

## Don't Bury The Library Update #33

Two important updates and another call to action at the very end of this email. Read on ...

#1 Don't Bury The Library has been asked to participate on [Community Television](#) of SC County's Voices from the Village program this Sunday night (7 - 8 pm). Be sure to tune in.

#2 As we mentioned in our previous Update, we were drafting a ***Blueprint for A Restored and Revitalized Downtown Library for the 21st Century and Beyond*** to submit to the City Council. We emailed it to the council this morning. To keep all of you in the loop, here is the text of our email to the Council:

Dear Council Members ~

According to a substantial report commissioned for and received by the city, our downtown library is **seismically sound** (see "Seismic Evaluation of the Santa Cruz Downtown Library" by Fratessa, Forbes, Wong, Structural Engineers October 31, 2014).

The downtown library as an institution and community resource can easily stand on its merits. It contains 44,000 sf of useable space, though the space is in need of some reconfiguration for best use by staff and patrons. There has been no community request for it to be moved to a different location or wedded to a garage, commercial space or housing project.

We are therefore pleased to present to you a ***Blueprint for A Restored and Revitalized Downtown Library for the 21st Century and Beyond***. We respectfully submit some of our ideas and initial guidelines on how to move forward with a Measure S funded project that fits within a \$28 million budget -- **to restore, upgrade, and revitalize** the downtown library.

**OBJECTIVE:** The downtown library is repaired, upgraded, and revitalized, with project components prioritized to meet the budgeted \$28 million allocated from Measure S funds.

### Step 1

Council directs staff to work with the Library Director to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) to be issued statewide or even nationwide, for renovation of the downtown library.

- The RFP will seek ***design/build contractors***.
- The RFP will be issued for three months minimum, to allow adequate time for its review by interested parties.
- Contractors will be encouraged to develop phasing of reconstruction to provide for continued use of portions of the library building.
- Community meetings soliciting public engagement in the project will be required.
- RFP project specifications will include, at a minimum, proposals for the following, which will inform ***prioritization to stay within the \$28 million***

***budget:***

Repaired or new elevators  
Reconfiguration of floor plans as needed  
Installation of roof top solar panels, including roof preparation work  
Repair, upgrade or replace air handling system  
Replacement of heating, cooling and branch ducts  
ADA bathrooms  
Other plumbing repairs and upgrades as needed  
Electrical upgrades  
New paint and flooring where necessary  
Security and safety features where needed  
(Escalation costs)  
All Soft Costs, including:  
    Computers and printers  
    AV equipment  
    Library graphics and signage  
    Moveable furnishings and equipment  
    Public Art

Step 2

Council directs staff to work with the Library Director to investigate options for temporary housing of essential library services, during eventual reconstruction activities. Included in the investigation can be portions of unoccupied commercial buildings and/or a temporary structure to be installed on the current library parking lot.

Step 3

Assuming proposals are received, council directs staff to work with the Library Director to present to council and the public a prioritized list of project components if all components cannot be implemented within the \$28 million restoration budget.

Conclusion

We know there is great public support for this unique opportunity to upgrade and beautify the downtown library, for all residents, present and future.

We are fond of quoting former Mayor David Terrazas's 12/20/17 Sentinel comment that "*We should show our respect for the past by...doing a better job of taking care of what we have. We don't just start over from scratch... throwing away everything from our past. Instead, we renew. We revitalize. We transform.*"

Thank you for taking the time to review our suggestions.

Sincerely,

Jean Brocklebank (communications)

Judi Grunstra (librarian)

Michael Lewis (webmaster)

on behalf of more than 120 supporters of the [Don't Bury The Library](#) campaign

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Last but not least, here's how all of you can help. Be sure to read some sample letters by clicking on the link at the end of this call to action.

### **Repeat Action Item for one and all**

The new city council has impressed upon us the necessity of *hearing from the community* as soon as possible, to provide a record of public comments upon which they can then act. Here is what you can do to help them and your library:

- Attend any city council meeting and speak *during oral communications*, saying you want the council to save the downtown library and spend Measure S funds to restore and revitalize that building rather than abandon it. Thanks to the new council's action at its first meeting (1/8) Oral Communications is now set for **7:00 pm**, to allow those who work a better opportunity to address the council.
- Send the same message via email to the city council between right now and their February 12 regularly scheduled meeting. Personalize your message with your own care and concern for both the library, as well as why you voted for Measure S in the first place. Keep your message about the library; there is no need to even mention the parking garage! Send your email to [citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com) and it will be distributed to all seven members.

Here are a few letters that were sent with the first call to action in Update #13 (with thanks to these library defenders!) <https://dontburythelibrary.weebly.com/2019-letters-to-council.html>

Let's get busy and give the current four council members who have all previously expressed support for restoration and revitalization of the library the public support they need to make it happen. And who knows, maybe even help to change the minds of the other three members!