

Winter 2022

# ANAHEIM



## A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

Anaheim continues to weather  
the storm of the COVID-19 pandemic  
and our future looks bright

PLUS Anaheim Library | OC Black History Parade | A focus on mental health | Rebuild Beach Boulevard



# WE'RE BACK!



We're thrilled to bring you the winter 2022 issue of Anaheim magazine, new and improved after a pause in publication during the pandemic

## *Thank you*

for all of your patience, perseverance and doing your part during these unusual times

**We missed you**



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**About Anaheim:** Anaheim is a full-service city supporting more than 346,000 residents, 20,000 businesses and 25 million annual visitors. The city provides public safety through the Anaheim Police Department and Anaheim Fire & Rescue, water and power service through Anaheim Public Utilities, parks, community centers, family services and libraries through Anaheim Community Services, neighborhood and transportation improvements through Anaheim Public Works and affordable housing and other services through Housing and Community Development and community revitalization through Economic Development. Anaheim is a modern, diverse city with a proud history dating back to its 1857 founding. Anaheim is known worldwide as the home of the Disneyland Resort, including Walt Disney's original Disneyland Park, as well as Angel Stadium of Anaheim and Angels Baseball, Honda Center and the Anaheim Ducks, and the Anaheim Convention Center, the largest on the West Coast. Anaheim's thriving visitor industry and business community help support the city's neighborhoods and make Anaheim a great place to live, work and play. For more, please visit [Anaheim.net](http://Anaheim.net).

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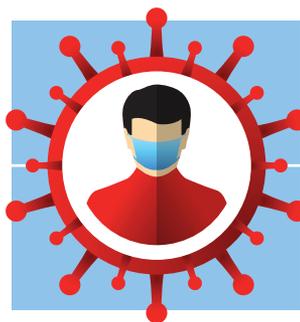
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# 12 A bright future ahead

Anaheim continues to weather the storm of the COVID-19 pandemic and our future looks bright



# 16 Meeting the challenge

Looking back on what we've done during this crisis as a city

## 2 | Community

### Black History celebration returns

*The OC Black History Parade is back in downtown Anaheim*

### Anaheim Public Library rises above

*Anaheim Library was named Library of the Year*

### Rebuild Beach

*Even amid a pandemic, we've made great progress in west Anaheim*

## 6 | Service

### A focus on mental health

*Be Well OC launches in Anaheim*

### Be water smart

*We all need to reduce water waste*

### Your district, your voice

*We are in the process of looking at our City Council districts, and you can get involved*

## 10 | Economic Vitality

### New vibes at Honda Center

*Big things are coming to Honda Center*

## 18 | Around Anaheim

*Events and community updates*

## 19 | Calendar

## 20 | Stay In Touch



# Black History celebration returns to Anaheim



***This outdoor event offers a day filled with activities, food and entertainment dedicated to celebrating Black history.***



**Following a one-year hiatus during the coronavirus pandemic, Orange County's 42nd annual Black History Parade returns to downtown Anaheim Feb. 5.**

This outdoor event offers a day filled with activities, food and entertainment dedicated to celebrating Black history.

New this year is a unity festival following the parade that takes the place of the former cultural faire.

The day kicks off at 9 a.m. with a blessing and event preview,

followed by the parade at 10 a.m., which will travel down Anaheim Boulevard from Lincoln Avenue to Water Street and double back to conclude at Anaheim City Hall.

The parade features more than 50 marching bands, unique vehicles, horseback riders, churches, sororities and youth and social groups.

The unity festival goes from noon to 5 p.m. and will offer health and youth villages, a college fair, vendors, music, food trucks and a custom car

and motorcycle show. Live entertainment will include gospel singers Brent Jones and Maurice Griffin.

The Muzeo Museum & Cultural Center will also play a supporting role, hosting top artwork from the Orange County Heritage Council Youth Art Contest in the studio gallery. And in the museum's Kabel Gallery, you'll find guest artwork that conveys the event theme "Our Heritage: reflecting, advancing, uniting."

Art will be on display through March 20.

For more, visit the Orange County Heritage Council [OC-HC.org](https://www.oc-hc.org)

# Anaheim Public Library rises above



## Anaheim Public Library's work to keep serving our community during the challenges of the pandemic earned an exclusive national honor.

Our hometown library was recognized as 2021 Library of the Year for its commitment to safely serving residents during the height of the coronavirus crisis.

The national award program, hosted by Gale and Library Journal, celebrates one library each year that shows exemplary service to their community with creativity and innovation.

After the pandemic forced the closure of Anaheim's library branches, community centers, schools and even major venues such as the Disneyland Resort, Anaheim Public Library shifted to become a lifeline for residents who rely on the library as a place to learn and access information.

By adapting its services, our library ensured that the Anaheim community had access to books, meals, school supplies, internet access and more.

Library staff continued their well-loved educational

programs online, offering engaging storytimes, parent workshops and science and arts-focused programs.

Virtual programs streamed online helped keep kids and families engaged at home and gave a sense of reassuring normalcy, connection and comfort during a unique and difficult time.

The library pivoted beyond books to meet the community's needs, being the first in the region to offer curbside service and virtual programs.

Through community partnerships and conversations, library staff developed services to meet the needs of Anaheim's diverse community, including many first-generation families, foster youths and seniors.

Pandemic outreach included adding more Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Farsi books to the library's collection, creating a tailored library card to address the unique challenges faced by foster youths, and offering take-home STEAM kits for kids, art kits and technology workshops for seniors.

This is Anaheim Public Library's first time receiving the national award.



**National recognition:** library awarded for new programs and creative solutions



***Our hometown library was recognized as 2021 Library of the Year for its commitment to safely serving residents during the height of the coronavirus crisis. By adapting its services, our library ensured that the Anaheim community had access to books, meals, school supplies, internet access and more.***



# Rebuild Beach



***We know change can't come fast enough to Beach. But it will come. Anaheim has a track record of successful redevelopment, with the Anaheim Resort in the 1990s and the Platinum Triangle and downtown Anaheim in the 2000s. Now we're looking to do the same with Beach, working together to create a street that makes west Anaheim and all of our city proud.***



## **Beach Boulevard runs for just 1.5 miles through Anaheim, but it is one of our biggest challenges.**

The problems, known all too well for anyone who lives in west Anaheim, are real: human trafficking and prostitution, illegal gambling, drug dealing, homelessness and blighted businesses.

From Lincoln Avenue to Ball Road, Anaheim's stretch of Beach is a redevelopment and public safety priority.

The problems were years in the making and will take years to fully address. But the long-term answer – redevelopment – is underway. And we're pairing that with a renewed effort to address day to day public safety and quality of life issues.

We call it Rebuild Beach.

Anaheim is looking to replace motels and other blighted businesses with

new homes, stores, restaurants and other businesses, ultimately creating a walkable, inviting city street.

We are starting at the northeast side of Beach and Lincoln, where 65 townhomes are under construction and set to open later this year.

It's the start of what's known as 39 Commons, which will also include a shopping center with a specialty grocery store, restaurants, services and community spaces.

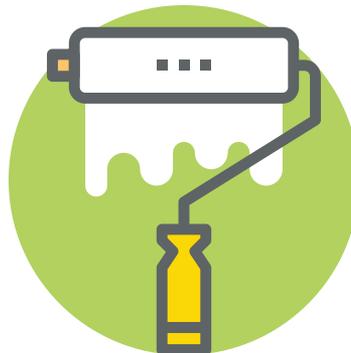
We're looking to see redevelopment continue to the southeast side of Beach and Lincoln with affordable apartments and potential retail and homes for sale.

In all, Anaheim and our partners will lead the redevelopment of half a mile of Beach over the next few years. From there, we're looking to see additional private investment and redevelopment along Beach.

We're taking other steps to attract investment:

**Undergrounding of utility lines:** In 2022, we expect to begin work taking down overhead utility lines along Beach and placing them in the ground. Undergrounding improves reliability and improves the look of Beach as poles and wires are cleared from the streetscape.

**City oversight of Beach:** You might not know it, but the California Department of Transportation, better known as Caltrans, manages the actual roadway of Beach. That's because it's a state route, Highway 39, spanning several cities before reaching the beach. Over the next few years, Anaheim will take over managing its section of Beach, just as we do for other streets. That will make it easier for businesses and developers to improve their properties by only having to deal with Anaheim.





**Beach and Lincoln:**  
new homes coming,  
bringing new neighbors  
invested in community

**Improving businesses:** Anaheim plans to work with businesses committed to rebuilding Beach on improving the look of their buildings or shopping centers. Anaheim is looking to help cover the cost of potential design and construction for eligible projects, starting in early 2022.

**Buying additional properties:** Anaheim has acquired motels and other properties along Beach to clear the way for redevelopment. We'll continue to look at acquisitions as part of our ongoing redevelopment effort.

Meanwhile, Anaheim will continue to tackle – and step up enforcement of – daily issues on Beach.

**High-visibility cameras:** You might have noticed the flashing blue lights on utility poles along Beach. That's by design. The lights, which are meant to attract attention, are from cameras monitored by Anaheim Police. They

are an extra set of eyes to deter prostitution and other crimes.

**Business enforcement:** Anaheim is stepping up proactive code enforcement at businesses along Beach. We'll be visiting motels and other businesses to make them aware of issues and enlist their help rebuilding Beach. For any businesses enabling criminal activity and creating a public nuisance, we will pursue enforcement.

**Crime enforcement:** Anaheim Police will continue – and step up – efforts to address human trafficking, gambling, domestic violence, drugs, gang activity and other issues. Police respond to more than 2,000 calls a year on Beach, a number that has grown in recent years with drug decriminalization, early prison release and other statewide trends.

We know change can't come fast enough to Beach.

**Enforcement:** Anaheim Police stepping up enforcement of prostitution, drugs, other issues



But it will come. Anaheim has a track record of successful redevelopment, with the Anaheim Resort in the 1990s and the Platinum Triangle and downtown Anaheim in the 2000s.

Now we're looking to do the same with Beach, working together to create a street that makes west Anaheim and all of our city proud.

# A focus on mental health



**Opposite:**  
Hope happens  
in Anaheim:  
Be Well OC  
partners with  
Anaheim Police

## A young woman in her 20s needed help. So her family called the police.

The woman, who suffered from schizophrenia, was having a mental health crisis and causing a disturbance in her home.

Her family members were fearful that she might hurt herself or someone else.

Officers arrived and calmed the situation, making sure everyone was safe. In the best case, the interaction would have ended there — until the next time the family may have had to call police in a moment of distress.

Enter a revolutionary new program called Be Well OC.

After the initial police visit, a team of mental health case-workers followed up to address the root of the issue: the woman's need for mental healthcare.

The caseworkers sat down with her to develop a medical plan and get her the help she needed to avoid

future episodes, saving police resources and improving her and her family's quality of life.

This is just one of many examples of the successes of the Be Well program so far throughout the county. And now, Anaheim residents will benefit from this focus on mental health.

The City Council unanimously approved a one-year pilot program in October, and we're launching it in the community starting this month.

The goal of the program is to better address mental health needs in the community with dedicated, trained clinicians, rather than relying on Anaheim Police to serve as mental healthcare workers.

Anaheim Police responds to more than 8,000 calls annually related to mental health concerns.





Now, Be Well teams will be part of the response in these situations, and could even take the calls without any police involvement if there are no criminal or safety concerns involved.

It's similar to the idea of Anaheim's Community Care Response Team, a focused homeless outreach effort that diverts calls about homelessness away from police

and instead deploys trained caseworkers from nonprofit partner City Net.

And while not their sole focus, the Be Well teams will be able to help out with homeless calls when mental health help is needed.

Anaheim Police officers are, of course, trained to handle anything. But sometimes they might not be the best option to help someone who is struggling and not breaking any laws.

Diverting these types of social calls away from the police helps keep our officers

on patrol and ensures they're available to address public safety needs.

Similar programs have shown success in neighboring Orange County cities, and Anaheim has already made use of Be Well resources for homeless and other calls since the Be Well OC campus first opened in Orange last year.

You'll see the blue "Hope Happens Here" vans in our community starting this month, and we'll work to gradually expand the program going forward.



***Diverting these types of social calls away from the police helps keep our officers on patrol and ensures they're available to address public safety needs.***



Read more at [Anaheim.net/BeWell](https://Anaheim.net/BeWell)



## Wildfires • Street Closures • Police Activity

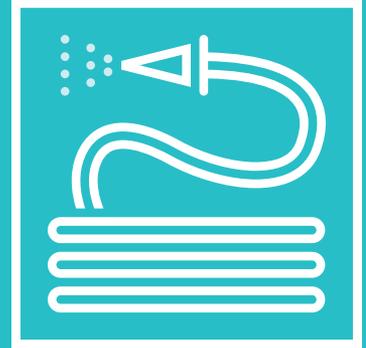
Get important and accurate information on events like these from your city. We'll send you a text, email or voice message. Or all three. The choice is yours.

**Be in the know, sign up today**

**AnaheimALERT**  
 AnaheimAlert.net

# Be water smart

Help reduce your water waste, keep your bill low



**Anaheim Public Utilities is always here to help you find ways to lower your bill and make sure your home is as efficient as possible.**



**As Southern Californians, the weather forecast has never been something we've had to worry all that much about.**

But with hotter summers and falls and rainless winters and springs, it seems that weather is now becoming a bigger factor in our day-to-day lives.



A big part of what we're facing here in California has to do with water.

Drought has always been a concern for us, but it seems that water is becoming a more and more precious resource.

You've heard before about conserving resources. Using water wisely has become a way of life in Southern California, especially as we continue to see less rain each winter.

Being sustainable not only helps us take care of our planet, but it also helps keep your utility bills down.

Anaheim Public Utilities is always here to help you find ways to lower your bill and make sure your home is as efficient as possible.

As part of our free Home Utility Checkup Program,

we're promoting our outdoor water survey.

Sign up and we'll send someone out to your house to take a look at your indoor water use as well as your outdoor irrigation system and watering schedule and make suggestions on how to reduce your water use.

They'll also give advice on any changes to your yard, such as using drought-tolerant and native plants, to reduce water waste.

Plus, you'll get free hose nozzles and other water-saving tools as a bonus.

It's a great way to help our environment and get some perks while you're at it.



**Be Water Smart**

Sign up now [Anaheim.net/Utilities](https://Anaheim.net/Utilities) or (714) 831-0025



# Your district, your voice

**Anaheim is in the process of updating our City Council districts with input from the community.**

Established in 2016, Anaheim's districts group residents and businesses into six regions represented by an elected council member who lives in their neighborhood, plus a mayor elected by the entire city.

With data now finalized from the 2020 Census, we have an

updated picture of Anaheim's community. The changes are not dramatic. But the data includes updated population numbers as well as information on demographics, socioeconomic status and more.

Anaheim launched the process of redistricting in September. We've received dozens of suggested maps from community members, hosted 14 community meetings in person and virtually,

and discussed the district boundaries and community areas of interest at four public hearings.

And there's still time to get involved. We're scheduled to adopt the final district map by April.

Between now and then, we invite you to attend an upcoming meeting and share your thoughts with the City Clerk and City Council in person or via email.

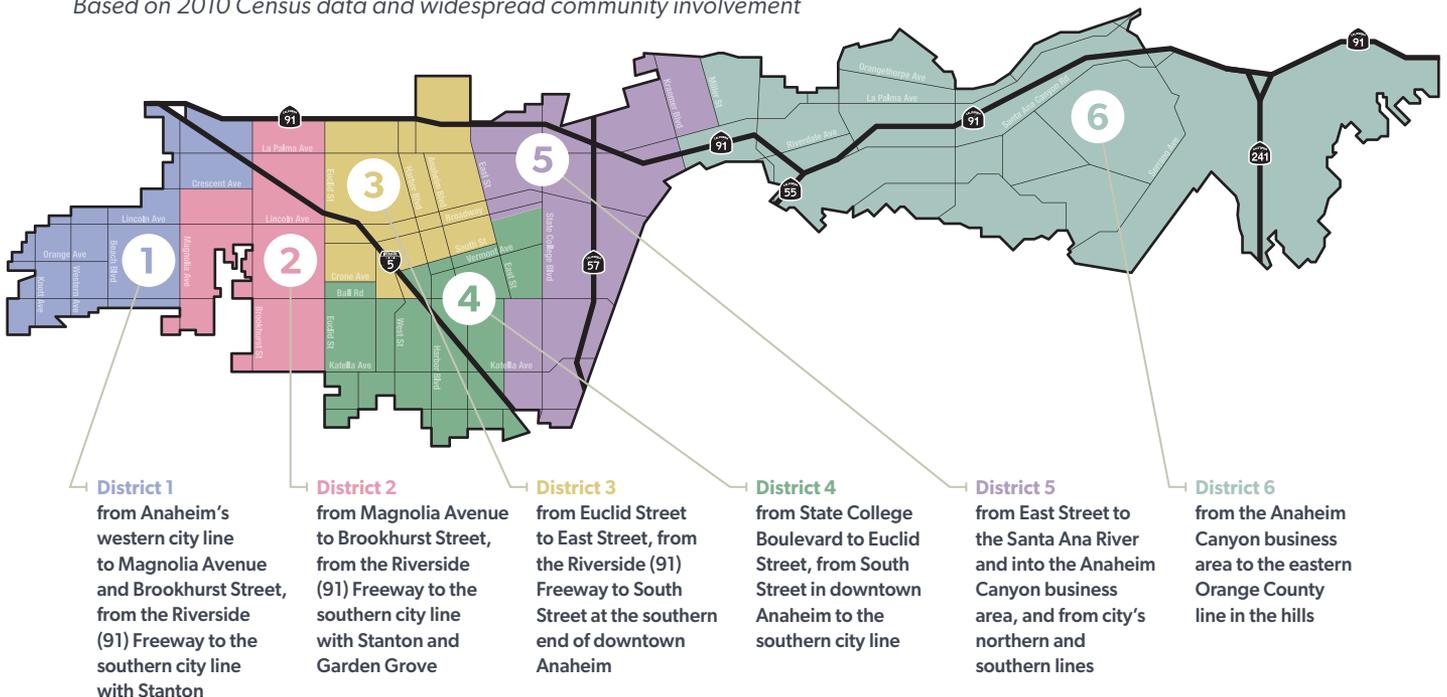


**We invite you to attend an upcoming meeting and share your thoughts.**



## Current City Council Districts

*Based on 2010 Census data and widespread community involvement*



For more information, visit [AnaheimRedistricting.org](https://AnaheimRedistricting.org)

# New vibes at Honda Center



*Plans are taking shape for an epic development around the arena, featuring dining, entertainment, parks and community space, hotels and more.*



**Things are buzzing at Honda Center this year, and we're not just talking about Ryan Getzlaf and Trevor Zegras.**

Plans are taking shape for an epic development around the arena, featuring dining, entertainment, parks and community space, hotels and more.

OCVibe, a \$3 billion proposed development by Anaheim Ducks owners and Honda Center operators Henry and Susan Samuelli, would transform the parking

lots around Honda Center into a regional hub for sports and entertainment.

It would span 95 acres, from the ARTIC transit center to the office buildings north of the arena, and is set to include:

- More than 30 restaurants, including a food hall
- 10 acres of public park space, including a river-front park
- Four public plazas, including an outdoor amphitheater

- A new 5,700-seat concert venue
- Two hotels, with a total of 550 rooms
- 1,500 apartments, including 15 percent at affordable rates
- More than 1 million square feet of office space
- Four parking structures, surface lots with more than 8,000 spaces
- A new pedestrian bridge over Katella Avenue





The project stems from a 2018 agreement between the city and Anaheim Arena Management, the company run by the Samueli family, to keep hockey in Anaheim for at least 25 more years and to purchase the parking lots around the arena from the city.

As Anaheim continues to recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, OC Vibe would play a key role in moving our city forward. It turns a vast expanse of asphalt into a bustling community that brings energy, entertainment and revenue to benefit Anaheim.

Revenue from hotel stays, shopping and added visitors to our city will allow us to provide key services to



residents and businesses, such as public safety, parks and libraries.

The future looks bright. Anaheim is on the list to host an upcoming National Hockey League All-Star Game and Honda Center will become an international stage for

indoor volleyball at the 2028 Olympic Games.

Plans are set to go before the Anaheim City Council this year, with the first phase of development slated for 2023.

Read more about Anaheim's bright future on pages 12–15.



**Top:** Entertainment hub: OC Vibe to bring dining, shopping, fun to Honda Center

**Above:** New home: project to include 1,500 apartments, with 15 percent affordable



**Opposite:** Meadow Park: stretching from ARTIC to Katella pedestrian bridge

For more information, visit [Anaheim.net/OCVibe](https://Anaheim.net/OCVibe)

# A **bright** future ahead

*It is hard to see history  
as you're living through it.  
But, make no mistake,  
what we are experiencing  
is one for the books.*

Except for the rare few among us who lived through the 1918 Spanish flu, never before have we faced a global pandemic.

A 13-month closure of our theme parks and convention center? Sports without fans? Entertainment on hold? Unthinkable pre-2020.

The good news is Anaheim is in recovery with a bright future ahead.

Even with the challenge of the omicron variant, life is mostly back to normal compared to the days of the pandemic shutdowns. We still are fighting coronavirus, and commonsense measures such as vaccines, boosters, testing, masks, washing hands and following basic safeguards will carry us forward.



But we didn't just survive the coronavirus crisis. We are emerging stronger and moving into a new era for our city.

With more than \$10 billion in investment planned around our theme parks and sports and entertainment venues, Anaheim is looking at the biggest reimagining of our city since our golden age in the 1950s and 1960s.

Then, as now, investment in our visitor economy will help us better our neighborhoods, serve our community and lift our quality of life in Anaheim.

Visitors and related economic activity are the lifeblood of Anaheim, something that became painfully clear with their absence during the pandemic.

Money spent at hotels and on entertainment, shopping and dining funds police officers, firefighters, libraries, community centers, parks and more for Anaheim neighborhoods.

The projects coming to our city will help us serve residents for generations to come, just as Disneyland, Anaheim Convention Center, Angel Stadium of Anaheim and Honda Center did for generations before us.

Here's a look at the great things to come in Anaheim.



Triumphant: after 13 months of closure, Disneyland is back strong with big plans for the future

## DisneylandForward

**DisneylandForward, a planning process in the early stages, will look at how space is used in and around Anaheim's theme parks to allow for a wider mix of attractions, hotels, entertainment, shopping and dining throughout the area.**



DisneylandForward: could bring mix of uses all around theme parks





Serving neighborhoods: the Disneyland Resort continues to play a critical role in funding essential city services

The result: We could see rides and lands alongside hotels and restaurants and live entertainment mixed with shopping and dining in new areas around the parks.

It's too early to say exactly what we'll see here in Anaheim. But inspiration can be drawn from the upcoming Fantasy Springs at Disney Resort Tokyo, with attractions based on "Frozen," "Tangled" and "Peter Pan."

When Tokyo's Fantasy Springs opens in 2023, it will mix theme park lands and attractions with hotels and restaurants. It is a model for what we could see along the west side of the theme parks or at the Toy Story Parking Area here in Anaheim.

What does it mean for Anaheim? Well, more fun at Disneyland for us and for those trips to the parks with visiting family.

But it's much more than that. In a normal year, revenue from visitors, primarily to the theme parks, makes up half of our funding for public safety, community services and city obligations.

Through the years, expansions at the Disneyland Resort have brought major gains in revenue for us to use to serve our community.

Since the major expansion of the late 1990s, which brought Disney California Adventure, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa and Downtown Disney, Anaheim's annual revenue from hotel stays has more than tripled to a high of \$163 million just before the pandemic hit.

As we look to an expanding future for The Anaheim Resort, we do so not just for the fun and joy it brings but also for the critical role it will play for our neighborhoods.

## Angel Stadium of Anaheim

It's been 55 years since baseball came to Anaheim.

In that time, we've seen a World Series championship, three All-Star Games and countless great moments, from Nolan Ryan and Rod Carew to Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani.

We have a plan for the next 50-plus years of baseball in Anaheim. It calls for taking underused land around the stadium and turning it into revenue-producing uses we will draw on to serve our community.

It's a once in a generation project, and we're still working through the process with the ownership of Angels Baseball and California's Housing and Community Development Department regarding the levels of affordable housing that will be part of the project.

We continue to work with the state of California on issues related to affordable housing. But we are confident about the project moving ahead and the benefits it will bring.



Stadium site: underused land set to give way to new uses, create revenue for Anaheim

Here's what the proposal calls for:

- **Angel Stadium of Anaheim: renovation of the existing stadium or the building of a new stadium of up to 45,000 seats**
- **Homes: more than 5,000 apartments and condominiums, including affordable apartments**
- **Office: 2.7 million square feet of new office space**
- **Commercial: 1.75 million square feet of retail, restaurants, hotels**
- **Hotels: 943 rooms**
- **Parks: 7-acre flagship city park, plus 5.2 acres of city-required community park space and 11 acres of flexible open space**

Development would play out over the next few decades and could result in \$38 million in new yearly revenue for city services by 2050.



 **OCVibe: epic remaking of area around Honda Center**

## OCVibe

**Honda Center is already one of the most exciting places in Anaheim as home to the Anaheim Ducks and Orange County’s best concerts and entertainment.**

But you haven’t seen anything yet.

OCVibe is a proposal by the Samueli family, owners of the Anaheim Ducks and operators of Honda Center, to create a 95-acre campus with shopping, dining, sports, entertainment, open space, housing, offices and more.

It will be a hub for sports, entertainment, dining, modern workplaces and inviting open spaces.

We expect to see plans for OCVibe move forward in 2022 with phased building getting underway in 2024.

You can see more about OCVibe on page 10.

## Looking Ahead

**Anaheim has always been a city that embraces bold thinking. It was how we grew from a small agriculture town after World War II into a modern city known the world over for our attractions.**

Where other cities rely on shopping centers, auto dealers or big box retailers for a slice of sales tax to fund city services, Anaheim is in the enviable position of seeing dedicated city revenue from hotels, plus sizable amounts of property and sales taxes.

The model has created one of California’s great success stories. Yes, the pandemic was painful. But it has been a once in a lifetime challenge for Anaheim.

Throughout previous challenges, including the travel recession after 9/11 and during the Great Recession, Anaheim’s visitor economy has held up well in its role of supporting what we do for our residents and businesses.

In years to come, expansion in and around Disneyland, Angel Stadium and Honda Center will drive a renewed and better Anaheim.



## Driving Hotel Revenue

Anaheim’s hotel revenue, the largest funding source for police, fire, libraries, community centers and city obligations, is tied to our theme parks. In a typical year, hotel revenue makes up half of our city’s revenue. Hotel revenue has grown with theme park expansion, except during national recessions. The 2020-21 coronavirus pandemic decimated revenue as the parks closed for 13 months, driving home their importance to Anaheim.



# Meeting the challenge

## The coronavirus pandemic has been the challenge of our lifetime.

It has been the biggest disruption to Anaheim in modern times, greater than 9/11 or the Great Recession.

You have to go back to the Great Depression or World War II to find something comparable.

And while those events were bigger, Anaheim was much smaller at the time, with no Disneyland, convention center or sports teams.

The numbers from the COVID crisis are staggering.

At the peak in spring 2020, Anaheim saw 30,000 residents out of work and a 17 percent unemployment rate.

Thousands of hotels, restaurants and other businesses closed for months, some for good.

Our city budget faced a multiyear deficit of more than \$150 million, posing a serious challenge to upholding public safety and community services.

A combination of federal aid and borrowing allowed us to get through the worst of the pandemic without any real impact on services to residents and businesses.

Thankfully, things are much better now and getting better by the day as we learn to live with COVID-19. But it took a lot to get here.

When the pandemic hit locally in March 2020, Anaheim responded with an unprecedented effort to aid our residents and businesses and to bring testing and vaccines to our community.

In all, our city dedicated more than \$70 million in federal, state and our own funding to provide rent assistance, vaccines, testing, food, masks, hand sanitizer, diapers, grants for small businesses and restaurants, help for workers and homeless aid.

As Orange County's largest city, we led our region in vaccines and testing.

## Testing

Before vaccines were available, we focused on testing to deter spread of the virus.

In July 2020, the county's largest testing site opened at Anaheim Convention Center, running through April 2021 and administering more than 125,000 tests.

In summer and fall of 2020, Anaheim started partnering with schools and churches to hold neighborhood testing clinics.

In October 2020, Anaheim added walk-up testing at City Hall, which continues today along with testing at Brookhurst Community Center, East Anaheim Gymnasium and the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center, better known as ARTIC. These sites also became essential to the community during the recent omicron wave.



Testing at Anaheim Convention Center: critical service during pre-vaccine days, more than 125,000 tests administered



## Vaccines

In the earliest days of 2021, our attention turned to vaccines. Led by Anaheim Fire & Rescue, we began six months of large-scale vaccine distribution, with more than 500,000 shots administered, first at a fire facility, then at the Toy Story Parking Area of the Disneyland Resort and then the Anaheim Convention Center. We also brought vaccines into our neighborhoods with mobile clinics and community partnerships.

Along with widespread availability across Anaheim, vaccines and booster shots continue to be available at City Hall, Brookhurst Community Center and East Anaheim Gymnasium.

## Food, masks, other help

In a telling sign of the pandemic's real impacts on working families and seniors, food distribution became a regular event at our community centers, churches and even Honda Center.

With more than 30,000 Anaheim residents out of work at the peak in spring 2020, drive-thru food giveaways became a lifeline for many. Along with food distribution, Anaheim staged three drive-thru mask giveaways, providing some 100,000 masks to thousands of families.

We also funded and worked with the Anaheim Community Foundation to provide meals, toilet paper and other household necessities to seniors and families through a series of rapid response grants to nonprofits. And amid the omicron wave, we handed out free at-home test kits to families in need.

## Rent assistance

With people out of work, Anaheim also faced a rent crisis. Many families found themselves unable to make rent payments or struggling to pay back rent that was due, creating challenges for both landlords and renters.

Working with the state of California, Anaheim has provided more than \$30 million in rent assistance, in most cases wiping out entire balances of back rent accumulated during the pandemic and even assisting with future rent payments. And more is still going out.

## Business help

As businesses struggled with the challenges of California's restrictions in late 2020 and early 2021, Anaheim stepped up with grants and eased code requirements to help take business and dining outdoors.

In all, we've provided more than \$6 million in grants to small businesses and restaurants. We also distributed reopening kits to restaurants that included cases of hand sanitizer, thermometers and masks needed to keep diners and employees safe.

## Reopening

Anaheim's efforts to help struggling families and business owners were desperately needed during the low points of the pandemic. But that was only a fraction of our efforts. We also worked for the safe, responsible reopening of our visitor venues as part of our larger economic recovery plan.

With the reopening of the Disneyland Resort theme parks, the Anaheim Convention Center and the return of fans to Angel Stadium of Anaheim and Honda Center in April 2021, our city's economic recovery took a big step forward.

By June 2021, restaurants and businesses across our city returned to largely normal operations as California lifted nearly all pandemic restrictions.

Today, Anaheim is thriving with visitors from across the nation, continent and the globe back at our theme parks, convention center and sports and entertainment venues.

Revenue from hotel stays, our primary source of funding for public safety, community services and city obligations, is back near pre-pandemic levels.

Anaheim's unemployment is at 5 percent, or about 9,000 people. Still higher than we'd like, but much improved from the devastating figures of spring 2020.

We continue to fight coronavirus with vaccines, booster shots and doses for kids, as well as testing. Our focus going forward is on recovery as we manage what we hope is the tail end of the pandemic.

As you'll read in our cover story, Anaheim's post-pandemic future is bright.



**Top:** Anaheim Convention Center vaccine site: part of more than 500,000 shots administered in Anaheim



**Left:** Senior meal distribution: Anaheim Fire & Rescue Chief Pat Russell hands out food at Brookhurst Community Center in early days of pandemic

For more information, visit [Anaheim.net/coronavirus](https://www.anaheim.net/coronavirus)



### Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

April 28–May 1  
La Palma Park

The beloved Cinco de Mayo Fiesta returns to La Palma Park this year! Enjoy games, live music, performances, dancing, carnival rides, food booths, a soccer tournament and more.

Admission is free.  
[Fiestaunited.org/cinco-de-mayo](http://Fiestaunited.org/cinco-de-mayo)



### OC Black History Parade and Unity Festival

Feb. 5 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Downtown Anaheim

The OC Black History Parade is back this year with a better-than-ever lineup and a new Unity Festival. Join us for a fun parade down Anaheim Boulevard, delicious food, entertainment, music and more on Center Street Promenade.

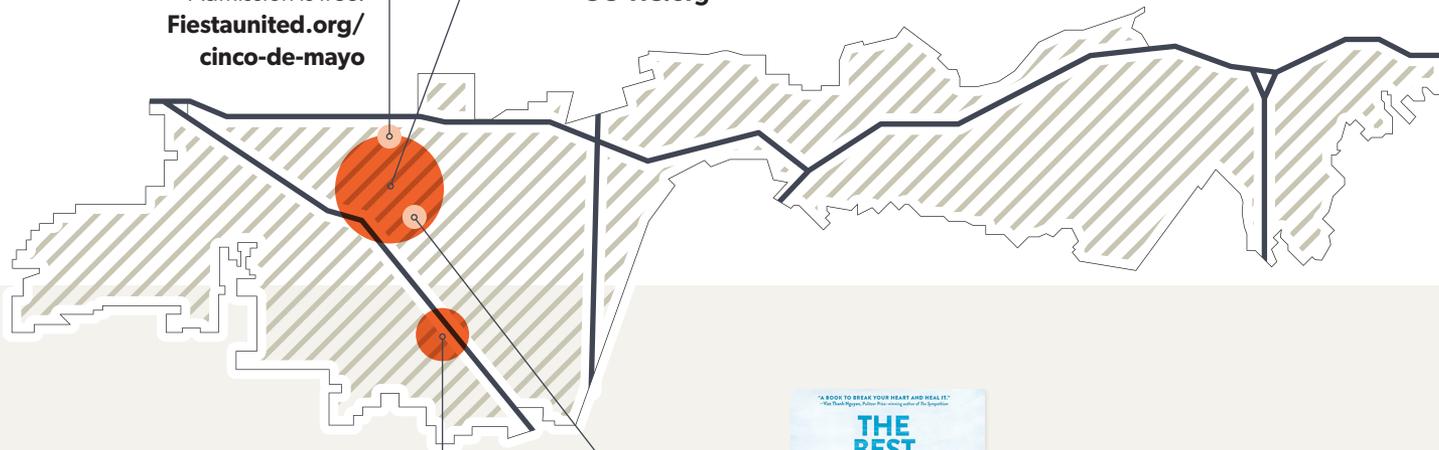
[OC-HC.org](http://OC-HC.org)

### Cars & Coffee

March 3 | 8 a.m.–noon  
Downtown Anaheim

Hosted by K&A Cafe, this monthly car show is a must-see, featuring JDM classic, euro and vintage cars the first Sunday of every month. Show your own car for \$5. Admission for spectators is free.

[DowntownAnaheim.com/events](http://DowntownAnaheim.com/events)



### Anaheim Library Foundation Mystery Authors Luncheon & Silent Auction

April 24 | 11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Sheraton Park Hotel

The Library Foundation's biggest fundraiser of the year is back! Join us at the Sheraton Park Hotel for a silent auction and social hour, followed by lunch, a panel discussion with authors, raffles and a book signing. Tickets available on Eventbrite.

[AnaheimLibraryFoundation.com](http://AnaheimLibraryFoundation.com)



### Anaheim Reads

Feb. 12 | 2 p.m.  
Central Library

Kick off the community-wide reading event at Central Library and continue to celebrate throughout February and March with programs for all ages at your neighborhood library. This year's book is "The Best We Could Do," by Thi Bui, an illustrated memoir about the author and her family's daring escape during the Vietnam War in the 1970s.

[Anaheim.net/library](http://Anaheim.net/library)



**Honda Center**

2695 E. Katella Ave.

☎ (714) 704-2500

🌐 [HondaCenter.com](http://HondaCenter.com)



**Anaheim Convention Center & Arena**

800 W. Katella Ave.

☎ (714) 765-8950

🌐 [AnaheimConventionCenter.com](http://AnaheimConventionCenter.com)



**City National Grove of Anaheim**

2200 E. Katella Ave.

☎ (714) 712-2700

🌐 [CityNationalGroveofAnaheim.com](http://CityNationalGroveofAnaheim.com)

FEB.

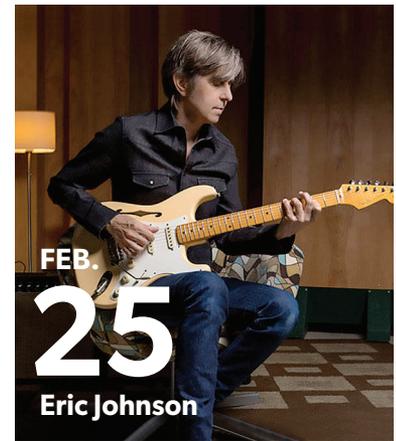
**19,21**

Harlem  
Globetrotters

MARCH

**9-12**

Natural Products  
Expo West



FEB.

**25**

Eric Johnson



MARCH

**19**

André  
Rieu

MARCH

**19-20**

2022 Spirit All Star  
Championship



MARCH

**26**

MercyMe



MARCH

**25-26**

2022 Varsity Dance  
Nationals

MARCH

**24**

Daniel Tiger's  
Neighborhood Live



APRIL

**4**

Journey

APRIL

**1-3**

WonderCon 2022



APRIL

**23**

#IMOMSOHARD

## Contact Us

**General Information** (714) 765-4311 or 311 if calling in Anaheim

**Police** (714) 765-1900

**Utilities** (714) 765-3300

**Fire** (714) 765-4000

**Parks** (714) 765-5191



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## Watch Us



YouTube.com/CityofAnaheim



Channel 3



Anaheim.net





## Be Water Smart

### WAYS TO BE WATER SMART

- Repair all water leaks in a timely manner
- Use a broom — not a hose — to clean driveways and pavement
- Use a shut-off nozzle when using a hose to wash a vehicle
- Adjust landscape watering time to eliminate runoff
- If it rains, give sprinklers a break for a couple of days

Visit our website or follow us on social media for important water-saving news and learn about our upcoming **FREE Be Water Smart** events and workshops.

[ANAHEIM.NET/BEWATERSMART](https://anaheim.net/bewaterSMART)

 [/anaheimutilities](https://www.facebook.com/anaheimutilities)  [@anaheimutilities](https://www.instagram.com/anaheimutilities)



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Sign up for fitness classes, kids' activities,  
sports leagues and more!

**Online or (714) 765-5191**



Community Services



**ANAHEIM.NET/PLAY**