opinions before, to the library director and to the Friends of the SCPL. The library subcommittee is falling into the same trap that the RTC is in pursuing the rail line through our community-- too much time spent on the nuances of an ill-conceived idea in the first place. Step back and really consider the needs, not just how to spend dollars that we don't have yet, and may never see.

A new parking garage that houses a library (homeless day care center) perhaps fits into the city government's long term plan for surface parking lots (eventually turned into multi-story low income housing). There is no transparency on what the city plans to do with the existing library. The library where it is now is perfectly situated. Problems with asbestos and seismic instability will confront the city when they want to remodel it for more city staff offices, or whatever is the ultimate plan. There is no reason to remove an existing city open space, currently used for a farmers market, to build unnecessary parking. There is no reason to assume the city will need more parking downtown in the future. I would hope that the city would be trying to decrease driving and parking downtown by making it more pedestrian friendly and encouraging alternative transportation means. Those should be the primary environmental concerns.

I think the library planners have made the assumption that the present library needs to be bigger. It does not need more book stack areas; reserves and a rotating collection would suffice. The need for open computer space does not need to be entirely solved by the library. Open meeting spaces, outdoor spaces, designated and safe children's spaces are necessary. The genealogical library could be housed elsewhere (it used to be at the Branciforte branch). A maker's space? is this a designated library need? Maybe that should be at a Boys and Girls club. There is much wasted space in the current library, space that used to be used by reference which is no longer a service provided. Again-take a look at who uses the books in the stacks. For the direction the library is presently going, the book stacks could more usefully be employed as bunk beds for the homeless. Seriously.

Thank you for your efforts and for listening
Debra

From: nelsontrio@cruzio.com
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#); [City Council](#); library_admin@santacruzpl.org
Subject: The long future of our downtown library, and the climate
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:42:01 PM

Hello Councilmembers Cummings, Meyers, and Brown,

Thank you appreciatively, for your service to the public on the City Council and you three on the Downtown Library Council Subcommittee, especially in this time of such heightened challenges.

Myself, I am a 40-year resident of the City of Santa Cruz, (and pre-covid-19) a frequent downtown library patron, and shop the downtown farmers market. I am retired from professional public service as an environmental planner and land use planner. I've been paying attention over time, to the details about the downtown library and the proposal to raise up a new downtown parking garage, the latter now with the additional lure of housing brought in, I feel, as further cover for what remains a fundamentally mistaken garage idea.

I urge your subcommittee to recommend to the full City Council that the downtown library be improved in-place as we Measure S "Yes!" voters expected, with the Jayson Architects investigation of possibilities as an auspicious start. That would also not foreclose the future possibility of a permanent downtown commons and farmers market improvements at Lot 4.

For added sunlight, please let's have Nelson/Nygaard's Downtown Parking Strategic Plan finally presented to the City Council and the public.

I've watched the shifting rationales being offered for downtown parking garage proposals over time. Still, the parking consultants have recommended other approaches.

Institutional automobilism (excessive reliance on automobiles) and institutional racism may both be seen as destructive diseases, just very different ones. I carry the concern that destabilizing the planet's climate, essentially "forever," is on course for being the most titanic, if not also ultimately the ugliest, harm ever caused by human beings against other human beings. The time to stop acquiescing to automobilism, in a system overdosing on fossil fuels, was yesterday. A major new City investment in a downtown parking structure—a monument to automobiles—isn't just fiscally dubious; it's morally wrong. It would be an anticipation of failure on full climate action.

In mid-2020 we cannot afford to let thinking from the past be our guide. Courage and vision for a livable future are needed.

regards,

Jack Nelson
127 Rathburn Way
Santa Cruz CA 95062
(831) 429-6149

cc: Library staff, please pass this to attention of Director Susan Nemitz and Asst. Director Eric Howard

From: [Nona Golan](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: The power of the Downtown Commons!
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 11:38:33 AM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

Our news nowadays are filled with a stream of turmoil with the impacts of our societies political and environmental vices. Politicians in the higher echelons of the American federal government are facing sincere criticism for their lack of representation in their communities.

Santa Cruz is different.

We do need to remember the community we have here is something that rarely exists in the rest of the United States. Most definitely in the world. Please consider that the creation of a downtown commons would empower the culture that the world is missing the most now; one of collaboration between the members of communities within their natural spaces.

We don't need a parking garage in order to make our city more environmentally critical of the use of cars being the top sources of pollution in cities around the world.

Be the voice of this frontier, one that dates back from the indigenous communities of California to the Grecian direct democracies in the Mediterranean. History is blatant to those who wish to acquaint themselves with it, and it points to the fallacies of our modern approach at fostering a community of collaboration, consideration, and cognition of how it is we can best function as people in the natural world.

We are trying to expand on this opportunity to bring together our community members and indulge in educating ourselves, sharing our passions, deepening our connection to the city as a home that deserves our care and intention, and taking the steps towards fostering a vibrant and successful city of Santa Cruz.

Not as contributors to the emissions of cars in such a small area, networked through public transport. Not through concrete structures that offer a value that we don't really need in a community already mirroring and expanding upon the wealth inequality of the whole American economy. We have everything we need already at the table.

Let's find some real solutions to our problems, not its symptoms.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

Sincerely,

Nona Golan

She/Her

University of California, Santa Cruz

Sociology & Cultural Anthropology B.A.

Kresge Common Ground Center Student Coordinator

UCSC Recreation Volunteer

Email: ngolan@ucsc.edu

From: [Judi Grunstra](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Donna Meyers](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Transparency is crucial
Date: Monday, June 1, 2020 9:46:00 AM

Dear Sub-Committee Members:

As I examined the Group 4 report, it became obvious that there are many statements made which the public deserves the right to respond to. How can we be assured, in the absence of any "virtual" public meeting, that each member of the sub-committee will take the time to consider the concerns submitted by many members of the public? The survey that asks people to evaluate the criteria is a separate matter.

The report (Option C) outlines areas of the library predicated on the availability of an additional 5,280 sq ft that would be provided by the sale of "air rights." Without that, Option C would have 31,465 sq ft, vs. the Jayson project's 30,230 sq ft, not a significant difference.

An "apples to apples" comparison should have been what Group 4 would design with 31,465 sq ft. The DLAC certainly was not made aware of "air rights". According to Group 4, the city council would have to decide on the air rights. When would that decision occur and based on what? Additionally, in the Executive Summary, "the number of floors would be determined in the future". When? When would the general public be able to see the building's massing? Or be made aware of compromises regarding market-rate housing vs. affordable housing units?

These are essential questions that I would hope you would examine thoroughly (not to mention exploration of the funding sources for the non-library components, which seems unstable at this point in time). We do know how much money is guaranteed by Measure S, and can see how the Jayson project would use it to bring about a library that will serve the community well. Given these critical issues, and the ever-narrowing time frame in which to begin work, I am hoping you will choose to rebuild the library at its existing location. You will have retained Lot 4 for its potential future use. Remember, Martin Bernal stated in 2017 (at a DLAC meeting, I believe) that the garage (now a "mixed use" project) was not dependent on having the library as a tenant.

Thank you.

Judi Grunstra

From: [Alexandra White](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Library renovation, yes. Parking garage, no.
Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 9:02:51 PM

{this message being resent as original was not signed}

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

I have been a resident of Santa Cruz for almost thirty years, during which time I have enjoyed both the downtown branch of the library and the farmers market.

I recently reviewed the slide presentation for the proposed downtown library renovation and was very favorably impressed. The transformation of the children's area is particularly remarkable -- so open and filled with light. Overall, the reconfiguration of the space is both thoughtful and practical, and makes good use of the existing building. In fact, having discovered how much of the library was used for storage and for system-wide administrative space, it would not be hard to make an argument that the proposed remodel actually makes better use of the library space.

I particularly noted Jayson Architects reconfiguration of the library's main entrance to face the City Hall complex, which better unites the library to our civic spaces.

Another of our vital civic -- and community -- spaces is the Farmers Market. I have seen this market grow over the years, and have been delighted with the food truck expansion. From my early years in Santa Cruz when I roamed the market registering voters it has been a pleasure to see how the sense of community is embodied in the weekly market. The current location is both accessible and expandable, and with a relatively small investment could be significantly enhanced and a model for other communities.

By contrast, the proposal to build another multi-story parking garage in the middle of downtown and our civic spaces makes no sense to me, for several reasons. If we were to need more parking, then having it on the perimeter (rather than the heart) of downtown would be better from a traffic management perspective. That aside, there is considerable doubt about the necessity of more parking, and alternatives to reduce demand may eliminate, or at least significantly forestall, the need for a garage. Should future need actually materialize, the existing garage at Front & River St would seem a better location for an expanded facility.

Further, in light of the recently declared fiscal emergency, it would not seem prudent to commit to payments on over \$80 million in bonds if less costly alternatives exist -- in the form of improved public transportation and other driving alternatives. Pursuing these alternatives is also the environmentally sound choice.

Measure S funds were supported by the electorate to improve our library system; we have those funds now for the downtown library, and we have a proposal that is within budget. We also have the option of library enhancements using excess Parking District funds. Neither option requires the city to undertake more debt.

I urge you to recommend the proposal as presented by Jayson Architects for a renovated library. Thank you.

Lexi White
Santa Cruz

From: [Martha Dexter](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [+dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com](#); [+sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](#); [+jcummings@cityofsantacruz.com](#)
Subject: Library Subcommittee -- Reaction to Jayson report
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 9:50:57 AM

Hello, City Council Library Subcommittee,

I write today to express my disappointment with the library renovation plan laid out in the Jayson report. It is clear that this option is woefully inadequate to the expressed need of the Santa Cruz community for a 21st century library as determined in the DLAC survey of library patrons. From that survey, it was determined that we need at least 44,000 sqf of space to sustain robust library programs, collections, and services, including expanded teen and children services, the genealogy center, expanded meeting rooms, and collections.

The Jayson report indicates that the library would actually LOSE space and be reduced to just 30,000 sqf. There is no room for the full collection and services of the genealogy center and only a small space for teens. Furthermore, collections would be reduced by 30% and a smaller building with fewer programs and services will necessitate staffing cuts.

Also the building would only be brought up to minimum specs. It is in such bad shape that a full renovation isn't even feasible with the funds available. Plus this plan doesn't even take into account the costs of closing the library for 2 years.

Why settle for something so limited when we have an opportunity to leverage our funds into something really suitable for our community. Communities across the country are finding that mixed use projects offer the best use of public funds. Why waste our precious Measure S funds on trying to make an inadequate building barely habitable when we could use all the funds on library-specific building features.

Now is the time to seek a more detailed analysis of the mixed use project recommended by the Downtown Library Advisory Committee. This option should be given the same kind of respectful analysis that the renovation option received.

Thank you for your attention to this critical need in our community.

Martha Dexter
Resident of Santa Cruz City

From: [lisa.ortiz](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Library Subcommittee-- please do it right
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 2:08:58 PM

Dear Library Subcommittee,

Thank you for your service to the community. As a long-time Santa Cruz resident, writer, reader, teacher and mother, I cannot tell you excited I have been about your work revamping the library.

Please, please do not do it half way with a partial renovation and demolition.

Santa Cruz is a progressive city, and we citizens depend on you to fight for progressive change for ALL our citizens. We need to a space for teens! We need affordable housing! We really need contemplative public space! Public Libraries serve a purpose that cathedrals used to— an non-commercial public space for understanding and development.

Please look in a more detailed way at the unanimously recommended DLAC scenario.

We are counting on you to take our city forward.

Thank you!
Lisa Allen Ortiz

From: [Renee Golder](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Library
Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 6:29:19 PM

Dear Library Sub Committee:

My Name is Renee Golder and I am the RtI (Response to Intervention) Coordinator at Bay View Elementary in Santa Cruz City Schools. In my current role I am in charge of academic assessment and intervention for kids at my TK-5 school. My primary focus is making sure every child who leaves Bay View is reading at grade level. I've been a teacher in various grades K-12, and schools throughout the county since 2001. I would like to say I represent the viewpoint of many teachers in the city and also, countywide.

In SCCS we have approximately:

- 7000 Students, K-12
- 420 Certificated teachers, librarians, administrators
- 300 Classified staff

I think we can all agree that education is the great equalizer in life. We have the good fortune to be living in the United States and our children have access to free and appropriate education Tk-12; and now 14 if you count the 2 free years being offered at Cabrillo!

Elementary school for me is all about learning to read, so when a student moves on, they are really reading to learn.

Many families at Bay View use the public library as a quiet place to do homework, check out books or audio books, and participate in the summer reading program. Families use the computers and internet when they don't have that at home. We even have the downtown branch set up a booth at our Fiesta de las Artes free community event. We have classes take field trips there to get library cards and learn about the resources available all free of charge. As a teacher I also check out books or sets of books when I know it's something that will serve the kids. To me, and the kids and families, teachers and staff I represent the library is a gathering place, and somewhere we can simply find out more.

Last May, One 5th grade student was posed with the question: "What star on the US flag represented California?" to my astonishment she did not simply "Google" the answer. Instead, after school she went to the downtown library, found a book on flags, checked it out, and

brought it back to show the group.

Growing up in Bonny Doon, I spent many hours at the downtown library as a child doing research, checking out books, and meeting friends to work on projects in High School. Not every person who uses the library is able to bike, walk or take the bus and the idea of more parking downtown appeals to me for that reason.

Rebuilding the library at the site of the current parking lot downtown is a brilliant idea as far as I'm concerned. It will be a resource to the community for generations to come. We will be leaving a legacy that the people of Santa Cruz value reading, learning, research, community, and equity. That we want to preserve all of this in a special place for decades to come. Building this library is not just a gift to us, but a gift to our great-grandchildren as well.

Finally I've recently read an article by author and literacy expert, Laura Robb titled: Volume in Reading Still Matters! And I'd like for you to consider the following excerpt.

According to a study in The Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2, editors: Susan Neuman and David Dickinson, (page 31, 2006), in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio of age-appropriate books per child is one book for every 300 children. This data supports the 1996 findings of the IEA's Reading Literacy in the U.S. Study by Marilyn Brinkley, which showed that 61% of low-income families had no books at all in their homes for children. Since many families don't have books at home, the responsibility falls to teachers and the school librarian to encourage students to take books home during the summer, on school nights, weekends, and over holidays. If you want your students to love reading, to choose reading at school and at home, they need continuous access to a wide range of books that will keep them engaged year-round.

It's time educators brought access and equity to all children, regardless of socioeconomic status—to those who read well or are still developing and to all cultural backgrounds. The magic bullet, the quick fix, doesn't exist. To become readers, children need to read books they can choose and books that are relevant to their lives! Yes, reading volume matters!

Respectfully,

Renee Golder

--

Renee Golder
831-425-1855

From: [Beverly Jennings](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019 12:49:07 AM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

In your recommendations concerning the Downtown Library, please reserve Parking Lot 4 as the site of a future Downtown Commons and permanent Farmers' Market! Here are the issues I consider most important.

*I want a central downtown community public space with a permanent Farmers' Market. Parking Lot 4, with its size, trees, and afternoon sunlight is far better used in this way than for a parking garage, with or without a library.

*There is not enough projected parking demand to justify an \$81 million dollar (\$2.7 million/year for 30 years) mixed-use garage structure: the City staff projection overestimates future parking demand; as staff has acknowledged, it does not take into account parking rate restructuring, Jump bikes, Uber and Lyft, the City's downtown employee bus pass program, and other factors that will decrease demand.

*I want a first-class library, but NOT in a place that undermines the 2017 Downtown Plan, which promotes the "village" character of Cedar Street.

*There is a timely path forward for the Library without pursuing a risky partnership in an unneeded \$81 million parking garage. Jayson Architects have presented a plan for a viable and attractive 21st-century library on its existing site and within the funds voters approved for it with the Measure S bond measure. Let's move ahead with the Library there!

*The Downtown Library costs exceeding Measure S funds would be subsidized by Parking District revenues if it were included as part of a garage structure; Parking district funds could similarly be used to enhance the Jayson Architects proposal for the Downtown Library on its present site.

*The Council's November 2018 declaration of a climate emergency encourages decisions that move away from actions like increasing infrastructure for CO2 producing vehicles. A parking structure on the scale envisioned is ecologically unsustainable.

*Building an \$81 million parking garage cannot be justified by including a small number of small sq. ft. affordable housing units, which will now be more expensive given the loss of AB411 funds. Cost savings from not building an expensive garage can be used to leverage affordable housing construction elsewhere to increase downtown density and vitality.

*The 2017 Downtown Plan has an unrealized goal of creating public space that can best be fulfilled at Parking Lot 4.

*A Downtown Commons will serve as an "anchor" that can help broaden downtown Santa Cruz from its present narrow Pacific Avenue axis and encourage economic development beyond that axis.

*Building a mixed-use parking garage on Parking Lot 4 will create even more dead street space in Downtown Santa Cruz, already a serious problem along Cedar Street and Church Street, for example.

Thank you for your work and your consideration of my views. Please do the right thing for the long-term future of Santa Cruz!

From: [Curt Simmons](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); downtowncommonsadvocates@gmail.com
Subject: No garage on parking lot 4, Downtown Commons instead!
Date: Saturday, November 2, 2019 8:44:35 AM

Dear Council Members Brown, Cummings, and Meyers,

I was not able to attend the meeting where Jayson Architecture presented a proposal for a new reimagined smaller library in its current location. I just reviewed the presentation online. To me this seems like a perfect solution. In this proposal there is very little loss of public space or amenities. There is a very welcoming entry plus outdoor space - and for an affordable price tag.

There have been many opinions expressed in our local papers regarding the proposed project on lot 4. This proposed project includes facets that appeal to many; parking, housing and a modern library. Who could not be for it? Santa Cruz Forward is lobbying heavily in favor. What proponents fail to see as fundamental is our need for open space. Throughout much of the world cities large and small, wealthy and poor, embrace this concept. Public plazas are common place except here in the US. Our automobile culture rules. Cities, especially with increased density need open spaces where residents, employees and tourists can sit and relax, have a bite to eat, watch kids play, read and connect with friends and strangers. Santa Cruz does not have this and we need to plan for it, especially as our population density increases.

Keeping the library at its current location is certainly possible according to the Jason Architecture report. Adding additional parking if it is truly deemed necessary could be done in more peripheral locations. Housing is being added already and more could be added in nearby locations. A public plaza would add a vital centerpiece to our downtown. In addition our Farmers Market could be granted a permanent home in a superior location to what the scaled-down proposal offers.

One last thought; I've heard from the city that the Riverfront Garage is at the end of its useful life and will need to be "decommissioned" in the near future. Why then not use this lot, for a new multi-use project - housing and parking?

Sincerely,

Curt Simmons, O.D.
Plaza Lane Optometry

From: [Sofia Brumbaugh](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 9:47:40 AM

Dear Library Subcommittee,

I support the building of the new mixed use library building and would be extremely disappointed if we missed this grand opportunity for a modern 21st century library in order to maintain our adequate library of current.

I am urging you to seek a more detailed analysis of the scenario unanimously recommended last year by the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC)

I am an 18 year old who has grown up in Santa Cruz and dream of having a technologically advanced library right in my backyard to support my learning and growth into the future.

Do not miss this incredible opportunity and support the innovative future of Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,
Sofia Brumbaugh

From: [Keith Gudger](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [+dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com](#); [+sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](#);
[+jcummings@cityofsantacruz.com](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 9:19:15 AM

To the Library Subcommittee:

Partial demolition and renovation of the current facility, as described in the recent report, will NOT provide the library our community wants and desperately needs! It would require a 30 % reduction in library collections, affecting the entire 10-branch system. Teen space, a feature strongly supported by the community, would be practically non-existent. A temporary facility would have to be rented while the new facility is under construction, costing the system millions of dollars in unbudgeted transition costs. Access to computers, already in high demand, would be even less than it is now.

Please seek a more detailed analysis of the scenario unanimously recommended last year by the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) which would provide the needed library space and services.

Thank you.
Keith Gudger

From: [Dennis Hagen](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 9:24:48 AM

I am writing in support of the mixed use library proposal because it meets so many objectives for the city.

- 21st century library
- a new, solar panel covered Farmer's Market
- adequate downtown parking
- additional housing

I am a retired librarian and systems analyst with over 35 years at the California State Library. I was the manager for IT infrastructure during the refurbishing of the historic Library and Courts Building across the street from the State Capital and for the construction of a new library facility, the Library and Courts II building, on the adjacent block. I have seen the challenges of both refurbishing and new construction.

Remodeling Santa Cruz's existing library is not the best use of the available funds.

Please do not join the "not a garage" chorus. The devil is always in the details with projects that are this large.

Do we want a main library that meets 21st century needs or a small boutique branch library that leaves our city behind other cities?

Do we want to insure that our downtown remains viable with adequate services to encourage visitors?

Dennis Hagen
Santa Cruz

From: [Joan Gilbert Martin](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 9:35:38 AM

I totally support the downtown library mixed use vision. An up-to-date library, combined with the necessary parking, and low-income housing is a win win win situation.

I suggest that part of the garage be devoted to electric charging stations for electric cars—that might be an incentive for approval by those worried about supporting gas-guzzling cars.

Sincerely,
Joan Gilbert Martin

From: [Judi](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 10:58:55 AM

Thanks. I'm still composing something. Judi

From: Amanda Rotella <ARotella@cityofsantacruz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 6:50 PM
To: Judi <judiriva@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Library Subcommittee Recommendation

Good Morning Judi,

Just an FYI, I receive a blank email from you (see below). May need to resend.

Thanks,

Amanda

From: Judi [mailto:judiriva@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 10:24 AM
To: Amanda Rotella <ARotella@cityofsantacruz.com>; Donna Meyers <dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com>; Sandy Brown <sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com>; Justin Cummings <jcumplings@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Re: Library Subcommittee Recommendation