



# Realizing *the* Promise

A Campaign of the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries

## Aptos Library

### Center of Community

The diverse and distinctive community of Aptos has long embraced its library as much as a center of community as for its role in meeting the community's literary thirst/needs. As the community has grown and evolved, library usage has repeatedly exceeded its various locations—beginning with the original 1944 branch—a testament to how well-loved and used it has been. Today, the Aptos Library, one of 10 branches of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries system, is a cherished place to meet and connect and to build and sustain community. Users of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances value its innovative services, access to technology, and programs that spark imagination and support discovery, as well as the impressive collection of books, digital media, and other resources shared across the county library system.

### Rebuilding for Tomorrow

After almost a half century of service, the current library building, which opened in 1975, is no longer able to meet community needs/expectations. Users have expressed the desire for a more modern, flexible, comfortable, and efficient facility that better reflects the character of the community. They emphasized the needs for more flexibility and capacity, the importance of an earnestly welcoming and culturally inclusive facility, as well as better connection to outdoor spaces. As a result, an exciting, and transformative rebuilding and expansion of the facility is now planned. Although the rebuilding is largely publicly-funded, a critical funding gap remains to be bridged to fully realize local aspirations for this heavily used branch. Achieving the full promise of the Aptos Library will depend on additional philanthropic support from friends who share their community's vision for tomorrow.



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## Reflecting, Supporting, and Enhancing Community

Developed through a competitive design-build process with extensive user input, plans for the rebuilt library call for a sensitive and responsive 12,000 square foot civic facility that will honor, reflect, and serve its community. The rebuilt library will include dedicated spaces configured and equipped to meet the specialized needs of children, teens, and adults, together with a community-oriented, multi-purpose conference room and three study rooms. Interior spaces will be organized under two, simple gabled wings with an inviting and welcoming entry plaza. The overall design features a brighter, more inviting interior with increased natural lighting, as well as better integration with and access to outdoor reading gardens and patios. Interior and exterior finishes will reflect unique community sensibilities and character, as well as the surrounding natural environment.

## Achieving the Margin of Excellence

Measure S—the county bond measure passed in 2016 to fund critical library repairs and upgrades, support a steady increase in usage, and bring all branches up to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards—will underwrite the rebuilding. But it will not fully cover certain essential branch features and amenities. These additional elements represent the margin of excellence in library capabilities, resources, and character required to fully meet community aspirations.

In response to this challenge, the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries has begun an ambitious and targeted fundraising campaign to bridge the gap between Measure S and the vision of a vibrant new center of life and learning for Aptos. The goal is to raise \$470,000 to achieve the margin of excellence Aptos envisions—and to ensure that when the branch reopens in late 2022, it will embody the full promise of a library that brilliantly celebrates, supports, and enhances community.

## This includes:

- A new children's room with learning resources to help establish and nurture the roots of lifelong discovery and learning
- A teen's area to meet the unique needs and preferences of this individualistic, emerging new generation of library users
- Enhanced furniture and lighting throughout the library to create a more earnestly inviting, comfortable, and satisfying user experience



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- Upgraded technology to support increased digital access, as well as to better support the quest of users seeking to bridge the digital divide, find employment, and connect with vital services
- Conference and community program rooms, as well as three study rooms to support increased community-centric activities and use
- Special collections, interior art, and display spaces to enrich and expand user experience
- New outdoor patios and reading gardens for children, teens, and adults that expand the possibilities for meeting, studying, relaxing, and contemplating

### Realizing the Promise with Your Support

The Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries invites those who share its passion for and commitment to the future of our libraries to support this campaign. Your support will help ensure that the rebuilt Aptos Library will reflect the characteristics and meet the most important needs of its community now and into the future.

For more information about how your gift can help realize the full promise of this library, and to learn about gift recognition opportunities, please contact:

#### **The Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries**

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