

## EVENT PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION FOR NEW APTOS LIBRARY

*Aptos Branch Library is Ready to Welcome the Community*

APTOS, California — Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) is pleased to announce the Grand Opening and Community Celebration for the new Aptos Branch Library on Sunday, February 4, 2024.

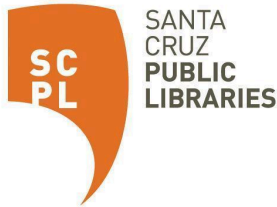
The Grand Opening and Community Celebration will take place from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. and will feature a ribbon-cutting, live music and performances, story time, and crafts. Speakers will include Santa Cruz County Supervisor Zach Friend, Friends of the Aptos Library President Gale Farthing, interim SCPL Director Eric Howard, Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries Board President Janis O’Driscoll, John Hibble, founder of the Aptos History Museum, Mark Schoeman from Anderson Brulé Architects (ABA), and Jared Bogaard from Bogard Construction.

“Our beautiful new library in Aptos embodies the values of our community, from its commitment to lifelong learning and civic engagement, to its thoughtful design, which reflects not only Aptos’ history and a unique setting at the intersection of land and sea, but also includes energy-efficient design features,” interim Director Eric Howard said. “This will be a community asset for generations to come.”

**Members of the media are invited to an advanced preview of the library on Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. Please RSVP on this [form](#) to reserve a spot.**

Following the ribbon-cutting and opening remarks, the community will be invited into the branch to enjoy music by Kuzanga Marimba of Santa Cruz, a performance by MusicalMe with Lizz, and a show by magician James Chan.

This effort was made possible through the passion and hard work of community members, the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, the Friends of the Aptos Libraries and funding from voter-approved Measure S.



The Aptos Branch Library building process, from design to development, was managed by the County of Santa Cruz Director of Capital Projects, Damon Adlao, in collaboration with Bogard Construction and ABA.

“Realizing the new Aptos Branch Library building has been a successful collaboration between the community, Library, County, design team, and contractors,” says County of Santa Cruz Director of Capital Projects Damon Adlao. “This new Library reflects the community’s values both aesthetically and functionally, with a flexible space that will support Library programs for decades as our community evolves. The branch will be a distinct treasure that will be valued by the community for generations to come and I am honored to have been able to be a part of this process.”

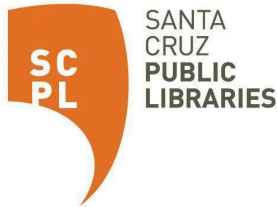
The brand-new Aptos Branch has been re-imagined to meet the needs of modern library users and the architects worked to incorporate input from the Aptos community in its design for the new building.

"As architects, we don't approach projects with a particular design solution and aesthetic in mind," says ABA Design Principal Mark Schoeman, AIA. "And this attitude is especially important on projects with such uniquely public characters as libraries. So, when we started work on the new Aptos Branch Library building, we looked to community meetings not only to give us direction for the design, but to emphasize that Aptos residents are valued partners in creating a building that, ultimately, belongs to them."

Santa Cruz-based Bogard Construction and ABA of San Jose collaborated on this design-build project, the first of its kind in the county. The brand-new 12,408 square foot building includes a new community room, a dedicated teen-only space and patio, two group study rooms, adult reading room and patio, displays curated by the Aptos History Museum, a children’s room, and the Live Like Coco Foundation Children's Reading Garden.

The design-build delivery model brings optimal collaboration between the contractor, architect, county and library to bring the best facility to serve this community. Elements like efficiency, cost effectiveness, design and construction timeline, and community engagement are all benefits of design-build.

“The Aptos Library will be a tremendous asset for the community for many years to come,” says Bogard Construction President Jared Bogaard. “Bogard Construction is honored to have partnered with the County of Santa Cruz for this project, as it is a true example of how successful design/build deliveries can be on public projects. Our partnership with ABA was a resounding success, and we are proud of our entire design and subcontractor team members. We are profoundly grateful to the representatives of the County for their unwavering commitment to this project. This is one we can all be proud of.”



The Aptos Branch Library will be open 6 days a week, Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on Sunday. Aptos Branch Library is located at 7695 Soquel Drive in Aptos.

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### **ABOUT MEASURE S:**

The project to modernize, upgrade and repair local libraries in Santa Cruz, Aptos, Live Oak, Scotts Valley, Boulder Creek, Capitola, Felton and La Selva Beach-- replace failing roofs, outdated bathrooms, electrical systems/ structurally damaged facilities; support growing use by children, seniors, veterans and others; expand access to modern technology; and construct/ expand facilities where necessary was made possible by Measure S. On February 11, 2016, the SCPL Facilities Financing Authority placed a \$67 million bond measure (later designated Measure S) on the June 2016 ballot. With 70% approval, voters agreed to fund Measure S. The total cost of this project was \$14 million.

### **DONATIONS**

The Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, through their "Realizing the Promise" campaign raised \$496,342 for the construction of the new Aptos Branch Library, in addition to Measure S funding.

### **ABOUT THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:**

Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) brings people, information, and resources together to enrich lives and strengthen the community. SCPL gives every Santa Cruz community member the opportunity to learn through educational resources, classes, and staff support. The Library develops programs for the broad community as well as for specific groups like students, seniors, and those who are most vulnerable, including the unhoused and incarcerated. SCPL also curates specialty collections, like genealogy and local history. Learn more about SCPL at [SantaCruzPL.org](http://SantaCruzPL.org) or on social media. To access the SCPL Press Kit visit <https://www.santacruzpl.org/press-kit/>.

