

## Arcata Visioning Survey- Bonus Question

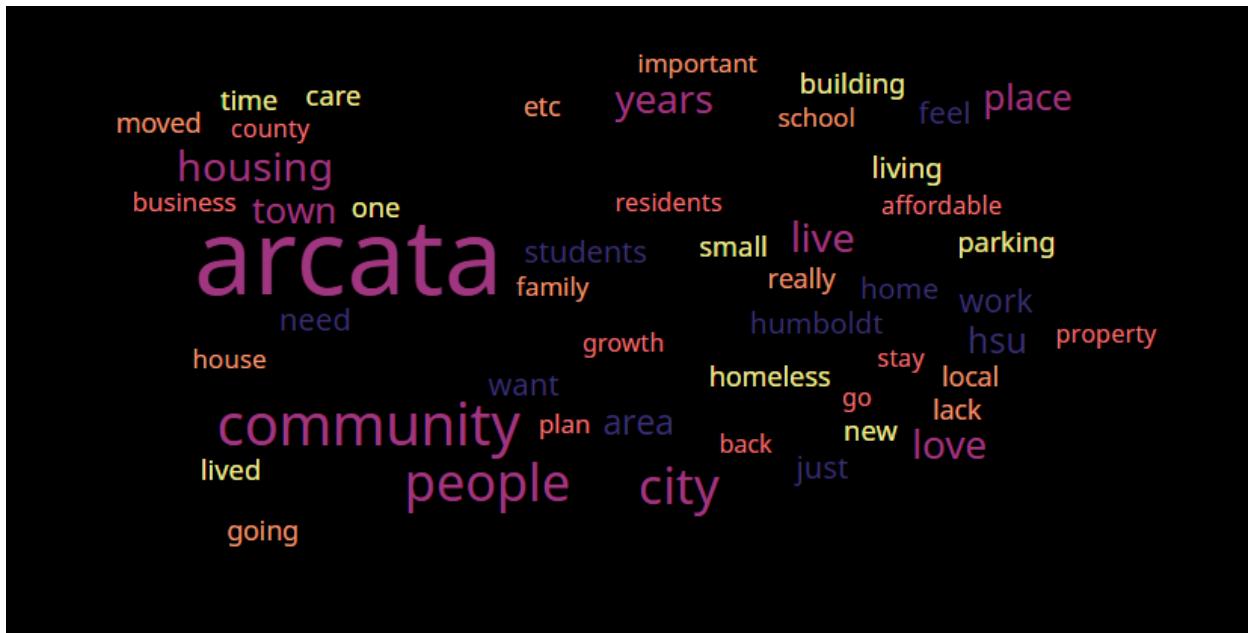
The City of Arcata created a community visioning survey to help inform the General Plan Update, which was available online from February 2021-April 2022. Responses from the survey will assist staff in updating the City's vision statement and relevant goals throughout the General Plan. This question was not a required submission on the visioning survey; 231 of 494 participants provided a response.

**Question: *If you have the time and interest, is there anything else you would like us to know about you and your place in the fabric of Arcata's community?***

## Common Themes

1. challenges finding and keeping housing
2. desire for more opportunities for community connection
3. need for medical/mental health services
4. concerns regarding homelessness
5. concerns regarding Gateway Plan, specifically 8-story buildings

## Wordcloud generated from submissions



## Original Submissions

Helping to create and maintain a beautiful community is a priority for me, I am emotionally and financially invested in the success of Arcata and want it to the best community it can be!

More public transit, carshare, and bikeshare! Form-based codes. More night sky. (The lights at the back of Arcata High School, for example, are way polluting since some trees were felled. Enforcing outdoor lighting codes are, understandably, not the City's most pressing issue, but still it's a bummer these days how many people have huge halogen outdoor lights that spillover, and porchlights that for all practical purposes are bare lightbulbs.) First world problem, acknowledged! thanks

This is an exciting time. I am very concerned about the community's access to clean water during this time of global climate change. As Arcata plans for growth, evaluate the true needs and impacts on the infrastructure so the community drives the change, not vice versa. I'm looking forward to being part of this change!

I continue to enjoy living in Arcata. I also work with Equity Arcata.

I belong to the Valley West community and really want to see issues and challenges addressed.

Keep Arcata Chill!

Lived here for 46 years

Nah, you all know me. :)

We need more services for students, retention rates are low at HSU because of the cultural shock that students from more diverse places experience when they arrive here. The community should be doing more to keep students here because that creates more opportunities for all when grads decide to stay here and plant roots. That means affordable student housing available off campus. More options for affordable food in all places. More events to encourage community relationships.

I'm an Arcata native and care deeply about the future of the town I grew up in.

I have raised three healthy daughters in Arcata. One daughter still lives here and is a mother working in the community helping people. It is a great place to raise kids and is one of the better attractions to this community.

I have a child with a disability. Regional Center wants to ship her out to an institution in Ukiah because there are no services here. Travesty. We must do better.

Aspiring Arcata resident, but the city is too expensive for my income bracket. Some "senior living" complexes would be ideal!

It's important to me that Arcata is pretty accepting & supportive of LGBTQIA2S people

Affordable housing is impossible in this area, so my family, after living here since the 60s (and way before for a couple of family members) is moving away.

Artist gallery owner

Love it here. My family will be lifetime Arcatans

Not about me, but one last thought I didn't mention previously: would love to see more connections made across generations systemically speaking. Get the elementary schools together with the senior centers, or college students with middle school students...there is a lot of disconnect between generations outside of general gatherings at events. Its something I see in other cultures but we seriously lack in ours. Thanks for doing this survey. Arcata should do more of these. So much easier for me to answer a survey from my couch after the kids go to sleep than to attend a council or planning meeting.

We're newcomers from new England and with covid haven't really found our place yet. But it's lovely here.

Provides some help to the homeless but governs primarily for the wealthy.

Thank you for asking and doing this. Please expand on the progressive history of Arcata, beyond college town to a truly integrated community where people of color are represented in government positions, on boards, and are sought for input. There is much injustice to overcome and the Josiah Lawson case is an ongoing, terrible unresolved wound in our community. Going forward is good, and healing the past is important too

I submitted a survey earlier but want to add to it. Please seriously consider hosting a green, even conservation burial site on Arcata property as not only a service for people in the area, but the best and most green form of internment and also a way to make money for conservation and other city needs. Thank you.

I'm part of Equity Arcata and host variety of public programs through HSU Library.

I love that we are nuclear free one and that we have the lantern ceremony

Our son was raised in Arcata (our choice of community). He and is family are thriving partly because of that experience. Multi-Generational-Family community environment is a strong resource.

I espouse increased communication among and between Arcata's varied ages, neighborhoods, and demographic and political groups.

I'm a new transplant from Los Angeles (<1 year) and am still accustoming myself to the city and local offerings.

I demand justice for DJ Lawson. THIS IS SHAMEFUL that his murder has gone resolved. SHAMEFUL. The behavior of racists in this community is supported and it is sickening and scary.

Your energy committee is doing great work & I really appreciate the work done by arcata to defund the police and use those funds for other community needs

We sold our Arcata home and moved to Freshwater because the City of Arcata would not remove the homeless encampment in our neighborhood. The people living there broke into cars and homes in our neighborhood almost monthly and the city did nothing about it. If you want people to live in your town, you need to support the people who pay taxes, not the freeloaders who get meals and showers at the Arcata Endeavor.

HSU employee and identify as queer and am a parent

I'm connected with CUNA, which is another source of grassroots progress in northern Arcata. We've been meeting for just a few months and there's lots of momentum, energy, and bright and collaborative ideas that are actively being worked on. I'm also the President of Cumbre Humboldt which focuses on education and enrichment for Latinx families and individuals in Humboldt County. We need to include these families in projects and recreational activities, which will make this city a truly great place for all of us to live in. Your previous vision statement came from 2008, and many parts haven't been accomplished by 2021, so let's make sure that this round of visions is real, inclusive, and implementable in a timely fashion.

Green burial options?

I would love to be able to work in Arcata, as well as live in it.

I live 15 minutes from Arcata in a rural area, but Arcata is the cultural center of my world. I care a lot about what happens to the town.

I hope Life Care Humboldt, a continuing care retirement community, will locate in Arcata.

I really appreciate that the city has taken the time to request the public's input. This is small government at its best when it listens to all sides of an issue from all demographics because I truly believe that we have more in common than not. Thank you.

I'm an elementary school teacher. This is a huge part of who I am and I see a lot of good and a lot of the hardships some children have to navigate to just show up to school. I also see a lot of bigotry since I'm a person of color - I have been yelled at and harassed within the past year more times than in the previous 15 years combined.

I'm an active member of the Arcata Community. And yet, I find the lack of openness to changing a real barrier. Arcata wants to be progressive - then let's be progressive. Let's think differently about some of these issues that are plaguing the city. Let's change the dynamic.

I love this town and want it to thrive

No

I was the director of Arcata House for one year, doubling the number of people that were housed there (available beds weren't being filled before I got there.) I've raised nearly \$2.5 million for the homeless for emergency shelter, transitional housing, jobs training and education (almost completely outside of Arcata), and have run shelters for a total of seven years, expertise that could be used to help solve the homeless crisis in Arcata. I shop regularly at the Arcata Co-op, regularly attend the Arcata Farmers' Market, and regularly eat at Arcata restaurants. I was a 20-year resident of Arcata, was once a candidate for Arcata City Council, and I feel a strong bond with the City of Arcata. I've been picking up trash on the Plaza and elsewhere in downtown Arcata an average of twice a week for the past six years, even though I have lived in McKinleyville for the past four years, because I love Arcata and still take pride in the City being clean and presenting itself well to residents and visitors. I have a master's degree in Human Services Administration and have been the executive director of three non-profit organizations.

I don't truly feel welcomed. Anyone who isn't an ultra progressive tends to get shouted down, and everything seems to have a tremendously privileged (wealthy) viewpoint despite all the effort to be inclusive. This has stopped me from going to City Council meetings, participating in planning meetings, etc. I have been looking to buy here for YEARS while continuing to rent at astronomical prices thanks to everything being taken by HSU students. The continuously rising cost for homes and land is making it feel like I will never be able to afford it and I make over \$100k per year, add my husband's salary and we're at \$165k! How much do I have to make for Pete's sake?!

My wife and I are both HSU graduates and have lived and worked in and around Arcata for many years.

Local music venue for all ages

I have been attending OLLI classes at HSU for a number of years. If that makes me an HSU student, then yes, I am, and have been, an HSU student.

Active in community and recreational organizations.

Moved to Humboldt 20 years ago. Bought our house 18 years ago. Wanted Arcata, but could not afford it. Live in McKinleyville w/ Arcata mindset (and envy :)).

My husband and I have participated enthusiastically in the Home Away potluck dinners with students. We are retired and greatly enjoy the Marsh, a true jewel in the community. We also love the Plaza events. We have lived in Arcata over 20 years and in Humboldt much longer.

I love Arcata and am an employee of HSU and would love to live in Arcata, but I'm priced out so I bought my home in Eureka. I'd love for there to be opportunity for young families to buy homes in Arcata because it's such a walk/bike friendly place in terms of transportation.

Please consider green burial on city landholdings as well as conservation burial

We need to support and develop community arts!

I'm thinking about my future. I would love to have a green burial when I die and the City doesn't have that as an option. It seems really appropriate for such a spacious, beautiful area to have such an option.

Just that I really appreciate this thoughtful survey. Many of the questions represent positive steps forward in recognizing the complexities of community relationships. Is there a chance this survey could go out to HSU students in August? Many are not reading emails this summer due to burn-out from last year's virtual instruction

My wife and I moved here eight years ago from Iowa because we sensed this was a town committed to its own identity...with welcoming room for us. People here have welcomed and returned our energy. I'm glad city leadership has the courage to stick with its convictions (for instance, limiting chain businesses) and that voters continue to bring younger and more diverse voices to the table.

I am very encouraged by the makeup of our new City Council. It is good to see some fresh young faces and listen to fresh ideas. Thank you, City Council.

We are seniors and love the progressive, open ideas of this community.

Make it a safer place for elderly people

I lived in Arcata for less than a year in 2015 when I first moved to Humboldt. My experience was rough, as housing options were not really available and the place I lived in had other tenants abusing drugs and experiencing mental health crises. Aside from that experience, I really missed having walkability to the plaza to shop for fresh food on farmers market days. I also felt safer walking around at night, something I don't always feel so safe doing here in Eureka, depending on the neighborhood.

In process of retiring. Would really like to see more healthcare providers with offices in Arcata.

Thanks

I am a member of True North's Arcata Organizing group, with a current focus on solving the houseless challenges.

Arcata is a hub for McKinleyville, Blue Lake, Trinidad, etc. for shopping and employment. This means prosperity for Arcata. Please factor this into your thinking. One example: Adequate parking and electric vehicle charging will support that. Another point on parking: four hour parking means many 8-hour employees run out at lunch break to move their cars, leading to pointless carbon production.

I moved here to improve the community

The community is not friendly to new comers, including our students. How about having a welcoming center for new folks to meet locals, including business folks.

Retired grocery clerk at community owned cooperative grocery store, graphic artist, community volunteer.

Spanish-language access here for non-English speakers is deplorable here.

I am a very cool person.

I am a long time visitor, 40 years and one time C St home owner. tax payer. My son is a Humboldt grad and a Westhaven resident.

The homeless campers at the community center parking lot are disgusting and need to be removed. I am a member of. Health Sport and the owner agrees with me.

There used to be a police presence on the plaza but that place is a mess too.

LARRY

While living in Arcata I have built one house plus remodeled a garage into a house. Both building projects were more difficult than needed to be because of the City of Arcata. Rates and fees are misleading or not known. The building department has their own rules and several times violated the state's building codes which with the current set up, supersede local codes. I have several friends that have given up on building in Arcata because of how difficult it is. Homeowners and not just developers should be benefitting from infill. I would gladly put another home on my property as a rental (not a short term rental) but dealing with the city was infuriating.

The City Planning Department is known for it's ineffective approach to permitting. IMHO there is little to NO implementation of code enforcement. What a reputation.....

I want to live in Arcata. I cannot afford it yet. I appreciate how thorough this process is.

I don't live in Arcata, but I work in Arcata

I'm relatively new here but I'd love to stay. Only, housing is very expensive. It would be great if Arcata had more multi family units.

I graduated from HSU 5 years ago and have dreamed of moving back to Arcata since. I visit when I can. I adore the community's progressive values, environmental stewardship, educational opportunities, forest, etc etc etc. However, I left after graduation to pursue job opportunities as Humboldt County doesn't exactly have a lot. I may be able to move back to Arcata or Eureka and telework in the future, but I want to know that there is adequate housing for current residents and students first. I would also need to have transit connections to my work and family in the Sacramento valley. I work as a transportation planner and thus I love taking planning-related surveys :)

I am a worker-owner of Full Cycle Compost, a pedal-powered food scraps hauling and composting cooperative for Arcata residents and businesses. We are committed to supporting Arcata's zero waste goals (as per the Arcata Zero Waste Action Plan) and eliminating greenhouse gas emissions to build community resilience to climate change impacts. We will work with landlords, property managers, small businesses, the City and others that are unable to "backyard" compost.  
<https://www.fullcyclecompost.com/>

I feel privileged to be able to live and care for this place. I hope as a city we proactively plan for and welcome the many people that will be attracted to this place in the coming years

Keep food waste out of the landfill by composting

I love getting more people out on bikes and promoting it as a method for everyone and everyday transportation

Please paint new building happy. Or mural them. The new building on 7th and I is going to be an ugly depressing color. The new vets housing in eureka is a depressing ugly color. Maybe even having plants growing off the building somehow, because these two previously mentioned building lack nature. Though there was lack of nature before, at least there was sky and open space. Also be mindful of how the new buildings shade out the existing community. Aspect is important. I noticed the 7/I building is now towering into people's backyards and taking the sun they once had. I realize this is just part of the deal but it is something I have noticed.

I'm an insurance agent and soon to be first time homeowner. Unfortunately, my home will be in McKinleyville and not Arcata. The housing costs for the homes in Arcata are unfortunately out of my price range for the quality and I would prefer to live nearer other homeowners where there tends to be more pride in the upkeep of the home and property.

I got my start as a homeowner through the firsttime homeowner program in the mid-90's. I feel very lucky given how the housing market has gotten so out of control. There's no way I could have

bought a house without that program. I am not sure what can be done but I wish homes were more affordable for people.

I believe that dance and music are very important parts of participating in community. I believe health, food, and housing are human rights and that all communities should strive to make sure everyone is taken care of in these areas.

Your questions are already too personal.

May have to move to a different county because AFFORABLE HOUSING IS NON-EXISTANT, and my last apartment was made into a VACATION RENTAL. Please help stop this practice.

I have a chronic illness and related conditions and need Arcata to remain/become a welcoming place to all neurotypes, chronotypes, and forms of disability.

NO

Gateway Infill Plan sounds like a trip to the dentist! Keep Arcata small and low.

I lived in Sacramento when it was small and growth destroyed it as a community. Don't let this happen to Arcata!

I live in McKinleyville but when I say "I'm going to town," I mean Arcata.

My ace score is 8/10. I think you should be asking about aces.

I think fostering links to HSU is an excellent area of growth for Arcata.

I like sustainable economic values and low growth poorly thought out plans for the future of Arcata. Open areas should be saved in the City of Arcata for future generations.

N/A

Went to school here, then working in my chosen profession here, love the quiet rural feel where nothing ever changes, looking to buy a house here, priced out of the market, can't qualify to rent a renovated trash house, or disqualified for having two outside cats or being a gay couple, buying property an hour away, commuting to town to work, finding a new job somewhere else, never looking back.

PeacE LOvE & Redwoods

Local gardener and garden coach married to a 20yr Wing Employee who bikes to work every day!

Continue to protect our green spaces contiguous with City limits, but in county jurisdiction.

Left Arcata; too liberal and far to the left--among other reasons

Care deeply about the well-being of all in my community. Property owners, renters, students, the homeless, business owners, the environment and the flora and fauna of our surroundings.

The arts need to be supported - artists interact with "gray zones" and help with development of the city in general

I attended HSU and have worked and lived in Arcata for numerous years. It doesn't offer me any special rights or privileges, just insights and perspective. Like all other community I expect the city of Arcata to not marginalize any of its community members.

I love this town- love the community, the people, this approach to planning. Thank you

I moved here from the valley because its basically the opposite in terms of environment but still has a small town feel

I am a behavioral health service provider and have clients that reside in Arcata (or are waiting on lists for their chance to get into housing in Arcata)

I've been here since 1994 because i went to HSU. HSU is critical to Arcata to keep it vibrant and diverse

Since I first came here in the early 80s Arcata felt like home and it still does.

Arcata is a special place. I have always had a passion for people and plants, and I can thank my parents for raising me in Arcata for that. But there is a lot of equity work to be done. And a tremendous amount of environmental/stewardship work to be done. I have been disappointed to see wetlands become developed into suburban cul-de-sacs. Wetland development should be prohibited. As a child I greatly enjoyed the walkable nature of the town. With more people and tourists, come more cars and less safety. Increasing trail access and pushing for a decrease in car access will be integral moving forward. It would be awesome to see Arcata develop a fresh logo, flag design, and general theme for itself. Also I'd like to see municipal broadband. AT&T and Suddenlink desperately need competition. Look to Anacortes, WA—a similar-sized city that is now offering internet to its citizens at incredibly competitive rates.

Thank you for making this survey

The food readily available here is a key factor for me, and I didn't notice mention of that in other parts of the survey. Co-op, Wildberries, and especially the local organic farmers are extremely important to me.

I'm an artist, musician, and gardener. I've always loved the natural beauty here. I used to participate in local events pre-Covid. I'm just waiting for things to go back the way they used to be. If it isn't broken, don't fix it!

I have been here since 1972 and want to preserve what is dear to all of us who raised our families and started many businesses, not corporatization and urban glut

I'm a native. AHS Class of 1970 Go Tigers!

Following the current Arcata Gateway Plan as I also live in a small town.

David Loya should be fired.

Have lived and worked in Arcata for 2 decades after graduating from HSU. Have children using Arcata public schools.

I was born here and returned after graduate school for the open spaces that are rapidly disappearing.

Invest in Valley West

I returned to Arcata after graduating in Psychology and Theatre from HSU in 2020 and spending a year or so at home to shelter in place. This plan makes great strides for the Creamery District, but I would love for it to hone in on how it will truly reach the community both in accessibility and racial equality, but how it deals with those in between and within other minorities ie. financial status, housing, education, etc.

I believe people live here for the openness of nature and low population density. I support sustainable slow growth models that do not encourage the City of Arcata to become a large community.

Honorary Old Fart, or, our communities connection to our past.

I value Arcata a small town, I believe we need to increase oversight in the operations of the City of Arcata, some city council

We own a business here with 20 employees, many of whom commute (drive) into Arcata for a variety of reasons. There is a lot of concern that the draft direction that the new General Plan is heading will drive us out of Arcata, which would be a real disappointment. Other businesses are worried about this too. So I would hope that this would be a key component for preserving "the fabric of Arcata's community", unless the City wants to turn into something completely different.

Lifelong resident/ property owner

I am active in the community, assisting older folks, and working on local trails.

We need to support the arts and children's right to grow in clean, safe environment, not needles laying on the ground or letting the transit center become a dump or the smell of piss in corners, plies of discards at campsites or people to be allowed to camp out for weeks at one spot

I don't own a home, so I'm not a NIMBY. I prefer SIMBY - SMART in my backyard!

I moved here a long time ago for the small town life, clean air, and nature.

Very inadequate medical care (specialists). I will have to move out of area. We need incentives for specialists to stay here. 2. Arcata doesn't feel like an American town because there is little racial diversity. Whites here are so isolated from reality that they don't know they're very racist. Solution is complex, but the best way to stop this kind of racism is frequent association in jobs, neighborhoods, schools, etc. 3. You couldn't pay me enough to live in an 8 story human warehouse, especially in earthquake country. Please scratch this idea.

Encourage solo-entrepreneurs, small businesses and those pursing new technology- that would make arcata special vs subscribing to the corporate Cracker Jack model!!

I grew up here and plan to live here for many many years more.

I like living here, but I can barely afford it, and I feel like I'll never be able to afford a home here.

Stop the handouts. Clean up the plaza.

Arcata is a town of artist who value the trees and the ocean over money and racial tensions that are being pushed by the current governments and HSU. It is a shame to see a community I love and my family has been party of for so long fall the likes of capitalistic greed. The elders are rolling in their grave and all of you should hang your head in shame for the direction you are taking this once peace loving community. I hope you feel it deep in your soul.

If you are going to provide homeless/transitional living by my home, then please make sure the infrastructure is sound and make a real commitment to the safety and security of all of us. Do NOT tell us there will be oversight and security and then pull it when the grant money runs out.

I do business in Arcata. I appreciate the beautiful area we live in and believe we should do what we can to keep it a place where people feel safe on the streets and don't have to worry about encountering creepy people.

I moved here to attend college in 1984. Graduated in 1990. Opened and ran a restaurant/bar for four years in Arcata. I owned an art reproduction and framing business in Arcata area. My wife works in mental Health for the county.

I have lived in Arcata for 34 years and have no plans to move.

Do not turn two hotels on giuntoli into 140 units for homeless housing. We do not have 140 homeless people on giuntoli and you are going to destroy that area for the permanent residents who have bought condos or mobile homes there. Furthermore, there aren't enough hotel rooms as it is for the tourists that visit in the summer. I could see turning one hotel, but not two! Especially the days inn, which is so close to the permanent residents and a school. Will sex offenders be allowed to live there? Active drug users? Rethink this. The homeless are mostly in eureka, that's where the housing is needed. There are not 140 unhoused people in Arcata, and definitely not on Giuntoli! I could see a housing project for 30-40, but not 140!

Also, the 8 story monstrosity in town you are planning is a nightmare! What are you guys thinking? Who elected the city council to represent us? Did you guys get bought out? Do you not have your finger on the pulse of the actual community? We don't want these things! "

Please relocate the project homekey decision to the another area! Hotels are meant for our tourists, to make money for our community and help keep locals employed. Using valley west for this would greatly depreciate the area! Walking alone would be even more unsafe than it already is.

Did you forget the Portuguese community and its historic roots in this town

Employed in Arcata

Single male, living alone

Stop micro managing. Get the streets paved. Keep the city appearance clean, stop pandering to specific groups

Arcata's schizophrenic attitude about cars & parking makes me shop elsewhere.

I deeply care about quality of life in Arcata. I have volunteered for many causes. I actively participate in welcoming HSU students. Even though I could just live alone, I share my home by renting out furnished rooms to students for an ethical price. I have lived here 34 years and used to cycle and jog all over town to meet my needs. Now, normal aging has me just walk and sometimes need to drive. I used to enjoy a barefoot morning walk, but for years now the broken glass and dog shit and garbage everywhere has stopped that practice. My house gets graffitied regularly and sometimes egged. I installed ornamental lamps at my front gate and they were immediately vandalized. I often need to clear a houseless person from the threshold of my workplace when it's time to open. In doing so, I am always cheerful and respectful, but quickly lock myself inside the building as sometimes the person becomes belligerent person and yells and pounds on the door. The traffic has become a serious issue. I often need to travel by car between 3-5pm from Northtown Arcata to the Janes Creek Subdivision and back, via Sunset overpass and LK Wood. The traffic is all backed up and the pedestrians, bicycles and now personal electric vehicles are mixed with the cars at the Sunset/LK Wood intersection. The volume of vehicles associated with Arcata High students has increased dramatically over the last 30 years. Traffic backs up for blocks. It was a BIG mistake to let a few influential residents close 14th Street as a thoroughfare to Alliance Rd. The City Council ought to give some serious reflection to the recent lack of opportunity for citizen input in the recent rezoning decision for the 2 motels to become homeless shelters. Public input began at 9:10pm and with NO acknowledgement or discussion of the concerns desperately expressed, the Council voted to pass the resolution and the next agenda item was voting for the funding. What a sham! I personally didn't have an opinion, but the process was no less than shameful. I DO NOT like the push now to rezone the Gateway area to streamline future approval of developer's plans. I have heard that the City "feels they got burned" in the citizen resistance to "The Village," but the City was NOT transparent in their behind the scenes courting of that relationship with HSU and the developer. It took citizen action to solicit release of all those emails and even with a huge amount of content redacted, it was still very incriminating for City employees. It is the Arcata Community who collectively "got burned" and lost trust in key City employees. My pride in Arcata as a city is at an all-time low. Historically I have believed that my active participation would be respected and contribute to the shaping of this community. Now it feels like City employees have already cleverly figured out how to push through the desired zoning changes for the Gateway District with just the illusion of community input. End of monologue :~/

As a former resident it saddens me to hear what is going to happen in Valley West. Property values will plummet and the people who allowed North Coast Inn to go to ruin will benefit from their actions.

Considering leaving the area due to apathy and lack of preparedness for the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake, which will likely destroy much of the economic strength of the area and kill many people if the City doesn't take more strong action.

I'm just a decades-long Humboldt resident who cares more about people being housed than I do about my own home appreciating in value.

"I am a first time homeowner, just bought my home here. I love this place. I am hoping to be more involved in the community but the pandemic is making it more difficult.

I really appreciate the work you are doing. I am hoping to find my place here to live and work and be happy."

I care about open space and concern for other species rights

I am a local musician and I love this town and Humboldt County. I won't be leaving!! I'm also a Civil Engineer working locally. I am very invested in good development here!! I am reading the plan (all 100+ pages) and making notes. I am very interested in being at the next community meeting on the development plan. Thank you for everything you do!

Born and raised in Arcata. Business owner for 42 yrs. Have owned my Arcata house since 1985.

I am a volunteer with Friends of the Dunes, California State Parks and NorthCoast Environmental Center.

I worked hard for the city in my younger years. I will have nothing to do with the city now. Sorry.

I am an artist and work as an arts administrator

I have struggled to stay in the area due to affordable housing as a single income household. Apartments in the area offer cramped living spaces and limited to no access to green space in the immediate area.

Arcata, like the rest of Humboldt County, has a medical access issue; there aren't enough dentists who take Medi-Cal

Patients or new patients, not enough medical practitioners stay for continuity of care, and too many people have to travel out-of-the-area for more choice of professionals, second opinions, and specialized

Medical care. People who are on limited and fixed incomes, or who have no incomes, do not have the option to travel for medical services unless they are veterans administration patients for whom the VA provides regularly scheduled van transportation to the SF VA Medical Center for services and lodging."

I am in favor of dense housing but the proposed project is way over the top. Arcata used to be charming and progressive. We are not really managing the city and the needs of the residents very well now. Adding thousands more would be a huge mistake without reinforcing our infrastructure first. Can our sewage system, police dept, fire dept support this kind of immediate growth? The downtown area is a mess. There are many homeless people that need mental health services and or rehab. The streets aren't in good shape and the parking is absolutely inadequate already. I am a social worker that works with elderly and disabled people. Many many people would like to come to farmers market and various events on the plaza but can't because there is no way to access if you can't walk a ways. I plan to grow old in this town so I'm very concerned and frankly offended that a whole significant population is being kicked to the curb.

I also do not think there needs to be any 8 story buildings in Arcata. Not only would this kind of building look out of place and hideous but it will affect the residents all around them. From blocking light to an enormous increase in traffic.

I also just heard about this project. I also only know of two other people that are aware. There has not been adequate public information out there. It feels like it's being pushed through. I absolutely want to have input. I don't believe the residents in Arcata if informed would be in favor of this kind of development. "

I am a long time furniture manufacturer in Arcata. We own a commercial industrial building in the development area. I support the infill and increased housing aspects to the proposals.

"I am very active in promoting the arts and consider this a very important part of life in Arcata.

Also, there was no place in the survey to include additional comments, so I am putting them here. Infill and growth plans are going to create serious problems with parking and traffic. Expecting people to adopt a ""car free"" lifestyle is very unrealistic. People come here to enjoy rivers and natural resources, but cannot access these without a vehicle. Also, since we live in a cold, wet place, it is also unrealistic to expect people to bike to work when they need to arrive dry and professional. Lack of parking on campus is an ongoing source of serious stress for students. Rather than giving up cars, students park in neighborhoods near campus creating the need for more residential permits, and giving them increasingly more parking citations. The new Gateway development is going to create traffic jams and parking problems in downtown Arcata due to lack of parking for residents. People living in Gateway housing and their guests are still going to have cars, but instead will take up any available parking downtown, making it increasingly harder to access businesses there. "

Old people are important

I just want to stress that it is distressing to see a small town turning into a bigger city, bringing with it all the problems of big cities -- traffic, people, crowding, trash all over the place, etc. It isn't the diversity that growing will bring -- I welcome that whole heartedly -- it is turning small town living into big town living.

I think Arcata's housing problems are only going to get worse with inflated housing prices, which are not going anywhere but up, and we really need to do something about the large numbers of houseless people around town who are unable to take care of themselves due to mental health and addiction issues. I don't think that just sticking them in a hotel room to fend for themselves is enough, many of them need some form of monitored care.

Thanks for the opportunity to participate in the City Planning process! I look forward to watching (and taking part in) this next chapter as it comes into form over the years to come.

I am a picture framer and have run a gallery for 21 years i looking live work affordable property as do not want to rent any more

I have interest and am trying to make time, but I guess right now I'd say I'm not doing a great job of being the most civically involved person outside of voting and reading up on a smattering of local news. Obviously, I have more feelings and opinions than I do experience or defined strategies, but as a fairly recent transplant to the Humboldt area (came here for a degree in forest sciences in 2019), I'm still trying to learn and figure out how I can contribute to this community in a constructive way. So I guess I don't know what my place is in the fabric of Arcata's community, but I intend to stay

here, and I want to help and feel obligated to give back to this place and community that has given me so much sense of gratitude and belonging.

Arcata could be the ideal, but...people without homes need places to sleep and services. Arcata seems to be on the right track with the hotel purchases AND added services.

Ensuring the cost of living doesn't just benefit the rich. Keep Arcata afordable.

My husband and I both graduated from HDU and are excited about CalPoly!

No. I value my privacy.

Open a recycling center. Pave all the roads. No more round abouts. Stop coddling transients

I want to grow old and die here. Fear i will be squeezed out by too many people.

My child goes to school here, I am a single disabled parent who finds a lack of accessibility with the lack of parking and no decent mass transit system to replace my car to get to Eureka, McKinleyville, and other places as well as sidewalks that are not wheelchair accessible. I've lived in Humboldt my whole life and have found little improvement in these areas. I want to stay and support my community but will have to leave and uproot my child if I cannot find adequate jobs

All voices of those who actually make Arcata, in other words those who work, live, pay taxes and raise children here should carry equal weight. The questions about race seem not only irrelevant but out of place. Finally, HSU is important but students come and go. Families like mine who live here for generations are an important part of the community of teachers, doctors, farmers and business owners. We want change but we want it to be slow and to respect the past, not try to break from it. The very idea that eight story buildings could be approved seems to utterly ignore the large-scale opposition to every project of that kind over the past twenty years. These include HSU's towers and social science building, the proposed cell phone towers and the Danco building. Why are you proposing the very types of things that Arcatans have always rejected? Mr. Loya was quoted as saying that 'no one seems to mind' the Danco building. Is he being sarcastic? It is loathed almost universally. Your job is not to find ways to add as many people as possible to this town. Your job is not to turn it into the next Santa Cruz or Santa Barbara. Your job is to improve it for those who live here now, whose families lived here in the past and whose kids will live here one day. Please do not, as a tiny group, destroy the small rural community which is called Arcata.

I've been here 11 years and work at a local small business.

I am hoping to make a permanent home here, to become an engaged member in the community and a property owner.

Encourage More urban trees and lawn conversion to garden landscapes

I work at HSU and I love it - and I love eureka. I want Arcata to pursue the Gateway plan. It's so important to have housing... a dense core is keeping with Arcata's values.

Born and raised local.. moved away to further my education out of state .. moved back for family. Although there are job opportunities occasionally in my field they literally pay a 1/4 of what I would

get elsewhere. Arcata businesses stating they dont have that 'big city' money .. yet housing, food, gas etc all goes for more than it would other places in the state. Its rather ridiculous here

I am both a student and an instructor at Cal Poly Humboldt.

I teach financial literacy and have heard overwhelming responses that rent is way too high for the spaces that people are renting.

Make it a lean safe place to live by addressing current problems

I graduated from HSU with a Bachelor's of Arts in Geology and have had the opportunity to be able to continue living in this beautiful place since 2014. Over just that short amount of time I have noticed such an increase in people, cars, and by contrast a sharp decrease in housing, parking, and friendliness. I don't want to see this area turn into another San Francisco/Bay Area where nobody follows the traffic laws and everyone is rude and nobody can afford to live. I have a good job and I'm almost 26 and I almost can't afford to live here, definitely not on my own. My partner is trying to buy a house but can't because houses are selling in a matter of days, and he can't even put offers in because of the people from the Bay Area and elsewhere who put in offers over asking without seeing the houses. It feels like the locals are being driven out and replaced with people who have more money with no regard for them. This used to be such a peaceful place and now every outing is stressful due to the amount of people. And while Covid has contributed to that as well, I feel like more priority needs to be put on the people who have lived here for longer

(A continuation of my interests above) I moved back to the area (Blue Lake) after 35 years to retire. I was a printer, graphic artist and public school bus driver in Santa Cruz. Still looking for an artist live/work space. Perhaps you should check out the Tannery in Santa Cruz as a good example of affordable art live/work space. Jobs still don't pay enough here, but rents and housing are skyrocketing. Everything is commercial, no common spaces (galleries, gardens) where you do not have to spend money. Covid is partially responsible for it, but the homeless are not being taken care of properly at all. I am the president of the Friends of the Arcata Library (FOAL). I am appalled that it has to share its only meeting room with law enforcement, that it is treated as inferior by the city of Arcata and the police, that it is not ADA compliant. The library MUST be recognized as an asset to the community, must be better supported. That is my goal: if you are going to improve and import even more people, you must include the public library's growth in your plan.

I was recently evicted on a 'no fault, just cause' terms in which the landlord wishes to remodel our apartment unit for airbnb. I was the second family that was victim in this case, as some neighbors across the street also had this same thing happen to them. I also know that a coworker of mine has had some really tough times finding affordable living and this airbnb situation is also a concern to her as she has seen properties been rented out to long-term airbnb tenants that have their company pay an absurd amount of money to stay in the place for temporary work. It is unfair to the actual residents who struggle finding accommodating housing.

I am deeply concerned with a handful of people working for the City Of Arcata making these monumental changes for all the people that live here. By Changing Arcata the small town we all love by allowing these 6-8 story buildings to go up so sad and upsetting. I feel like you all should be kicked out.

I love the land and the bay and the activities they support, and I love the students who rent in my neighborhood, but after moving back to Humboldt county I have found Arcata to be a largely superficial and unwelcoming place to live. My fear is that in another 10-15 years Arcata will be even further made-over in the image of southern California "Instagram chic" plasticity.

This area is remarkable.....because it is rural, simple, and livable.

I love this community-the vibrancy, the culture, the people, the beauty. Carefully planned growth sounds good to me

Arcata was an amazing place to grow up and I still love it. I applaud the city for trying to be forward thinking but I think some of the proposed plans (8 story buildings!) go too far and will change the fabric of the town too quickly. This is not NIMBYism - I would be okay with 4 story buildings with setbacks, etc. But the gap between haves and have nots in the city and county seems to have widened and I am worried that the very rapid expansion of HSU will only make it worse. People connected to HSU are often the wealthy ones in the county and I wonder these days who has more power - the University or the City.

Grew up and lived here all my life.

I came here for graduate school in 2007, married a local, had two kids here, etc., etc., etc.. It would be lovely to begin to feel more permanent. It's been over a decade and despite how small the area is, I still feel like I'm on the level of someone who just showed up yesterday. I appreciate the opportunity to voice this concern. I'd be happy to speak about this in person.

2nd generation resident

Moved here in 1973 to go to HSU, graduated twice worked as an engineer in Humboldt County for 30 years, ran my own business in Arcata for ten years, retired, and I'm staying here.

I am an active birding field trip leader and Audubon committee member. I've lived here 51 years. I'm happy with our city government staff and council members.

I'm a creative person. I play and create music, write and make visual art. I'm pretty depressed with the state of the world on the one hand, on the other every day is joyful for me because the beauty is endless. Being alive is an incredible blessing. I can't stand looking at screens. I did my best.

I love mushrooms, biking, and the our wonderful community!

We moved here in 2020 and already feel at home and love the community and our neighbors

Arcata is what I mean when I say I'm going to "town," but I've never been able to afford to live in Arcata. I bought a house 20 years ago, and didn't even look at any in Arcata because it was so out of my price range.

I moved here for a job and I love it. But the lack of available housing is a serious concern. Arcata can build more housing without losing its beautiful environment by building up instead of out.

Went from student... to homeless... to housed, low-income parent, currently a renter and Cal Poly HSU student again. Would LOVE to continue my life in Arcata but home ownership seems impossible when I make \$16/hour and houses are \$500-600,000 ...

I am an HSU staff member who deeply cares about Arcata & campus life

I wish it was safer for me to walk to school

I am middle class now but grew up poor. What can make you feel better than helping some one raise themselves up from being homeless and hungry to being able to take care of themselves and their family.

I am the President of the Entrepreneur's Club at Cal Poly Humboldt. I am interning for Shoshanna with Arcata Main Street helping organize the Oyster Festival. I am starting a Travel Coaching business called 'Know Fasho - Travel Connect', where I help people who want to travel in an eco friendly manner that supports local communities. This business will go hand in hand with increasing eco tourism in Arcata by the locals themselves. I am also working on opening an eco hostel in Arcata/Eureka. Currently talking to past hostel operators and entrepreneurs such as Joyce Plath who ran the Redwood Lilly Guesthouse, and Lew Litzky who worked for 15 years trying to open an eco hostel in the area. I am following their example and following old leads as well as business leaders in the community to increase tourism in Arcata.

More Anthropology and Linguistics Opportunities!

I've been here for 3 years and every year I've looked for housing and can never find anything or always get rejected. I stay in the HSU dorms and I am almost finished but I would like to stay up here in the City of Arcata. So if there was more housing that would be great and also a dog park.

Sometimes it's a hassle to have to go to Eureka for the dog park but if Arcata had one I know that not only me but several other dog owners will be very happy.

Keep the community first don't let the university and students drain resources that belong to the larger community.

Thanks for soldiering on despite all the noisy lunatics.

Quality, affordable housing is a top priority

I chose to live here to raise my child away from the cities of southern California.

I try to help and spend time with the houseless people of Arcata because they are such an important part of this community and they are so alienated and forgotten. Measures like this make this evidently clear. I thrive here. I am happy here. I feel welcomed here. I have never been in a place that embraces and encourages difference and togetherness as much as here. That is why the prospect of losing these aspects and characteristics of Arcata are too heartbreaking to imagine.

I applied to numerous properties for 5 months with my income and professional background and was rejected despite followups. I had to live with my white peer who had no income and was jobless, who managed to get a house after looking in one day. After some time I noticed not just the property owner was taking advantage of us financially, but my white housemates were too. I left the program because of too many logistical nightmares (Suddenlink and AT&T poor service, unreliable amenities for house cleaning, racism in the community, lack of reasonably priced housing that was modern and not rickety.)

Everything is super expensive except for the food, which is relatively affordable and good. There's plenty of resources for food, but definitely not enough for housing. Housing has been extremely impacted. Plus there's not a ton of available jobs, there needs to be more jobs for young people.

I feel incredibly unsafe as a restaurant worker in Arcata and Eureka especially the plaza. There are lots of workers with tips in pocket having to walk in the dark to their cars that have to be parked 10 minutes away due to the lack of parking for employees.

I live in Fortuna but am in Arcata every week day for school since housing in Arcata is competitive

Yes I would like to know of housing and job opportunities.

I found it difficult to find a place for me to live. It shouldn't be that way, especially with a city that has a university.

Somewhere here I'd like to address the idea of K street and the "appearance of Arcata" to a visitor. I don't have an issue with Amerigas or storage units lining the gateway corridor. Those businesses do reflect who we are. I'd be sad to see expensive coffee shops, art shops, Humboldt shwag shops, etc or other businesses that don't particularly cater to locals. I do think we could maximize use of space to increase housing needs and prevent sprawl - the infill idea. I like that green spaces would be build into new development permits.

Although I don't live in Arcata at this time, its still a large part of my life, and those living in outlying areas. It's important to consider that much of the impact on Arcata comes from people living outside it. As as such, planning should consider how to accommodate /mitigate impacts from outside, just as much as inside growth.

I think of myself as contributing to the local economy, shopping locally as frequently as i can, and always trying to maintain the weirdness that makes our wonderful community what it is

I love Arcata!!!!

It is really hard for students to find affordable housing in Arcata.

I want to stay beyond graduation but lack of health and dental services don't make the town appealing as well as difficulties getting to Southern California to see family

Active in community affairs

Your trail systems are nice. But fulltime Park Rangers patrolling and enforcing rules would be awesome.

It's a small community. Let's protect that!

Considering retiring to Arcata.

**Questions about our survey or process?**

**Stay in touch with us!**

**Call us: (707) 825-5955**

**Email us: [comdev@cityofarcata.org](mailto:comdev@cityofarcata.org)**

**Visit our site: <https://www.cityofarcata.org/896/Strategic-Infill-Redevelopment-Plan>**

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