



2022 City Council Candidate Questions

COMMUNITY LIFE

What is your vision for the Cubberley site?

PAT BURT

In the nearterm, sourcing up and activating the site with art, community events, and other activation of public spaces. Going forward, a rebuilt and renovated community center on 15 acres of city-owned land (including 7 acres to be acquired by the city from PAUSD).

KATIE CAUSEY

Safer street infrastructure and relaxed zoning and permitting for small businesses.

ANNE CRIBBS

I was part of the first Cubberly Master Plan in 1991. Since then there have been at least 2 other Master Plans, with the community taking part. I believe the City will soon reach an agreement with PAUSD. I'm excited that working together, we will be able to create a Community Center, to serve the entire community.

The gym, a public private partnership, could be the first structure in the new Cubberley. First the gym, then, the next step is a bond issue in 2026. to finish the community center.

HENRY ETZKOWITZ

Did not respond.

GEORGE LU

Cubberley is an essential community resource. My highest priority is that we maintain or expand the access and use by community organizations. We should generally prioritize open fields for recreation, as well as expanded arts programs.

As a matter of fairness, we need to invest significantly in Cubberly to bring more resources and opportunities to South Palo Alto.

KEITH RECKDAHL

Cubberley's age and condition makes it insufficient for today's needs. Since the City is required to add 6000 housing units over the next 8 years, it is even more crucial that Cubberley be rebuilt to support the recreational and cultural needs for our growing population. Many important facilities such as non-profits and art, music, dance, and gymnastics studios currently are located in older buildings in less-expensive parts of the City. The upzoning associated with the Housing Element will displace many of these tenants, making a rebuilt Cubberley even more critical to our community.

The gathering spaces provided by a Community Center not only allow non-profits and other organizations to provide essential services for the community, they also provide an important social outlet for the volunteers. These volunteer experiences improve the mental health of the volunteers but also foster the connections that help weave the community's social fabric.

The City does not currently have the money to support a complete rebuilding of Cubberley. The design of the new Cubberley must anticipate that it likely will need a voter-approved bond and that it may be constructed in phases, so that each phase can be functional and attractive by itself but also can easily integrate with future phases.

GREER STONE

My vision for the Cubberley site is to transform it into a vibrant, multi-use community hub that serves the diverse needs of Palo Alto residents, with a strong emphasis on education, arts, recreation, and essential community services. I see Cubberley continuing to be a space where people of all ages and abilities—youth, seniors, and families—can come together to learn, engage, and grow. Recognizing its long-standing role in providing below-market space for nonprofits, I am committed to ensuring that these organizations, which deliver critical services to our community, have adequate, affordable space to operate. I also envision incorporating sustainability features, such as green spaces, energy-efficient designs, and flexible infrastructure, to adapt to the evolving needs of Palo Alto while promoting environmental responsibility.

DORIA SUMMA

PAUSD owns most of the Cubberley site. I believe that the Council is close to purchasing acreage on the site from PAUSD. Cubberley is an great public resource – it needs to be renovated or rebuilt to provide an amazing community center with a variety of services from health to arts to education.

CARI TEMPLETON

Cubberley is already a central hub for many city recreational activities. As we envision the best way for Cubberley to be developed to meet the demands of the city now and in the future, we need to imagine that the complex could be rebuilt as a multipurpose development with housing, retail, offices and a park/recreation space.