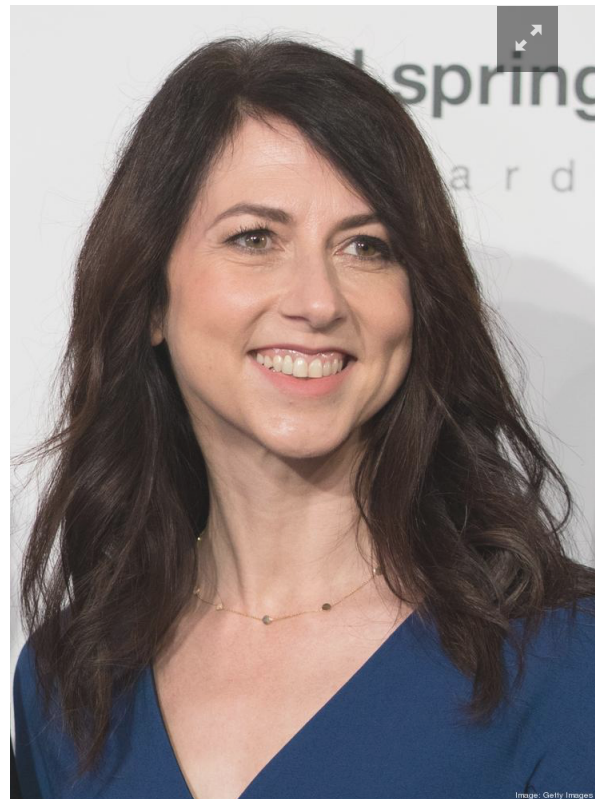


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PHILANTHROPY & NONPROFITS

MacKenzie Scott donates \$2.4 million to Greater Sacramento Urban League for Del Paso Heights housing project



Billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott has donated \$2.4 million to the Greater Sacramento Urban League.

JÖRG CARSTENSEN/PICTURE ALLIANCE



By Emily Hamann
Staff Writer, Sacramento Business Journal
Oct 31, 2022



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A donation from billionaire philanthropist [MacKenzie Scott](#) has reignited one Sacramento nonprofit's plans to build a mixed-use housing project in Del Paso Heights.

The Greater Sacramento Urban League announced Monday that it received an unsolicited \$2.4 million donation from Scott, which is the largest single contribution in the organization's history.

“We’re honored and grateful Ms. Scott and her team recognize the Urban League’s value and impact in the Sacramento community,” said [Dwayne Crenshaw](#), CEO of the Greater Sacramento Urban League, in a statement. “By placing racial equity and social justice at the forefront of her philanthropic mission, Ms. Scott is shining a much-needed spotlight on the nation’s structural and institutional limitations and helping to build a stronger, more resilient society for everyone.”

The organization, which primarily provides job training and placement and housing assistance, plans to use the donation to leverage additional funding to build a new mixed-use housing project on land it owns in Del Paso Heights. The organization purchased around three quarters of an acre of vacant land adjacent to its headquarters at 3725 Marysville Blvd. in Sacramento in 2019.

Crenshaw told the Business Journal the Urban League plans to build a 32-unit development with 13,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor.

“We are hoping that that’s going to be a catalyst for the entire Marysville Boulevard corridor,” he said.

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Planning for the building started in 2019, but the project was put on hold due to the pandemic. At the time, the project cost was estimated at \$15 million, but due to inflation and increased construction costs, Crenshaw said the project could now cost a few million dollars more.

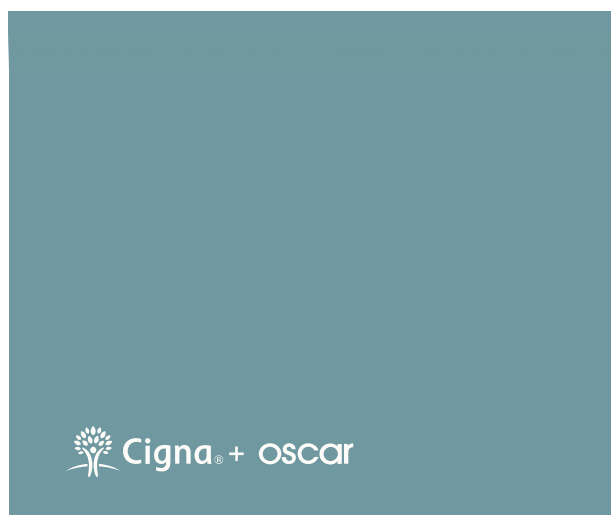
He said the housing will be a combination of affordable and conventional units, although the conventional units will likely be kept below market rate.

He said that in the retail part, the goal will be to find tenants that bring missing services to the neighborhood, such as a grocery retailer, and to provide retail space for entrepreneurs within the Del Paso Heights community.

“We know that there are not a lot of jobs in the community so folks have to leave to go to work, and the housing is very dire,” he said. “There hasn’t been a new development in decades.”

The Greater Sacramento chapter is one of 25 of the Urban League’s 90 local affiliates that received major donations from Scott recently.

Scott is a novelist whose wealth comes from the shares of Amazon (Nasdaq: AMZN) she received as part of her 2019 divorce from Jeff Bezos, founder of the online retailer. She has pledged to give the majority of her money to charitable causes.



Her previous local contributions include a \$4.5 million donation to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento announced earlier this year.

In total, she has given away more than \$12 billion so far, according to Forbes, which estimates she is still worth more than \$30 billion.



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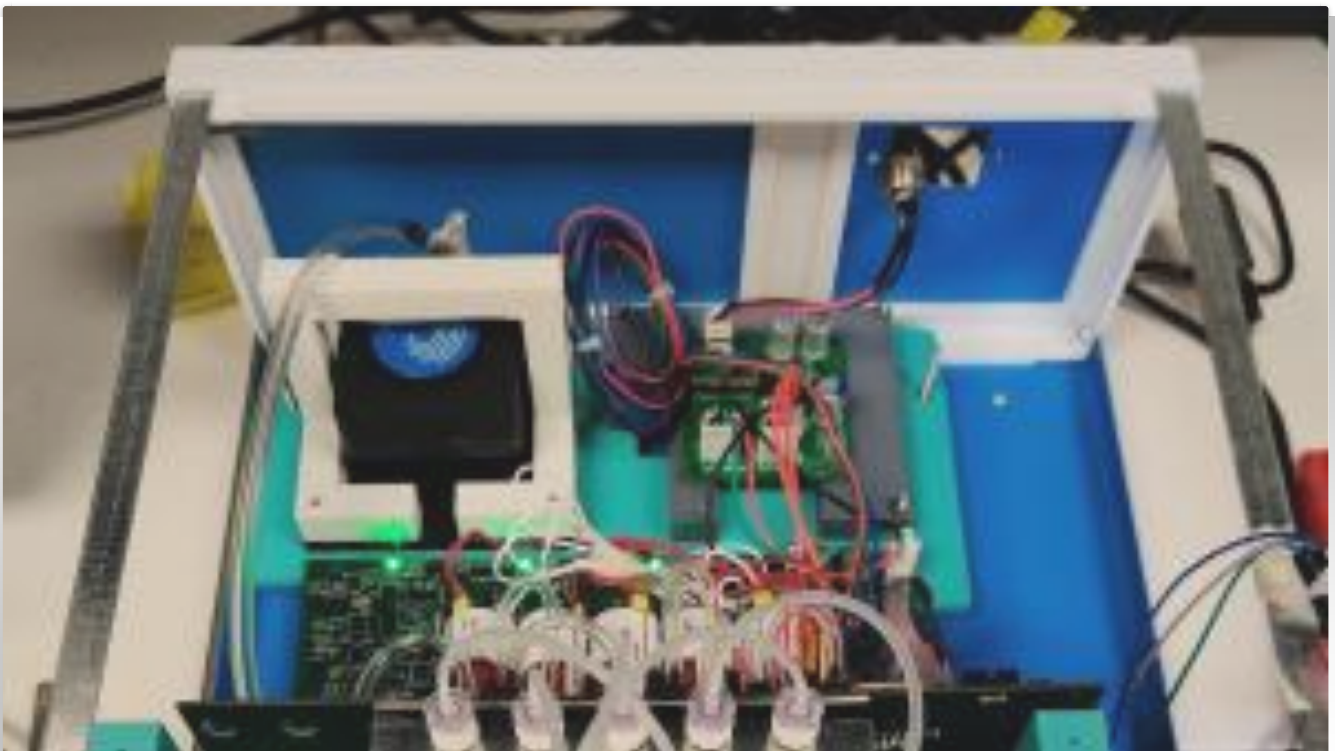


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