

April 18, 2021

Dear Friends of the Downtown Library ~

Our last update was back in October 2020, before City Council elections, before a new council was seated with a majority who approved abandoning the downtown library rather than using Measure S funds for a creative rejuvenation, before city staff hired a consultant to move forward with a 5 - 6 story structure that will cover a city block (Lot 4) and include a library on the first floor, before city staff began its consultant process to decide what to build on the site where the downtown library is, after its demolition (and burial in a landfill).

Sounds grim, huh? We often despair, but we persist and hope you will too.

[DBTL](#) remains steadfastly committed to our original position, established over five years ago. That is, a restored, rejuvenated, modernized, renewed downtown library right where one has been for 107 years, saving all the best parts of the building and its contents. At the risk of sounding mean-spirited, we hope the city's flawed plans for Lot 4 fall fatally flat and that they must return to restoration of the existing library before time runs out on the bond financing.

Meanwhile, on a lighter note, work by several groups continues behind the scenes and out in public to force the city to do the right thing. For example, [Downtown Commons Advocates](#) continues its work to promote an alternative vision for Lot 4. That official Vision is:

"We see a Downtown Commons that offers a much needed public space for the community in downtown Santa Cruz. It would offer a public gathering place, a location for cultural performances and art, and a permanent facility for the Downtown Farmers' Market, the Antique Faire, and similar events. A Downtown Commons will enhance the enjoyment and well-being of residents, and attract visitors to a revitalized downtown business community."

EARTH DAY on LOT 4

Other uplifting news is that two groups arranged for a permit from the city to produce an Earth Day event on April 24 and the location will be ... ta da ... Lot 4. How cool is that?!

Come celebrate Earth Day with Downtown Commons Advocates and Santa Cruz Climate Action Network on Saturday, April 24, from 1-5 pm, in the parking lot on the corner of Cedar and Cathcart Streets in downtown Santa Cruz. There will be musical performances by Russell Brutsche, Anthony Arya, Michael Levy and Peter Weiss, Elie Mabanza and Gina Rene. Learn about the work of community groups, see entries in the Earth Day photo contest and the artwork of Russell Brutsche, and participate in a hands-on art activity. This event is free. Please wear a mask and observe social distancing. Bring your own chair and drinking water, and walk or bike to the event if you can.

I have attached the creative flyer for this event, so share with family and friends. Let's celebrate the openness of this still open space downtown. May the sun shine and spirits soar while we remember the earth needs friends.

All the best,

[Don't Bury The Library](#)

Jean Brocklebank (communications)
Judi Grunstra (librarian)
Michael Lewis (webmaster)



SPEAKERS: Valentin Lopez, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and more to be announced

MUSIC: Russell Brutsché, Michael Levy & Peter Weiss, Elie Mabanza, Anthony Arya, Gina René

ART: Prints from the Earth Day Photo Contest • Hands-on chalk art to transform the pavement with thousands of leaves • Paintings by Russell Brutsché • and more

FUN FOR ALL: Activities, tables, and information

Valet bike parking by Bike Santa Cruz! Bring your own water bottle!

Social distancing and masks required 🌿 This event is FREE

The Commons is a space that is loved and protected. Designed and used by the community, it reflects the heart of downtown. We meet there every Wednesday, strolling between aisles of vegetables, fruit, and flowers, with the rare sense of wellbeing that comes from being together.



www.downtowncommonsadvocates.weebly.com



www.scruzclimate.org

