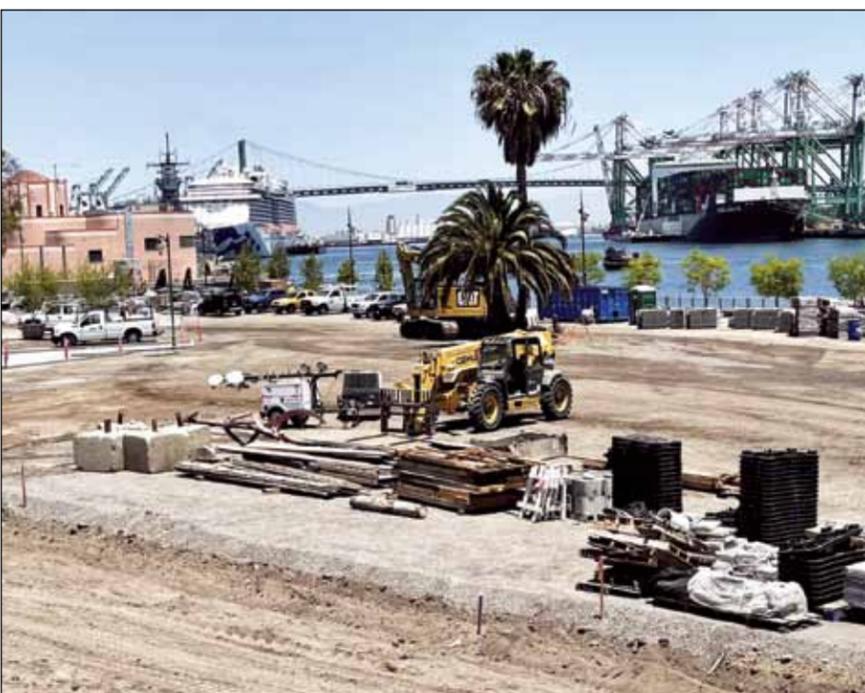


GRAND CENTRAL

Newsletter of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council / Spring 2021



Downtown San Pedro and Waterfront Undergo Dramatic Change as New Developments Transform Our Community



Work on the San Pedro Town Square in front of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum at the foot of Sixth Street and adjacent park area, public boat dock, and waterfront promenade that will extend to the southern end of the West Harbor development are proceeding apace. It is expected that the Town Square and northern end of the promenade will open in July.

The West Harbor project (on the site of the former Ports O' Call) is expected to begin construction within the year. Focusing primarily on dining and entertainment, an outdoor theater operated by the Nederlander organization is also planned.



Photo by Scott Garrabrant, Los Angeles Maritime Museum

Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council
1840 South Gaffey Street, Box 212
San Pedro, CA 90731

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Attn: POSTAL PATRON

New Projects in Downtown San Pedro

The Planning and Land Use Committee's purpose is to advocate and voice the interest of our community. We track, review and provide advice on new developments, and land use matters in our neighborhood. Our goal is to encourage sustainable, transit-oriented, pedestrian-friendly, and creative architecture, compatible with existing uses and responsive to our local environment and history.

Some current projects include:

336 West Seventh Street – A new mixed-use project with commercial retail at street level, 32 residential units on four floors above, and underground parking in Downtown San Pedro.

505 South Centre Street – On the property of the current county courthouse right in the heart of Downtown San Pedro, a new mixed-use project is proposed with commercial retail at ground level, and 300 residential units on six levels above. Street amenities and open space areas are provided to encourage pedestrian activities along Sixth and Centre streets. A new market is also proposed as part of this project, to be part of the recently created Little Italy District.



336 West Seventh Street



505 South Centre Street

Central San Pedro NC Committees

The purpose of neighborhood councils is to “Promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs.” In San Pedro, we have three groups representing all residents—the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council, Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, and Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council.

Committees are where the real work happens. Grassroots issues are investigated and reviewed by committees, forwarded to the full neighborhood council board, and ultimately sent on to the Los Angeles City Council. This is how we get your concerns and views up the chain. Stakeholders are welcome to serve on committees along with board members.

Planning and Land Use Committee

The Planning and Land Use Committee addresses issues pertaining to property development within our area. Its purpose is to advocate for the interests of our community. This committee tracks, reviews, and provides advice on new developments and land use matters in our neighborhood. Its goal is to encourage sustainable, public transit- and pedestrian-friendly projects, and creative architecture, compatible with existing uses, and responsive to our local environment and our history. Developers present their plans to a joint meeting of the three San Pedro neighborhood councils. Committee members take the opportunity to make suggestions and encourage modifications to the plans, such as more parking, use of native plants, a preference for solar paneling, etc. The joint committee meets once a month to review information and may draft a letter to the developers or the city reflecting support or concerns. Such letters are then considered and acted upon by each separate council board.

Port Committee

The Port Committee deals with all Port of Los Angeles issues that affect our stakeholders, either directly or indirectly, as in cases where port activities have a connection to Central San Pedro, such as pollution mitigation. The committee has liaisons with the Harbor Area Neighborhood Council (HANC) and the port through the port/chamber/NCs meetings. Both groups meet once a month and deal with current port issues. The Port Committee also has a place on the Board of Harbor Commissioners' monthly agendas to present motions and resolutions passed by the Central board. Recently, the committee has dealt with issues such as the West Harbor redevelopment at the former Ports O' Call site, using port properties for homeless encampments, traffic concerns, and improving communication with the port through a virtual town hall meeting.

Parks and Schools Committee

This committee deals with issues that affect our local parks and schools within Central Neighborhood Council's boundaries. The committee seeks to improve communication with Council District 15, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks, District 7 of the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education, and local park advisory boards

(PABs). The goal is to play a more significant role in improving Central's few parks and ensure that our local public schools have the resources they need to improve student success. Recent issues the committee has dealt with include improving communications with all park and school stakeholder groups and helping to revamp the Anderson Memorial Senior Citizens Center through the expenditure of \$1.5 million of Quimby funds to pay for park improvements. (Quimby funds are fees developers pay to cities that can be used to purchase and develop land and/or recreational facilities.)

Public Safety and Transportation Committee

The Public Safety and Transportation Committee deals with issues that promote improved public safety (e.g., monitoring monthly crime statistics) and transportation (e.g. traffic calming). The committee has focused on improving public awareness of crime trends and locations in Central San Pedro through monthly communications with LAPD's senior lead officer (SLO) and the local Neighborhood Watch groups. Transportation concerns have been aimed at improvements in traffic safety including higher profile crosswalks, more visible signage, and enhanced lighting. Recent issues the committee has dealt with include the proposed installation of billboards at city bus shelters, the use of additional city funding to support unarmed responses crime scenes, and the impact of West Harbor and redevelopment on downtown San Pedro and the port.

Outreach and Communications Committee

The purpose of this committee is to maximize outreach, awareness, and involvement in the Neighborhood Councils, which are unique to Los Angeles. They were founded to improve communication between individuals and neighborhoods and the leadership of the city. Public involvement is necessary to be effective. Best practices of this committee include participating in or producing public events, dispersing information about government via social media and printed material, and communicating with stakeholders to encourage their participation.

Homelessness Committee

The Committee on Homelessness is tasked with reviewing local issues and concerns in relation to the City's Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, which states that the city cannot achieve a reduction in homelessness unilaterally. Critical to an effective plan to reduce homelessness is ongoing coordination with the County of Los Angeles, existing nonprofit providers, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. (LAHSA).

Finance Committee

Funds are provided to the neighborhood councils by the city to cover their operation and outreach. The purpose of the Finance Committee is to assure that the funds provided by the taxpayers are used in accordance with the ordinances of the city. This committee meets with Central's treasurer and reviews expenditures and monthly reports.

Meet the New Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board Members

BARBARA ST. JOHN

Hi, I am Barbara (Bender) St John I have lived in the south bay area all my life; I was born at Hawthorne hospital which doesn't even exist anymore! I am a retired paraEducator/surf coach and since Retirement I have joyfully helped in the caretaking of my five grandchildren-under the age of five! My husband and I moved to San Pedro about 3 1/2 years ago from Torrance because we really love this area and it reminded me of the family atmosphere, that I remember from childhood. I believe that we have that same community here in San Pedro. I have done volunteer work all my life with PTA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, any and all sports teams our kids got involved in. Of course after retirement this carried on over into our move to San Pedro where I have already volunteered with the City Council prior to pandemic and I have been helping with the tall ship program, Boys & Girls Club, also meals on wheels. I believe community is very important everyone should try to help in anyway that they can!



EUGENIA BULANOVA

I love being a part of our community and participate in its growth and development. I'm interested in participating with the matters of land use, ecology and nature of our district.



JAMES PRESTON ALLEN

James Preston Allen has served as president and vice president of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council and previously lead the San Pedro Downtown Business Association 1984-86, was vice-chairman and board member on the CRA/LA-Community Advisory Committee 2001-12; where he championed many initiatives such as historic street lighting, the “seam-less interface” development with the Port of LA, and most significantly the creation of the San Pedro Arts, Culture and Entertainment (ACE) district. He was the founding chairman and visionary for the ACE district, which he chaired for two years, capturing \$500,000 in grants. He is also a practicing artist and a graduate of Otis Art Institute of Los Angeles, CA. As one of the early supporters of Neighborhood Councils Mr. Allen championed this cause in his editorials, nurtured public support for them and fought for charter reform. He also is a long standing, and one of the most outspoken, members of the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce.



JAMES CORDERO

Having been born, educated and employed in San Pedro, I feel a great sense of responsibility to give back to this diverse, vibrant, and hardworking community, in a new way. Previously, I have found ways to serve through a decade in law enforcement primarily with the LAPD in Harbor Division, followed by 20 years in education, the majority of those at Mary Star of the Sea Elementary and even coaching my own children and their teammates on school teams and at Bogdanovich Park. All of those interactions and more have shaped me to be the leader that I am today. It has been a privilege to be part of so many lives, families, and traditions here in San Pedro. Today, as Principal of MSSE, I see the need for all San Pedrans to work together as we face the issues of our time. Through the guiding principles of Faith - Family - Country we can continue to build a safer environment that lifts our children and community to new heights, securing for all the opportunity for a successful future.



Meet the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board Members

VICKY RODRIGUEZ

I have been a trusted health-care provider serving for over 20 years. My priority is to advocate for our community on safety and enhance quality of life. Public safety is a matter of all citizens to compass and attentive in the realm of community togetherness. I will be your advocate in echoing what matters most to you when safety is a concern. I will use my active listening skills and hear your perspective in order to use my personal voice to champion safety concerns up to City Hall. I will engage and push the much needed attentions on homelessness, crime and pollution. With my pronounced voice on your side, you will see my actions in every attempt to ensure your safety is highly guarded.



KARINA RETTIG

As resident of San Pedro for over 20 years, I am deeply invested in our community. From graduating from San Pedro High school to spending summers at the Boys and Girls Club of the Harbor, I know the beauty and greatness our city has to offer. But I also know that at a time like this our community is in great need of leadership and unification. That is why I'm running for a seat on the CeSPNC. This is a time where we need our leaders and stake holders to come together regardless of political party and I intend to be a leader and fighter in order to better our community.



ZIGGY MRKICH

Having attended many Central Neighborhood Council Meetings over the years, I know how important the work is and how dedicated the Neighborhood Council board members are. It would be a privilege to serve as an At Large Board Member in the coming year and work together to help solve some of the most important issues in our community. I have lived in San Pedro for over 5 years, and I have been organizing the San Pedro Film Festival at the Warner Grand Theatre for 10 years. Before moving to San Pedro, I lived in Sherman Oaks and Hollywood, and would quite often drive to San Pedro to attend meetings and events and eventually loved it so much I moved here. San Pedro is a very unique and close knit community and that comes with its own challenges being a Port Town and on the brink of redevelopment. I would like to become even more involved in my community and help solve some of the issues that are holding San Pedro from positive change.



GINA L.

Advocacy of Social Justice, Environmental Justice, Animal rights.



LINDA L. ALEXANDER

I came to San Pedro 20 years ago for a job at Rainbow Services (a domestic violence-focused agency on 7th St). At first, I was put off by the façade of a tough and gritty town, but I learned soon enough that this is a unique community with a proud heritage. As a development officer for Rainbow, I was out in the community talking about the perils of domestic violence and met so many receptive, community-minded San Pedro residents — people I came to respect and admire. I am honored to have held the positions of President for 4 years, Treasurer for 2 years and currently serve as the Finance Committee Chair. My focus on the board is to maintain a competent, open organization which serves all stakeholders as a conduit to the higher levels of LA City Government. Our Neighborhood Council exists to hear, study, reflect and carry forward the concerns of our residents. I work to support the process so your voice is heard.



LOUIS CARAVELLA

I've been proud to serve on the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council since 2017, listening to stakeholders and taking their concerns to LA City Hall. I have served as Secretary of the Council and am currently proud to lead as Vice President. I also advocate for the neighborhood as Central's delegate to monthly meetings of the citywide LA Neighborhood Council Coalition. I've helped Central San Pedro regain its position of advocacy in LA City government. As a member of the Council, I've supported resolutions on Port jobs, strategic development of Port property, City government reform, Port sustainability, development of downtown San Pedro, and more. I've also supported safe, responsible, and neighborhood-improving solutions to homelessness, including two new transitional housing facilities in our neighborhood.



MATTHEW QUIOCHO (KEY-OCHO)

Greetings and salutations! My name is Matthew Quicho (Key-Ocho) and I am currently a board member of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council. I am also the Outreach and Communications Committee Chair as well as the Vice-Chairman of the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee. I am asking for your vote in electing me to a new two year term. Besides representing the interests of Central San Pedro residents I am a legal scholar, turned Air Force Space Operator, turned Acquisition Analyst for the government. I love wearing different hats, as it gives me a broad perspective from which I can better understand and work with a diversity of stakeholder interests. I have lived in San Pedro for the last three years, but grew up in Southern California. I love San Pedro and want to ensure it remains a fantastic place to live, work and raise a family.



M. GARLAND

No statement submitted.



DAVID WINTHROP HANSON

Hello! My name is David and I am running for neighborhood council here in Central San Pedro. I am originally from Boston and set roots here about 5 years ago. I am an artist, business and gallery owner in the Downtown Arts District and have fallen in love with it here. I am interested in being a representative on the neighborhood council because as I see the gentrification beginning, I feel it is vital to have a voice during this transformation. Nothing would break my heart more than to see this neat town lose its' charm-as that often happens once the developers take over. I would love to be a part of something that could aide this transition in a way that we don't lose our originality-much like Boston has always done. Please consider me as your candidate. I love this town, I call it my forever home and would be honored to be part of something meaningful that a platform such as this can provide.



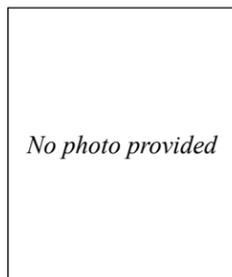
STACEY GOLDEN

I am running to serve for the Central Neighborhood Council because, as a leaseholder in Downtown San Pedro, I care about clean streets, thriving small businesses, healthy recreational opportunities for Youth/Seniors and for the advocacy of environmental best practices at Port of Los Angeles. I work as a LAUSD public school teacher and serve locally, statewide and nationally with UTLA, California Teachers Association and the National Education Association for the San Pedro Area. I serve as 3rd Vice President for the San Pedro Democratic Club since January 2020. I have been active with the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, serving as a Sea Ranger and Whale Watcher and support the Marine Mammal Care Center's marine mammal rescue efforts. I shop at Crafted Port of Los Angeles and support the San Pedro Art Association. If elected to serve, I promise to be a positive voice for our community, supporting ideas and initiatives that provide public resources for both the housed and unhoused residents.



RICHARD J. OLIVAREZ

I understand that you are searching for candidates to fill seats NHC that will improve our neighborhoods, hold government accountable and help get your voice heard. Well, then search no more, please accept this statement as proof that I am determined and willing to accept the responsibilities of this position.



MAKI VILLACARILLO

No statement submitted.



City services: call 311 or get MyLA311 app (info at www.myla311.lacity.org)

One Call to City Hall 311

Central San Pedro Social Media
 Twitter: @CentralSPNC
 Instagram: @CeSPNC
 Facebook: CentralSanPedroNeighborhoodCouncil
 To join our listserve, please visit our website to register your email address or send an email to info@centralsanpedro.org.



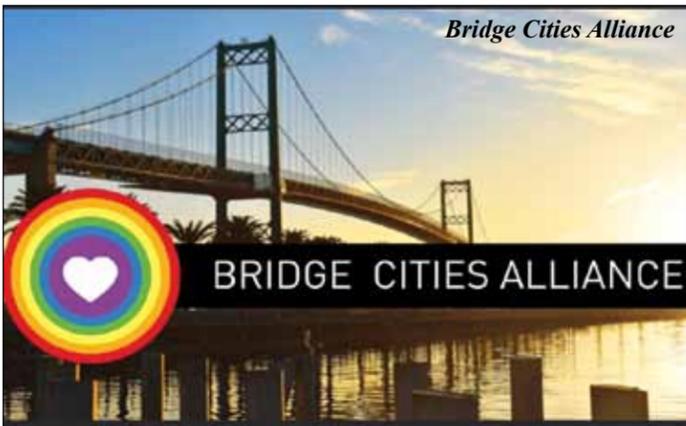
The Vincent Thomas Bridge at sunset. Photo: Port of Los Angeles

Central SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
 Governing board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. For information on this meeting and CeSPNC committee meetings, check our website at www.centralsanpedronc.org

Central San Pedro NC Neighborhood Purpose Grant Recipients for 2020-21



Beacon House



Bridge Cities Alliance



Grand Vision Foundation



San Pedro Historical Society

Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council is pleased to support five nonprofit organizations through neighborhood purpose grants. Under our charter from the city, the council is encouraged to make small monetary awards to nonprofit organizations that further our mission. This is our grant activity in 2020-2021.

Beacon House

“The vision of the Beacon House is to provide the best possible recovery experience for the men who come to us for help. We do this by maintaining a safe, clean, healthy environment; providing proven methods of treatment and support; having staff who are well-trained and experienced in treatment; and treating each individual with the compassion, care and respect they deserve.”

This grant is for beautifying the city block across the street from Plaza Park and around the Beacon House properties. Funds go for plants and other materials. The Beacon House residents will do the planting and will be responsible for maintenance.

Bridge Cities Alliance

“Bridge Cities Alliance seeks to garner, connect and build a stronger LGBTQ+ community through outreach and collaboration, as well as to do community improvement projects that will highlight the power of diversity and strength through volunteerism.”

This grant went to support the purchase of 160 gay pride flags flown throughout downtown San Pedro business corridors to celebrate June, Gay Pride month. The flags and celebration remind the community of the need for and importance of diversity, and to show community unity, respect, inclusivity and awareness.

Grand Vision Foundation

“We produce live concerts, film screenings, performances and educational events at the historic Warner Grand Theatre, a 1,500-seat art deco movie palace and also at the Grand Annex, a 150-seat music listening room. We also run a robust arts education program called Meet the Music. Grand Vision is the Friends’ Group for the Warner Grand Theatre.

“The Meet the Music program now provides 18 months of sequential, standards-based in-school music lessons serving over 1,700 fourth and fifth grade students. Each year, Grand Vision’s Three professional music teachers teach 25 weekly 40-minute music lessons in each fifth-grade classroom.”

This grant will provide the recorders (musical instruments) for this year.

San Pedro Art Association

“The San Pedro Arts Association was formed in 1936 by a small group of local artists to bring together creative people with similar interests within the harbor areas and to provide a focal point for those with such interests to work together, learn, and exhibit their work.

“Today the SPAA continues in that role as a forum for networking, information sharing, promotion, peer access and counsel, professional assistance and art education as well as career and marketing opportunities for the artists living in the harbor area.”

This grant supports the SPAA outreach to harbor area children for the annual art competition. The art competition for students began in 2012 and has since expanded to include students in grades K-12.

San Pedro Historical Society

“A primary purpose of the San Pedro Historical Society is to encourage the restoration and preservation of historic buildings, material, culture and landmarks in the San Pedro Bay area. It was instrumental in the creation of the Vinegar Hill Historic Preservation Overlay Zone and continues to work as an advocate for the historical appreciation of the entire San Pedro Bay area.”

This grant supports a new project to recognize local sites and buildings that contribute to the historic, diverse character of the community. Historic buildings and sites will be marked with a blue circular plaque noting the relevant name and date of the site or building. The plaque will feature a lively design emblematic of our area.



Central San Pedro board member Lou Caravella and Pride event organizer Mona Sutton, Bridge Cities Alliance



San Pedro neighborhood council presidents Doug Epperhart (Coastal), Lou Caravella (Central), and Ray Regalado (Northwest) turned out to celebrate Pride Month.

Pride Month Event at San Pedro Welcome Park

The San Pedro community turned out in force on Saturday, June 4, to mark Pride Month with a program celebrating LGBTQ+ culture. The event featured speeches, poetry, presentations, and culminated with the raising of a rainbow-hued flag.

The event was organized by the Bridge Cities Alliance and emceed by Mona Sutton, proprietor of the Omelette and Waffle Shop, and a longtime San Pedro community activist.

Among the speakers were 44th District Congressional Representative Nanette Barragan, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, and 15th District Councilmember Joe Buscaino.

CeSPNC @ A GLANCE

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Vice President

Matthew Quioccho

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Vicky Rodriguez
Barbara St. John
Maki Villacarillo