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Gilroy Civic Center Master Plan



OUR COMMUNITY PROCESS

Please Join Us!

The Gilroy Civic Center will be designed for and by the community. The success of the Civic Center Master Plan relies on your input. Public engagement is central to this effort, ensuring that the final plan aligns with the community's priorities and vision for the future. Please join us at our community workshop series to help shape the future of this important civic space:

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

Open House & Gallery Information Walk

Tuesday, March 4, 2025
9am or 6pm (two sessions)

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #2

Alternative Concepts & Visioning Sessions

Tuesday, April 8, 2025
9am or 6pm (two sessions)

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #3

Preferred Concept & Visioning Sessions

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
9am or 6pm (two sessions)

Workshops will be conducted
in English and Spanish



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PROJECT INFORMATION FAQ'S

What is the Gilroy Civic Center Master Plan?

A: The City of Gilroy is launching a project to reimagine the Civic Center by developing a new Master Plan for the site. The existing Master Plan, adopted in 2002, needs an update to address the increasing demands of the community alongside underutilized spaces and aging facilities.

What area of Gilroy is the focus of the Civic Center Master Plan?

A: Spanning approximately 14 acres in central Gilroy, the Civic Center site is bordered by Sixth Street, Seventh Street, Dowdy Street, and Church Street. This site currently houses key community facilities, including City Hall, the Police Station, Wheeler Center, the Gilroy Library, the Senior Center, and other essential spaces.

How much will the Gilroy Civic Center Master Plan cost?

A: In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Gilroy City Council approved a \$750,000 budget to begin the comprehensive planning process for this critical project.

What are some possible components of the Gilroy Civic Center Master Plan?

A: A range of uses are under consideration, including a new senior center, a new recreation center, a new aquatics center, a new youth center and a new city hall, all within a beautiful outdoor space.

Who did the City hire to prepare the Master Plan?

A: On November 18, 2024, the Council awarded a contract to ELS Architecture and Urban Design to lead the Master Plan process, which will culminate in the design of a Civic Center Master Plan that reflects the aspirations and needs of our community.



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MORE ABOUT THE CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN

What the Master Plan Will Deliver?

The updated Civic Center Master Plan will give an overview of current facilities and open spaces, evaluate their uses, and identify opportunities for improvement. The Plan will include:

Needs Assessment:

To identify current and future programming and operational requirements.

Civic Center Master Plan

Concept Alternatives:

To narrow our direction to a single, preferred vision, at least three conceptual design plans will be presented during Workshop #2 (April 8).

Preferred Civic Center Master Plan Vision:

To establish and present a preferred direction and concept design for community input and review during Workshop #3 (May 20), as based upon community collaboration during Workshop #2 (April 8).

Final Civic Center Master Plan

+ Cost Estimate:

To present the preferred vision for the Civic Center Master Plan to a series of commissions, with a final presentation to City Council for adoption following certification of CEQA compliance documents; work is based upon the community's review and input during Workshop #3 (May 20).

Financing Strategies:

To recommend ways of funding the redevelopment, including the possibility of a general obligation bond measure.

Project Timeline

The project initiated in January 2025 and is structured into seven phases over approximately two years:

- Project Initiation
- Existing Conditions Assessment
- Needs Assessment
- Master Plan Design
- CEQA Compliance
- Master Plan Adoption
- Project Financing Strategies



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GILROY CONTEXT

The Context of the Gilroy Civic Center

The Gilroy Civic Center, coupled with its proximity to the Downtown, is a bustling zone that serves as the heart of the community. It is home to several key facilities, including the Gilroy Library, the Police Station, City Hall, the Senior Center, and the Wheeler Center, all of which are part of the Gilroy Civic Center.

The Civic Center is surrounded by Sixth Street, Seventh Street, Dowdy Street, and Church Street. These facilities are all close to each other, making it convenient for residents to access a variety of services and resources in one central location. The Civic Center Master Plan aims to further enhance this area by modernizing and reimagining the space to better serve our growing community.

Public Transportation: The area is well-served by public transportation, including the Gilroy Caltrain Station, which provides commuter rail services to San Jose and beyond. Additionally, Greyhound Bus Lines operate in the area, offering long-distance bus travel.

Walkability: Downtown Gilroy and the Civic Center area combine to form a walkable community, with many amenities and services within walking distance. The area has a Walk Score of 90 out of 100, indicating that daily errands do not require a car.

Bikeability: Gilroy is also a bike-friendly community, with several multi-use bike paths and bike repair stations throughout the city. The city has made efforts to ensure safe and convenient bicycle routes, making it easy for residents to explore the area by bike.

Downtown Gilroy's connection to key facilities underscores its importance as a central hub for the community, providing essential services and fostering a sense of community and engagement.

Overall, the Gilroy Civic Center and Downtown Gilroy together are a vibrant and accessible community hub, offering a range of services and amenities for residents and visitors alike.



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THE SITE - THREE CITY BLOCKS

Spanning approximately 14 acres in central Gilroy, the Civic Center site is bordered by Sixth Street, Seventh Street, Dowdy Street, and Church Street.

This site currently houses key community facilities, including City Hall, the Police Station, Wheeler Center, the Gilroy Library, the Senior Center, and other essential spaces. While some of these buildings, such as the Gilroy Library and Police Station, are relatively new and will be preserved, others are significantly older and less suited to meet current and future demands. With increasing service needs, it is time to thoughtfully transform the Civic Center into a space that balances preservation with modernization, ensuring that it is able to serve a vibrant and growing community for many decades.



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APPLYING UNIVERSAL DESIGN

What is Universal Design?

Universal design is about creating products, environments, and services that are usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Here are the key principles that define universal design:

Equitable Use:

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities. For example, automatic doors that open for everyone, regardless of mobility.

Flexibility in Use:

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities. A good example is a multi-functional tool that can be used in different ways.

Simple and Intuitive:

The design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or concentration level. Think of a straightforward, easy-to-navigate website.

Perceptible Information:

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities. For example, an appliance with both visual and auditory signals.

Tolerance for Error:

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions. A self-correcting software that prevents common user errors is a great example.

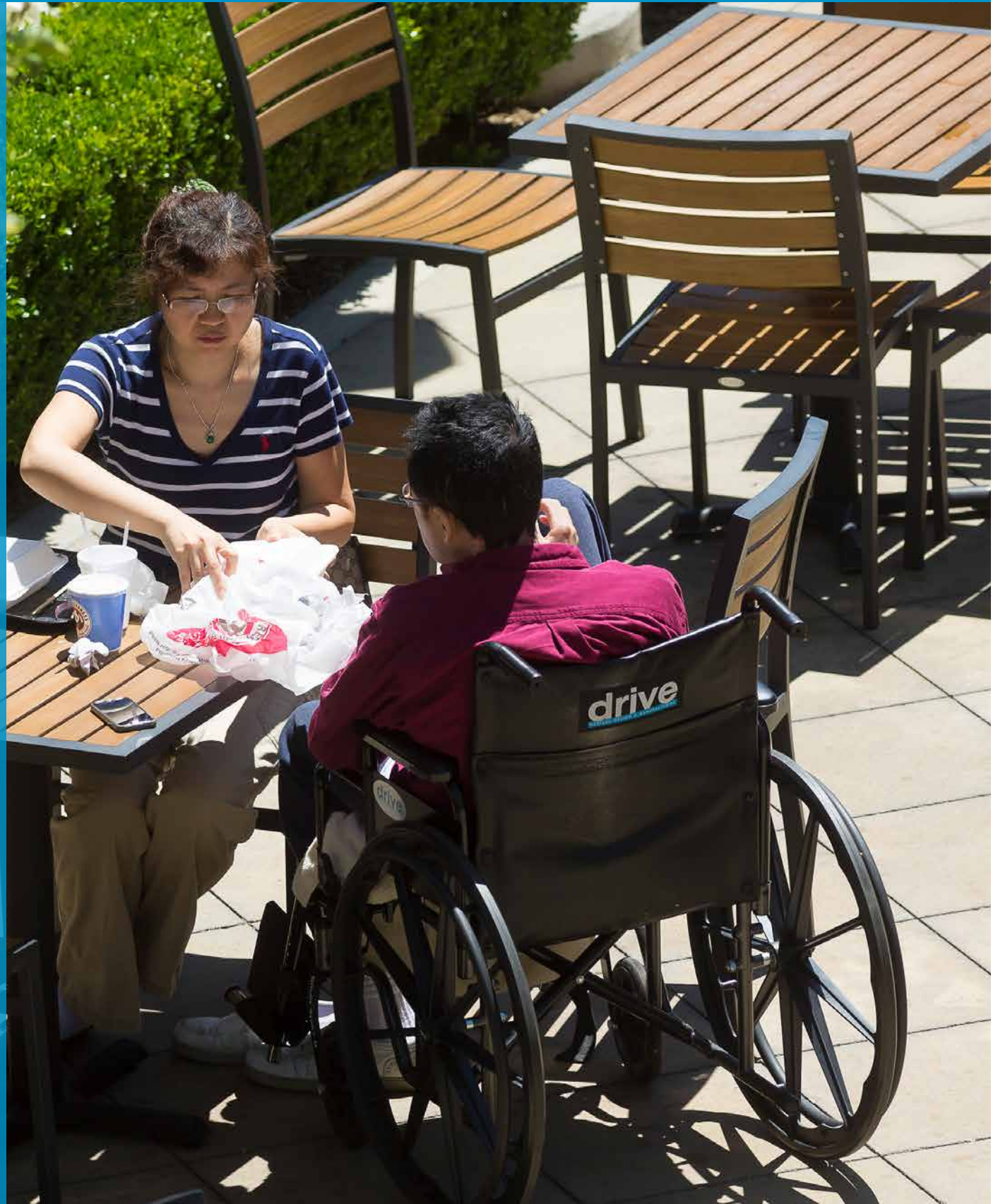
Low Physical Effort:

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably with minimal fatigue. Consider door lever handles, which require less grip strength to operate, instead of knobs.

Size and Space for Approach and Use:

Appropriate size and space are provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use, regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility. For example, a spacious restroom that accommodates wheelchair users.

By following these principles, universal design aims to make life easier, healthier, and more inclusive for everyone.



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GREEN DESIGN – GUIDED BY USGBC LEED

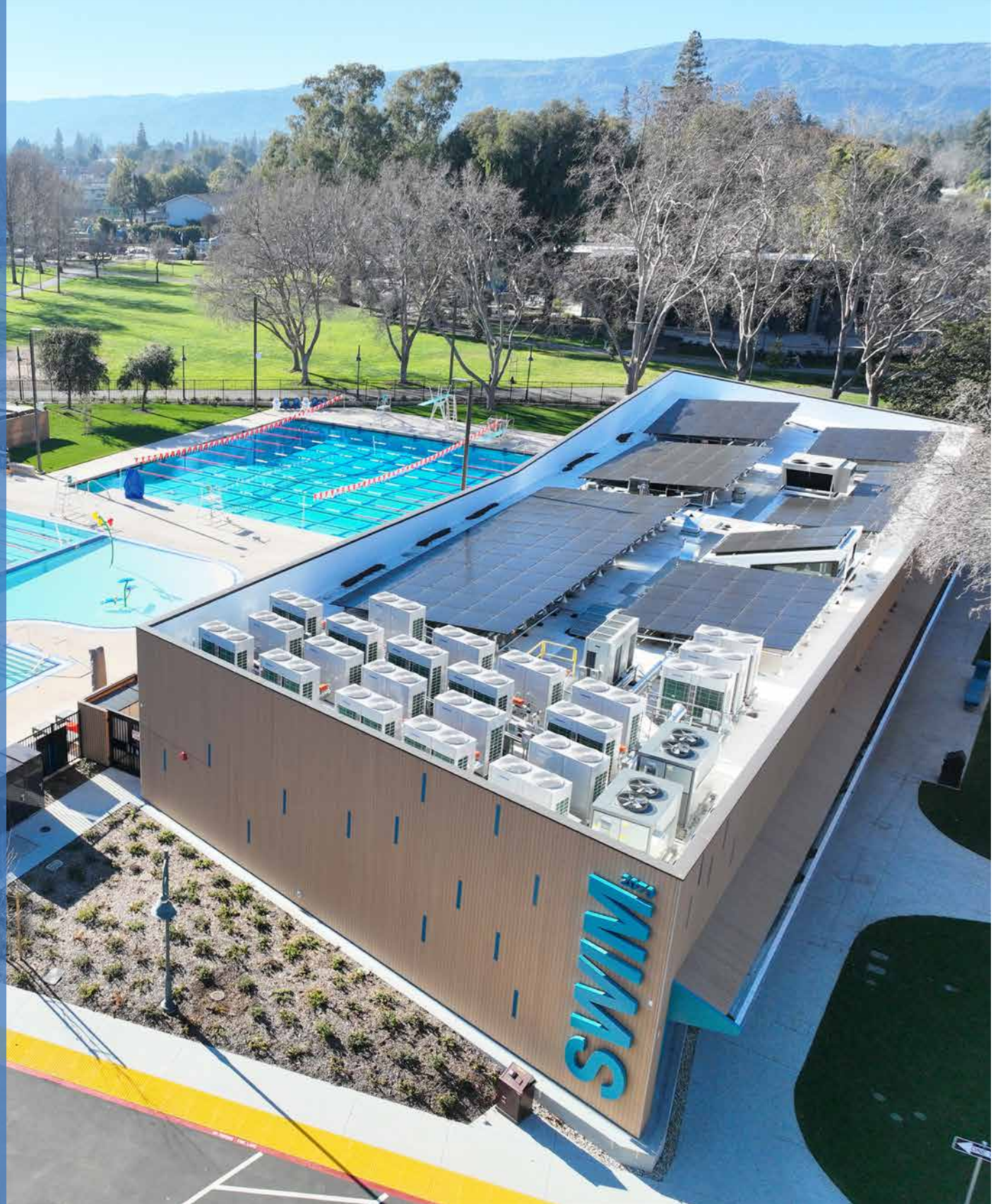
What is a LEED-rated project?

A LEED-rated project is one that has been certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, which is an internationally recognized green building certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED certification provides third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across key areas such as energy savings, water efficiency, carbon dioxide emissions reduction, and improved indoor environmental quality.

LEED certification is based on a points system, and projects can earn different levels of certification based on the number of points they achieve. The levels are:

- **CERTIFIED:** 40–49 points
- **SILVER:** 50–59 points
- **GOLD:** 60–79 points
- **PLATINUM:** 80 points and above

Points are awarded for various sustainable practices, including site selection, water efficiency, energy use, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.



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A POSSIBLE NEW CIVIC CENTER OUTDOOR SPACE

What could a new Civic Center Outdoor Space offer?

A Civic Center Outdoor Space is a versatile community space that can offer a range of programs and activities to engage residents and visitors. Here are some potential programming components:

Community Events:

Festivals, farmers' markets, and cultural celebrations that bring the community together.

Recreational Activities:

Fitness classes, yoga sessions, sports leagues, and outdoor games.

Educational Programs:

Workshops, lectures, and classes on various topics such as gardening, history, and environmental conservation.

Arts and Culture:

Public art installations, outdoor concerts, theater performances, and art exhibitions.

Youth Programs:

Activities for children and teenagers, including summer camps, after-school programs, and youth sports.

Senior Programs:

Social gatherings, fitness classes, and educational workshops tailored for older adults.

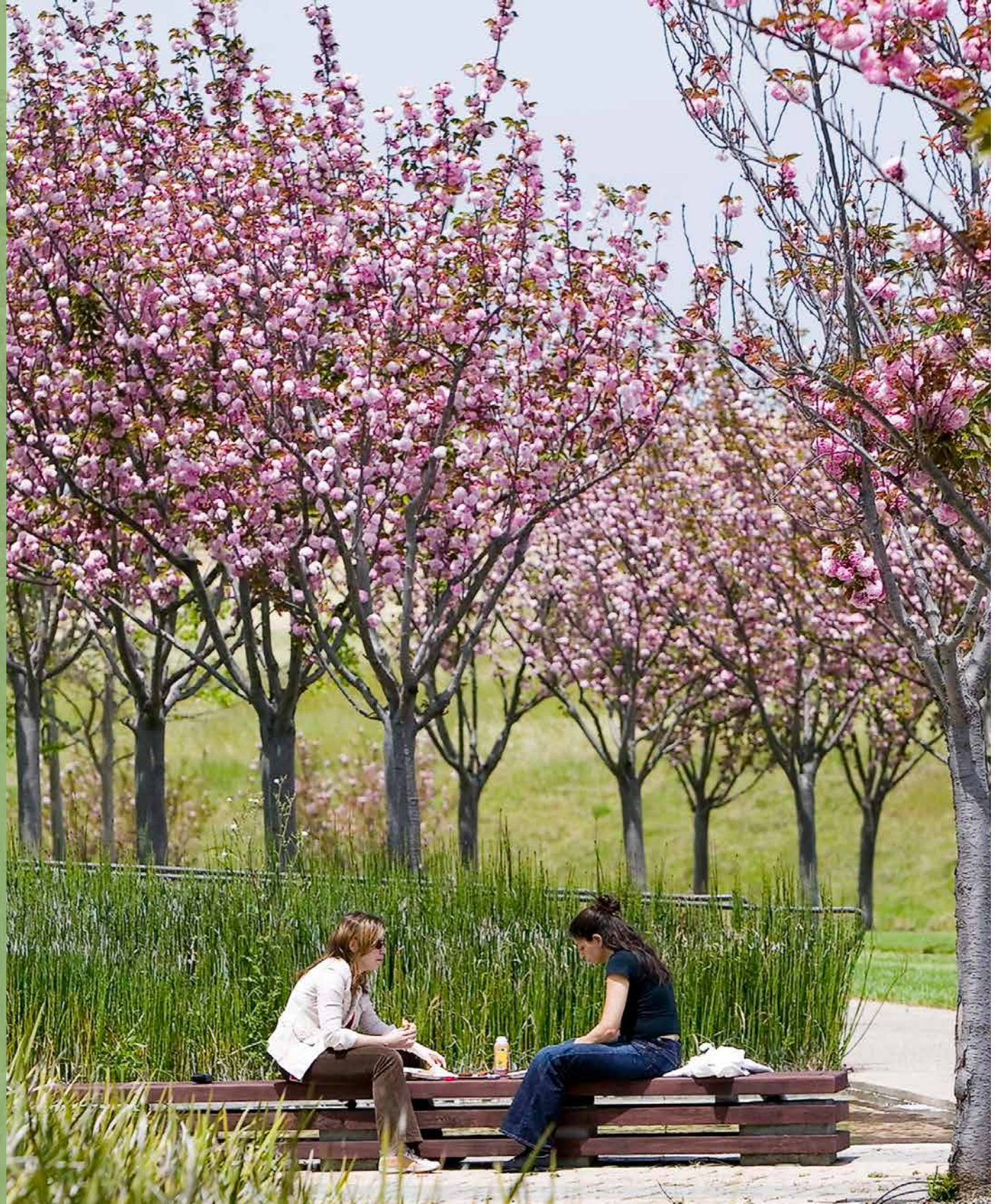
Volunteer Opportunities:

Programs that encourage community members to get involved with the community through event planning and other volunteer activities.

Special Events:

Holiday celebrations, movie nights, and themed events that provide entertainment and foster community spirit.

These components aim to create a vibrant and inclusive environment that caters to the diverse interests and needs of the community.



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A POSSIBLE NEW SENIOR CENTER

What could a new Senior Center offer?

Senior centers offer a variety of programs designed to enhance the well-being and quality of life for older adults. Here are some key programming components:

Health and Wellness Programs:

These include fitness classes, health screenings, nutrition workshops, and mental health support.

Educational Opportunities:

Senior centers often provide classes on topics like technology, arts and crafts, history, and languages.

Social Activities:

Events such as game nights, movie screenings, and group outings help foster social connections.

Support Services:

These may include counseling, legal assistance, and help with accessing community resources.

Volunteer and Employment Opportunities:

Programs that encourage seniors to volunteer or find part-time work can provide a sense of purpose and community engagement.

Recreational Activities:

Activities like gardening, dancing, and music sessions offer fun and relaxation.

These components aim to address the diverse needs and interests of older adults, promoting a holistic approach to aging well.



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A POSSIBLE NEW RECREATION CENTER

What could a new Recreation Center offer?

Recreation centers offer a wide range of programs to engage and benefit the community. Here are some key programming components:

Fitness and Sports:

This includes gym facilities, group exercise classes, and team sports like basketball, soccer, and tennis.

Youth Programs:

Activities such as after-school programs, summer camps, and youth leagues that focus on physical activity, education, and social skills.

Adult Programs:

Opportunities for adults to participate in fitness classes, sports leagues, workshops, and social events.

Senior Programs:

Tailored activities for older adults, including low-impact fitness classes, social gatherings, and educational workshops.

Arts and Crafts:

Classes and workshops in areas like painting, pottery, and other creative pursuits.

Community Events:

Events like holiday celebrations, festivals, and cultural activities that bring the community together.

Special Interest Groups:

Clubs and groups focused on specific hobbies or interests, such as gardening, hiking, or book clubs.

These components aim to promote physical health, social interaction, and lifelong learning for individuals of all ages in the community.



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A POSSIBLE NEW YOUTH CENTER

What could a new Youth Center offer?

Youth centers provide a variety of programs aimed at promoting the development, well-being, and engagement of young people. Here are some of the key programming components:

Educational Support:

Tutoring, homework help, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) programs to support academic achievement.

Recreational Activities:

Sports leagues, fitness classes, and outdoor adventures like hiking and camping to promote physical health.

Creative Arts:

Opportunities for young people to explore arts and crafts, music, theater, dance, and other creative outlets.

Social and Leadership Development:

Programs that focus on building social skills, leadership, and teamwork through activities like group projects, peer mentoring, and youth councils.

Life Skills Training:

Workshops on topics such as financial literacy, cooking, career planning, and job readiness to prepare youth for independent living.

Health and Wellness:

Services and programs that address mental health, nutrition, and overall well-being, including counseling and peer support groups.

Community Engagement:

Opportunities for youth to participate in community service projects, volunteer work, and civic engagement activities.

Technology and Digital Literacy:

Classes and workshops that teach digital skills, coding, and responsible use of technology.

These components aim to provide a supportive and enriching environment for young people, helping them develop into well-rounded individuals.



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A POSSIBLE NEW CENTER FOR THE ARTS

What could a new Center for the Arts offer?

A Center for the Arts typically offers a diverse range of programs designed to foster creativity and appreciation for artistic expression and cultural representation. Here are some key programming components:

Performing Arts:

Opportunities for participation in theater, dance, music, and other performance arts, including rehearsals, productions, and recitals.

Visual Arts:

Classes and workshops in painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, photography, and other visual media.

Exhibitions and Galleries:

Spaces for displaying artwork from local artists, students, and touring exhibitions, often accompanied by artist talks and gallery tours.

Film and Media Arts:

Screenings of independent films, documentaries, and media art, along with workshops in film making, animation, and digital media.

Literary Arts:

Programs that encourage creative writing, poetry, and literature, including writing workshops, author readings, and book clubs.

Community Engagement:

Outreach programs that bring arts education to schools, community centers, and underserved populations, as well as public art projects and cultural festivals.

Art Education:

Classes and workshops for all ages, from children to adults, covering a wide range of artistic disciplines and techniques.

These components aim to create a vibrant and inclusive environment that supports artistic expression and community-wide cultural enrichment.



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A POSSIBLE NEW AQUATICS CENTER

What could a new Aquatics Center offer?

A Community Aquatics Center typically offers a variety of programs to cater to both competitive swimmers and community members looking for recreational activities. Here are some key programming components:

Competitive Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Artistic Swimming:

Training programs, tournaments and meets, and competitions for various age groups and skill levels.

Recreational Swimming:

Open swim times, family swim sessions, and leisure activities like water slides and splash pads.

Swim Lessons:

Classes for all ages and skill levels, from beginners to advanced swimmers, including specialized lessons like water safety and lifeguard training.

Fitness Programs:

Water aerobics, aqua Zumba, and other aquatic fitness classes that promote physical health and well-being.

Therapeutic Programs:

Aquatic therapy sessions for individuals with physical disabilities or injuries, often led by trained professionals.

Special Events:

Community events, swim-a-thons, and themed swim nights that bring people together and promote community engagement.

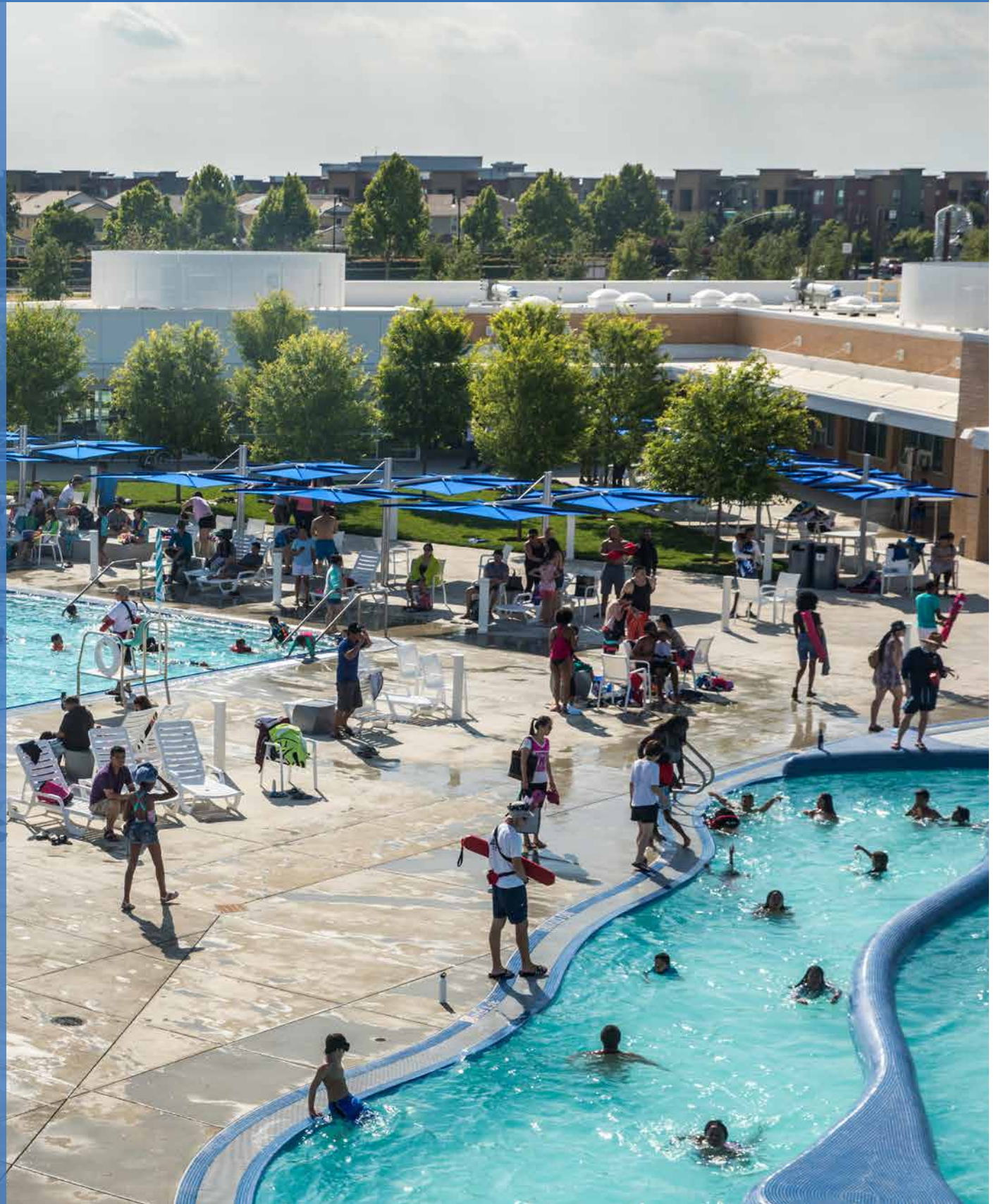
Youth Programs:

Swim teams, junior lifeguard programs, and summer camps that focus on skill development and fun.

Senior Programs:

Low-impact water exercises and social swim sessions tailored for older adults.

These components aim to provide a well-rounded and inclusive environment that supports both competitive and recreational aquatic activities.



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A POSSIBLE NEW CITY HALL

What could a new City Hall offer?

A City Hall serves as the administrative center for local government and offers a range of programs and services to the community. Here are some key programming components:

Government Services:

Offices for elected officials and various municipal departments.

Public Meetings and Hearings:

Spaces for city council meetings, community forums, and public hearings where residents can engage with local government and voice concerns.

Permits and Licensing:

Services for obtaining permits and licenses for businesses, construction, events, and other activities.

Community Programs:

Initiatives and events that promote civic engagement, such as neighborhood clean-ups, town hall meetings, and cultural celebrations.

Support Services:

Resources and assistance for residents, including housing support, social services, and legal aid.

Public Information:

Access to information on city policies, projects, and services through the city's website, newsletters, and public notices.

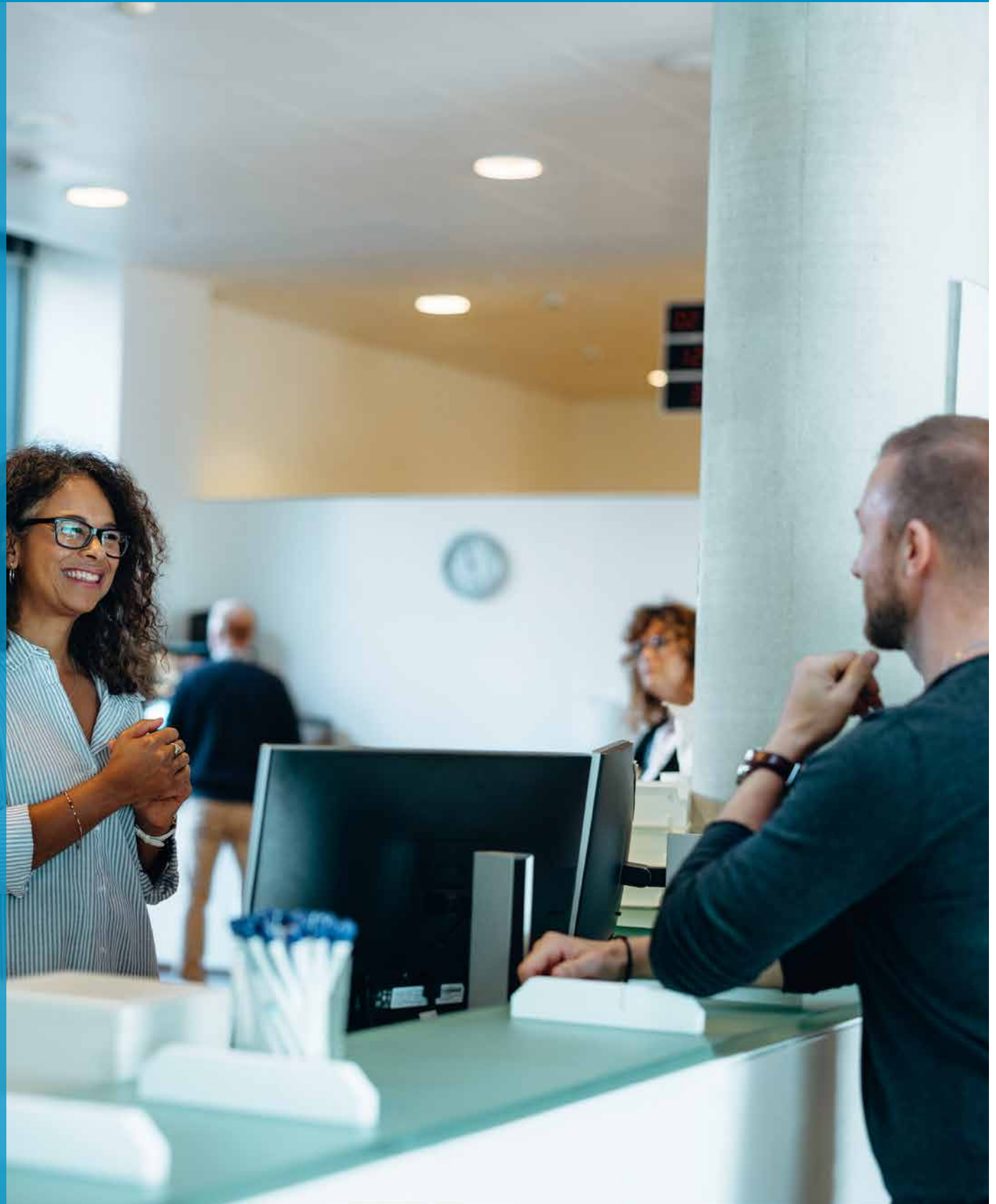
Elections and Voting:

Management of local elections, voter registration, and polling locations to ensure democratic participation.

Historical and Cultural Programs:

Preservation and promotion of local history and culture through museums, archives, and cultural events.

These components help the city operate smoothly and support access to essential services and opportunities for civic engagement.



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YOUR LIBRARY AND POLICE STATION

The Gilroy Library

The Gilroy Library is a modern and spacious facility located at 350 W. Sixth Street, and spans approximately 53,000 square feet. It was completed and opened on April 28, 2012. The construction cost for the library was approximately \$18.2 million.

Regarding renovations, the Gilroy Library is part of the Civic Center Master Plan, which aims to reimagine the Civic Center area. The library is relatively new and in excellent condition, thus will remain in place and serve as one of the anchor community service buildings in the new Civic Center Master Plan.



The Gilroy Police Station

The Gilroy Police Station is a one-story building atop a platform understory with a total area of approximately 28,000 square feet. It was completed and opened in March 2007. The construction cost for the station was approximately \$26.7 million.

The Gilroy Police Station is part of the Civic Center Master Plan, which aims to reimagine the Civic Center area. The police station is relatively new and beautifully maintained, thus will remain in place and serve as one of the anchor community service buildings in the new Civic Center Master Plan.



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ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

Please let us know your thoughts.

What are your thoughts about the Civic Center Master Plan process?

What are your thoughts on the site as it currently exists (Gilroy Library, Wheeler Center, and/or the Senior Center)?

Which of the new proposed uses (Senior Center, Youth Center, Recreation Center, Aquatic Center, and/or Arts Center) do you like most and why?

Which uses (Senior Center, Youth Center, Recreation Center, Aquatic Center, and/or Arts Center) make the most sense? Which make the least sense?

What concerns you most about the Civic Center Master Plan project?

What excites you most about the Civic Center Master Plan Project?

What have we missed?

