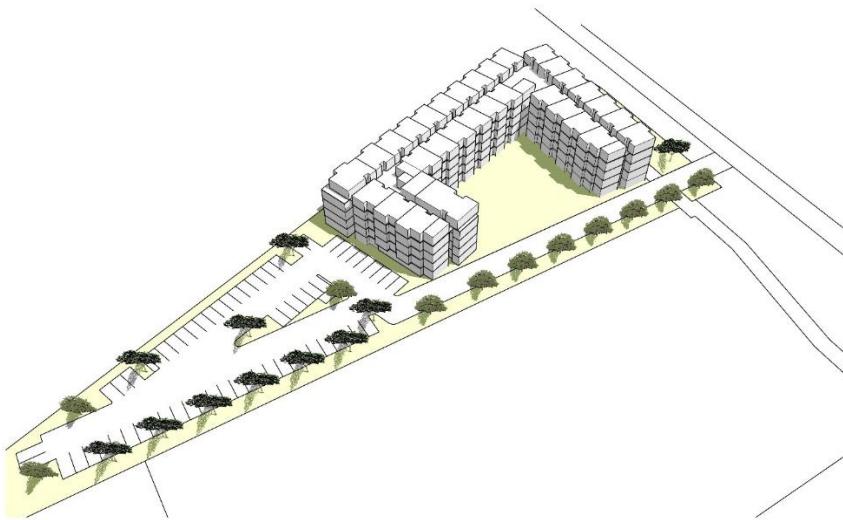


After getting some help from Google, a developer is planning to build 160 affordable apartments in Mountain View

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March 3, 2022



An affordable housing developer plans to build 160 low-cost apartments on a site in central Mountain View it acquired last week with financing from Google LLC.

Charities Housing's preliminary design for the apartment building envisions a single multistory U-shaped structure that would be placed on one side of the triangular-shaped site. Located on East Evelyn Avenue, just east of California State Route 85, the property on which the apartments would sit is within walking distance of the Mountain View Caltrain station and the city's Castro Street shopping district.

"It's in an area that has access to everything everybody wants to have access to," said Noni Ramos, CEO of Housing Trust Silicon Valley, which teamed up with Google to loan Charities \$17.2 million to purchase the site. "This is what creates thriving communities. This was what enables families and individuals to really have that foundation of affordable housing."

Charities, which expects to submit a formal development proposal in coming months, hasn't said how much it will cost to build the complex. But part of the funding for the building will come from Santa Clara County's Measure A funds, said Mark Mikl, the developer's deputy director.

Charities Housing plans to tear down this research-and-development building at 67 E. Evelyn Ave. in Mountain View and replace it with affordable housing.



[Enlarge](#)

The apartments will likely be intended for those with extremely low incomes, Ramos said.

"Our vision for these apartments is to positively contribute to the Mountain View community and provide housing for everyone," Kathy Robinson, Charities' director of housing development, said in a [news release](#) announcing the loan.

Charities bought the East Evelyn site from the Eakins family trust on Feb. 23 for \$18.1 million, according to documents filed with the Santa Clara County Clerk-Recorder's Office. Located between 57 and 67 E. Evelyn Ave., the property measures 2.2 acres.

The affordable apartment building would replace a two-story, research-and-development building built in 1962 that's partially leased to image hosting service Smug Mug Inc. and engineering consultancy 219 Design. Prior to the sale, brokerage firm Newmark was attempting to lease the structure's vacant first floor.

Google and Housing Trust each contributed 50% of the loan for the property to Charities, according to Ramos. The financing came from the pair's Launch Initiative, a \$100 million fund Google and Housing Trust [announced in 2020](#) that provides financing for affordable housing developments.

That fund built on a [\\$50 million investment](#) Google made in Housing Trust in 2019 and stems from the internet giant's pledge earlier that year to [commit \\$1 billion](#) toward building as many as 20,000 new homes in the Bay Area.

Since Google and Housing Trust started Launch Initiative, the fund has subsidized 5,000 affordable residences. Among the projects it's backed are Eden Housing's La Avenida in Mountain View and Santa Clara's Tasman East, which was developed by USA Properties Fund and The Pinyon Group.