

# **SAN BRUNO**

---

## Community Foundation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Leslie Hatamiya

Executive Director

O: (650) 763-0775 / M: (650) 922-1223

lhatamiya-sbcf@sanbruno.ca.gov

### **SAN BRUNO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$350,000 GRANT TO THE CITY OF SAN BRUNO TO FUND DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT**

***Strategic Grant is the Foundation's Latest Effort to Support  
Revitalization Efforts in Downtown San Bruno***

**San Bruno, California, March 14, 2024** – The Board of Directors of the San Bruno Community Foundation recently approved a \$350,000 strategic grant to the City of San Bruno to support its Downtown Beautification Project. With this grant, the City is planning a series of improvements to improve the aesthetics of downtown San Bruno, replace aging amenities, and provide a welcoming environment for community members seeking to shop, dine, and gather along San Mateo Avenue.

The City's planned downtown beautification initiatives include planter revitalization along San Mateo Avenue, the potential planting of trees on Jenevein Avenue, median landscape revitalization, the creation of new street pole banners, and the replacement of the marquee sign on the south end of San Mateo Avenue. The effort to update the downtown planters is a significant undertaking that will include leak detection, irrigation repair, soil, sidewalk repair, planter excavation, design of plant palette, and the planting of new vegetation and flowers. The Jenevein Avenue tree project will include an assessment of the feasibility of placing trees in

the ground to avoid conflict with current infrastructure and, if feasible, the replacement of existing planters with trees and installation of a new tree water system. The revitalization of the landscape on the medians on the north and south ends of San Mateo Avenue will complement the greening efforts on the street, including improvements to Posy Park. Updated banners for the downtown street poles will create a uniform look and consist of three collections: holiday/winter banners, patriotic/summer banners, and general San Bruno banners. Finally, the replacement of the deteriorating marquee sign on the south end of San Mateo Avenue with a new LED sign will welcome community members and visitors to the downtown and provide the City with an opportunity to promote activities, events, and information to the public.

“Grant funding for the City of San Bruno’s Downtown Beautification Project is the latest example of the San Bruno Community Foundation’s commitment to downtown San Bruno as a vibrant economic and cultural hub for our community,” said Malissa Netane-Jones, President of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. “We are thrilled to partner with the City on this important initiative to enhance the downtown corridor for our entire community.”

Pending further approvals from the San Bruno City Council, construction related to the Downtown Beautification Project is expected to begin over the summer, with the project substantially completed in the fourth quarter of 2024. This timing lines up with the construction schedules for two other downtown improvement projects the City is undertaking – renovations to both Centennial Plaza and Posy Park – which are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

“The City of San Bruno is extremely grateful to the San Bruno Community Foundation for supporting our efforts to beautify and upgrade streetscape amenities in downtown San Bruno,” said Travis Karlen, Community Services Director for the City of San Bruno. “We want to showcase downtown San Bruno as the thriving business district it is, and the various components of the Downtown Beautification Project, including enhancements to planters, trees, medians, banners, and signage, will have a meaningful and lasting impact for our local

businesses and community members. We could not accomplish these improvements without the Foundation’s tremendous support.”

The Downtown Beautification Project grant is the Foundation’s latest investment in projects benefiting downtown San Bruno. Other investments have included a \$500,000 grant to help the City transform Centennial Plaza into a welcoming and multi-functional community gathering space; COVID-19 relief grants totaling \$407,000 supporting struggling San Bruno small businesses; the Pedestrian Safety Strategic Initiative, which funded flashing beacons at high pedestrian traffic intersections including one set on San Mateo Avenue; grant funding for the 2022 Community Day festivities, which was held in downtown San Bruno and showcased local businesses and other community organizations; and several Community Grants that have invested in downtown projects, including downtown activation events organized by Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center to promote and celebrate San Bruno's small businesses and the Bay Area Entrepreneur Center’s Accelerate Fellowship, through which Skyline College students conduct hands-on community projects aimed at attracting new customers to San Bruno businesses.

To fund the Downtown Beautification Project grant, the Foundation is utilizing a portion of the restitution funds resulting from the City of San Bruno’s settlement with Pacific Gas & Electric Company following the 2010 gas pipeline explosion that devastated San Bruno’s Crestmoor neighborhood.

The San Bruno Community Foundation is the nonprofit organization created by the City of San Bruno to administer the \$70 million in restitution funds received from PG&E after the devastating 2010 gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno’s Crestmoor neighborhood. The Foundation serves the San Bruno community by investing in projects, programs, services, and facilities that have significant and lasting benefits. Through making grants, leveraging partnerships, and taking advantage of other resources, the SBCF assists and enables the community to maximize shared investments and realize their subsequent enhancements and benefits.

# # #