



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors - First District

Subject: Amendments to the County's Parks Facilities Management Procedures

Meeting Date: March 25, 2025

Formal Title: Approve additions to the County Policies and Procedures Manual, Title VII, Department Procedures, Parks Facilities Management, Section 304, Rotating Exhibits, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Approve the attached additions to the Parks Department's Park and Building Facility Rules and Regulations as incorporated by reference in the Parks Facilities Management section of the Department Procedures Title VII, Section 304(A) (3); Rotating Exhibits; and
2. Direct staff to begin implementation of the Live Oak Art & History Program.

Executive Summary

Live Oak residents have requested the ability to display local historical and artistic work at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. While Parks Department Arts staff currently operate a Government Building Exhibits program, it rotates artwork throughout multiple buildings countywide and no policy exists to allow the display of location-specific work. By approving this addition to the Parks Department's Park and Building Facility Rules and Regulations the Board will create a formal policy for rotating exhibit programs, including the Live Oak Art & History Program. The Arts Commission reviewed a draft version of the policy and suggested that the Board adopt it with the included modifications

Discussion

Located at 979 17th Avenue, the Simpkins Family Swim Center provides public recreation as well as office space for the County's Department of Parks and Recreation. The onsite Live Oak Library Annex (operated by Santa Cruz Public Libraries), as well as the adjacent Shoreline Middle School, and Central Fire District Headquarters make this the de-facto civic hub for the unincorporated Live Oak area.

Today the Santa Cruz County Government Building Exhibits Program is used to provide art for the many walls of the Simpkins Family Swim Center. Applications for this program are reviewed and selected once per year by the Arts Council Santa Cruz County. These exhibits begin at 701 Ocean St and are rotated through other facilities, including the Swim Center.

Currently there is no way for any member of the public interested in displaying work specifically at Simpkins Family Swim Center or other Live Oak facilities to do so. This means that the opportunity to display relevant cultural, artistic and historical work is lost.

The attached addition would define a process for members of the public to submit art exhibits to the Arts Commission specifically for participating Live Oak County Facilities. The policy empowers the Arts Commission to form a selection panel, create selection criteria, and schedule exhibits. It would prioritize Live Oak-relevant exhibits at participating Live Oak buildings.

The Rotating Exhibits policy is designed to be extensible if other regions of the county wish to establish their own program.

The Arts Commission reviewed a draft of the Rotating Exhibits policy, including the Live Oak Art & History Program, at their regular March 3rd meeting. They recommended defining the purpose of the Live Oak Program as establishing a sense of place for Live Oak, expanding the definition of Live Oak to include areas north of Highway 1, including natural history and geology as potential subject matter, and ensuring the Arts Commission maintains the ability to update selection criteria as needed. These recommendations have been incorporated into the additions to the Parks Department's Park and Building Facility Rules and Regulations.

Financial Impact

The recommended action does not have any financial impact.

Strategic Initiatives

Equity Framework - Community Voices & Partnership, Communications & Education
Strategic and Operational
Operational Plan – Operational Excellence

Submitted By:

Manu Koenig, First District Supervisor

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.