

**DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

**Los Gatos Community Center Planning**  
*Community Needs Assessment*

**Community Center Project**  
**Los Gatos Thrives Foundation**  
*LGCommunityCenter.org*

**Community Center Committee**

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Los Gatos Thrives Foundation

Our mission is to make Los Gatos an age-friendly community where everyone thrives.

Los Gatos Thrives is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

*LosGatosThrives.org*

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## Executive summary

This *Community Needs Assessment* report is the first phase of a project by the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation to develop a plan for creation of a Los Gatos Intergenerational Community Center.

Los Gatos does not currently have a community center. While Los Gatos has engaged citizens, clubs, groups and organizations that do many positive things for the town, a community center and the spaces and functions it provides can do much more to unlock the potential of our town.

This report documents our foundation's study to learn what Los Gatos community members have said they need in a new community center. To learn about these needs our team has taken a four-pronged approach.

First, we visited six new or recently refurbished community centers in nearby cities to: a) learn what capabilities they have included, b) what are their most valuable community spaces, and c) to learn from their experience in operating their centers.

Second, we conducted a detailed survey from over 600 respondents to learn what Los Gatos community members would like to see in a center.

Third, we held a community workshop with ~100 attendees to discuss in a focus-session format what we learned from other centers and our survey, and to gain first-hand perspectives on community member views on the needs of a community center for Los Gatos—the “must haves”, “nice to have”, and “not needed” spaces and functions.

Fourth, an interim report was presented to the Los Gatos Community Health and Senior Services Commission to incorporate their perspectives.

This report describes what spaces we heard the community wants included in a community center in priority order. In addition, the overall needs and characteristics desired in a community center for Los Gatos are summarized.

The results of this phase 1 community needs and priorities study is being used to develop a detailed analysis and description of the spaces and functions for the center. This analysis will be presented to the community in a phase 2 community center workshop to be held October 14, 2024.

Based on the workshop results and a review by the Los Gatos Town Council a draft community design concept plan will be completed by the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation in December 2024 for further consideration by town leaders.

## 1. Introduction

The creation of a new intergenerational community center for Los Gatos is a goal of the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation. The origins of our nonprofit foundation and its objective of creating a community center for all ages grows out of an earlier study by the Town’s Senior Services Committee. The Senior Services Committee provided a Senior Services Roadmap which was unanimously endorsed by the Town Council in February 2023 (<https://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/32737/Attachment-1---Senior-Services-Roadmap-Report>). The first of the seven goals in the Roadmap is the creation of a Los Gatos community center for all ages. Subsequently the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation was formed as a 501(c)(3) to support older adult programs in Los Gatos with a major goal of creating a new intergenerational community center.

The purpose of this report is to document a recent study to learn what Los Gatos community members have said they need in a new community center. This study has been carried out by the Community Center Committee of the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation in partnership with community leaders and representatives from the Town Council, the Community Health and Senior Services Commission and other engaged town citizens and service providers.

The Foundation believes it is essential that new developments in our small town of Los Gatos maintain a key historic asset—that of Los Gatos being a charming community where all ages thrive. Further, a new center must be designed with modern sustainability and energy efficiency considerations and be a place in which the community will be proud, and which will serve the community far into the future. Thus, it is essential in planning for a center that the first step be on understanding the needs and wishes of our local community members, i.e., what will best serve Los Gatos.

To understand community needs our team has taken a four-pronged approach. First, we visited six new or recently refurbished community centers in nearby cities to: a) learn what capabilities they have included, b) what are their most valuable community spaces, and c) to learn from their experience in operating their centers. Second, we conducted a detailed survey from over 600 respondents to learn what Los Gatos community members would like to see in a center. Third, we held a community workshop with ~100 attendees to discuss in a focus-session format what we learned from other centers and our survey, and to gain first-hand perspectives on community member views on the needs of a community center for Los Gatos—the “must haves”, “nice to have”, and “not needed” spaces and functions. Fourth, an interim report was presented to the Los Gatos Community Health and Senior Services Commission to incorporate their perspectives.

In this report we provide a perspective on why a community center for Los Gatos, learning from neighboring city centers, an analysis of community needs priorities based on the community survey, community workshop, and discussions with community leaders, service providers, and the Community Health and Senior Services Commission. We conclude with next steps for creating a Los Gatos Intergenerational Community Center.

## 2. Why a Community Center

Many towns in the bay area have a community center - but not Los Gatos. Why should Los Gatos have a community center? From our visits to neighboring cities such as Los Altos, Palo Alto, Saratoga, Morgan Hill, and Mountain View we discovered a good community center is an essential part of other towns. Every center visited was different to meets the needs of that town and we gained special understanding from each one we visited. But one thing was clear: an intergenerational community center serves to enhance existing activities and services and adds missing ones.

A community center unlocks the potential of a town. Los Gatos has engaged citizens, clubs, groups and organizations that do a lot and would like to do much more, but there is a thing holding them back: a lack of facilities. A center also provides a way to bring senior services to a larger group. The critical mass provided by the larger scale of a community center together with the intergenerational opportunities provides an inflection point for senior services. To achieve this scale, one needs to serve all generations. Here are some considerations:

- Space. Having great spaces for people and organizations to meet, hold classes, events, and social programs, can expand the number (and quality) of activities in our town.
- Research shows community centers strengthen social connections, reduce isolation, and improve the health and well-being among those who participate. That's not just our idea, it's based on national studies.
- Centers are a long-term town asset that can benefit multiple generations. If you build a great park, 100 years from now the community will still be using it. A community center will evolve with time but decades from now it will still be serving the community.
- Community centers serve to bring the community together. We have many great activities in Los Gatos that serve to bring the community together—like Jazz on the Plazz, the Christmas Parade, Wine Walks, and so on. A well-designed center will enable activities that bring together community members of all ages.

Los Gatos needs a well-designed, well-run center targeted to meet the specific needs of our community. That's why our initial work has focused on gathering community ideas and requirements.

What does Los Gatos need? One may think of a center as a hub for all stakeholders in our Town. It should represent the needs of the community and could have spaces for the activities, programs and events for individuals and families of all ages, for example including a teen center and a dedicated space for seniors. It should benefit local and regional organizations including nonprofits, service clubs, and charities.

### 3. Learning From Neighboring Community Centers

The Foundation's Community Center Committee visited six community centers in neighboring cities to learn from their experiences in creating and using a community center. The centers were selected based on having recently been built or refurbished, as well as recommendations received on the quality of their programs. In each case the committee was given a tour of the facility by those people operating the facility and who also had experience in the construction or renovation process. They presented extensive information on their operations, including the spaces and functions covered, what worked best, and what could be improved. For our Community Center Dreaming Workshop we selected the four that provided the most relevant information. These centers were the Los Altos Community Center, Mountain View Community and Senior Centers, the Morgan Hill Centennial Recreation Center, and Palo Alto's Avenidas Center, a senior center (see Figures 1-4).



Figure 1 Los Altos Community Center

#### Major features of centers visited included:

- Large lobby with information center
- Public gathering spaces with comfortable seating
- Moveable window walls
- Landscaped outdoor patio
- Outdoor recreation options, including bocce ball and pickle ball courts
- Adult day care and wellness
- Generator for emergency preparedness
- Security system with remote time-controlled keypad access
- On-site cafe



Figure 2 Morgan Hill Community Center

#### Amenities for the spaces to facilitate their functions included:

- Configurable, multi-purpose activity rooms
- Dedicated meeting rooms of various sizes (with whiteboards, etc.)
- Counter space with ample storage cabinets and sink in meeting rooms
- Banquet hall with catering kitchen
- Large theater (with stage)
- Lounge with comfortable seating
- Specific rooms for seniors, teens, pre-school, arts & crafts, computers
- Activity room with cushioned, low-impact wood floor for exercise/dancing
- Reading room with fireplace
- Game room with ping-pong and pool tables
- Dance room with mirrored walls
- Fitness center with gym equipment



Figure 3 Mountain View Community Center

Built-in technology included:

- Wi-fi throughout the facility
- Flat screen TVs with hook-ups
- Sound systems
- Assisted listening devices
- Specific equipment for Zoom/hybrid meetings
- Build-in screen and projectors for multipurpose rooms

Important additional considerations included:

- Conference room for staff meetings
- Staff offices with space for expansion
- Plenty of storage build into rooms
- Parking, including EV charging stations
- Location



Figure 4 Palo Alto Avenidas

Information for each of the four highlighted centers was gathered into fact sheets for use in the Community Center Dreaming Workshop. Focus sessions for each of the centers was then used in breakout groups to learn what community members liked most. These fact sheets are given in Appendix B.

#### 4. Community Survey

To determine community needs in a center a survey was conducted targeting town residents (the survey was intended to compliment a workshop to gather additional understanding of community needs that was held on held on June 20, 2024). Towns

- Conducted May 4 – June 23, 2024
- 620 responses (strong interest!)
- 92% live in Los Gatos (others nearby)
- Respondents represent over 1,900 people
- Wide range of household sizes

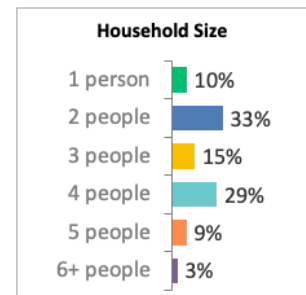


Figure 5 Community Center Needs Survey Outreach Characteristics

around the country (and in the bay area) have conducted surveys as part of their community center development process; questions posed are often similar. We analyzed many surveys and used the most common questions as our starting point. We then added questions of local interest. The survey was opened on May 4, 2024, and closed on June 23, 2024. Outreach was through multiple Los Gatos channels, including Los Gatos school groups, service clubs, older adult lists, the 55 Plus senior recreation program, postings, flyers and cards distribution, and other outlets. Approximately 10,000 emails were sent as part of the outreach effort.

A summary of the survey respondents and demographics is given in Figures 5 and 6. We received 620 responses with 92% living in Los Gatos. The average household size was 3.1 with respondents representing a total of 1,900 people, a significant sampling of Los Gatos residents for a town with a population of only 30,000. As shown in Figure 6 the respondents age distribution closely matched that of the US Census 2020 results for Los Gatos, indicating a good sampling of the different age groups within the town.

A detailed analysis of the Community Center Needs Survey including the questions asked and answers given is included in Appendix C. Respondents could indicate the level of importance of typical center spaces results were analyzed according to ranking of very important or important spaces, very important spaces by age group, comparisons between ages, and other spaces not mentioned.

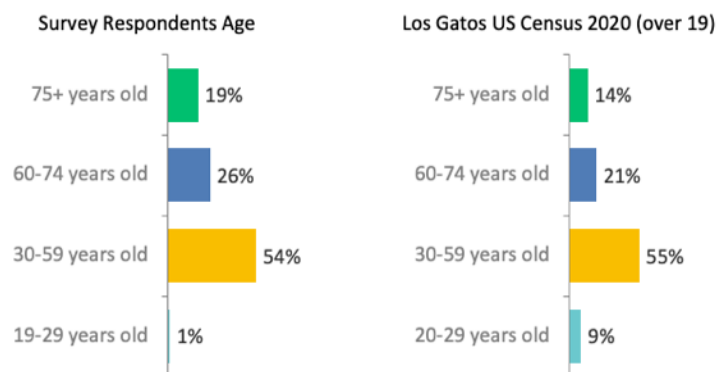


Figure 6 Respondents age distribution vs. population.

The top 10 spaces among all respondents were:

1. Outdoor patio seating and meeting area (82%)
2. Large community room (79%)
3. Performance space (77%)
4. Small / medium meeting and event rooms (76%)
5. Room for fitness classes (73%)
6. Teen center room (72%)
7. Full-service kitchen (71%)
8. Outdoor sports courts (70%)
9. Large lecture hall and presentation space (69%)
10. Spaces for community groups & non-profit services (69%)

Overall highlights of the survey are:

- Many people responded — our residents are clearly interested in this topic.
- Respondent ages closely aligned with overall Los Gatos demographics.
- There were clear priorities among the options presented.
- Most priorities were the same among age groups but there were a few key differences between school age families (age 19-59) and older respondents.
- Options presented covered most things people had in mind. When asked for additional ideas, answers were scattered, but three additional uses did emerge.
- Clubs and organizations are likely to use the center — 43% of respondents said they were a member of a local club or organization that might use a new center.
- Parking matters, driving is how most people expect to get to the center.
- 76% of respondents see a need for a new community center (only 4% saw no need and the other 20% were unsure).

### **Younger generation supplemental survey**

One demographic where our survey results were more limited was for the younger ages of 1 – 20 years old. Since including a teen room in a community center was in the top ten responses of needed spaces, we wanted to reach out to Los Gatos teens to learn directly what they would want in a center. A focus group session of about a dozen high school aged teens was held in August 2024 to add additional insights and better understand the special needs and perspectives of the Los Gatos teen



community. We are now in the process of following up to gather further information about local teen needs and interests.

## 5. Community Workshop

To gain more in-depth understanding of community perspectives, needs, and future uses of a community center for Los Gatos a Community Dreaming Workshop was held on June 20, 2024, 5 - 8 pm at the Masonic Hall. The interest in the Workshop was extremely strong with the tickets capped at 106 registrants and over 80 community members participating in all the workshop sessions to gain a more detailed understanding of what a community center could offer and to express their opinions. The Workshop used an interactive format with community leaders leading six focus groups, as shown in the agenda in Appendix D. The current trend of many communities having built community centers was presented first together with the ways centers support and enrich the community. Then the learning from the visits of Los Gatos Thrives members to 4 recently build or renovated community centers in the neighboring cities of Los Altos, Mountain View, Morgan Hill, and Palo Alto was reviewed. Focus group discussions were held after each center's features were briefly presented and the fact sheets (shown in Appendix B) were handed out. The input on what was considered most important for Los Gatos was collected on flip charts and then reported out to the larger group with the moderator consolidating the overall views of the "must haves" and "not needed" for a community center for Los Gatos.

The results of the community center needs survey were presented next, and the center spaces and functions of most interest discussed. This presentation was followed by the six break-out focus sections each discussing what they felt were the most important needs in a community center for Los Gatos. The results we captured on flip charts and consolidated by the moderator and the overall priorities were discussed with the entire group. The discussion provided a better understanding of community views on the "must haves", "nice to haves", and "not needed" spaces and functions of a center. The Workshop then concluded with a presentation of the next steps planned by the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation to document the community center needs assessment and to move forward with a community-lead effort for creating a community center for Los Gatos.

Much valuable information was obtained from the Workshop and there was good consistency with the survey results. Some of the key higher-level perspectives gained from the Workshop include a desire for:

- Welcoming and attractive design
- Lobby that draws people in
- Lots of natural light
- Used as emergency center (generator, etc.)
- Accessible
- Adequate parking
- AV/computer capabilities (where appropriate)
- Devices for hearing impaired (in appropriate rooms)

## 6. Community Needs Priorities

Following the workshop and survey, a team of community leaders met to process the results and develop an analysis of priority spaces and functions focused on Los Gatos needs. Their analysis process was based on a review of the community center survey, the Community Center Dreaming Workshop, the site visits to other centers, and the experience of the priority needs team. The resulting Community Center Priorities report is given in Appendix E and those results are summarized here.

A prioritized list of spaces shown in Figure 7 was developed in terms of the “must have”, “nice to have” and “not needed” categories.

### Prioritized List of Spaces

Must Have	Nice To Have	Not Needed
Outdoor patio seating and meeting area	Large lecture hall	A full pre-school/daycare
Large community room & presentation space	Arts & crafts studio	Remote / Zoom meeting room
Performance space (might double as community room)	Dance floor (special flooring material)	Office space for community groups
Small / medium meeting and event rooms	Computer & tech center	Ping-pong room
Room for fitness classes	Childcare space for when parents visit	Pool & billiards room
Teen center room	Classrooms	Rock climbing wall
Spaces for community groups to meet	Remote / Zoom meeting room	Pool
Spaces for service providers to deliver social services	Gym	
Spaces for card, tile, and board games	Snack bar / Café	
Dedicated space for older adults	Game Room (pool & billiards)	
Full service kitchen		
Outdoor sports courts (pickleball, basketball, etc.)		

Figure 7 Prioritized spaces.

The spaces which could be more expensive or difficult to maintain include a performance space, full-service kitchen, arts & crafts studio, computer & tech center, childcare space, snack bar/café, rock climbing wall and pool. The extent to which these spaces can be included in a future center will depend on the size of the site acquired for locating the center and the funding which can be raised. Some spaces may be incorporated with others by efficient multi-use approaches and others might be allowed for in a design as future additions.

An analysis of the rooms envisioned, and their uses as illustrated in Figure 8, provides addition insight on center functions. Two large multipurpose rooms or a large one with an easily slidable divider were the most heavily used spaces in all centers visited as well as of high priority in Los Gatans’ responses. Such rooms provided the ability to hold presentations and lectures, hold regional workshops, host celebrations with seated meals, and hold service club events. Special features include audio and projected capabilities and an adjacent full or catering kitchen. Small and medium sized multipurpose rooms were also priority spaces for use as classes, smaller group meetings, service providers use, clubs, etc., with at least some needing remote video meeting capability.

### Rooms and Uses – Version 4

	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
	<b>Large, Dividable Multipurpose Room</b>	<b>Small &amp; Medium Multipurpose Rooms</b>	<b>Dedicated Rooms</b>	<b>Outdoor Spaces</b>
Required rooms & sizes	<p><b>One room</b> seats 250 / standing 600 includes a simple stage</p> <p>built-in dividers (or movable divider) that splits room into half or thirds</p>	<p><u>Reservable, general purpose rooms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two that seat 50</li> <li>• Two that seat 12</li> <li>• Two that seat 6</li> </ul>	<p><u>Customized fittings</u></p> <p>Fitness/Dance Room – up to 50 people                      Snack Bar/Café                      Lobby Area                      Hallway Seating nooks                      Staff office space and room                      Full catering kitchen (not commercial for now)</p> <p><u>Dedicated rooms, but not customized</u></p> <p>Senior Area – tables for 50 people                      Teen Area                      Two social service provider rooms that seat 4</p>	<p><u>Seated Spaces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmable outdoor space with covered seating for 50 (reservable)</li> <li>• Outdoor performance space</li> <li>• Patio space outside rooms (extension for rentals)</li> </ul> <p><u>Court Spaces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor basketball court (possibly multi-sport court)</li> <li>• Bocce Ball</li> </ul>
Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations &amp; lectures</li> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Performance space</li> <li>• Service club mtgs</li> <li>• Serve meals</li> <li>• Weddings, celebrations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small group meetings</li> <li>• Classes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nice to have but not required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts &amp; crafts</li> <li>• Computer &amp; tech center</li> <li>• Childcare space</li> <li>• Demonstration kitchen for cooking classes</li> <li>• Dedicated Gaming room (pool, ping pong)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General outdoor relaxation</li> <li>• Outdoor meetings and classes</li> <li>• Outdoor events</li> <li>• Sports and fitness activities</li> </ul>
Special Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Audio visual system</li> <li>✓ Adjacent kitchen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Remote meeting capabilities</li> <li>✓ Doors that opens to outside if possible</li> <li>✓ Hard (cleanable) floors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ping pong, pool table, video games (located inside other spaces)</li> <li>✓ Publicly available computers placed in selected areas such as lobby and senior area</li> <li>✓ Carpeting in the Senior and Teen areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Attractive landscaping</li> </ul>



Figure 8 Priority rooms and uses

Dedicated rooms would meet special use requirements. Examples include a fitness/dance room, game room, older adult room, and teen room. Also required would be a room for staff office space and a maintenance/storage room. Other areas that would be nice to have include a snack bar or café, pre-school/childcare room, arts and crafts room, game room, and dedicated computer/tech space. However, some of these functions might be combined with small/medium multipurpose rooms. An area that could be used as a performance space and music/band practice is desirable, however it should have temporary seating and not permanent theatre seating to allow for multiple uses. Outdoor spaces for patios adjacent to multipurpose rooms and for meetings, performances, and events are important features. Also there should be outdoor spaces for sports courts to the extent the site allows.

A critical feature for an inviting center is a spacious lobby with living room style seating, , high ceiling, large windows, and natural accents with wood and plants where people can socialize, read, play games, or just relax and hang out. This area would also contain a welcome desk where volunteers would answer questions about town needs and requirements, reserving space, upcoming activities and events, and opportunities to volunteer. A notable aspect of other modern centers visited was the extensive use of windows to provide lots of natural lighting and generous patio spaces outside most rooms large doors or sliding glass walls. These features gave a spacious feel and sense of connection to nature. Additional features such a easy to maintain planters for green plants in the lobby area and ample use of wood features can also give a feeling of connecting with nature and may help support a design maintaining the small town feel of Los Gatos.

Other requirements for space, room features, and general design considerations are summarized in Figure 9. Ample parking space is needed in addition to the interior space. Adequate accessibility for people needing special accommodation must be included throughout the facility. Quiet nooks and sitting areas with comfortable seating are needed for people to have conversations and read. Storage cabinets in most rooms are very important to support multiple setups and use with minimal effort and

### Other Requirements

Other Required Spaces	Add these to rooms...	General Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Elevator (if multi-floor)</li> <li>• Nooks/areas for 1-2 people to talk or read with comfortable chairs</li> <li>• Place where someone can make a quiet conference call</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STORAGE:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most rooms need storage</li> <li>- Groups need place to store supplies</li> <li>- Storage for operations &amp; maintenance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sinks (where needed)</li> <li>• AV/computer capabilities (where appropriate)</li> <li>• Devices for hearing impaired (in appropriate rooms)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming and attractive design</li> <li>• Lots of natural light</li> <li>• Consider sliding/folding glass doors to create indoor/outdoor spaces</li> <li>• Facility must be accessible</li> <li>• Separate entrance for senior space</li> <li>• EMERGENCY: can be used as emergency center (generator, etc.)</li> </ul>

Figure 9 Other requirement for a community center

clutter. Experience at other centers indicates that many rooms need to have sinks. Audio-visual capabilities with large screen monitors are needed in multipurpose rooms and wi-fi should be available throughout the facility. Devices for hearing impaired should also be available. The facility should be designed to serve as a community emergency center when needed with space provided for an emergency generator as budgets permit.

## 7. Town Commission Review

The Los Gatos Thrives Foundation presented an Interim Community Center Needs Report to the Los Gatos Community Health and Senior Services Commission (CHSSC) for their review and recommendations on August 22, 2024. This interim report of the learning and analysis of community center needs was an important step in partnering with the town in the process of developing plans for a community center. The CHSSC provides an opportunity for valuable input in assessing community needs because of their engagement with the older adult demographic and with service providers that support needs for Los Gatos community members. The CHSSC’s work on community health also provides additional insight in community needs assessment. The pre-read provided to the CHSSC consisted of an introduction (Appendix F), the needs survey analysis (Appendix C) and the needs priorities analyses (Appendix E). The commissioners encouraged the Los Gatos Thrives continue to maintain consistency with the Senior Services Roadmap recommendations (Goal 1: community center) and emphasized issues of concern based on their expertise. The recommendations are being followed.

After presentation and commissioner recommendations the CHSSC unanimously passed the following motion: "The CHSSC heard and reviewed the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation's interim progress on its "needs report" for a new Los Gatos Community Center, appreciated the opportunity given to the CHSSC and community to provide

input on that report, and encouraged the LGTF to continue its work on finalizing the Los Gatos Community Center's Needs Report."

## **8. Next Steps and Challenges**

### **8.1 Activity & Spaces Modules Analysis**

The priority spaces given in the needs assessment are currently being analyzed and their recommended uses, features, multipurpose options, and sizes are being documented by a modules team. Typical uses and sizes of these spaces in other centers, both nationally and by centers in the nearby cities visited are being analyzed by our urban planning interns. A spreadsheet to document the room uses, typical and recommended sizes, relative costs, and multipurpose functions is being developed. This analysis is important to assess total space needs and to help in prioritization of spaces based on considerations such as available funding and site size. In addition, fact sheets are being prepared for each space to provide additional information on the priority spaces and multipurpose uses.

### **8.2 Community Workshop - Phase 2**

The next step is to present this draft plan and module analyses to the Los Gatos community in a Community Center Recommendation Workshop – Phase 2, to be held on October 14, 2024. This workshop will review these plans for omissions and improvements in seeking to represent Los Gatos community members wants and needs. Focus sessions will be held on the activity and spaces modules to refine those plans for incorporation into a community draft design concept plan. The workshop will also discuss and seek input on the type of preferred center site, for example a location in the civic center area, an alternative downtown site, a stand-alone site in another area, or a distributed site concept. This draft plan will be revised based on the results of the community workshop. In addition, concurrent with this Phase 2 Workshop our Site Selection Team will be exploring possible locations for a community center with a goal of identifying a couple property sites as viable for further consideration.

### **8.3 Town Council Review**

Following completion of the draft community design concept plan the Foundation will present the plan to the Town Council for their consideration, guidance, and further revision. The presentation is planned for the Town Council meeting of November 19, 2024. Revisions of the concept plan based our Town Council input will be completed by the end of December 2024, completing this first cycle of Los Gatos community center planning. The completed community draft design concept plan is indented to contain material provided by consultants to an architect firm for development of a design concept plan. Such a step could follow a partnership agreement with the town if the community center concept receives town endorsement as a strategic priority and selected as part of the Conceptual Improvement Program.

### **8.4 Challenges**

Key challenges will be:

- 1) obtaining a suitable site for the community center and
- 2) raising the needed financial resources to build and operate the center.

The foundation's Site Selection Team is currently carrying out a preliminary investigation of potential locations and properties that might be viable for consideration, with the goal of having 1-3 possibilities identified in the end of 2024.

It is recognized that a new community center is a ten-year project, and that the town alone will not have the resources to fully fund a community center. Thus, the foundation is forming a Fundraising and Financing Committee to assist in developing a funding strategy. A partnership approach involving town resources, community fundraising, grant applications, and regional support could be an effective approach. In addition, consideration to the continuing resources needed for center operations must be included. The foundation is planning to carry out fundraising on a continuing basis and to establish an endowment fund, as we have observed neighboring communities to do in helping to supporting their centers. Realistic assessments of available funding and continuing support will need to be carefully considered with architects as conceptual designs are developed.

To be successful a new community center requires a close partnership between the town, the community, and the project team. This partnership needs to start with initial requirement gathering, and extend through the planning, design, development, and operation phases. Sustainability, accessibility, and energy efficiencies will be important considerations for incorporation as the plans move forward with architects in a conceptual design phase. Partnering with the community will also help to ensure a new center is a place in which the community takes pride and serves to be a place where community members thrive far into the future.

## **10. Summary**

The Los Gatos Thrives Foundation's objective is to develop a draft concept plan for a new intergenerational community center for our town by December 2024.

The foundation believes it is essential that this center represents Los Gatos as a charming community where all ages thrive. Thus, it is essential that the first step in planning such a center is to understand and document the needs and wishes of our local community members and stakeholders so as to best serve all of Los Gatos.

Our team has taken a four-pronged approach to understand our community's needs:

1. We visited six new or recently refurbished community centers in nearby cities to learn what capabilities they have included and what their most valuable community spaces are, as well as to learn from their experience in operating their centers.
2. We conducted a detailed survey from over 600 respondents to learn what Los Gatos community members would like to see in a center.
3. We held a community workshop with ~100 attendees to discuss in a focus-session format what we learned from other centers and our community survey, and to gain first-hand perspectives on what they viewed as: "must have", "nice to have" and "not needed" in a community center for Los Gatos.
4. We presented an interim report to the Los Gatos Community Health and Senior Services Commission to incorporate their perspectives.

In conclusion, we believe that this comprehensive Community Needs Report accurately reflects the needs and wishes of our community.

## Appendices

### A. National Trends

#### **Trending Now: The Evolution of Community Centers Across the U.S.**

Prepared By: Adilene Moreno and Tishrona Godfrey  
 Urban Planning Interns with the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation  
 June 17, 2024

This analysis summarizes major trends in developing community centers in the United States.

Nationwide, community centers are now designed with a strong intergenerational focus, aiming to connect and support community members of all ages and diverse demographics. These public venues serve as vital hubs where community members come together to socialize, engage in recreational and educational pursuits, seek counseling, and more.

**Diverse Uses: Community Centers as Adaptable Multi-functional Spaces** Communities increasingly value community centers that serve multiple functions. This approach enhances the center's practicality and broadens its appeal across diverse groups of users. Modern community centers are designed to offer a wide range of activities and services. Many if not all of these activities and services allow different generations to interact and thrive together.

- Educational Activities/Programs (Classes, Workshops, Computer Labs)
- Recreational Activities/Programs (Games, Entertainment Spaces, Youth + Adult Sports, Dance Classes, Art Classes)
- Wellness (Meal Programs, Gym + Fitness areas, Counseling)
- Open Green Space (Gardens, Picnic Areas)
- Multifunctional Spaces (Rooms, Main Halls, Stages, Commercial Kitchens)
- Mentorship Programs
- Volunteer Programs
- Childcare

Example Community Center: Midtown Community Center in Newport News, Virginia, provides facilities for fitness, sports leagues, dance classes, senior activities, and various other programs.

#### **Scalable Design: Transforming Community Centers**

These designs enable communities to start with a core facility and expand as their population grows or as funding becomes available.

Example Community Center: Parker Fieldhouse in Parker, Colorado initially built to serve 45,000 residents, includes plans for future expansion to meet growing community needs.

- Population increases
- Demand for services evolves (New sports courts, expanding fitness areas, new technology, etc.)

#### **Community Centers: Building Sustainability Through Green Design**

Many new centers aim for LEED certification or incorporate energy-efficient systems, solar panels, and green roofs.

Example Community Center: Quail Hill Community Center incorporates solar panels, LED lighting, and native landscaping, achieving LEED Gold certification.

### Community Centers and Local Economic Development

Community centers have the potential to boost local property values and contribute to the economic vitality of neighborhoods. They provide affordable venues for social events and community gatherings, cementing their importance as essential community hubs.

How do community centers get funded?

Communities increasingly leverage diverse funding sources, including public-private partnerships, grants, and community fundraising to finance their projects.

Example Community Center: The Alamosa Community Center in New Mexico received funding from a blend of local government resources, a state grant, and a significant donation from a local business, totaling \$8 million.

How do community centers manage operational costs?

Many centers incorporate revenue-generating activities such as rental spaces, fitness memberships, and host events.

Example Community Center: The Davenport Community Center in Florida generates revenue through its popular event space rentals and a community-run café.

### Summary

Community centers are evolving to integrate advanced technology and digital amenities, such as high-speed internet, digital classrooms, and spaces for virtual meetings and telehealth.

Example Community Center: The Northglenn Recreation Center, Senior Center, and Theatre, inaugurated in 2021, is a cutting-edge facility showcasing how technology can be seamlessly integrated into community centers. It functions as a versatile space tailored to address the varied needs of the community.

- In addition to technological advancements, community centers are increasingly pivotal in promoting health and wellness. They provide spaces for exercise, health education, and activities that combat social issues like loneliness and youth crime, offering safe environments for social interaction and after-school programs.
- Moreover, modern community centers enhance community connectivity and interaction by fostering social connections through diverse services and educational opportunities. They feature inviting common areas, host community events, and offer programs that encourage resident interaction, thereby strengthening community bonds.
- Furthermore, there is a growing emphasis on educational and cultural enrichment within community centers. These facilities often include spaces for classes, workshops, and cultural activities, contributing to lifelong learning opportunities and enriching the local community.



## B. Neighboring Community Centers Fact Sheets

### Los Altos Community Center Highlights



- Huge lobby with information desk and public seating areas
- Large lecture hall / presentation space / theater
- Dedicated senior lounge with breakout room
- Activity room with cushioned floor
- Carpeted fitness room with weights and stretching mats
- Informal gathering spaces with comfortable seating
- Pre-configured room for remote/zoom meetings
- Meeting rooms with adjacent outdoor patios
- Landscaped courtyard with public art and seating areas
- Outdoor sports courts (bocce, tennis, pickleball)

#### LOS ALTOS COMMUNITY CENTER

#### FACT SHEET



97 Hillview Ave

#### FACILITY OVERVIEW

- Opened: October 2021
- Size: 24,500 square feet
- Proximity: Library, Downtown

#### FACILITY SPACES

##### Meeting Rooms

- 1 Large
- 1 Medium Large
- 1 Medium
- 2 Connecting Senior Rooms
- 2 Small Alcove Rooms
- Public Non-Profit Meeting Rooms
- 2 Free Community Rooms

##### Recreational Spaces

- Teen Room
- Art Room
- Kitchen
- 

##### Outdoor Features

- Bocce Ball, Tennis, Pickleball, Ping-Pong

##### Room Rentals

- Available for All Rooms

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Exercise Program
- Dance Classes

#### TECHNOLOGY

- Conference Rooms: Equipped for Remote Video & Audio
- Flat Panel TVs
- Wi-Fi: High-Speed Internet

#### UNIQUE FEATURES

##### Architectural Design

- Floor-to-Ceiling Windows
- High-Ceiling Lobby
- Open-Space Campus Feel
- Living Room-Like Areas

##### Additional Features

- Ample Storage Spaces
- Patios Connected to Indoor Spaces
- Multiple Nooks for Discussion

## Morgan Hill Centennial Center Highlights



- Operated in collaboration with YMCA
  - Fitness room, Olympic-size indoor pool, Group programs, Gym
- Senior wing with separate entrance
- Lab with desktop computers and printer
- Teen center with games and activities
- Dining hall and kitchen with meal service for seniors
- Small park with play area

### MORGAN HILL CENTENNIAL RECREATION CENTER

#### FACT SHEET



171 W Edmundson Ave

#### FACILITY OVERVIEW

- Opened: 2006
- Size: 57,000 square feet
- Proximity: Community Park

#### FACILITY SPACES

##### Meeting Rooms

- Large Multi-Purpose Room with Full Kitchen
- Lounge/Social Room
- Medium Rooms

##### Recreational Spaces

- Indoor Water Park
- Gymnasium
- Aerobics Room
- Fitness Training Room

##### Outdoor Features

- Bocce Ball, Tennis, Pickleball, Badminton, Park w/ Play Area

##### Room Rentals

- Available for All Rooms

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Meal Program
- Exercise Program
- Transportation Program
- Kids' Club
- Teen Center
- Senior Center
- Day Care Center

#### TECHNOLOGY

- Computer Lab
- Wi-Fi: High-speed internet

#### UNIQUE FEATURES

- Architectural Design
- Example

# Mountain View Community Center Highlights



- Dedicated classroom for pre-school
- Reading room with fireplace and library
- Large multi-purpose social hall
- Game room with ping-pong tables and pool tables
- Spaces for jigsaw puzzles and board games
- Large mirrored dance hall
- Emergency generator

## MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

### FACT SHEET



201 S. Renastorff Avenue

#### FACILITY OVERVIEW

- Renovated: 2019
- Size: 28,600 square feet
- Proximity: Community Park

#### FACILITY SPACES

##### Meeting Rooms

- Large Multipurpose Room
- 6 Classrooms
- Public Non-Profit Meeting Rooms
- Conference Room
- Pre-K School Room

##### Recreational Spaces

- Fitness/Pilates Room
- Reservable Space for Private Events

##### Outdoor Features

- Park with Recreational Activities

##### Room Rentals

- Available

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Family-Orientated Services
- Classes Available for All Ages
- Recreation

#### TECHNOLOGY

- AV Built-In
- Wi-Fi: High-speed internet
- Remote Meeting Equipment

#### UNIQUE FEATURES

##### Architectural Design

- Gold Certified
- Lots of Natural Light
- High Ceiling Lobby
- Visitor Lounge in Staff Area

##### Additional Features

- Patio Connected to Multipurpose Room
- Furniture is Interchangeable
- Large Storage Spaces

## Palo Alto - Avenidas (Senior Center) Highlights



- Operated by Avenidas, a nonprofit with services for seniors
- Large cafe in lobby with indoor and outdoor seating
- Meeting rooms for community groups
- Office space for service providers (by reservation)
- Arts & crafts studio
- Large function room with adjacent balcony
- Health and wellness floor
- Concierge services
- Dedicated office space and conference room for staff

### PALO ALTO - AVENIDAS (SENIOR CENTER)

#### FACT SHEET



450 Bryant St

#### FACILITY OVERVIEW

- Renovated: 2017
- Size: 29,000 square feet
- Proximity:

#### FACILITY SPACES

##### Meeting Rooms

- Meeting Event Room
- Service Provider Spaces
- Art Rooms
- Board Rooms
- Classrooms

##### Recreational Spaces

- Large Exercise Room
- Wellness Room
- Penthouse Reception Room with Balcony
- Kitchen
- Cafe

##### Outdoor Features

- Adjacent Garden Area

##### Room Rentals

- Available

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Learning & Leisure
- Avenidas Village
- Care Partners
- Health & Wellness
- Volunteer Core
- Rides
- Tech Training & Workshops
- Rainbow Collective
- Chinese Community Center
- Clubs

#### TECHNOLOGY

- Tech Room
- Wi-Fi: High-speed internet
- Remote Meeting Equipment
- Cafe
- Avenidas Village (concierge)
- Old police station total renovation

## C. Community Center Needs Survey Analysis



# Community Center Needs Survey

July 23, 2024

### Purpose of Survey and Methodology

Unlike many surrounding towns Los Gatos does not have a community center. The Los Gatos Thrives Foundation is working to bring an intergenerational center to our community.

To determine community needs a survey was conducted targeting town residents (the survey was intended to compliment a workshop to gather additional understanding of community needs that was held on held on June 20, 2024 ).

Towns around the country (and in the bay area) have conducted surveys as part of their community center development process; questions posed are often similar. We analyzed many surveys and used the most common questions as our starting point. We then added questions of local interest.

The survey was opened on May 4, 2024 and closed on June 23, 2024.

Outreach was through multiple Los Gatos channels.

2



### Key Findings

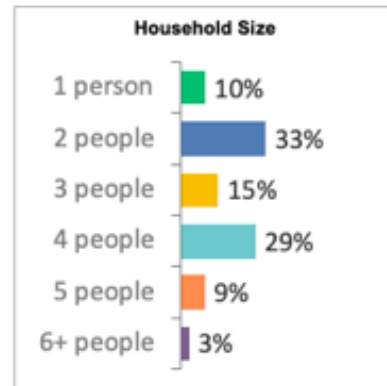
- Many people responded; our residents are clearly interested in this topic.
- Respondent ages closely aligned with overall Los Gatos demographics.
- There were clear priorities among the options presented.
- Most priorities were the same among age groups but there were a few key differences between school age families (age 19-59) and older respondents.
- Options presented covered most things people had in mind. When asked for additional ideas answers were scattered, but three additional uses did emerge.
- Clubs and organizations are likely to use the center.
- Parking matters; driving is how most people expect to get to the center.
- 76% of respondents see a need for a new community center (only 4% saw no need and the other 20% were unsure).

3



### Response and Demographics

- 620 people responded to the survey
- 92% of respondents live in Los Gatos  
(others likely live nearby such as Monte Sereno)
- Average household size is 3.1
- Respondents represent over 1,900 people

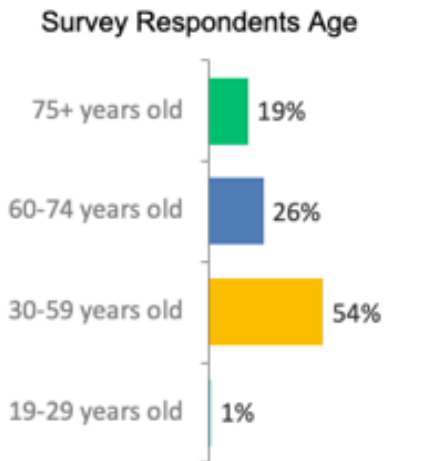


Adds to less than 100% due to rounding

4

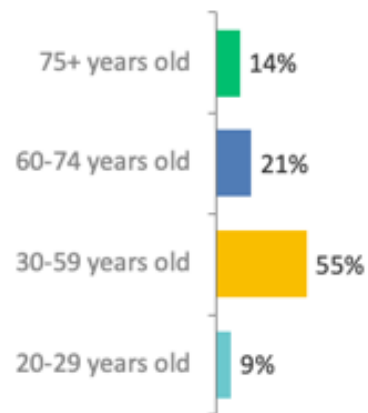


### Survey respondent ages are close to overall Los Gatos demographics



\* Less than 1% of respondents were under 19 years old

### Los Gatos US Census 2020 (over 19)

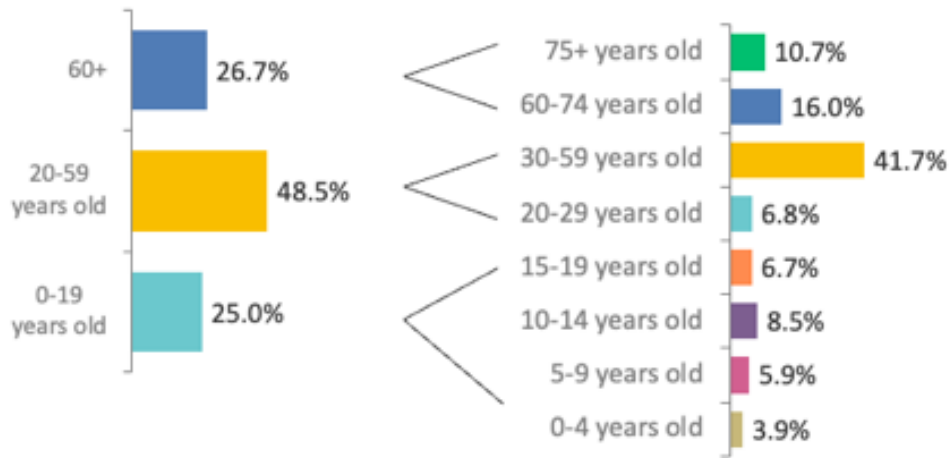


Adds to less than 100% due to rounding

5



### Los Gatos Population By Age, US Census 2020

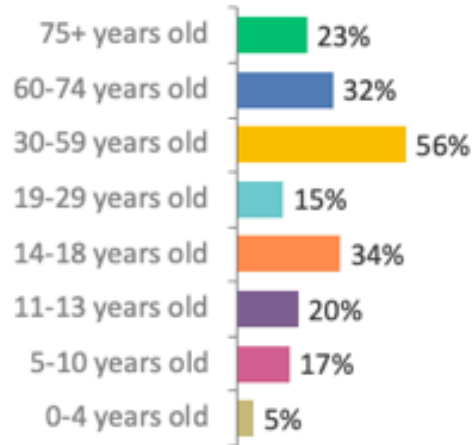


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Los Gatos Community Center Project

### Survey households represent a wide range of ages

#### Age of Household Members (choose all that apply)



Adds to more than 100% because many households have multiple members

7

Los Gatos Community Center Project

**As you think of new activities (or existing ones), how important to you, your family, or your local organization, are each the following rooms or spaces?**

	Very + Somewhat Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not Sure
Outdoor patio seating and meeting area	82%	48%	34%	14%	3%	1%
Large Community Room	79%	48%	31%	14%	4%	3%
Performance space (for music, drama, and similar activities)	77%	43%	34%	17%	5%	1%
Small / Medium meeting and event rooms (can be reserved by organizations or groups)	76%	40%	36%	17%	6%	1%
Teen center room	73%	40%	32%	18%	9%	2%
Room for fitness classes (such as jazzercise, aerobics, Zumba, yoga)	72%	40%	33%	17%	9%	2%
Outdoor sports courts	71%	37%	33%	18%	11%	1%
Full Service Kitchen (for events)	70%	37%	34%	17%	9%	3%
Spaces for community groups & non-profits to deliver their services	70%	33%	37%	22%	5%	3%
Large Lecture Hall And Presentation Space	69%	33%	37%	20%	9%	1%
Arts & Crafts Studio	68%	31%	37%	24%	7%	1%
Dance floor (for dance classes and activities)	63%	28%	35%	25%	10%	2%
Snack Bar / Cafe	63%	27%	36%	24%	11%	1%
Classrooms	62%	25%	34%	30%	8%	3%
Spaces for card, tile, and board games	61%	25%	36%	25%	12%	2%
Computer & tech center	59%	24%	38%	24%	12%	2%
Preschool or childcare space (can also be used when parent is using community center)	57%	24%	34%	28%	12%	3%
Spaces for elementary & preschool activities and classes	55%	24%	31%	28%	14%	3%
Meeting room preconfigured for remote/zoom meetings	48%	20%	28%	31%	18%	3%
Office space (for community groups & non-profits)	43%	18%	24%	32%	22%	4%
Ping-pong room	40%	16%	24%	37%	20%	3%
Pool & Billiards Room	34%	12%	22%	36%	27%	3%
Rock climbing wall	29%	10%	19%	30%	38%	3%

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**Top 10 spaces among all respondents**

(Very Important + Somewhat Important)

1. Outdoor patio seating and meeting area (82%)
2. Large community room (79%)
3. Performance space (77%)
4. Small / medium meeting and event rooms (76%)
5. Room for fitness classes (73%)
6. Teen center room (72%)
7. Full service kitchen (71%)
8. Outdoor sports courts (70%)
9. Large lecture hall and presentation space (69%)
10. Spaces for community groups & non-profit services (69%)

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### Other spaces

(Very Important + Somewhat Important)

- 11. Arts & crafts studio (68%)
- 12. Dance floor (63%)
- 13. Snack bar / Café (63%)
- 14. Computer & tech center (62%)
- 15. Spaces for card, tile, and board games (61%)
- 16. Classrooms (59%)
- 17. Preschool or childcare space, can be used when parents visit (57%)
- 18. Spaces for elementary & preschool activities (55%)
- 19. Remote / Zoom meeting room (48%)
- 20. Office space for community groups & non-profits (43%)
- 21. Ping-pong room (40%)
- 22. Pool & billiards room (34%)
- 23. Rock climbing wall (29%)

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### “Very Important” spaces by age group

	Age 75+	Age 60-74	Age 19-59
Large Community Room	47%	43%	50%
Large Lecture Hall And Presentation Space	40%	27%	32%
Office space (for community groups & non-profits)	23%	20%	16%
Performance space (for music, drama, and similar activities)	39%	36%	48%
Outdoor sports courts	24%	25%	47%
Outdoor patio seating and meeting area	43%	49%	49%
Small / Medium meeting and event rooms (reservable by organizations or groups)	49%	34%	40%
Classrooms	28%	29%	23%
Full Service Kitchen (for events)	45%	38%	34%
Arts & Crafts Studio	28%	25%	34%
Spaces for card, tile, and board games	34%	31%	19%
Snack Bar / Cafe	22%	17%	33%
Teen center room	28%	20%	52%
Rock climbing wall	1%	2%	17%
Room for fitness classes (such as jazzercise, aerobics, Zumba, yoga)	42%	40%	38%
Dance floor (for dance classes and activities)	28%	26%	29%
Meeting room preconfigured for remote/zoom meetings	32%	25%	14%
Computer & tech center	32%	21%	23%
Pool & Billiards Room	3%	5%	17%
Ping-pong room	9%	14%	19%
Spaces for elementary & preschool activities and classes	14%	16%	30%
Preschool or childcare space (can be used when parent is using community center)	26%	14%	28%
Spaces for community groups & non-profits to deliver their services	35%	32%	33%

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### Comparing top 10 “Very Important” spaces by age group

	<b>19-59 years</b> (49% of town population)	<b>60-74 years</b> (16% of town population)	<b>75+ years</b> (11% of town population)
<b>SAME priorities all age groups</b>	Outdoor patio seating and meeting area Large community room Performance space Small / Medium meeting and event rooms Room for fitness classes Full service kitchen	Outdoor patio seating and meeting area Large community room Performance space Small / Medium meeting and event rooms Room for fitness classes Full service kitchen	Outdoor patio seating and meeting area Large community room Performance space Small / Medium meeting and event rooms Room for fitness classes Full service kitchen
<b>SAME priorities 60-74 and 75+</b>		Spaces for community groups & non-profits Large lecture hall and presentation space Spaces for card, tile, and board games	Spaces for community groups & non-profits Large lecture hall and presentation space Spaces for card, tile, and board games
<b>DIFFERENT priorities all age groups</b>	Teen Center Room (#1 priority for ages 19-59) Outdoor sports courts Arts & crafts studio Snack bar / cafe	Classrooms	Meeting room for remote/zoom meetings

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### Comparing top 10 “Very Important” spaces by age group

	<b>75+ years</b> (11% of town population)	<b>60-74 years</b> (16% of town population)	<b>19-59 years</b> (49% of town population)
<b>SAME priorities all age groups</b>	Outdoor patio seating and meeting area Large community room Performance space Small / Medium meeting and event rooms Room for fitness classes Full service kitchen	Outdoor patio seating and meeting area Large community room Performance space Small / Medium meeting and event rooms Room for fitness classes Full service kitchen	Outdoor patio seating and meeting area Large community room Performance space Small / Medium meeting and event rooms Room for fitness classes Full service kitchen
<b>SAME priorities 60-74 and 75+</b>	Spaces for community groups & non-profits Large lecture hall and presentation space Spaces for card, tile, and board games	Spaces for community groups & non-profits Large lecture hall and presentation space Spaces for card, tile, and board games	
<b>DIFFERENT Priorities all age groups</b>	Meeting room for remote/zoom meetings	Classrooms	Teen Center Room (#1 priority for ages 19-59) Outdoor sports courts Arts & crafts studio Snack bar / cafe

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**Are there any programs or amenities we did not mention that should be considered for the new community center?**



Answers were scattered. These three were a bit more common:  
**1. Swimming Pool 2. Pickleball Courts 3. Basketball/Gym**

**Are there any programs or amenities we did not mention that should be considered for the new community center?**

223 people responded. Some things were repeated the earlier questions, but many items were new.

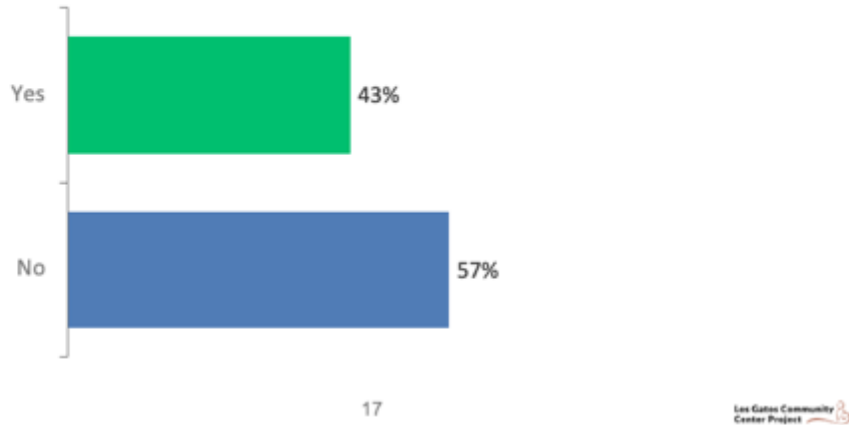
**Top Ten**

1. **Swimming pool** (32 people)
2. **Gym for basketball** (also volleyball and badminton) (24 people)
3. **Teen Center** (13 people)
4. **Pickleball courts** (12 people)
5. **Garden / community garden / gardening classes** (9 people)
6. **Dog park with fence** (8 people)
7. **Performance theater / music auditorium** (7 people)
8. **Place to show movies** (7 people)
8. **Room for fitness classes** (7 people)
8. **Skateboard park** (7 people)

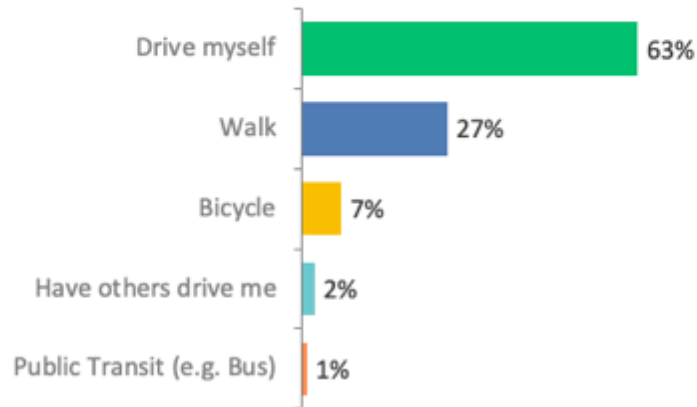
**Are there any programs or amenities we did not mention that should be considered for the new community center? (full list)**

Item	Count	Item	Count
Swimming pool	32	Cooking class area	2
Gym for basketball (also volleyball and badminton)	24	Dance room	2
Teen Center	14	Music practice room (noise proof)	2
Pickleball courts	12	Outdoor area for parties	2
Garden / community garden / gardening classes	9	Piano available	2
Dog park with fence	8	Place for cultural events	2
Performance theatre / music auditorium	7	Rock climbing wall	2
Place to show movies	7	Table game area	2
Room for fitness classes, yoga, dance (2 also for fitness equipment)	7	A full preschool	1
Skateboard park	7	Bike Racks	1
Arts & crafts room (including pottery)	6	Bingo	1
Bocce Ball courts	6	Computers and wifi	1
Comfortable lounge area for reading & TV	5	Cooling center	1
Space for clubs (book clubs, etc.) including school clubs	5	Diversity room	1
Sports field	5	Excercise area & classes	1
Game room / Arcade	4	Food bank	1
Maker Space	4	Need parking longer than 3 hours	1
Nutrition program for seniors (or maybe for all ages)	4	Outdoor cemet backgammon / chess / checkers game tables	1
Ping pong tables	4	Outdoor performance space	1
Space to rent for celebrations / birthday parties / Weddings	4	Photo club space	1
Tennis Courts	4	Place for optional courses	1
Transportation to center for seniors & from high/middle school	4	Place to learn DIY skills like plumbing, electrical	1
Café	3	Public work spaces	1
Exhibit / sales area for local arts and crafts	3	Running programs	1
Language classes	3	Running track (like the one in Campbell Comm Ctr)	1
Meditation / Mindfulness space	3	Socialization place	1
Playground	3	STEM focused space	1
Room for peer to peer support meetings (such as mental health)	3	Travel agency	1
		Young children's programs	1

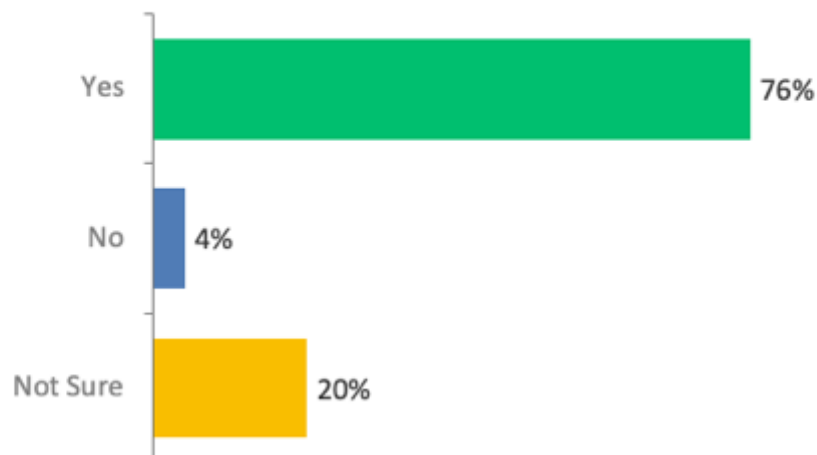
**Are you a member of a local club, organization or group that might use a new community center?**



**If the community center is located downtown (near Los Gatos Town Hall and Library) how would you MOST COMMONLY get there? (choose one)**



**Do you think that Los Gatos needs a new, multi-generational community center?**



## Survey Comments

*"This is a great idea."*

*"Desperately needed."*

*"It could encourage more interaction between youth and older adults."*

*"I live alone with my dogs and would love to socialize and connect with other people in my community."*

*"Please be sure to balance space for different ages."*

*"Teens need a place to go in our town!"*

*"Parking could be a problem."*

*"How can we pay for this?"*

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## D. Community Workshop

### Agenda

### Community Center Dreaming Workshop

5:00 – 8:00 pm, June 20, 2024, Masonic Hall

#### Agenda

- Welcome, Overview, and Introductions – Tom Picraux
- “Why Do We need a Community Center” – Tom Picraux
- Learning From Visits to Neighboring Community Centers – Alan Feinberg  
Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Morgan Hill  
- Slide presentation and small group discussion
- Consolidated Discussion of Other Centers - Tylor Taylor  
“What are your ‘Likes & Don’t Likes”  
Break for buffet dinner
- Summary of Community Center Survey Results – Ryan Rosenberg
- Group Discussion: “Must have / Nice to have / Not needed” - Tylor Taylor
  - Moderator seeks area of agreement/disagreement
- Closing and Next Steps – Matthew Hudes & Tom Picraux  
Wine & Dessert Social

## E. Community Needs Priorities Analysis



# Community Center Priorities

July 17, 2024

## Process for Priority List Development

Priority needs team: Matthew Hudes, Rob Moore, Tylor Taylor, Ryan Rosenberg

Purpose: provide input for the Modules and Model teams

Data available to the team:

1. Community center survey
2. "Community Center Dreaming" workshop comments
3. Site visit notes
4. Experience of the priority needs team

### Caveat

While parents of teens (and younger children) were part of the survey, teens themselves were not, and we did not drill into teen-specific requirements. Investigation is underway and when complete their needs will have to be incorporated.

## Prioritized List of Spaces

Must Have	Nice To Have	Not Needed
Outdoor patio seating and meeting area	Large lecture hall	A full pre-school/daycare
Large community room & presentation space	Arts & crafts studio	Remote / Zoom meeting room
Performance space (might double as community room)	Dance floor (special flooring material)	Office space for community groups
Small / medium meeting and event rooms	Computer & tech center	Ping-pong room
Room for fitness classes	Childcare space for when parents visit	Pool & billiards room
Teen center room	Classrooms	Rock climbing wall
Spaces for community groups to meet	Remote / Zoom meeting room	Pool
Spaces for service providers to deliver social services	Gym	
Spaces for card, tile, and board games	Snack bar / Café	
Dedicated space for older adults	Game Room (pool & billiards)	
Full service kitchen		
Outdoor sports courts (pickleball, basketball, etc.)		

### Prioritized List of Spaces

difficult / expensive

Must Have	Nice To Have	Not Needed
Outdoor patio seating and meeting area	Large lecture hall	A full pre-school/daycare
Large community room & presentation space	Arts & crafts studio	Remote / Zoom meeting room
Performance space (might double as community room)	Dance floor (special flooring material)	Office space for community groups
Small / medium meeting and event rooms	Computer & tech center	Ping-pong room
Room for fitness classes	Childcare space for when parents visit	Pool & billiards room
Teen center room	Classrooms	Rock climbing wall
Spaces for community groups to meet	Remote / Zoom meeting room	Pool
Spaces for service providers to deliver social services	Gym	
Spaces for card, tile, and board games	Snack bar / Café	
Dedicated space for older adults	Game Room (pool & billiards)	
Full service kitchen		
Outdoor sports courts (pickleball, basketball, etc.)		

### Rooms and Uses – Version 4

	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
	<b>Large, Dividable Multipurpose Room</b>	<b>Small &amp; Medium Multipurpose Rooms</b>	<b>Dedicated Rooms</b>	<b>Outdoor Spaces</b>
Required rooms & sizes	<p><b>One room</b> seats 250 / standing 600 includes a simple stage</p> <p>built-in dividers (or movable divider) that splits room into half or thirds</p>	<p><u>Reservable, general purpose rooms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two that seat 50</li> <li>Two that seat 12</li> <li>Two that seat 6</li> </ul>	<p><u>Customized fittings</u> Fitness/Dance Room – up to 50 people Snack Bar/Café Lobby Area Hallway Seating nooks Staff office space and room Full catering kitchen (not commercial for now)</p> <p><u>Dedicated rooms, but not customized</u> Senior Area – tables for 50 people Teen Area Two social service provider rooms that seat 4</p>	<p><u>Seated Spaces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmable outdoor space with covered seating for 50 (reservable)</li> <li>Outdoor performance space</li> <li>Patio space outside rooms (extension for rentals)</li> </ul> <p><u>Court Spaces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor basketball court (possibly multi-sport court)</li> <li>Bocce Ball</li> </ul>
Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentations &amp; lectures</li> <li>Workshops</li> <li>Performance space</li> <li>Service club mtgs</li> <li>Serve meals</li> <li>Weddings, celebrations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small group meetings</li> <li>Classes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nice to have but not required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arts &amp; crafts</li> <li>Computer &amp; tech center</li> <li>Childcare space</li> <li>Demonstration kitchen for cooking classes</li> <li>Dedicated Gaming room (pool, ping pong)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General outdoor relaxation</li> <li>Outdoor meetings and classes</li> <li>Outdoor events</li> <li>Sports and fitness activities</li> </ul>
Special Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Audio visual system</li> <li>✓ Adjacent kitchen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Remote meeting capabilities</li> <li>✓ Doors that opens to outside if possible</li> <li>✓ Hard (cleanable) floors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ping pong, pool table, video games (located inside other spaces)</li> <li>✓ Publicly available computers placed in selected areas such as lobby and senior area</li> <li>✓ Carpeting in the Senior and Teen areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Attractive landscaping</li> </ul>

## Other Requirements

Other Required Spaces	Add these to rooms...	General Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Elevator (if multi-floor)</li> <li>• Nooks/areas for 1-2 people to talk or read with comfortable chairs</li> <li>• Place where someone can make a quiet conference call</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STORAGE:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most rooms need storage</li> <li>- Groups need place to store supplies</li> <li>- Storage for operations &amp; maintenance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sinks (where needed)</li> <li>• AV/computer capabilities (where appropriate)</li> <li>• Devices for hearing impaired (in appropriate rooms)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming and attractive design</li> <li>• Lots of natural light</li> <li>• Consider sliding/folding glass doors to create indoor/outdoor spaces</li> <li>• Facility must be accessible</li> <li>• Separate entrance for senior space</li> <li>• EMERGENCY: can be used as emergency center (generator, etc.)</li> </ul>

## Other Comments

Topic	Comment
Performance Space	This should be a convertible space with temporary seating, not a permanent theatre.
Flexibility	As much as practical all spaces should be able to be used in multiple ways
Game Room	Perhaps we have places to leave puzzles overnight (as seen in some other community centers).
Storage	Often underestimated or thought of last, but turns out to be critical. Make sure to build in plans for storage.
Piano	We should have at least one piano in the facility
Band practice	Could one of the spaces be appropriate for music groups to practice?



## F. Interim Community Center Needs Introduction

**Los Gatos Community Center**  
*Community Needs Interim Report to CHSSC*  
Los Gatos Thrives Foundation  
August 22, 2024

The creation of a new intergenerational Community Center for Los Gatos is a goal of the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation. The purpose of this interim report by the Foundation to the Community Health and Senior Services Commission (CHSSC) is to seek input on our study of what Los Gatos community members have said they need in a community center. We especially seek CHSSC input because the CHSSC engages with the older adult community and provides a venue for assessing the needs of this important demographic as future users of a community center.

The Foundation's study of Los Gatos community needs is being carried out in partnership with community leaders and representatives from the Town Council, the CHSSC and other leaders providing services for the community. The origins of our nonprofit foundation and its objective of creating a Community Center for all ages grows out of an earlier study by the Town's Senior Services Committee. The Senior Services Committee provided a Senior Services Roadmap which was unanimously endorsed by the Town Council in February 2023 (<https://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/32737/Attachment-1---Senior-Services-Roadmap-Report>). The first of the seven goals in the Roadmap is the creation of a Los Gatos Community Center for all ages. Subsequently the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation was formed as a 501(c)(3) to support older adult programs in Los Gatos with a major goal of creating a new intergenerational Community Center.

The Foundation believes it is essential that new developments in our small town of Los Gatos maintain a key historic asset—that of Los Gatos being a charming community where all ages thrive. Thus, it is essential in planning for a community center that the first step be to understand and document the needs and wishes of our local community members and stakeholders, i.e., to learn what will best serve Los Gatos.

To understand community needs our team has taken a three-pronged approach. First, we visited six new or recently refurbished community centers in nearby cities to: a) learn what capabilities they have included, b) what are their most valuable community spaces, and c) to learn from their experience in operating their centers.

Second, we conducted a detailed survey from over 600 respondents to learn what Los Gatos community members would like to see in a center. Third, we held a community workshop with ~100 attendees to discuss in a focus-session format what we learned from other centers and our community survey, and to gain first-hand perspectives on what they viewed as:

- “must haves”,
- “nice to have” and
- “not needed”

in a community center for Los Gatos.

The objective of this Los Gatos Thrives presentation is to inform the CHSSC of the preliminary results of our study and to receive your suggestions for additions and improvements. As additional background in advance of our presentation an analysis of our Community Center Needs Survey and a Community Center Priorities analysis is attached.