

City Manager's Weekly Update

June 17, 2022

Economic Development

Housing Development & Preservation | CDBG Program Update-Community Bridges

As part of the yearly reporting for CDBG, recipients provide a narrative to the Housing Team for reporting to HUD in the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), which is submitted annually at the end of September. Below are some highlights of Community Bridges' Nueva Vista program made possible with \$100,000 of CDBG funds.

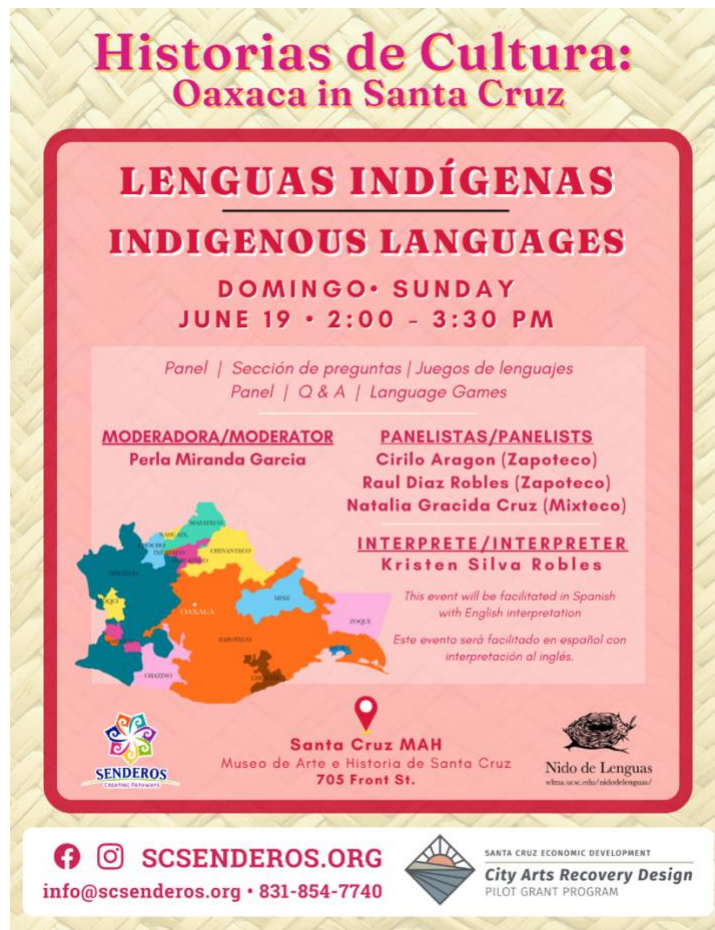
The Nueva Vista Resource Community Center program provides services for enrollment in government benefits, including CalFresh, MediCal, and Covered CA, and provides advocacy, support, information, referral and emergency food to low-income families and individuals to all low-income residents of Lower Ocean and beach Flats neighborhoods. The Beach Flats Community Center provides educational opportunities and activities for low-income Latinx residents of Beach Flats and Lower Ocean Street neighborhoods. Some highlights and successes of the programs submitted by Community Bridges to the City of Santa Cruz are below:

CDBG Community Bridges Third Quarter Summary:

"Nueva Vista: Our office is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. All staff at Nueva Vista is bilingual in English/Spanish – participants receive services in their language of choice. Advocacy services are provided to clients when assisting them with enrollment into services and benefits. The services can range anywhere from completing a CalFresh application to helping them troubleshoot their health insurance benefits via the Benefits Call Center. A major focus continues to be meeting the basic needs of participants – assisting with Unemployment Benefits enrollments, Covered CA enrollments, food distribution/pantry twice per month, rental assistance for our undocumented clients and those otherwise ineligible for benefits, as well as continued assistance with applying for and follow up of SB91 state rental assistance for both tenants and landlords. In March, we had a targeted effort to have those that applied for state rental assistance (SB91/ERAP) have their applications be active in the state system as the 03/31/22 deadline for new applications approached. This date also marked the end of eviction protections. This quarter we saw an increase in legal services referrals related to housing and eviction prevention.

Beach Flats: During the summer there were three 2-week sessions implemented in order to comply with the social distance requirement – one in June, and two in July. Each session had an array of field trips, which consisted of arts and crafts, beach days, and field trips. We continued collaboration with partners. Summer Lunch took place at Beach Flats Park Monday through Friday from about 12 to 1 p.m. Due to the pandemic, lunches were available for pickup by youth and/or parents. We had a youth volunteer to support the summer lunch, who received a stipend for his participation."

Arts & Culture Development | CARD Pilot Grant Recipient Events



The City Arts Recovery Design (CARD) Pilot program, created by the Economic Development Department in collaboration with the Arts Council Santa Cruz County, sponsors amazing artist projects.

Continuing this weekend, Santa Cruz group Senderos presents their CARD project 'Historias de Cultura: Oaxaca en Santa Cruz: Stories of Culture in Santa Cruz.' Their engaging series of pop-up events and short video presentations in Downtown Santa Cruz and Midtown Santa Cruz explore the indigenous culture and heritage of Oaxaca, Mexico. This Sunday, June 19 Senderos will host a family-friendly event exploring traditional Indigenous language through panels, community conversations, and games.

These free events aim to create an inviting, welcome space for connection, collaboration and learning. Celebrating a new theme each month, these micro-events will explore dance and music, food and community, language and connection, and healing arts of Oaxaca,

Mexico throughout summer, culminating in a larger Cooper Street Fiesta in the Fall. True community building begins with events like these, whose root is to foster understanding and create connection.

Planning and Community Development

525 Cedar St.

The Grading/Demo and Aggregate Pier permits were issued for this project on June 15, 2022 in preparation for the coming of the Main Building permit. This is substantially complete and should be issued in early July 2022.

Mercy Housing

Permits for two separate projects, one on Sycamore Street and one on Leibrandt Avenue, were issued on June 15, 2022. The permits for 107 through 135 Sycamore Street consisted of 12 for multi-family residential maintenance and repairs and one for site accessibility upgrades. The permit for 216 Leibrandt Ave. was also issued for multi-family residential maintenance and repairs.

Parks and Recreation

Summer Camps are Back

A much smaller summer camp program has been offered for two summers due to pandemic restrictions. This year we are finally offering a close to “normal” Summer Day Camp program for the community. Last Monday, nearly 200 campers showed up to Harvey West Park and Main Beach for their camps. Camps are offered for children ages 5-12 and will run through August 5. Additionally, this summer, we brought back our Junior Leader Program, a counselor-in-training program that we had to put on hold for two summers. Many of these Junior Leaders transition to becoming City employees when they are old enough.



Public Works

Street Maintenance & Traffic Engineering

Residential Cayuga Street has been identified in the City’s adopted Active Transportation Plan. New striping plan improvements are a phased approach toward a Neighborhood Greenway, a low-speed street for people of all ages and abilities. This approach will allow staff to monitor striping impacts and collect feedback from residents for future improvements. Traffic Engineering and Street Maintenance staff worked together with the aid of a contractor to quickly complete this initial work over one week. New street signage will soon be installed.



Traffic Engineering

A new Street Smarts Bike Camp session was offered to middle-school youth at Santa Cruz Boys & Girls Club. We provided these youth with bikes and helmets. Our other Bike Camp sessions continued through the Nueva Vista summer program (right) and Parks and Recreation. These traffic safety camps are Office of Traffic Safety grant funded.



Resource Recovery

The leachate collection and removal layer of Cell 3B was installed last week. The protective cover soil layer is being installed this week. The project should be wrapped up by the end of next week. Photo shows a white protective scrim and protective cover soil layer being installed as part of the liner protection system.

Demolition for the household waste facility upgrade project has also begun.



Engineering

The West Cliff Storm Repair Project work has come to a standstill as the contractor waits for the remaining galvanized rebar to be placed in the walkway. Once the rebar is in hand, the next item will be pouring concrete to connect the walkway, grade beam, and piers.



Water

Conservation

In conservation news this week, we're getting the word out to the public about the new state-mandated water conservation regulations. The [Sentinel](#) and [KSBW](#) both helped promote the regulations this week. We are also able to use the outbound messaging feature in [WaterSmart](#) to email customers about restrictions, which is a helpful communication tool we've never had available to us in the past. Information and resources for [2022 Water Use Restrictions](#) are available on our website.

Speaking of restrictions and water use, this week we were finally able to put the Majors creek diversion back into service after a break two years ago caused us to have to take it offline. This is a huge win for our community, as it allows us to draw less water from the San Lorenzo River, which will prolong SLR's productivity as a water source. As we add Majors creek back into our source mix, we're also seeing use staying consistent with last year, despite the spike in temperatures last week:



Engineering

This week a remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) inspection of the new Newell Creek Dam pipeline through the dam was successful. This was the fourth (and only successful) attempt over the past 5-10 years, and this time the ROV successfully navigated the full pipeline to be retrieved at the toe of the dam. The inspection was needed to plan for work to abandon the existing pipeline once the new pipe is in service.

Newell Creek Dam pipeline crew retrieving the ROV