

Entry 41

Subject: Napa County Library

I have lived in Napa my entire life, and the Napa County Library has been a constant part of it. My mom grew up in Napa as well, and some of my earliest memories are of visiting the library with her when I was a child. We would spend hours sitting together in the children's section, flipping through picture books and picking out stories to take home. As I got older, the library continued to grow with me. In elementary school, I would browse the shelves for video games to borrow, and during middle school, I searched for comic books and graphic novels. Now, as a high school student, the library has become one of my favorite places to study and catch up with friends.

Because it has been present during so many stages of my life, the Napa County Library feels like more than just a building, but also a landmark that represents learning and community.

Beyond my personal connection to it, the library also plays an important role in our community. Libraries are one of the most important third spaces, which are places outside of home and school where people can gather to relax and socialize. The Napa County Library often hosts crafting workshops, educational classes, and community events that bring people together to learn new skills and meet others with similar interests. These programs make the library welcoming to people of all ages, from young children listening to storytimes to adults participating in workshops or using the library's resources for a quiet place to work. By offering a calm, inclusive place for learning and connection, the library strengthens Napa's amazing sense of community.

As I have gotten older, I have also developed a deeper appreciation for the building itself. After taking several art history classes at Napa Valley College, I began to notice architectural details that I hadn't noticed previously. The brutalist concrete structure reflects the architectural style that was popular during the 1970s, which gives it a very unique appearance. The style of this building represents the era in which the library was built, which represents an important part of our community's history.

If the library were threatened with demolition, our community could definitely work together to protect it. One solution could be to organize a public campaign that highlights the historical importance of the building, but more importantly, the vital services that the library offers. So many people, especially kids, rely on the library for educational resources, and many others use it as a way to make connections with people in our community. Campaign participants could organize protests, gather signatures for petitions, and raise awareness through social media. By showing how many residents care about and depend on the library, I think that this plan would be effective at saving this landmark from demolition. The Napa County Library has been such a meaningful place throughout my life, and it will continue to bring our community together for a long time.