Weaving together culture and community through vintage furniture restoration

Story by Brandon Richardson
Photos by Thomas R. Cordova

Natural light floods into a small Cal Heights home bedroom, cascading over stacks of woven furniture—frayed rush, splintered rattan, damaged Danish cord and threadbare shaker tape. The battered furniture is not on its way to the dump, but rather awaiting restoration by the now-calloused hands of Ghermayn Baker.

For eight months, Baker and his wife Christina Powers—both weary of the rat-race of corporate life—have operated Point By Point Studio out of their historic home, with Powers handling more of the business aspect, while Baker focuses on restoration.

“I was extremely burned out, and it was affecting me physically and mentally,” Baker said. “I knew I needed to take a break and, more importantly, find something that was much more value-aligned to me.”

For his entire life, Baker, 32, was on a corporate career trajectory, he said. He moved from the East Coast to attend UCLA, which led him to marketing. By July 2020, Baker was hired into an executive position with Long Beach-based Human-I-T, a nonprofit that refurbishes donated computers and other technology to provide to low-income people.

Baker had always wanted to do good and, on paper, his new job seemed perfect. With the pandemic raging on, Human-I-T became a crucial partner with Long Beach Unified School District, providing computers and internet hotspots to countless students as education went online.

Meanwhile, Powers, 31, grew up in Seal Beach. She packed up and moved to attend Northwestern University and then worked around the country for 13 years, with long stints in New York and Washington, D.C.

The pandemic, of course, put a stop to that. Being relegated to work from home in her tiny D.C. apartment, Powers said she quickly got burned out and decided to move back to the West Coast. She moved to Long Beach, where she had fond memories, and continued her corporate job remotely.

“I never had a home base until I moved to Long Beach,” she said.

Powers and Baker met in July 2021 and had their first date at HiroNori, the popular craft ramen joint in Bixby Knolls. They hit it off immediately. By November, they had moved into the Cal Heights home together. And by February 2022, they were married.

Amid their whirlwind romance, Powers had enough of her corporate job, which she quit in September 2021. After years working as a business consultant with McKinsey & Company, she decided to actually work for a small business—Gusto Bread—to get that first-hand, front-of-house experience.

For Baker, whose long hours stole days with loved ones—all while being far removed from the good his work was doing—his tipping point came two days after the couple wed, when he quit his job.

Having just married, the couple decided to enjoy some time together before they “figured it out,” Baker said. In April, all their activity caught up to Baker, when he broke two bones in his foot in what he described only as a “freak accident.”

“All of a sudden, I was just chillin’

Continued on page 6
Long Beach will see trash rate increases this summer

By Jason Ruiz

The Long Beach City Council voted June 13 to approve two trash rate increases for accounts serviced by the city, something city officials say is needed to prepare for compliance with a statewide organic recycling law and to prevent its reserves from completely running out.

Customers can expect an increase in July, which will add about $8.39 per month to the average single-family home’s bill, and a second increase in October, which will add an additional $3.34 per month to the average single-family home’s bill and bring the total monthly portion for trash to about $44.66.

Apartments and duplexes would see similar increases, with monthly bills bumping to $8.83 per month and $39.14 per month respectively by October.

“That’s going to be the reality of California trash bills,” dikó Melkonian, deputy director of the Public Works Department, told the City Council on June 13. “The rate increases were the subject of the special Proposition 65 meeting on June 13, which is required under state law when some utility rates are adjusted. Just 33 people submitted protests to the increases, and over 33,000 were needed to create a majority protest to the increase.

While the council voted unanimously to support the increases, some commented that the unfunded state mandates were unfair to city residents, and put the backs of residential and commercial businesses to bear for the new costs of organic recycling.

The organic recycling law that has led in part to the hikes, Senate Bill 1383, was signed into law in 2016 and requires all California cities to divert organic waste in them, but officials estimate that state-mandated program that was adopted without funding or enough facilities to process organic waste.

A cost of service study commissioned by the city found that the bill is expected to add about $8.5 million in costs for the city’s refuse program and the cost to dispose of the organic material, which can be converted into natural gas fuel, is about $20-$40 per ton than other trash.

The city has 13,000 carts for residential and commercial accounts so they can place organic waste in them, but officials will also need to purchase new trucks, hire new drivers and other personnel to administer the program, which is expected to go into effect next year for residential customers.

The new organic recycling carts will be green, and Melkonian said that state law will also require the purple recycling bins to be replaced with blue carts in the future.

A larger rate increase is expected to be voted on at some point in 2024 when residential collection begins for organic recycling, something Melkonian said the city is anticipating adding about $7 million to its costs.

The city has hired a consultant to figure out how high that increase will be.

Part of the increases have been attributed to new state laws, but the city’s new account’s reserve has also been dwindling, and it’s about $20 million below the four-month operating costs the department tries to keep in bank for emergencies.

The proposed rates approved by the council would see the reserve balance quickly increase and hit the $25 million balance targeted by the city by late 2024.

With the council’s recent vote, new trash rates will become effective July 1, with the second increase hitting customers’ bills starting in October.
Local food organizations adapt to rising supply challenges

By Tess Kruenoff

At Farm Lot 59, a half-acre urban farm in Central Long Beach, tomatoes are behind schedule. Typically by June, the farm is harvesting summer crops like tomatoes, beans and peppers, but because of the abnormally wet winter the region saw this year, everything is behind schedule. This year, the farm will see around a inch of rain, but the city got 15 inches this year.

Beyond the food itself, all that water led to other issues, like pests and fungus, said Kanno. Urban farms like Farm Lot 59 are one piece of the larger food distribution network feeding people who face food insecurity across Long Beach, and across the spectrum, those organizations are struggling to overcome multiple challenges at once.

This year’s lower-than-normal yields come amid a heightened need after COVID-era benefits recently ended. Still, the folks behind those organizations remain committed to the cause.

As food insecurity has risen in Long Beach, many urban farms like Farm Lot 59 are looking to the food distribution network to fill in gaps. The organization used to receive about 30,000 pounds of food each week, but with the chain.

The organization had to go to three suppliers—and new legislation—can help fill in the gaps. One grocery store, for instance, started seeing the numbers going down around February of 2021. One unsurpassed food bank used to provide “pallets and pallets and pallets. … pallets and pallets.”

The work has paid off, the pandemic had increased. But it’s not all bad news. While urban farms like Farm Lot 59 are finding it difficult to maintain the same crop yield, other food-suppliers—and new legislation—can help fill in the gaps.

One large food-supplier, which provides food for many Long Beach nonprofits (and 400 agencies across Southern California), is Food Finders. Each month, the organization typically rescues about 3.5 million pounds of food from every source imaginable, such as grocery stores, convenience centers, schools, hospitals and more, before distributing them to nonprofits, explained executive director Diana Dohrmann. One grocery store, for instance, used to provide up to 200 pallets of food every other day. Now, that number is three, Dohrmann said.

“Everybody is giving less than they were before,” said Co, who first started attending the numbers going down around February of 2021. One unsurpassed food bank used to provide “pallets and pallets and pallets. … pallets and pallets.”

Nowadays, executive director Sasha Kanno, who is also a member of the Farm Service Agency with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Everything is really just kind of stagnation and the organizations are struggling to overcome multiple challenges at once. Still, the folks behind those organizations remain committed to the cause.

At Farm Lot 59, all of its edible produce goes to “farm to food banks” — over the past decade or so, it’s donated to senior centers, food banks, nonprofits and more. Now, the organization primarily works with Food Finders, who sends the farm’s produce to the U.S. Vets, and also supports a monthly food hub at Admiral Karkin Park.

“I love to keep the food in the community,” Kanno said. “There’s enough need here in Long Beach, even beyond Long Beach, Long Beach, Long Beach.”

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Ghermayn Baker and his wife Christina Powers in their home-based furniture repair studio.

“In the top 10% of universities that provide the greatest ROI (Georgetown University, 2022)

NO BARRIERS TO THE STRENGTH OF A BEACH DEGREE

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Ghermayn Baker threads new cane for a furniture repair job.

Ghermayn Baker removes old, brittle cane from a chair before threading new cane at Point by Point Studio.

Ghermayn Baker picks out his cane strands to use for a woven chair repair.

“We live in a world that’s really focused on production and consumption. We explicitly did not want to create new products—we wanted to fix what already exists.”

- Christina Powers, Co-Owner of Point by Point
rent and whatever else they need. That committee, according to Zia, has helped move more than 1,400 unhoused students. Building student apartments is a natural next step, and “it can’t be soon enough,” she said.

A critical need

The Harbour student housing development at Orange Coast College, which opened in 2020, may be a model of what Long Beach can expect, at least in terms of demand. The six-floor complex offers five floor plans at different price points, with options for private and shared bathrooms. OCC, Director of Housing and Residential Education Jamie Kammerman said the on-campus units are furnished, utilities and wifi are included in the rent, and lease dates are tied to the school calendar. Housing on campus has been a good option for international students, and the school gives priority for foster youth and offers financial support for military veterans, Kammerman said, adding that having students right there has boosted involvement in school activities. Kammerman said, adding that having military veterans, support for military veterans, to foster youth and offers financial

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San Pedro Bay ports see 3rd consecutive month of increased cargo amid labor dispute

Both ports have seen a dramatic increase in cargo volumes since February, but continue to trail well behind last year’s levels.

By Brandon Richardson

Cargo volumes at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles increased for the third consecutive month in May after a lackluster February, new data shows. In Long Beach, dockworkers and terminal operators moved 718,425 20-foot-equivalent units, or TEUs (the standard measure of shipping containers)—marking a 15.6% increase over April. LA saw a similar trend, moving 779,000 TEUs in May, a 15.3% increase from the month before.

“At mid-year we’re starting to see signs that cargo volumes are on the upswing, with our busiest month

Cargos continue on the ‘Great Boulevard’ improvement project on Artesia Boulevard in Long Beach.

Long Beach, LA County unemployment jump in May

By Brandon Richardson

The unemployment rate in Long Beach, and across Los Angeles County, rose in May, according to data released June 1 by the California Employment Development Department.

After two consecutive months of declines—from 4.3% unemployment in February to 4.5% in April—the EDD reported the city’s rate jumped to 4.6% last month. The labor force in Long Beach contracted by 1,200 people to 239,800.

The number of employed Long Beach residents fell by 2,100 month-over-month, while the number of unemployed residents increased from 10,500 to 11,200.

The county overall followed a similar trend, with the unemployment rate increasing from 4.3% to 4.5%. The labor force decreased by 24,400 residents to 4,969,400.

The number of employed residents in LA County decreased by 36,800 to 4,728,500, while the number of unemployed residents increased by 11,400 to 240,900.

Leisure and hospitality led all sectors in month-over-month job gains in LA County, adding 11,800 positions mostly in accommodation and food services, the EDD stated.

Government, private education and health services, other services, construction and financial activities all also added jobs.

Information saw the greatest loss of jobs, reporting a loss of 5,700 positions—all in motion picture and sound recording industries’

strike. Manufacturing, trade, transportation and utilities, and professional business services also recorded losses.

Of the 154 cities and areas across LA County, 82, or 66%, have a lower unemployment rate than Long Beach, according to EDD data. Six areas—Alhambra, Compton, Montebello, Paramount, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates—have the same rate.

The statewide unemployment rate also increased, rising from 4.3% in April to 4.5% last month, according to the EDD.

“The although the workers’ strike and recent tech industry layoffs have captured headlines, overall, California employers have continued to expand payrolls,” Tamer Osman, research manager at Beacon Economics, said in a statement. “The first five months of this year, the state’s economy has added more than 299,200 jobs, and during a time when many forecasted that we’d be in recession. Moreover, we haven’t yet moved into a seasonally strong period of the year.”

Economic, health care led with payroll increases of 15,300 jobs, followed by professional, scientific and technical services with 13,600 jobs, according to a Beacon analysis. Leisure and hospitality continued to a Beacon a strong period of the year.”

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‘We all feel the pressure’: Why CSULB undergraduate workers hope to unionize

By Kat Schuster

Rachel Livinal worked three jobs over the spring semester while balancing a full load of classes at Cal State Long Beach in the months leading up to her graduation. Two of those jobs were on campus; the other was at Starbucks.

Livinal was among the thousands of undergraduate Cal State University students who signed a petition filed in April to form a union that could represent more than 10,000 student workers who are classified as assistant workers. CSULB employs 2,056 of them, and their average pay rate is $8.67, according to records provided to the Long Beach Post by the university. These workers are all limited to 20 hours per week.

While the university contends that the cap on hours is intended to help students balance work and academics, some students—particularly those with little or no financial support from their families—say it simply forces them to find work elsewhere. That makes it harder—not easier—to juggle their course loads and a work schedule that allows them to earn a living, students interviewed in the effort say.

At the end of the day, it kind of feels like it’s just an unpaid internship,” Livinal told the Post. “It’s not a great situation, but I do what I have to do.”

Students looking to unionize say their fight involving both for higher wages and to raise the cap on hours. The unionization effort would affect working conditions for clerical workers, student media library assistants and more across the system’s 23 campuses. Some 4,000 signatures have been turned over from CSU students, according to Martin Brenner, a technologist and part-time faculty member who is also a chief steward for the California State University Employees Union (CSUEU).

“Students can be asked to do just about anything and everything at low pay rates,” Brenner told the Post. "That really [gets] taken advantage of. [They] are often doing work that a represented employee may make [these] times or more for doing.”

“As it stands now, they have almost no rights at all, and really low pay,” he said.

Brenner says students are being paid less than minimum wage in some cities, like San Diego. “At the end of the day, it kind of feels like you’re working for free,” he added.

[Continued on page 20]
Initial $19.6M projected deficit for 2023 could turn into $20M surplus, city says

Property taxes, sales taxes and charges assessed to utility customers are expected to finish the year with more revenue than forecasted, helping to drive down the shortfall and turn it into an expected surplus.

The additional funds are expected to be used for priority projects, with city management slated to present options for how to spend it to the City Council when the proposed budget for 2024 is revealed in the coming months.

There are a number of underfunded projects that could benefit from the extra funds, including the Shadelaker Road overhaul that could now cost as much as $50 million, or the Belmont Pool replacement project that has stalled because of a funding gap and may now need a redesign to make it cheaper.

Fees paid by utility customers for natural gas consumption are expected to result in a $6.6 million overage for the city, with $12 million of that being tied to the historically high gas prices paid by customers earlier this year.

While the City Council did approve $5.5 million from these fees to go toward a larger pot of money to be used for priority projects, with the city management slated to present options for how to spend it to the City Council when the proposed budget for 2024 is revealed in the coming months.

The Tidelands Fund, which pays for public safety and non-Measure A sales taxes ($6.5 million) all are projected to finish the year with $12.7 million unspent due to vacancies in that department.

The budget update projected that the Police Department could end the year with a $12.7 million unspent due to vacancies.

Despite the update given to the City Council on June 13, the city is still projecting budget deficits in future years through 2027, with more revenue than forecasted, helping to drive down the shortfall and turn it into an expected surplus.

Taxes assessed to hotel guests ($4.5 million), oil from the city’s land-based operations ($3.5 million) and non-Measure A sales taxes ($6.5 million) all are projected to finish the year with a $12.7 million unspent due to vacancies.

Measure A, the 1% city sales tax that city officials have pledged to spend on public safety and infrastructure, is projected to finish with $4.5 million over budget. The Tidelands Fund, which pays for projects and operations along the city’s coast, is projected to finish with a $2.5 million surplus, with $1.5 million of that set aside for projects in the coastal zone.

The budget surplus isn’t entirely due to more money coming into the city; it’s also due to unfulfilled positions across multiple city departments. A shortage of trash truck drivers has led to pickup days being skipped across multiple city departments. A shortage of trash truck drivers has led to pickup days being skipped across multiple city departments.

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Six downtown Long Beach entrepreneurs get $20K in grants

To be one of the 16 small business owners awarded grants from the Downtown Long Beach Alliance following Pitchfest, a “Shark Tank-style” competition.

Each year, the Food Bank of Southern California provides an average of 40 million pounds of food to over 850,000 children, adults, and seniors throughout Los Angeles County.

The battle of food insecurity is an ongoing one, according to a USC study released earlier this year.

The food bank, which has served the metropolitan area for 81 years, has stepped up in response to the growing need for food assistance.
**Vacant LBX storefront to be split into 3, with new tenants to move in as early as next year**

A proposal to divide an Old Orchard Supply Hardware location at Long Beach Exchange into three new parcels for future businesses was approved by the Planning Commission on June 15, paving the way for potentially leasing the space that has been vacant since August 2018.

The site, intended to be the anchor tenants of LBX when it opened in March 2018, but an abrupt announcement in August of that year said the chain was closing all of its stores nationwide.

The East Long Beach shopping center has turned its opening with its food hall “The Hangar” and other restaurants, shops and fitness studios drawing regular crowds to the center. However, the old Orchard parcel on its northwestern most row of shops that backs up to Carson Street has remained vacant.

On Thursday, the Planning Commission approved a proposal to carve up the east 40,000-square-foot space into three new storefronts.

"The largest would be 14,401 square feet, with a 3,289-square-foot space sandwiched in between that and another 1,851-square-foot storefront on the opposite side of the Old Orchard building, where its garden center was located. Plans submitted to the city by TVA Architects Inc., a division of DJM Capital Partners, the owners of LBX, shows the former garden center being enclosed and a complete remodel of the facade. It’s unclear what tenants might be targeted to fill the new retail spaces once they’re completed. DJM Capital did not respond to a request for comment.

Kristopher Golder, vice president of development for DJM, told the commission on June 15 that it is in negotiations with two national retailers DJM thinks could fill the mix of businesses at LBX, and he hopes that the landlord improvements could be completed in early 2024.

"I think the landscaping should follow, and Golders said the hope is that the new tenants could open later in 2024."

**Local food Continuation of story 1**

upward trend to California Senate Bill 1381, legislation which mandates that supermarkets and other food suppliers separate organic waste from trash, and donate at least 20% to nonprofits such as Food Finders. The legislation, which began its implementation process in 2021, proved to be a “huge boost,” Lar said. Its next tier, which includes some restaurants, hotels and venues, will go into effect in 2024. Lar said: “Many of the docs that we were knockin’ on prior to the legislation being implemented, they didn’t have time for us.”

Still, food waste remains a significant issue, said Lar—at least 30% of food produced in the U.S. never makes it to the end consumer, according to the USDA. Finding even more ways to leverage that number could help reduce food insecurity across the board.

A speaks in need, and an issue larger than food supply. While not all organizations have experienced a level of impact, advocates agree that the need has only sharpened.

When Long Beach Community Table, which has only class a few months ago while it was warehouse, “were people calling me every day, saying every thing don’t work.”

The organization was still serving about three people each week, but in the past, it had the capacity to serve about 1,500. The group also had to cut down on its household donations for three and a half months, which was “devastating” both for Cox and the recipients, she said.

“Back in the day, we would turn down in tears multiple times. People would show up at my house and ask for food because my house is my home office,” Cox said. “That really, really hard not to be able to provide the resources that people needed and is getting more challenging.”

Of course, in recent years, Cox said, “Sol Searcher of Long Beach, almost has been able to meet some of the rising need. On June 10, the organization served nearly 300 people at their food bank, a number that used to fall around the 70 to 80 mark for a single day.

"They’re not giving away food, it’s out there," Zambrano said. “It’s just sometimes we can’t get to it because it’s too expensive to pay for a truck to come down from Salinas to Los Angeles or to wherever that may be.”

The organization, though, is now operating a level that has not before and is in track to meeting a goal of recovering over 70 million pounds of produce this year, Zambrano said. While weather was a factor in donations decelerating earlier this year, donations remained within 5% of last year, Zambrano said.

"Shifts to sustainability..."

At Farm Lot 59, Kanoo is preparing for the summer, which is estimated to be the hottest on record. The farm is already 15 degrees warmer than at the shore, a mere miles away.

"As farmers, you kind of get used to the weather constantly," Kanoo said. "But all the air conditioning, the summer, I look and look and look, and it changes every time you look at it.”

For urban farmers, whether you’re a backyard grower, a community gardener or a farmer for a living, the weather is just one part of the job. That’s what makes the things that can be controlled—cropping—may not be the most sustainable solution for everyone—"shifts to sustainability..."

The organization, though, is working to use to see who has extra of what products, to make sharing and support one another easier.

"But like Kanoo, Cox thinks the most sustainable solution is for everyone—"shifts to sustainability..."

Not all organizations are working to increase coordination with other local agencies. She plans to create a list of local agencies who can use to see who has extra of what products, to make sharing and support one another easier.

But like Kanoo, Cox thinks the most sustainable solution is for everyone—"shifts to sustainability..."

The food system, after all, is far more than just not going to the grocery store, said Kanoo, who hopes that people will recognize the effort and labor that goes into the food on their plate.

“Eating season is the best thing to do... and then sharing what you have in abundance,” Kanoo said. “But keeping those dollars local is really where it’s at.”

Organizations, though, can also work together to improve the food supply.

The Food Bank of Southern California, for instance, is looking to partner with local farmers, said product acquisition manager Laurie Settle. The organization is also opening a new North Long Beach location in the coming months.

The space will serve as a “warehouse,” with an area for some warehouses, refrigerator and freezer space, for other food organizations to utilize.

Over the past few weeks, Cox of Long Beach Community Table has also been working to increase coordination with other local agencies. She plans to create a list of local agencies who can use to see who has extra of what products, to make sharing and support one another easier.

But like Kanoo, Cox thinks the most sustainable solution is for everyone—"shifts to sustainability..."

The “majority of our grandchildren have grown themselves and know how to sustain their family,” Cox said.

Apart from developing community gardens, Long Beach residents who don’t have much space can create container gardens or vertical gardens, which can be kept on a porch, patio, or even a wall, like a window, Cox said.

“We want to see more sustainability. And I don’t want it to be something growing a light yellow in their front yard,” Cox said. "When you're that person, and it’s a nutrient-intensive food, can grow in the dark. You can plant in a sunny spot or your own fondness, you’re in a much better situation.”

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CSULB Union

CSULB Union

60% of financial aid recipients have their full tuition covered, and eligible students can apply for any available grant in cases of unexpected financial need, Bentley-Smith said.

Still, students continue to raise concerns.

"I believe that for the work that we do, we deserve to be paid more," Livinal said. "I mean, running a radio station is a real responsibility. Students don't have to do so many things to make so much progress for that station.

Often over the course of her time at CSULB, Livinal said she spent more time at her partner's house in South Gate than her own apartment. Her parents generously fed the two of them, but while she didn't present the threat of getting a steady salary, she was driving a ticket in a parking impacted area.

"Students can be asked to do just about anything and everything at all times, rates. That really gives an advantage of [They are] often doing work that a represented employee may make [three] times or more for doing." - Martin Brown, CSULB Faculty and CSUEU Chief Steward for CSU

"That's honestly what's keeping me alive more than actually staying at my apartment," she said. Livinal worked at 22 West over both semesters of her senior year, and despite the temptation to dedicate more time to the station, she did not work over the 20-hour cap on campus, save for answering a few emails.

"A lot of people here resigned themselves to working, more hours than they are on the clock," she said. "And I decided that from Day One, I wasn't going to do that.

For Chrysler-Gaines-Emory, the Daily alper's editor-in-chief during the spring semester and the upcoming fall semester, she says her role, which pays $15 per hour, would be impossible to do justice within the 20-hour cap.

"It's a heavy workload, keeping a newspaper running—constant news, constant big, constant things going on," she said, adding that she manages a staff of 35, who also work over their 20-hour cap on campus to find additional resources.

Barbara Kingley-Wilson, a CSULB journalism professor who serves as an advisor for the Daily alper and has worked for the Post, empathizes with the students and advises that she would support students who result in an extension in the amount and regularity of pay they can get.

"The CSU acknowledges workers' rights to organize and to collectively bargain with regard to the state's collective bargaining laws and regulations as a matter of state law," the CSU said. "It will be up to the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) to approve an election."

Brenner acknowledged that the petition is the first step of many before a union can actually be formed.

"It is a monumental effort that takes a lot of time, energy, resources," he said.

Livinal, meanwhile, loved her on-campus job. It's where she met her fiancé, and it's where they met several of their close friends. "I spent a lot of late nights with her," she said.

"Adding more than 20 hours a week would mean having to work more hours at her job as radio production and imaging director at student-run radio station, 22 West. She also worked three hours a week as the podcast editor for Dog Magazine.

According to Cal State University's Chancellor's office, the 20-hour cap serves a purpose.

"One of the purposes of having student assistant employees is to provide students the chance to explore and develop career-related skills and gain professional experience while working around their class schedules and commitments," Bentley-Smith said.

"Thus, the 20-hour cap, which only applies during the academic year, allows the students sufficient time to pursue their studies and progress to allow the students sufficient time to pursue their studies and progress to completing their degree within four years.

"But if the three-bedroom, three-bath home is to disperse the heat as well as enhance air circulation in the interior. The combination of the geometric shapes gives a sort of Jenga effect with its jumble of intersecting spaces, with a handsome wooden stairway tying the home's five levels together—a stairway that she's more drawn to than her actual declared major. Gaines-Emsry admits that what is dedicated the majority of her time to the Daily alper at times, it's a duty she's more drawn to than her actual schoolwork, she admits.

"Still all student media is extremely important to our campus, because we keep everybody informed," she said. "We try not to hate on our administration, but a lot of the time, they aren't particularly clear.

Livinal pointed to one obvious barrier that could thwart the effort to unionize—students are also allowed to work more than the 20-hour cap on campus, save for answering a few emails. "I'm still working," she said. "I spend a lot of late nights there. It gets to be too hot, and I'm still not done. I'll just go back to my dorm. Even if I'm not in the newsroom, I'm still working.

"A lot of people here resigned themselves to working, more than they are on the clock," she said. "And I decided that from Day One, I wasn't going to do that.

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Shoreline Village revamp gets approval from Long Beach Planning Commission

By Jason Ruiz

Big changes are coming to Shoreline Village in Downtown. The Long Beach Planning Commission on June 15 approved plans for a revamp of the area that would include the removal of the carousel building, expansion of outside dining areas and a new two-story parking lot.

Along with those changes, commissioners voted unanimously to approve a new master plan for the area that could clear the way for a future hotel, although the hotel was not part of the proposal approved by the commission.

The shopping and dining center was originally approved by the California Coastal Commission in 1979 but hasn’t seen any major renovations since its opening. Debrah Finn, the director of property management for Shoreline Village, said the area is home to 20 small businesses and has become a popular location for locals and tourists since opening over 40 years ago.

“But we need to evolve and continue to work with our community,” Finn told the commission. “While some of the businesses being displaced would be relocated within the nearly designed Shoreline Village, others do not appear to have a space designated for them, according to plans presented to the commission. Tugboat Pete’s, a bowling alley and a popular bird photography business currently don’t have a space set aside for them.

Finn said that plans submitted for relocation are The Funnel House, which is moving just a few feet to the east into a permanent structure and Wheel Fun, which will be relocated to the ground floor of the new parking lot.

Finn said that the new parking deck will add 80 stalls to the area and would bring the total number of parking spaces to 350. The new structure will be completed by the end of the year. The plans also call for a formal connection from the beach bike path to the Rainbow Harbor bike path that could eliminate cyclists having to travel through the parking lot to continue on through Shoreline Village.

“This project is in the coastal zone, the applicant will have to get it approved by the Coastal Commission before any construction permits will be issued by the city. It’s unclear when the Coastal Commission could vote on the item. Its next meeting is July 12 in Newport Beach,” Finn said.

A representative for Shoreline Village told the commission they intend to move all of the games inside Pelican Pier Pavilion to the new location. In place of the old arcade building will be a new deck named “The Hub,” which is two buildings that form a semi-circle around an outdoor pedestrian area that will provide a less obstructed view to the waterfront.

Finn said that the revamp is not proposed to have any improvements to the parking lot, but the Yard House and Tequila Jack’s are both expected to have their outside dining spaces made larger once the renovations are completed.

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Pelican Pier Pavilion, which has been housed inside the carousel building at the center of Shoreline Village, is scheduled to move into the old Wheel Fun location near Parker’s Lighthouse.

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San Pedro Bay Ports

Continued from Page 4

since August of last year,” Port of Long Beach Executive Director Marco Cordero said in a statement. “We look forward to more positive signs in the months ahead.”

The improvement, however, still leaves both ports trading well behind last year's figures. For Long Beach, last month's cargo volume was down 14.9% from the same month last year. In L.A., it was down 13.5%.

During a press conference on June 12, Port of L.A. Executive Director Gene Seroka said May cargo volumes were only about 6% off the port's five-year rolling average, noting the figure is a nearly 60% improvement from February.

Year-to-date through May, cargo movement in Long Beach and L.A. are down 24.8% and 27.2%, respectively.

The steady month-over-month upswing at the twin ports came amid ongoing negotiations surrounding labor shortages.

“Despite what you are hearing from other groups who secure cargo for trans-Pacific sailings and unfasten arriving cargo) who secure cargo for trans-Pacific sailings and unfasten arriving cargo) who secure cargo for trans-Pacific sailings and unfasten arriving cargo),” the PMA statement said, which resulted in the rank-and-file that acting Labor Secretary Julie Su has been accused of weaponizing the supply chain and leaving ships operating at about 70%, with half is due to a slowdown in consumer spending on goods, in favor of services.

As talks continue between the union and employers, Seroka noted that the port is operating at about 75%, with half the loss due to a shift in goods away from the West Coast in favor of East and Gulf coast ports as labor uncertainties continue. The other half is due to a slowdown in consumer spending on goods, in favor of services.

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