

City Selects Affordable Housing Partner for Library Mixed Use Project and Doubles Units to Up to 107

All Units to be Reserved for Very-Low Income Santa Cruzans

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SANTA CRUZ, CA – The City of Santa Cruz today announced its selection of Eden Housing and For the Future Housing (FTF) as partners in the City Council-approved Downtown Library Mixed Use Project, bringing 64 years of combined experience, with 13 developments completed or underway in Santa Cruz County.

To support the Santa Cruz Downtown Library Mixed Use Project's goal of providing truly affordable downtown living, the team will develop and manage up to 107 units, which is double the number of units mandated by the Council. All units will be reserved for individuals and families who earn 30-50% of area median income, considered "very low income" by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The final unit count will be determined during the design process.

"This selection represents an important next step in addressing the affordable housing crisis in Santa Cruz. We are ecstatic that we can leverage the mixed-use project to serve two critical needs in our community – a modern library with resources for all combined with upwards of 100 housing units for low-income families struggling to make ends meet in Santa Cruz," said Mayor Donna Meyers.

In addition, the team's proposal includes supportive services for residents, such as on-site housing support services for disabled individuals and their families and an on-site infant and toddler childcare facility. Finally, the team's proposal demonstrates a commitment to sustainability, including innovative green features, like rooftop solar, high-performance windows, and rainwater catchment systems, that will result in an all-electric low-energy building.

The selected developer team is the result of a highly competitive procurement process and was chosen because of their experience in successfully developing 100 percent affordable projects throughout California and their ability to bring a high number of units targeting the lowest (and most needed) affordability levels.

"This is exciting news because it doubles the number of units that had been anticipated, most especially with all of them at the lowest income level – the ones most desperately needed," said Tim Willoughby, chair of Affordable Housing Now, a task force of organizations working for affordable housing in Santa Cruz County.

The City is also currently in the process of selecting a Master Architect for the project, and FTF and Eden will assist in the selection. With essential input from the community, the master architect will design the overall look and feel of the structure and ensure that the project integrates seamlessly with the vibrant downtown

neighborhood.

About the Affordable Housing Development Team

Eden Housing has worked in partnership with cities and local community partners to develop or acquire more than 10,600 homes in communities throughout California, currently serving a diverse population of 22,000 low-income residents from all cultures and backgrounds. Since the company began, more than 100,000 people have come home to an Eden community.

For the Future Housing, Inc. is a real estate development company whose mission is to enhance the communities in which we live and work by developing high-quality, affordable housing.

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Additional Resources

Brief Interview with Affordable Housing Development Team

Downtown Library Mixed Use Project website: cityofsantacruz.com/mixeduselibrary

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