



**DATE:** July 10, 2018

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Interim Library Director

**SUBJECT:** Heritage Plaza, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library – Overview and Refresher of the Heritage Plaza Restoration and Construction Project Plans and Specifications

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council receives and reviews information regarding the 21st Century Library and Community Learning Center’s Heritage Plaza.

### **SUMMARY**

The new library’s completion is imminent and the next phase of the overall project, the Heritage Plaza restoration, will begin immediately after the new library opens. The new Plaza is estimated to be complete and operational in spring 2019. This report summarizes the history and features of Heritage Plaza, including gathering and event space, an arboretum of mature heritage trees, historic features, and a Children’s Garden.

Prior to the demolition of the old library, a farewell event is scheduled at the site at 11:00am Saturday, July 14, 2018.

### **BACKGROUND**

On May 26, 2015, the City Council approved the plans for the Measure C-funded 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library and Community Learning Center and Heritage Plaza project. Construction on the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library broke ground in October 2015 and is nearing completion. Following the opening of the new library, construction of Heritage Plaza will begin. As described in the project plans and specifications, the restoration of Heritage Plaza entails (1) the demolition of the old library, (2) the construction of an underground rainwater catchment, filtration, and storage system, and (3) the installation of additional recreational, historic, and landscaping features.

The Heritage Plaza project presents a unique opportunity for Hayward to restore the library site to its historic roots as a central plaza and arboretum for civic use.

## DISCUSSION

The Heritage Plaza restoration is a key feature of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center project. Encompassing a full city block in historic downtown Hayward, the plaza is approximately the size of San Francisco's Union Square and will incorporate bioswales and interpretive education areas, as well as gathering and event space, an arboretum of mature heritage trees, historic features, and a Children's Garden as outlined in the [October 18, 2014 staff presentation](#) to City Council.

### *Gathering & Event Space*

Heritage Plaza will feature two significant outdoor gathering and event spaces – an approximately 25,000 square foot central event lawn and an 11,000-square foot paved plaza along C Street. These two spaces will have a combined event capacity of nearly 4,000 people. An elevated platform and arbor at the edge of the event lawn will include electrical access for cultural events, musical performances and other civic gatherings.

### *Arboretum*

The Heritage Plaza parcel is home to over 40 species of rare and mature trees, including a 100-foot tall Australian Bunya-bunya tree located at the entrance to the old library building and native Giant Sequoia and Coast Redwood trees. The trees, some of which are over 100 years old, will be preserved in the plaza restoration, and great care will be taken during construction to avoid disturbing or harming existing tree root systems. Placards identifying the notable trees will be installed along meandering “arboretum walk” paths on either side of the central event lawn.

### *Historic Features*

Heritage Plaza will be home to historical features and interpretive signage commemorating Hayward's history, including:

- Interpretive signage honoring the native Yrgin, an Ohlone tribelet,
- Don Guillermo Castro and William Hayward interpretive signage,
- An El Camino Real bell marking the location of the old mission road,
- A statue of Friar Narciso Durán, a president of the California missions,
- A Japanese-American internment commemorative marker,
- The cornerstone of the old Main Library, and
- The Charles Heyer water fountain currently located on the library site.

### *Children's Garden*

On the corner of C Street and Watkins Street, a 2,150 square foot Children's Garden will feature nature-inspired clambering and exploration structures for young children visiting

the plaza.

### **FISCAL/ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Heritage Plaza is part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library and Community Learning Center project approved by Council in May 2015 and fully funded by Measure C. The total project budget approved by Council is \$65,680,000.

### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

The Heritage Plaza restoration project supports the Complete Communities strategic initiative. The purpose of the Complete Communities initiative is to create and support structures, services, and amenities to provide inclusive and equitable access with the goal of becoming a thriving and promising place to live, work and play for all. This agenda item supports the following goal and objective:

Goal 1: Improve quality of life for residents, business owners, and community members in all Hayward neighborhoods

Objective 1b: Foster a sense of place and support neighborhood pride.

### **SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES**

Heritage Plaza will function as a rainwater catchment and underground rainwater storage and filtration system. Constructed from the walls and floor of the old library basement, the system will collect and reuse up to 200,000 annual gallons of rainwater from the garage roof, library roof, C street, and the library plaza. The captured water will be treated and reused for irrigation and graywater uses in the new library building and plaza.

The catchment and storage system is an important component of the new library's environmental sustainability plan and required to achieve the desired LEED Platinum certification for the project.

### **PUBLIC CONTACT**

The concept and design for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library and Community Learning Center and the Heritage Plaza Arboretum arose from an extensive public outreach process, including but not limited to:

- Community surveys, interviews, and focus groups informing a Community Needs Analysis;
- Library Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council public hearings and work sessions to review and approve design visualizations for the project; and
- A comprehensive collaborative design process between community stakeholders, staff, and City Council.

Additional information regarding public contact related to this item can be found in the [May 26, 2015 staff report](#) (pp. 111-112) approving the project plans and specifications.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Once the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library and Community Learning Center is complete, demolition of the old library and the Heritage Plaza restoration project will commence. Staff will return to Council with an informational report on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library grand opening ceremonies and strategic operating plan.

Prior to the demolition of the old library, a farewell event is scheduled at the site at 11:00am Saturday, July 14, 2018.

*Prepared by:* Jane E. Light, Interim Library Director

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Approved by:



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Kelly McAdoo, City Manager