



Realizing *the* Promise

A Campaign of the Friends of the
Santa Cruz Public Libraries

APTOS • BRANCIORTE • GARFIELD PARK

Garfield Park Library

A Treasured Community Legacy

The oldest of ten branches of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries system, the Garfield Park Library has served and helped shape the character of its community since 1915. Funded by a generous gift from legendary industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, the Garfield Park Library today is a much-loved and well-used civic space and legacy, offering its users much more than a place to find books, periodicals, and information. As Garfield Park has grown and evolved—and as the lives of its residents have become more complex—the Garfield Park Library has increasingly served as 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.

Vision for Tomorrow

In 2002, after almost a century of service, the Garfield Park Library was renovated and expanded to accommodate changing usage patterns and address infrastructure deficiencies. But because of its historic nature and the limits of these renovations, it lacks the adaptability, environment, and amenities required to fully meet the community's most important needs today. A major, publicly-funded renovation is now underway, but a critical funding gap remains to be bridged to fully realize local aspirations for this cherished branch. Achieving the full promise of the Garfield Park Library will depend on additional philanthropic support from friends with a shared vision for tomorrow. This is a vision for a revitalized library and civic space that is more relevant, adaptable, and responsive to evolving local priorities and aspirations.

A New Life for the Library. A New Center for Community.

The Garfield Park Library renovation will bring new life to this historic Carnegie building. While the redesign will maintain the library’s classic charm, spaces such as the existing reading room will be revamped to offer a warmer, more contemporary environment. Reworking the book stacks will open up and add new flexibility to existing spaces. Better use of existing windows will improve lighting. The existing fireplace will be preserved and updated to create a focus for the central seating area. Dated interior and exterior surfaces will be revitalized and refreshed with materials and colors harmonizing past and present uses of the building. And while the library’s footprint will not be expanded, its ability to welcome and host more varied learning, exploring, and connecting will be significantly increased.



The Margin of Excellence

Measure S, the county bond measure passed in 2016 to fund critical repairs and upgrades to support a steady increase in library usage and to bring branches up to 21st century standards, will fund the most important aspects of this renovation. But it will not fully cover certain essential branch amenities and resources. These additional elements represent the margin of excellence in facility capabilities, resources, and character the community required for a more inviting, flexible, and supportive environment.

Recognizing this challenge, the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries has begun a targeted fundraising campaign to bridge the gap between Measure S and the vision of a vibrant new center of life and learning for Garfield Park. The goal is to raise \$210,000 to help achieve the margin of excellence at Garfield Park—and to ensure that when the branch reopens early in 2022, it will embody the full promise of a community library.

Garfield Park

The campaign will help fund:

- An enhanced children's room with new learning resources to help foster the roots of lifelong discovery and learning
- Enhanced furniture and lighting throughout the library to create a more earnestly welcoming and satisfying user experience and help support increased community activities and uses
- 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
- Special collections, interior art, and display spaces to enrich and expand the user experience

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 renovated Garfield Park Library will meet the most important needs and expectations of the 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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