

Visioning Process

Breakout Discussion



City of Santa Cruz Public Forum

Project
for Public
Spaces



G R O U P 4



April 25 & 26, 2021

What are the uses and activities you feel are needed or desirable for downtown Santa Cruz? (broadening area of discussion)

Space that is green
Green Space +
Trees

Look at examples from
SLO
Santa Barbara

- Affordable Housing
- Workforce Housing
- Market rate
- Studios for singles or couples
- space for delivery vehicles (Amazon & Fedex)

Santa Cruz Style Mixed
Use

Space to meet

Ground floors uses:
City offices, non-
profits, retail,
commercial uses

Library on existing site +
+ + +

Partilly covered /
partially open air

Space for children

Finding Appropriate place
for families to be housed –
need backyard outdoor
space. Space that isn't too
loud or disruptive to sleep.
Ability to have fresh air and
window's open

Birds crashing into
windows of large
buildings.

Host events like
Farmers Market,
Antique Faire

Flexible space to
accommodate lots of
uses

Sustainable – solar
powered

Open space

What are the uses and activities you feel are needed or desirable for this area of downtown Santa Cruz?

Social services center – health/food service (county health svcs is remote)

Farmer's Market activates this site – Permanent Home

Site is transitional – think of impact to design and uses

Occasional street closures – Cabrillo/Greek/

Public Space – plants +, seating+, sunshine+, trees+ , fresh air

More Park space (impact of new housing – new projects have private space – need shared)

Playground for children – support families

Keep intensity of use - City impact to budget – maintenance??

Pre-event space for Civic – outdoor performance venue – local musicians

Housing – affordable++ + Family housing not just 1BRs

+ Low income housing, + very low income

Workforce housing too Seniors

Parking capacity – park once and continue foot concept in District

Center / Church street corridor limits closures

Walkability/bicycles

Library

? Changing demographics – who will be downtown in future
Finances of affordable housing / subsidy – viability?

What are the uses and activities you feel are needed or desirable for this area of downtown Santa Cruz?

More open than closed, flexible...

Re-use existing bldg as an extension of London-Nelson, bring in SC residents, not tourists

Street closures created informal plaza, "heart of community" "this is real Santa Cruz" Civic expanded plaza vision.

Oxbow Market, Napa, open-air. Potential for a boutique hotel w/ground floor market?

Better bike parking, bike lockers, meeting spaces...connect from rail and trail, comfortable, safe accessible

Like the idea of a plaza, flexibility, programmable, park space, stage/venue for cabrillo/civic combined w/retail, California mission feel...city hall, 915, etc., what is appropriate size? Great daylight

Open space, low, flexible...public space is valuable

More housing, city is leasing land back, not selling, city should collect revenue and increase tax base, grow revenue base

Mixed revenue generating hotel to offset cost of public spaces...and potentially low income housing...

How to balance open space

What are the uses and activities you feel are needed or desirable for this area of downtown Santa Cruz?

Retain the humanist character of Santa Cruz- Pedestrian atmosphere.

Nothing too tall – retain character/ scale of space

Keeping the carbon footprint low

Reuse the library building for County History Museum/ genealogy + + +

Mixed-use building/s - Support downtown

Flexible uses- Eating

Focus on supporting commercial uses in Downtown

Library combined with housing and/ or public offices

Library on site+

City/ public offices combined on this site +

Uses that relate to city hall, civic auditorium + +

Senior housing (may need lesser parking)

Housing – most appropriate use. +

Housing and events may / may not be a good idea

Plazas and outdoor spaces

Community center, maker space +

Plaza may be underutilized –CH already has a plaza

Programmed and managed outdoor spaces- Fire pits

Ability to maintain and manage the site

What are the uses and activities you feel are needed or desirable for this area of downtown Santa Cruz?

Large Central Gathering Point

Large Pleasant Clean Public Restroom – Saucalito style

Concern – don't create a campsite for people.

Little corner park, with a little stage, people could be having dinner before a concert.

Sensitivity to the residential neighborhood.

Avoid over-programming.

Consider synergy with city hall plaza, temporary street closures.

Covered farmers market – how will the space be used when no market?

City has office space needs for mixed uses.

Consider a contingency that the library would remain.

Should not spend dollars on parking, we need to work on a world that is not dominated by cars.

We need to create a climate resilient city, and every dollar counts.

tree cover is an important feature to this site and helps transition from more built out parts of downtown to nearby residential areas

Explore other adaptive reuse options for the library building.