

# Seascape


 CityofSantaMonica
  SantaMonicaCity
  SantaMonica.gov

04

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

05

BELOW MARKET HOUSING PROGRAM

06

MANDATORY FOOD AND LANDSCAPE MATERIALS RECYCLING STARTS



# *New Leadership Begins Work in Santa Monica*

## MEET CITY MANAGER DAVID WHITE AND POLICE CHIEF RAMON BATISTA

October was an important month for Santa Monica as two leaders joined the City of Santa Monica organization. City Manager David White joined us on October 12 and has hit the ground running meeting residents, business owners, and community members, and getting acquainted with our dynamic community. Just one week later, Police Chief Ramon Batista was sworn in as Santa Monica's 18th Chief of Police on the steps of City Hall with his wife and daughter there to pin his Santa Monica Police Department badge.

These two experienced and committed leaders join the City organization at a pivotal moment as we work alongside the community to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and with the City Council to advance priorities of homelessness, a safe and clean Santa Monica, and an equitable and inclusive economic recovery.

Read on for welcome messages from City Manager White and Chief Batista. In this issue you'll also find information on how we are advancing community priorities.

### WE ARE SANTA MONICA FUND

The City established the We Are Santa Monica Fund to support non-profits that focus on critical community needs. So far, private donors, residents, and businesses have contributed \$1.3 million to help support Santa Monica's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Agenda in Santa Monica, and the Emergency Food Pantry. Since June 2021, half a million dollars has been distributed to address urgent needs like food insecurity and support for small local businesses in partnership with LISC and the Santa Monica Chamber Foundation. **Thank you to all our generous donors.**

**This holiday season, our recovery work continues and the needs are great in our community.** To make a secure, tax-deductible donation online, visit [calfund.org/wearesantamonica](https://calfund.org/wearesantamonica).

PRSR1 STD  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 147  
SANTA MONICA, CA

City of Santa Monica  
1685 Main Street  
P.O. Box 2200  
Santa Monica, CA 90407-2200

# MESSAGES FROM NEW LEADERSHIP

## City Manager David White

**T**o the Santa Monica Community – it is with tremendous excitement that I begin my service to Santa Monica as your City Manager.

Since moving to this great city with my wife in October, we have had a chance to reflect and immerse ourselves in this special place. From early morning runs throughout the City to produce runs at the Pico Farmers Market to last minute trips to Bob’s Market for dinner ingredients and meeting so many kind and generous neighbors at National Night Out and Hispanic Heritage Month, our introduction to Santa Monica has made our hearts full.

I am incredibly eager to work with the City Council and take the time to get to know residents, business and property owners, the diverse community organizations, dedicated volunteers, and members of our Boards and Commissions that make Santa Monica a community with strong ties, and the tremendous employees that serve this community on a daily basis. As I look forward to meeting you, here’s a little bit about me.

I was born and raised in Southern California. On my journey back home, I have lived in Boston, Brooklyn, Berkeley, El Cerrito, and now Santa Monica. I have worked in both the private and public sectors. I am married to my high school sweetheart, and we have one daughter who just started her sophomore year at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia (Go Jaguars!). I also have two dogs, am a vegan, love coffee, love to run early in the morning, and thoroughly enjoy music.



I am passionate about local government and committed to excellence in public service. I respect this work and know there is no higher calling. Day in and day out, the talented City team that I now join is relied upon to provide services to each and every person who lives here, works here, and visits here and our work is critical to ensuring that we are a safe, vibrant, and resilient community. I respect and value the

wisdom, passion, and commitment of our City Council and look forward to advancing their priorities.

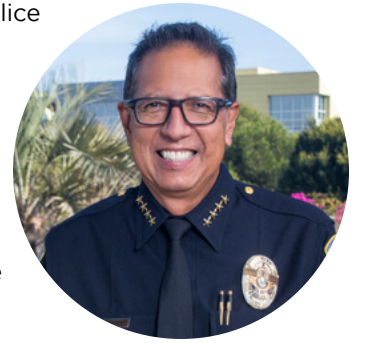
You may be wondering about my leadership style. I believe in and am committed to a collaborative and inclusive approach to solving problems. When we work together and build strong partnerships that value the input of each and every person’s perspective, I am confident that we will be successful.

Coming into this job in this moment, I am mindful that the past year and a half has been hard. The pandemic has been mentally and physically exhausting and has had dire financial consequences. In addition, I am sober to the fact that the City organization and service levels have been deeply impacted. We have important work to do to chart a path forward to restore service levels and implement approaches to serve the community well with limited resources. It’s all possible and I am ready to get to work.

As I hit the ground running, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on a personal level. Please say hello and I very much look forward to doing the same.

## Police Chief Ramon Batista

**I** have been your proud Chief of Police for a few months and in that time I have thoroughly enjoyed the process of meeting residents and learning about our vibrant 8.3 square miles by the beach. It has become abundantly clear to me that Santa Monica is a place with a very special ethos, a strong foundation of resiliency, and local pride. As our world returns to a new sense of normalcy and the regional economy builds back to its pre-pandemic hum, I am eager to increase my Department’s collaboration with you to provide a safe and healthy community. It is an honor to have the opportunity to lead the men and women, sworn and civilian, of the SMPD to achieve our common goals of justice and safety in the City.



It can’t be said enough: the safety of the entire Santa Monica community, residents, workers, and visitors alike, is the overarching goal of the members of the Santa Monica Police Department. Public Safety is also a great passion of mine. Starting in the Tucson Police Department as an officer more than 35 years ago, my commitment to safety, service and community engagement has steadily grown throughout the entirety of my career. I am everyone’s Chief. I stand proudly for the officers and professional staff in the SMPD and support their mission with every skill and ability I have attained in my long career. SMPD Officers are trained not just to police your community; they are also a fundamental component in the fight for justice in policing. Every day, the Department works toward our goal of strengthening and supporting the ideals of building trust and legitimacy to advance the core principles of 21st Century Policing.

We are also here to fight crime. We understand that although raw numbers of reported crimes are down, we are highly aware about the perception of crime. We are committed to applying our strengths and skills in conjunction with our community to solve problems, large and small. We will never stop working with our community to make it safe and one of the best places to live.

At the end of October, we were encouraged by a 4.5% decrease in Part 1 crime year to date as compared to last year. Most notably:

- 10% decrease in Robbery
- 17% decrease in Residential Burglary
- 24% decrease in Commercial Burglary
- 10% decrease in Vehicle Burglary

In the first ten months of 2021, we noticed an increase in the Aggravated Assaults category, most of which involved our unhoused population; however, violent crime overall decreased 13% in the same period. Part 2 Crime, or less-serious crime not tracked by FBI statistics, was down 7% at the end of October. At that time, we estimated we are on-track for the 4th year of decreases in Part 1 Crime. When crime numbers are evaluated year to year, a comparison of Part 1 crime from 2018 to 2021 year to date shows over a 30% decrease.

All these numbers are useful benchmarks to see how well the SMPD is working for you. I look forward as your new Chief to continuing the engagement process and facilitating the Department’s goal of collaborating for community safety and health.

# A SAFE AND FESTIVE HOLIDAY DOWNTOWN

**T**he holidays are here, and the City of Santa Monica is focused on ushering in a safe and festive holiday season in all neighborhoods and business districts, including our beloved downtown. Throughout the summer and fall months and now into winter, City departments have worked together to ensure residents and everyone visiting Santa Monica has a safe and welcoming experience.

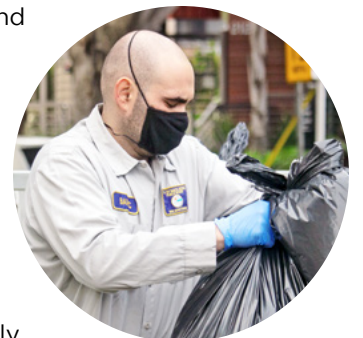
For a safe experience, the **Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD)** from Black Friday through New Year’s Day, will deploy additional sworn officers and civilian staff in the downtown areas to address issues related to crime and the perception of crime. Funding for this additional deployment is coming from the \$1 million allotment by City Council in July 2021 using Recovery Funds. Additionally, SMPD recently moved its Crime Impact Team on a temporary basis from the Special Operations Division to the Operations Division’s Downtown Services Unit to assist and increase the sworn personnel deployed to the downtown area.



The **Santa Monica Fire Department’s** new Community Response Unit is focused on addressing the mental health and other service needs of vulnerable people throughout Santa Monica. Additionally, the C3 multi-disciplinary outreach team from January – June 2021, made over 4,600 contacts, and provided intensive street-based medical and psychiatric services to more than 240 individuals. Their work

continues every day, including throughout the holiday season.

For a clean experience, the **Public Works** team provides regular litter pickup and bi-weekly landscape maintenance services at the Third Street Promenade’s dinosaur topiaries to ensure that the iconic features remain a pleasure to behold and be around for all visitors. Teams sweep and pressure washes the Promenade daily and empties all trash receptacles throughout the Downtown area four times a day. This same team sees to it that the downtown alleys are vacuumed throughout the week and all sidewalks are pressure washed twice a week. These combined efforts culminate in an enhanced pedestrian experience for shoppers, diners, and tourists. Public Works also provides weekly street sweeping and daily pick up services for trash and recyclable containers at commercial establishments in contributing towards a clean and safe downtown.



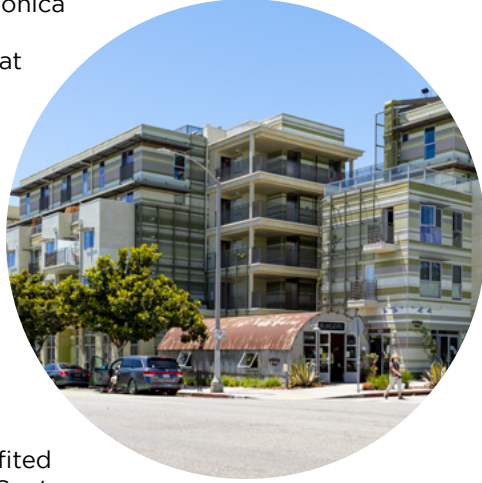
As you enjoy the holiday season in Santa Monica, remember to keep valuables with you and not within sight in your vehicle. Stop by SMPD’s Public Safety Kiosk located in the 1400 block of Third Street Promenade for holiday programming throughout the season. As always, if you see something suspicious or need help from the Santa Monica Police Department, please call **9-1-1** for emergencies or **(310) 458-8491** for non-emergencies. For other needs, contact **3-1-1**.

# 10 PROGRAMS HELPING SANTA MONICA BOUNCE BACK

**E** As the Santa Monica community continues to show its resilience in the face of the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is worth highlighting all the continued efforts made across our entire community to help the people and businesses of Santa Monica on the road to recovery. Here's a recap of some of the programs that have made a tangible impact:

## 1. RENTAL ASSISTANCE -

Connecting our commercial and residential tenants and landlords with rental assistance programs remains a priority. So far, over \$41 million dollars in state rental assistance funds have been requested by over 2,500 Santa Monica households and 60 city commercial tenants have benefited from rent abatement support. Santa Monica residential and commercial landlords and tenants can also access free mediation support through a partnership with Pepperdine's Straus Institute and access the latest information about the eviction moratorium that expired September 30 at [santamonica.gov/coronavirus-eviction-moratorium](https://santamonica.gov/coronavirus-eviction-moratorium).



## 2. HIRE LOCAL -

Santa Monica has helped our local businesses by creating a Hire Local Jobs Board and distributing information to raise awareness of this new resource. So far this has promoted 360 available jobs from 75 different businesses, aiming to connect our 4,200 residents still looking for work with our local business community looking to hire. See the most recent listings at [santamonica.gov/hirelocal](https://santamonica.gov/hirelocal).



## 3. CHILDCARE -

Supporting our small business childcare providers was crucial to ensuring that parents and caregivers could return to work during the pandemic. The City has provided 141 Santa Monica families with vouchers to assist with childcare costs, and 76 childcare providers with grants (averaging \$700 each) for educational supplies. In addition, the City created a webpage at [santamoniacradletocareer.org/childcare](https://santamoniacradletocareer.org/childcare) where residents can find local licensed childcare providers sorted by neighborhood.

## 4. EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY -

In April 2020, we established an emergency food pantry at Virginia Avenue Park. It has served 200 families weekly. It is now an ongoing effort that is being overseen by the Westside Food Bank thanks to over \$300,000 in community donations to the We Are Santa Monica Fund.

## 5. SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS -

In an effort to supplement losses and unexpected expenses due to COVID-19, the SaMo Small Business Recovery Grant program distributed 78 grants of \$5,000 to Santa Monica small businesses. 475 local businesses applied, and grantees were chosen through an online, randomized application system managed by Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Thanks to generous community members, business leaders, and nonprofits that donated to the We Are Santa Monica Fund and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Foundation, along with funding provided by the City of Santa Monica, over \$390,000 has been provided to local businesses so far.



## 6. VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK COMMERCIAL KITCHEN -

The City is also progressing in its effort to provide new space for businesses looking for a commercial space to prepare food. \$640,000 in funding has been secured from public and private sources, an architect has been identified and onboarded, and pre-work is beginning now. Staff are working to identify a kitchen operator this fall.

## 7. SANTA MONICA OUTDOORS -

Knowing that 96% of Santa Monica residents want to eat and shop al fresco, Santa Monica has supported moving business operations outdoors. Over 170 businesses now offer outside services with 79% of businesses reporting increased profits from parklet operations. Zoning rules have also been adjusted to

meet emerging needs, and the City is working now on developing a permanent outdoor program for City Council consideration in 2022. The City will continue to focus on reducing red tape and streamlining permitting so that local businesses can get outdoor operations up and running in as little as one day.

## 8. SHARING AN OPEN MAIN STREET -

Three weekends of transforming the street into a pedestrian plaza supported over 300 Main Street businesses and created more space for the entire community to reconnect with friends and neighbors, enjoy outdoor dining, shopping, live entertainment and activities, and experience the street in a new and exciting way. Led by the Main Street Business Improvement Association and the Ocean Park Association, this program builds on the successful Al Fresco sidewalk dining and parklet project launched earlier in the pandemic.



## 9. ART OF RECOVERY -

Local artists have been transforming some of the City's most iconic landmarks and public spaces into vibrant works of art that focus on: Economic Recovery, Racial Justice & Cultural Equity, Wellbeing & Public Health, and Community Connectedness. Since August 2020, this program has funded 24 art projects, employing over 100 artists, and strengthened and connected our entire community. Recent works include Birds in the Moon Opera co-produced with the Broad Stage and Downtown Santa Monica, and Americana in the Park co-produced with McCabe's Guitar Shop.

## 10. WE ARE SANTA MONICA FUND -

The City established the We Are Santa Monica Fund to support critical community needs not funded through the City's general fund. So far, private donors and businesses have contributed \$1.3 million to help support Santa Monica's recovery, the Black Agenda in Santa Monica, and the Emergency Food Pantry. Since June 2021, \$500,000 has been distributed to address immediate reopening and recovery needs like food insecurity and the small business grant program. Thank you to our generous donors, and to the entire We Are Santa Monica Fund Advisory Board that started to meet this summer. If you'd like to support future needs, visit [calfund.org/wearesantamonica](https://calfund.org/wearesantamonica).



We were able to move quickly on many of these programs over the past 18 months due to the hard work and commitment of our residents, business community and City staff who collaborated to experiment with new ideas, test process improvements, and make connections across private and public platforms. Importantly, Santa Monica's built environment provided a flexible landscape for pandemic-era recovery efforts thanks to past investments and strategic planning efforts that have focused on mobility and access, signature pedestrian and bike infrastructure, technology investments like our CityNet fiberoptic network, and progressive plans like the Land Use and Circulation Element and much more. As we look ahead at short-, medium-, and long-term opportunities to accelerate our recovery, the City will consider projects like the Third Street Promenade Stabilization and Economic Vitality Plan, the Housing Element, creating a Shared Identity, supporting our workforce, preparing a Beach Management and Master Plan, and preparing for incredibly unique opportunities like the 2028 Olympics.

The City of Santa Monica, in collaboration with generous donors, businesses, partners, and local non-profits, continue to strive to find ways to support the people and economy of our resilient city. While these efforts don't paint the complete picture and there is more work to be done, these 10 programs are instrumental in continuing to support Santa Monica's recovery, and we thank our entire community - including business partners, residents, and hardworking City staff across nearly every department - for the incredible efforts shared to accelerate our economy.



# ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS REMAINS A PRIORITY

**T**he City has adopted a four-pillar approach to addressing homelessness. This includes preventing homelessness, addressing behavioral health needs, maintaining access to safe, fun, and healthy open spaces, and advocating for regional capacity. Here's a few updates:

## CITY, COUNTY AND COMMUNITY (C3) MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

There are over 45,000 people unsheltered in LA County, and not enough housing resources for every person experiencing homelessness. Many people on the streets waiting for housing also suffer from untreated chronic health conditions, mental health, and substance use issues. That's why the City has continued to fund the C3 Multidisciplinary Teams – two street-based care teams operated by The People Concern made up of medical, psychiatric, and addiction specialists as well as housing navigators and people with lived homelessness experience that take treatment to people where they are.

In addition to providing critical care and connecting people to housing, the C3 teams contributed to reductions in people experiencing homelessness in both 2019 and 2020 in the downtown and beach areas. During the pandemic, the teams were part of the Department of Public Health's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population, distributing food and hygiene supplies to keep people from gathering and helping to identify people needing vaccinations. From January – June 2021, the C3 Team made over 4,600 contacts, and provided intensive street-based medical and psychiatric services to more than 240 individuals in Santa Monica.

One of the people assisted by the C3 Team was Mike, who was sleeping in a park at the time. He was quickly taken to a temporary shelter and linked to medical and mental health services. While staying at the shelter, his case manager assisted him with completing an application for permanent housing. Four months later, Mike moved into his own apartment.

## 100 HOMES INITIATIVE

Outreach and engagement are key components of the City's strategies to address homelessness, but people ultimately need housing in order to get off the streets. Mike describes what it meant to him when he moved into permanent housing – "My new place is terrific, and the support has been fantastic. I'm really enjoying this new feeling of having options, fitting in, not drawing stares. My life totally transformed, and I couldn't be happier."

In order to provide more housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, the City is launching 100 HOMES, a new Initiative to help 100 people experiencing homelessness in Santa Monica move into permanent homes. Using federal Emergency Housing Vouchers funded by the American Rescue Plan, eligible individuals currently staying in Santa Monica shelters will have a pathway to a permanent home. As more people move into permanent housing, unsheltered individuals can take those spots.

The City is calling on community volunteers to assist in reaching the goal of 100 HOMES by identifying vacant apartments, donating household items and furniture, and helping with move-in day tasks. The entire Santa Monica community can participate in this effort to help house our most vulnerable neighbors and make Santa Monica safe, equitable, and accessible for all. For more information, visit [santamonica.gov/blog/city-of-santa-monica-100-homes-initiative](https://santamonica.gov/blog/city-of-santa-monica-100-homes-initiative).

For more information about the City's approach to homelessness, visit [santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/homelessness](https://santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/homelessness).



## HELP OTHERS IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Spread holiday joy by helping others in need now and throughout the year! Here are 3 ways you can involve:

- 1 Sign up to volunteer for the 100 HOMES Initiative and help move 100 people experiencing homelessness in Santa Monica into permanent homes.  
Visit [santamonica.gov/blog/city-of-santa-monica-100-homes-initiative](https://santamonica.gov/blog/city-of-santa-monica-100-homes-initiative) for more info.
- 2 Donate your time, money or much needed items to a local nonprofit. Homeless agencies are overwhelmed by generous volunteers during the holidays, so make your pledge to volunteer in the new year. The need is year-round!  
Visit [santamonica.gov/coronavirus-volunteer](https://santamonica.gov/coronavirus-volunteer) for more info.
- 3 Advocate with your county, state and federal representatives for more resources to address homelessness, removing barriers to treatment and housing.

## SAVE THE DATE: SANTA MONICA HOMELESS COUNT IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

The City of Santa Monica will be resuming the annual Homeless Count in an in-person capacity. The Homeless Count is an annual census of people experiencing homelessness and is conducted as part of the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Count will look and feel very different from past years' events, but we still need your help to ensure we can cover every area of the city. For more information, visit [santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/homelessness](https://santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/homelessness).

## CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND RENT CONTROL STAFF TEAM UP TO PRESENT LANDLORD-TENANT FORUM 2021



**P**lease mark your calendar to join us virtually for this year's Landlord-Tenant Forum on Tuesday, December 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. A joint presentation of the Public Rights Division of the City Attorney's Office and Rent Control, this popular event brings together property owners and managers, tenants, and city staff to discuss what's new.

We'll cover new regulations and ordinances along with important news for Santa Monica's rental housing community. This year's topics include:

- Introduction to new City website
- State-mandated organics recycling program
- COVID-19 eviction protections
- California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program
- Tenants' right to counsel in eviction proceedings
- Owners' rights to enter units for necessary repairs
- Proper registration of new tenancies when move-in specials or master-metered utilities are included, and
- City processes to address construction in tenant-occupied buildings and construction-related rent decreases for rent-controlled units.

We also reserve time to answer your questions. To sign up and receive a link to the presentation prior to the event, please visit: [forms.gle/jdgmVmiMqK6ZfY9o6](https://forms.gle/jdgmVmiMqK6ZfY9o6).

# BELOW MARKET HOUSING APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 2022 FOR HISTORICALLY DISPLACED HOUSEHOLDS

**T**he City will accept applications starting in mid-January, 2022, in alignment with the Santa Monica City Council decision to make changes to Santa Monica's Affordable Housing Production Program and Housing Trust Fund that gives affordable housing waitlist priority to households displaced from Santa Monica in the 1950s and 1960s due to urban renewal policies. The pilot program is part of the City's commitment to equity and inclusion and builds on the work of City staff who are part of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.

"With this pilot, we strive to reach former residents or their descendants who were wrongly displaced from our community and to bring them back to Santa Monica through our affordable housing program," said Santa Monica Mayor Sue Himmelrich. "If you or your family lost your

home during this period, we urge you to apply for below market housing opportunities and to work with us as we look to craft a permanent program."

The new pilot program will provide priority in City-funded housing and inclusionary housing for up to 100 applicants from households or descendants of households (children or grandchildren). If you or a member of your family was impacted by the construction of the Civic Auditorium or the I-10 freeway, the City encourages you to learn more at [santamonica.gov/programs/below-market-housing-for-historically-displaced-households](http://santamonica.gov/programs/below-market-housing-for-historically-displaced-households). Pilot program applicants will be referred to affordable housing opportunities once eligibility has been established. Applications will be accepted from mid-January to mid-February.

# STATE RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE FOR SANTA MONICA TENANTS AND LANDLORDS IMPACTED BY COVID-19



**S**anta Monica residential tenants and landlords still have time to apply for assistance from the state for unpaid rent and utilities through the Housing is Key program. So far, more than 2,500 Santa Monica households have applied for more than \$41 million in rent and utility assistance. Of those, more than 1,200 households have received \$21 million in assistance, with the average household receiving around \$16,000. The easiest and fastest way to apply is through the website: [housing.ca.gov](http://housing.ca.gov). The state will continue to accept applications until the funds are exhausted.

Santa Monica tenants and landlords who need help applying can call 3-1-1 or email [311@santamonica.gov](mailto:311@santamonica.gov). Help is available for applicants who have questions about the application process, lack computer or internet access, need documents scanned, have language barriers, or need disability-related assistance.

California's eviction moratorium for non-payment of rent ended on September 30, 2021, but residential tenants whose applications for rental assistance are pending may be protected from eviction. Additionally, landlords must apply for rental assistance on the tenant's behalf before proceeding with evictions. More information is available here: [housing.ca.gov/tenant/eviction\\_faqs.html](http://housing.ca.gov/tenant/eviction_faqs.html).

Santa Monica residential and commercial tenants and landlords with disputes over COVID-19-related unpaid rental debt can request free mediation from the Straus Institute at Pepperdine University. The service is offered through a partnership with the City of Santa Monica: [bit.ly/3IMB1kS](https://bit.ly/3IMB1kS).

# ONE APPLICATION CONNECTS SANTA MONICANS TO OVER 200 PROPERTIES

## Santa Monica's Below Market Housing Program Creates More Local Housing Options

**F**or households working in Santa Monica and commuting long hours or living in Santa Monica and needing a new home, the City's Below Market Housing program offers a unique opportunity to live in Santa Monica.

The Below Market Housing (BMH) program, which has connected more than 150 households with apartments in Santa Monica since it opened in May of 2020, provides a single place to apply to more than 2,600 affordable apartments across Santa Monica. These are apartments in buildings run by nonprofit developers, such as Community Corporation of Santa Monica, as well as in market-rate developments, commonly referred to as inclusionary apartments. In addition to loans to nonprofit developers, Santa Monica creates affordable housing opportunities through policies that require market-rate developers to include apartments affordable to low- and moderate-income households. Many of the new multi-family developments you see under construction today contain affordable apartments.

In many other cities, families searching for an affordable apartment must locate

individual properties on their own and then submit application after application with fees and different requirements — while frequently finding that the waitlists for these buildings have closed. The BMH waitlist simplifies the process with a central list for the City-funded and inclusionary properties in Santa Monica. Families only need to apply to one waitlist to be connected with vacancies in over 200 properties.

When affordable apartments are built in Santa Monica, each apartment is designated for a certain income level. When one becomes vacant, the applicant receives an email with information about the vacancy if it matches their income and household size. Applicants then have the choice to opt into opportunities that interest them or out of opportunities that won't work. If they opt-in, and are near the top of the waitlist, the property manager will reach out with an application.

Anyone can apply to the BMH waitlist. There are affordable apartments to households at a range of incomes — up to \$121,700 for a three-person household. Applications can be submitted online at [santamonica.gov/housing-bmh](http://santamonica.gov/housing-bmh).



# MANDATORY FOOD AND LANDSCAPE MATERIALS RECYCLING STARTS JANUARY 1, 2022

**T**he State of California passed the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Act, SB 1383, that requires all properties to recycle food and landscape materials, known as organics, by separating them from trash deposited in a black container that would go to a landfill or dump site. These materials would then be converted into new resources, such as compost and renewable energy.

Beginning January 1, 2022, every property must have a green container used specifically for organic materials collection. These materials will be collected and must be taken to an organics recycling facility for processing. The City's new organics recycling law was adopted by the City Council on October 27, 2021 and requires the following actions of all residents, businesses, and visitors:

1. Place all organic materials into a green (or older brown-colored) organics container rather than a black trash container. Organic materials include yard trimmings (excluding large, thicker tree or bush branches, trunks, and stumps) and all food items, including meats, coffee grinds, tea bags, and food-soiled paper.
2. Some larger food-related businesses must recover edible food destined for an organics container that must be donated to food recovery organizations. A private agreement is required between the business and the chosen food recovery organization.

## SIGN UP FOR A GREEN CONTAINER - IT'S EASY AND FREE!

- Property owners, business owners, management companies, and HOA officers can obtain the organics recycling container collection service

at no additional charge by contacting Resource, Recycling & Recovery customer service at [recycling@santamonica.gov](mailto:recycling@santamonica.gov) or **(310) 458-2223** and providing your address, refuse account number, and phone number.

**Important Note:** A responsible party, such as the account owner, must make the request. A renter or tenant cannot make the request.

- To obtain additional information regarding the organics recycling program, or to schedule an onsite visit or virtual assistance, contact the Zero Waste team at [ZeroWaste@santamonica.gov](mailto:ZeroWaste@santamonica.gov) or **(310) 458-2223**.



## NEW 4TH STREET MURAL FOCUSES ON COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR OUR FUTURE



**T**he City of Santa Monica is committed to sustainability. We use the power of community to enhance our resources, prevent harm to the natural environment and human health, and benefit the social and economic well-being of the community for the sake of current and future generations.

Santa Monica is home to many beautiful murals that bring art and activism to blank walls around the community. The City of Santa Monica is proud to introduce the latest addition to the City's mural gallery. The "Our Actions Today, Our Future Tomorrow" mural depicts Santa Monica's natural beauty and iconic imagery while highlighting a series of choices residents, visitors, and employees in Santa Monica can make to attain a more sustainable Santa Monica where both the natural environment and people are thriving.

The highly visible mural on the corner of 4th and Pico stretches 50 feet wide along Santa Monica High School's wall and immediately across from the new Belmar Park and Civic Center Sports Field. The mural is a reminder to protect our home for current and future generations by planting trees, driving electric, buying local, picking up litter, installing solar, biking, taking transit, prioritizing reusables, voting and participating in community activism. The mural was completed by artist Janice Chang at the end of October and was a collaborative effort between the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District, and Upworthy.

To learn more about how you can do your part for both our future and present, visit [santamonica.gov/sustainablesamo](http://santamonica.gov/sustainablesamo).

## ZERO EMISSIONS DELIVERY ZONE PILOT PROGRAM



**E**arlier this year, the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) and the City of Santa Monica launched a voluntary [Zero Emissions Delivery Zone \(ZEDZ\)](#) pilot program in a one-square mile area of the City. LACI and the City partnered with tech and delivery companies and community organizations to launch the first of its kind project in the nation to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions from delivery vehicles.

This pilot with LACI utilizes smaller and cleaner technologies like electric vans, robots, and e-cargo bikes to deliver goods instead of the large diesel-fueled trucks that we're used to seeing on our streets. The pilot zone brings together over 15 partners to voluntarily deploy and test zero emission modes for last mile delivery in Santa Monica's Downtown, Main Street and Ocean Park neighborhoods.

To support the current pilot participants and encourage others to join, the ZE Delivery Zone provides priority curb access for zero emission delivery vehicles in select loading zone areas, marked by the signage here. The pilot will run through December 2022.

To learn more, visit [smgov.net/Departments/OSE/categories/transportation.aspx](http://smgov.net/Departments/OSE/categories/transportation.aspx).



# ENHANCING ACCESS AND SAFETY IN THE PICO NEIGHBORHOOD

The Pico Neighborhood is steeped in history and beloved local institutions. Over the next year, streets within the neighborhood are the focus of our ongoing transportation safety improvement projects. Each project was designed to improve your ability to safely visit your favorite destinations without the use of a personal vehicle. Whether you are out for your daily walk, biking to school at Edison, or meeting friends for tacos, everyone deserves the opportunity to safely walk and bike through their neighborhood to reach their destination.

## PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

Pico Boulevard is a wide, fast street, which makes crossing on foot challenging. Crossing enhancements at five intersections near Santa Monica College will add new accessible pedestrian ramps, curb extensions, signal improvements, and more. Construction is scheduled to begin this winter, wrapping up by Summer 2022.

More opportunities to engage in the street design are also coming your way. Stay tuned for meetings about safety upgrades to east Pico Boulevard.

## PROTECTED BICYCLE LANE CONNECTIONS

When it's too far to walk, biking is the next best thing. Major upgrades are coming to 17th and Stewart Streets including protected bike lanes, pedestrian lighting, and intersection enhancements. These facilities will create connections from Pico Boulevard to other bicycle facilities including Broadway, Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Greenway, and Exposition Bike Path. Building safe bicycle facilities is critical to give residents without vehicles access to destinations like Santa Monica College Center for Media Design, Edison Language Academy, Metro Light Rail Stations, parks, childcare, job centers, and more.



Construction of improvements on 17th Street began in October 2021 and construction on Stewart Street is scheduled for Winter 2023.

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Proposed infrastructure improvements for Edison Language Academy will enhance the safety and comfort of routes to and from school. Collaboration between SMMUSD, school staff, parents, caregivers, and City engineers have resulted in new recommendations for street redesign and safety treatments. Construction is scheduled to begin in Winter 2023.

To learn more about transportation safety enhancements, visit [santamonica.gov/MobilityProjects](https://santamonica.gov/MobilityProjects).

# CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF THE CALIFORNIA INCLINE WITH THE LIBRARY DIGITAL ARCHIVE



Construction of the Idaho Trail pedestrian overcrossing on May 27, 2016. Photo by Gary Bonart.

The Santa Monica Public Library is excited to share the newest addition to the Library's digital archives collection—California Incline Bridge Replacement Project, 2015-16. With it, we provide a visual record of the construction of one of the most significant civic projects in the City's history.

## ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Highway ramps are usually not postcard-worthy structures, but California Incline is in a different league. The Incline extends approximately 1,400 feet from the intersection of Ocean and California Avenues at the top of

the Palisades bluffs to the Pacific Coast Highway at the base of the bluffs. Not only is it a vital traffic route connecting downtown Santa Monica to Pacific Coast Highway, but it is also a destination point with a breathtaking view of the Santa Monica Bay.

By the early 1990s, the deteriorating structure (which had been in place for some 80 years) was deemed seismically deficient. In 2007, a federal grant provided the bulk of the funds needed to rebuild the historic structure. And, on April 20, 2015, crews began demolishing the existing Incline and constructing a new, modern one.

A partnership between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Santa Monica, the \$17 million California Incline Bridge Replacement Project opened with much civic fanfare on September 1, 2016. The new Incline includes:

- A 52-foot bridge for vehicular traffic
- A barrier-separated lane dedicated to pedestrian and bicycle traffic
- Stabilized bluffs reinforced with some 1,000 soil nails
- The Idaho Trail pedestrian overcrossing (connecting Palisades Park and the Incline) supported by a V-shaped pier

This collection consists of several hundred images taken by Gary Bonart, a long time Santa Monica resident. Bonart visited the California Incline site from June 2015 to October 2016 to document the construction and the opening of the new Incline. After his passing in 2020, a family member donated the images to the Library. Currently the Collection covers June 2015 to June 2016. It will be expanded later this year with the remainder of the donation (July to October 2016). To see the collection, go to [digital.smpl.org/digital/collection/CA\\_Incline/search](https://digital.smpl.org/digital/collection/CA_Incline/search).

# CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LAUNCHES NEW DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Office, along with Los Angeles County and Exodus Recovery Inc., recently launched a post-arrest, pre-filing diversion program aimed at some of the City's most vulnerable populations. The Alternatives to Incarceration program places an Exodus "community navigator" in the Santa Monica Jail around the clock to provide immediate access to services for those experiencing homelessness, mental health, and substance-abuse issues.

The goal of this program is to provide access to services that will treat the underlying conditions that trigger criminal activity. By diverting participants to services instead of the criminal justice system, the City hopes to help individuals avoid the far-reaching consequences of criminal convictions. Once a participant agrees to participate in the program, a case manager creates a 90-day plan to address the individual's needs. If the participant follows the plan, a criminal case will not be filed with the court. If the person refuses to participate, the case will be filed.

Individuals facing most misdemeanor offenses and some non-violent, non-serious felonies may be eligible for Alternatives to Incarceration. Some examples of qualifying charges include being in a City park after-



hours, loitering in a parking structure, being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or petty theft. Currently there are four participants enrolled in the program. All are actively engaged with their case managers and taking steps to make long lasting changes in their lives. For more information, please visit [smgov.net/departments/cao/criminal.aspx](https://smgov.net/departments/cao/criminal.aspx).

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDENS

**S**anta Monica Community Gardens would like to invite you to join us at one of our monthly events. On the second Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., we invite you to stroll through our oldest community garden located on beautiful Main Street. Please join us in checking out the enormous variety of plant species grown by our local gardeners and try your hand at identifying the hundreds of insect species that call our garden home. Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy the casual conversation with others from the community while you check out the early fall gardens.

Every third Saturday, Ishihara Park Learning Garden hosts “Pancakes in the Park” with children’s activities and breakfast refreshments. Take the opportunity to learn about our Community Compost program, look through a worm bin, or get some of your nagging gardening questions answered by experts. In November, we celebrated Friendsgiving by building a “Tree of Thanks” to show our appreciation for each other and the lovely habitat that is created by these little pockets of paradise.

In Spring 2022, we will host our next Grow LA Victory Garden Course. This four-week course (sessions held weekly on Saturday) covers a variety of topics including soil preparation, composting, planting, pest management, and seed saving. Congratulations to the 15 community members who successfully completed the course in October!



To find out more about our Community Gardens including volunteer days at Ishihara Park and other upcoming programs and events, please visit our website at: [smgov.net/departments/ose/content.aspx?id=33150](https://smgov.net/departments/ose/content.aspx?id=33150).

As we gardeners say, any day your hands are in the dirt is a good day. Keep growing, Santa Monica!

## DON'T FORGET THE SANTA MONICA FARMER'S MARKET THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



**S**hop for your holiday feast this season at the Farmer’s Market! Spend the morning with us at one of our 4 locations and take home some California grown fruits and vegetables, flowers, honey, eggs and more. The markets also feature fish, olive oil, nuts, dried fruit and meat (selections at each market vary).

- **WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS IN DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA**  
2nd Street and Arizona Avenue, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **SATURDAY PICO MARKET**  
Virginia Ave Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **SUNDAY MAIN STREET MARKET**  
2640 Main Street (South of Ocean Park), 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The Virginia Avenue Park and Main Street markets feature coffee and pastries, fresh juice, prepared food and music entertainment for your enjoyment while you shop. You can also find unique gifts at the Sunday Main Street Market on Little Main Street Merchants Row. Cal Fresh EBT cards are always welcome at all 4 markets, with the Virginia Avenue Park location offering the Market Match Program, which will match up to \$15 with your EBT transaction. Markets are open rain or shine, but will be closed on December 25 and 26, and January 1.

Follow the Santa Monica Farmer’s Market on Instagram @SMFMS or visit the website at [santamonica.gov](https://santamonica.gov). You can find us under the *Programs* tab.

## LOOK WHAT'S NEW AT THE SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY!

**T**he Library continues its phased approach to reopening by restoring minimal in-person programming and operations as well as piloting a self-service model at the Ocean Park Branch. Minor funding from grants and the City’s FY21-23 budget has provided resources to slightly expand services and hours and open the second floor at the Main Library for browsing.

We are excited to safely welcome you back to the **Pico Branch Library** on December 1 for in-person services, another milestone in our recovery. The best way to make the most of your time at the Library is to plan your trip: wear a face mask, know the books or resources you’d like to check out or explore, and if there are any questions you have about returning to the Pico Branch, reach out to one of our dedicated Library staff.

### NEW LIBRARY HOURS

#### Main Library

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & the first Saturday of the month  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday  
2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

#### Pico Branch (In-person service begins Wednesday, December 1)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & the first Saturday of the month  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday  
2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

#### Montana Avenue Branch Curbside Pickup

Tuesday  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday  
2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

#### Ocean Park Branch Self-Service

Pre-authorization required. Sign up at [simpl.org/SelfServiceHours](https://simpl.org/SelfServiceHours).  
Wednesday & Friday  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information on hours and services offered at each Santa Monica Public Library location, please visit [simpl.org/reopening](https://simpl.org/reopening). We invite you to explore the virtual programs we have available for all ages and the many digital services that are available 24/7 in our Online Library at [simpl.org/online](https://simpl.org/online), and enjoy our physical collection of books, movies, and music using Curbside Pickup.

Please reach out if you have questions. Friendly Library staff are available at [reference@santamonica.gov](mailto:reference@santamonica.gov) or **(310) 458-8600** to assist you Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Thursday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.





# ART OF RECOVERY: A LOOK BACK AND AHEAD



**A**rt of Recovery was launched in November of 2020 as part of the City of Santa Monica's Economic Recovery Task Force. The initiative's goal is to harness the power of the arts in the City's recovery efforts by funding creative projects that strengthen and connect Santa Monica. Since then, local artists have been transforming some of the City's most iconic landmarks and public spaces into vibrant works of art that focus on four main priorities: Economic Recovery, Racial Justice & Cultural Equity, Wellbeing & Public Health, and Community Connectedness.

Over 200 project ideas have been submitted to date. Over thirty projects were selected and over 100 artists have been hired, successfully meeting the goal of putting artists to work for our City's recovery!

"Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. is extremely grateful for the Art of Recovery initiative. Funding for the arts is so important for our well-being and has provided a safe way to bring our community together during the

pandemic. DTSM was able to produce a number of signature events that put local artists front and center, and celebrated Santa Monica's diversity and creative capital. These programs, which included Día de Los Muertos, Winterlit, Black History Month, and SaMo PRIDE, helped serve as an economic boost. Case in point, 28 percent of those surveyed during our Día de los Muertos event said they traveled to the Promenade specifically to experience our beautiful La Catrina sculptures," shared Mackenzie Carter, DTSM's Marketing and Communications Director.

In addition to continuing to support art installations and activations, for the next cycle of Art of Recovery, funds will support both community and artist-driven events. The first of these, this fall's Americana in the Park concert series, was produced in partnership with McCabe's Guitar Shop. We look forward to sharing more community events and celebrations in 2022! To learn more about the Art of Recovery initiative, visit [santamonica.gov/arts](https://santamonica.gov/arts).



## REIMAGINING OCEAN AVENUE

**O**cean Avenue is one of the most iconic and highly used streets in Santa Monica. The onset of the pandemic created a greater need for the community to be able to spend more time outdoors, and the City quickly mobilized to make improvements to the streetscape.

The focus was on improving the bicycle and pedestrian experience and reimagining how Ocean Avenue can be used. Projects included a protected bike lane, expansion of the eastern sidewalk for additional outdoor dining, and adding an Ocean Avenue Artists-in-Residence program. Through the residency, Here.LA, an interdisciplinary design group, engaged residents and businesses in identifying and exploring additional ways of making the street people centered.

Conversations with local stakeholders and over 500 survey responses revealed that what people love most about the street is resounding: the unique natural setting, views of the Ocean, and the location of the street and park atop the bluff. Competing with this natural beauty is the nearby traffic corridor, which is a key gateway to the Pier, Third Street Promenade, the Downtown Santa Monica Expo Station, Tongva Park, and the rest of downtown. Due to this, most of the street's physical space is dedicated to vehicles, which separates people from the park and views.

To bridge this divide, Here.LA used artistic activations that both celebrated and explored ways of improving the street. A temporary art installation was mounted in Palisades Park to draw attention to the west

side of the street and to create a unique visual that further complemented the views. To enliven the space and engage passersby, a one-day pop-up event included large scale play furniture and a way to provide visual feedback. The art installation will be up through early 2022 and can be viewed from the west or east side of the street between Broadway and Colorado Avenue.

For more information, visit [santamonica.gov/Ocean-Avenue-Project](https://santamonica.gov/Ocean-Avenue-Project).



# SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

**W**hile the COVID-19 economic recovery is underway, our small businesses are still fighting to survive. The best way we can all help is by shopping local this holiday season. Here are some fun, easy ways to support your favorite local businesses and help to ensure they are here in 2022:

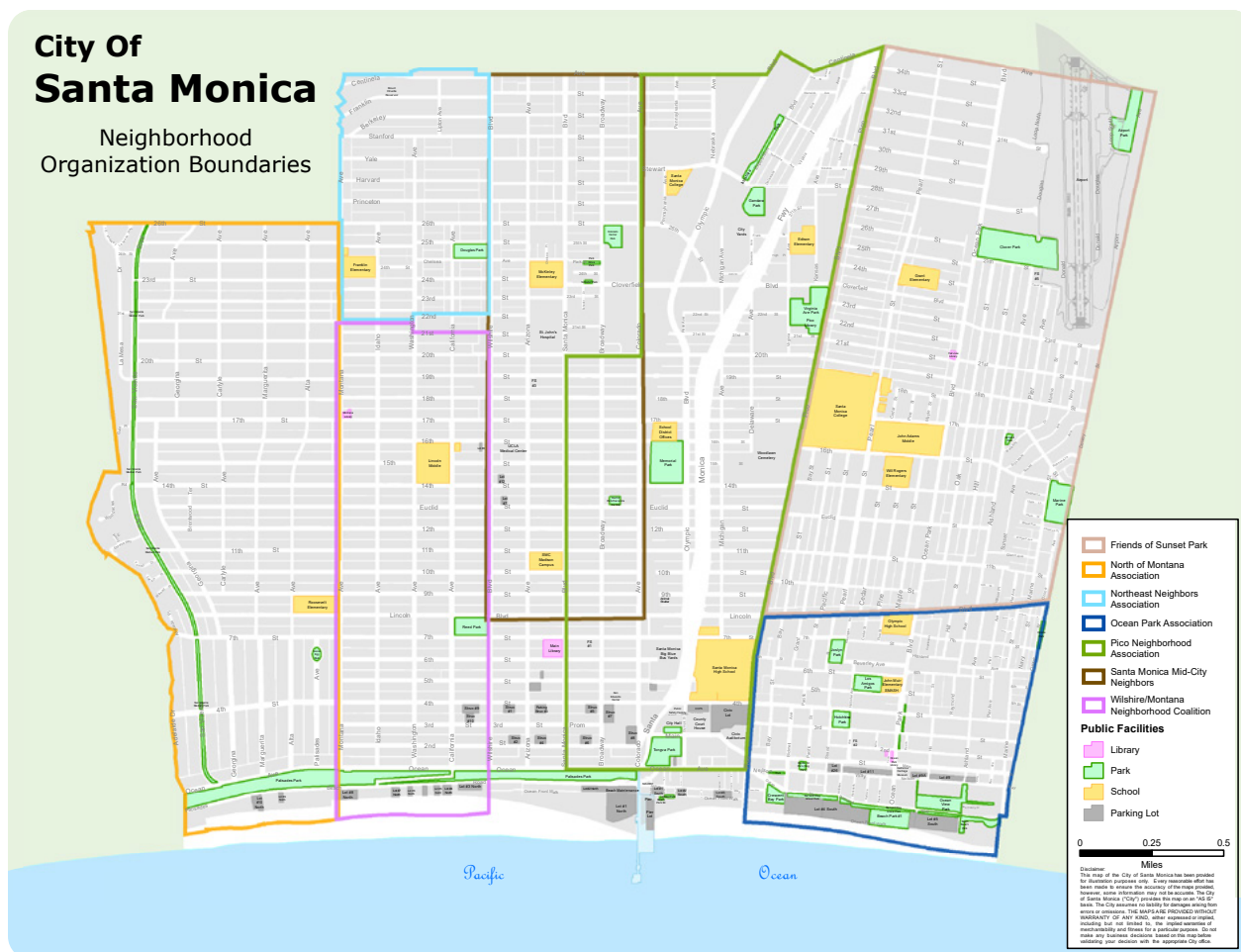
1. Head to the Santa Monica Farmers Market (SMFM) to pick up fresh, delicious produce for your holiday meals. Our farmers also offer some great gifts for your foodie friends (e.g. citrus gift boxes, flowers, olive oils). And who doesn't love homemade baked goods as holiday gifts? Fruit cake can have a whole new meaning if it's homemade with SMFM ingredients!
2. Don't cook? Not to worry, our local restaurants can help. Santa Monica Travel and Tourism has created a list of Thanksgiving and Holiday dining specials and takeout services at [santamonica.com](http://santamonica.com) where you order pre-made holiday meals from local restaurants, grocery and specialty food shops.
3. Be sustainable and think local first with your holiday decorations. From table settings and floral arrangements, we've got it all in Santa Monica. Consider stopping by one of our many thrift/consignment stores for holiday decorations and eclectic vintage place settings to support a sustainable holiday.
4. No time to shop? Many of our Santa Monica businesses offer gift certificates – the perfect stocking stuffer! This is an easy gift to give to your boss/co-workers and neighbors and helps them “discover” some of your favorite local businesses, too.

5. Prioritize local BIPOC businesses to support an equitable and inclusive holiday season. To support Black- or Latino-Owned businesses, visit [santamonica.gov/blackownedbusinesses](http://santamonica.gov/blackownedbusinesses) or [santamonica.gov/blog/hispanic-heritage-month-2021](http://santamonica.gov/blog/hispanic-heritage-month-2021).
6. Check out the Buy Local SM Holiday Gift Guide and [@BuyLocalSM](https://www.instagram.com/BuyLocalSM) on Instagram and Facebook for fun local gift ideas to help make your holiday shopping easy. The focus this year is on affordable, sustainable, giveback and experiential gifts.



Let's all make an effort this year to choose local, buy local, eat local and support local this holiday season. Please be safe and don't forget to wear a well fitted mask when shopping indoors. For more info on the Buy Local Santa Monica campaign, visit [santamonica.gov/BuyLocal](http://santamonica.gov/BuyLocal). For upcoming holiday events in our commercial districts, check our Facebook Events page [@BuyLocalSM](https://www.facebook.com/BuyLocalSM). Happy holidays!

## SANTA MONICA NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS



**D**id you know that Santa Monica has neighborhood organizations that are working hard to connect residents with each other, support and advocate for neighborhood needs, and make sure residents are informed about city activities that impact their lives? Check out this list of neighborhood organizations below and consider participating in their next meeting! All are welcome.

**Friends of Sunset Park**  
[friendsofsunsetpark.org](http://friendsofsunsetpark.org)

**North of Montana Association**  
[smnoma.org](http://smnoma.org)

**Ocean Park Association**  
[opa-sm.org](http://opa-sm.org)

**Pico Neighborhood Association**  
[pnasantamonica.wordpress.com](http://pnasantamonica.wordpress.com)

**Santa Monica Mid City Neighbors**  
[midcityneighbors.weebly.com](http://midcityneighbors.weebly.com)

**Santa Monica Northeast Neighbors**  
[neneighbors.org](http://neneighbors.org)

**Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition**  
[wilmont.org](http://wilmont.org)

## 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**I**n the first year of the state's 2021-2022 legislative session, the City pursued advancement of Council policies and priorities at the California state government level. The City and its state representatives in Sacramento, reviewed and responded to 156 pieces of legislation, of which the City actively monitored or took a position on 47 bills.

The City advocated for bills in the following priority areas:

- COVID-19 & Emergency Response
- Housing and Homelessness
- Mobility
- State Budget
- Sustainability/Climate Change

Most notably, the City as directed by the Council, opposed SB 9 and SB 10, two of the most controversial bills this legislative session. SB 9 allows duplexes and lot-splits in single-family residential zones by-right, if the proposed development meets certain requirements. SB 10 grants local governments the ability to rezone parcels close to job centers, transit, and existing urbanized areas to allow up to 10 residential units without

undergoing CEQA review. Both bills were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 16, 2021.

The City also closely monitored and weighed in on legislation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as legislation extending the eviction moratorium, legislation allowing for remote public meetings and legislation dealing with COVID-19 exposure notifications for employers. The City also continued to be active in legislation calling for a permanent on-going funding source for homelessness, legislation that would put California at the forefront of reducing pollution from single-use packaging and plastics, and legislation regulating the data shared and insurance carried by shared mobility providers.

City staff looks forward to continuing to advocate for the Council's policy priorities during the second half of the legislative session which reconvenes in Sacramento January 3, 2022.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## STAY INFORMED

Stay up to the minute with local alerts and our email newsletter *SaMoNews*. SM Alerts allows the City of Santa Monica to provide you with critical information in an emergency situation and other significant public safety incidents. Sign up by texting **SMALERTS** to **888-777**. For the latest non-emergency information, sign up for our email list at the bottom of [santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov).

## NEW MEASURES FOR A SAFE PIER

The City of Santa Monica has new rules to protect the Santa Monica Pier and its patrons. Open flames are not allowed on the wooden Pier because they present a serious risk. It is not legal to dispose of grease or other food vending items to protect the ocean and public health. Code Enforcement, Santa Monica Police Department and Santa Monica Fire Department are working together to educate vendors and to enforce these rules to keep you and the Santa Monica Pier safe. Learn the new rules and why they are important along with the steps to become a permitted vendor at [santamonica.gov/vending](http://santamonica.gov/vending).

## NEW AMTRAK SERVICE

Amtrak San Joaquins has added a NEW stop along Thruway Bus Route 1 and riders can now begin travel to and from Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Pier Thruway Bus stop, located at 1532 2nd Street, will serve as a new stop and terminus for Route 1c. View the Bus Route 1 schedule at [amtraksanjoaquins.com/thruway-bus-2/route-1](http://amtraksanjoaquins.com/thruway-bus-2/route-1).

## VACCINATE AND BOOST!

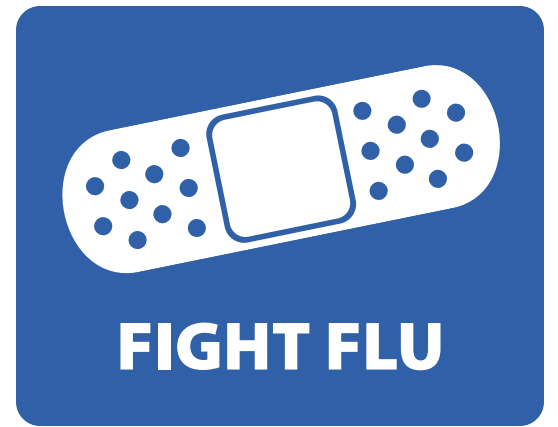
Eligible individuals can now receive a COVID-19 booster vaccine of choice. Additionally, children ages 5 to 11 are now also eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your pediatrician for more information. For COVID-19 and booster vaccinations, visit [vaccinatelacounty.com](http://vaccinatelacounty.com).

## GET YOUR FLU SHOT

If you haven't yet received your annual flu shot it isn't too late and it remains critical for your health and community health overall. To find a shot near you, visit [myturn.ca.gov](http://myturn.ca.gov).

## SEISMIC RETROFIT FUNDS

The California Earthquake Authority offers a new grant program to assist eligible homeowners pay for retrofit costs. Grants are offered up to \$3,000 to homeowners in certain higher-earthquake risk zip codes for houses that qualify. For more info, visit [earthquakebracebolt.com](http://earthquakebracebolt.com).



# WINTER AT THE ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE



take to the sands to sketch on the beautiful coastline. Binoculars, drawing boards, pencils, and newsprint provided or bring your own easy-to-carry sketching tools. Presented in partnership with the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

## POLAR BEAR SWIM

Sunday, January 2, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

\$10/adult, \$5/senior adult age 60+, \$4/youth age 1-17

Looking for a bold way to kick off 2022? The ocean Polar Bear Swim is a great way to refresh, reset, and have some fun. The youngest Polar Bears plunge first, followed by the rest of the crowd. Intrepid Polar Bears can do the 300-yard swim around a buoy. After the plunge, warm up in the heated pool, enjoy a hot chocolate, and grab a photo with our very own polar bear mascot. At this no judgement zone, whether your toes get wet or you round the buoy, it will get your blood pumping and skin tingling. Sponsored by Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, GRoW @ Annenberg.

## SNOWY PLOVER BEACH WALK

Sunday, January 23, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Free, RSVP Requested

Revel in a guided walk offered in partnership with the Santa Monica and LA Audubon Societies. Explore the habitat and life cycle of the small, white snowy plovers that make this stretch of beach their winter home. Binoculars provided or bring your own!

The Annenberg Community Beach House at Santa Monica State Beach is operated by the City of Santa Monica. The Beach House is made possible by a generous gift from the Annenberg Foundation, at the direction of Wallis Annenberg, and in partnership with the City of Santa Monica and California State Parks. Additional funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

**T**here are some great programs coming up this winter! To RSVP or register for these events, and for information on all the Beach House has to offer, visit [annenbergbeachhouse.com](http://annenbergbeachhouse.com), sign up for the newsletter, and follow us on social media. Two beach wheelchairs will be available for these events. To reserve, contact **(310) 458-4904** or [beach.house@santamonica.gov](mailto:beach.house@santamonica.gov).

## BEACH WALK & SKETCH

Sunday, December 12, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Free, RSVP Requested

For a peaceful morning on the beach, bring your sense of wonder and



## There's a new, easier way to contact the City! Introducing

# 311

Now there are three ways to report a non-emergency request for service or get information.

- Submit an online form or download the City's new mobile app at [santamonica.gov/311](http://santamonica.gov/311)
- Email [311@santamonica.gov](mailto:311@santamonica.gov)
- Call **311** in Santa Monica or **(866) 311-SAMO** from anywhere



# COLORFUL UPDATES ON PICO



**P**ico Improvement Organization (PIO) promotes the merchants that line the 3-mile stretch of Pico Boulevard from the beach up to the 10 Freeway in Santa Monica. PIO celebrates the neighborhood with its colorful murals, street banners, restaurants, coffee houses, pet spas, fitness studios and so much more. This Fall, a slate of exciting projects will be coming to the street! A **colorful new 'placemaker' Pico sign, 60 feet wide and 11 feet high**, is to be painted on a fantastic wall near the eastern entrance to the City of Santa Monica on the InterDental at [3231 Pico Blvd.](https://www.santamonica.gov/3231-pico-blvd)

At that same eastern entrance to Santa Monica, CalTrans has approved the PIO to **Adopt the Pico Centinela Off Ramp** from the I-10 East. There will

be a volunteer litter clean up all along the roadway, and a pretty drought garden planted at the bottom of the ramp to welcome visitors to the city with a bright pop of color! No more unsightly litter, weeds and dirt.

A **new street light banner campaign** goes up all along Pico as well, celebrating Pico's murals and artsy vibe. Santa Monica designer Diane Kuntz created a brilliant, colorful interpretation of Pico!

Pico will celebrate the holiday season with several Virginia Ave Park events and the delivery of a 10-foot tall tree! A lighted **Wishing Tree at Virginia Ave Park** will glow at the corner of Pico and Cloverfield and down to the Cloverfield edge of Virginia Ave Park. The message is 'Celebrate Pico and Shop Local!' For more information about the Pico Improvement Organization including upcoming events and ways to support Pico businesses, visit [picopassport.com](https://picopassport.com).



## SANTA MONICA RESIDENTS: SPECIAL HOTEL DISCOUNTS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY VISITING FOR THE HOLIDAYS... OR GIFT YOURSELF AND LOVED ONES A BREAK!

Take advantage of **25 hotels** offering discounted room rates for Santa Monica residents and their guests from **October 20, 2021 to February 6, 2022**. *Proof of residency required.*

[santamonica.com/extrabedroom](https://santamonica.com/extrabedroom)

Stop by our Visitor Centers for information on local activities, itinerary, and transportation ideas! Please travel responsibly.



## PUBLIC MEETINGS AND REOPENING INFO

### City Council Meetings

**December 7, December 14, January 11, January 25, February 8, and February 22 at 5:30 p.m.**

City Council will be held via teleconference during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Latest info: [santamonica.gov/latest-city-council-meeting-information](https://santamonica.gov/latest-city-council-meeting-information)

### Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces

This list includes all scheduled meetings as of our printing deadline. Times, locations, and meeting dates may change due to COVID-19 protocols and/or reopening schedules. For the latest updates and information regarding all Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces, go to [smgov.net/boards](https://smgov.net/boards) or call **(310) 458-8211**.

### Airport Commission

**January 24 and February 28 at 6 p.m.**

### Architectural Review Board

**December 20, January 18, and February 22 at 7 p.m.**

### Arts Commission

**February 28 at 6:30 p.m.**

### Clean Beaches & Ocean Committee

**February 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

### Housing Commission

**December 16, January 20, and February 17 at 6 p.m.**

### Landmarks Commission

**January 10 at 7 p.m.**

### Library Board

**January 6 at 7 p.m.**

### Personnel Board

**December 2, January 27, and February 24 at 4:30 p.m.**

### Planning Commission

**December 1, December 15, January 5, January 19, February 2, and February 16 at 5:30 p.m.**

### Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission

**December 9, January 16, and February 10 at 5:30 p.m.**

### Recreation and Parks Commission

**December 16, January 20, and February 17 at 7:30 p.m.**

### Rent Control Board

**December 9, January 13, and February 10 at 7 p.m.**

### Social Services Commission

**Special Meeting - December 13 at 7 p.m.**

### Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation

**December 14 and January 18 at 4 p.m.**

### Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment

**January 24 and February 28 at 7 p.m.**

### City Facility Information

We are here to serve you! All City departments are open, though some on-site locations may not be accessible to the public. City facilities will continue to reopen with restrictions on a rolling basis. Facility improvements to ensure a safe reopening for the community and efforts to make necessary changes to programming due to modified operating hours, staff reductions, and infection control guidance are in progress. Conditions may change based on current COVID-19 public health requirements. For the latest updates, visit [santamonica.gov/coronavirus-reopenings](https://santamonica.gov/coronavirus-reopenings) or call **3-1-1** to speak with a City Hall operator.

*Seascope* is a publication of the City of Santa Monica, designed to inform the community about City programs and services. Info is up-to-date as of the 11/16 printing deadline. Please email comments to [manager@santamonica.gov](mailto:manager@santamonica.gov) or mail to:

*Seascope*  
City of Santa Monica  
1685 Main Street, Room 209  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Para obtener una copia en español de *Seascope*, envíe un correo electrónico a [manager@santamonica.gov](mailto:manager@santamonica.gov). Una copia digital puede ser enviada por correo electrónico inmediatamente; proporcione su dirección de correo completa para una copia impresa.

*Seascope is printed on recycled paper. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Seascope is available in alternate formats by calling the City Manager's Office at (310) 458-8301 (TDD/TTY (310) 917-6626).*