



# SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM of natural history

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***FUNGUS FAIR RETURNS TO ORIGINAL HOME AT SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY***

***SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND FUNGUS FEDERATION OF SANTA  
CRUZ KICK-OFF MUSHROOM SEASON WITH THE **MINI FUNGUS FAIR*****

**SANTA CRUZ, CA — December 1, 2022 —** The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History and the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz are partnering up once again to present the *Mini Fungus Fair* on Saturday, December 10. The free outdoor fair will take place in Tyrrell Park outside the Museum and feature a display of local mushrooms, experts to assist with identifications, activities, local artists, and food vendors.

“Santa Cruz is serious about mushrooms,” said Marisa Gomez, the Museum’s Community Education and Collaboration Manager. “Our mushroom walks and talks are some of my favorite programs that the Museum offers because the enthusiasm that our community brings to these events is so contagious. Mushrooms have a unique way of capturing the interests of folks from all walks of life and drawing their attention to the natural world. We’re stoked to bring the Mini Fungus Fair back to the Museum.”

The inaugural *Mini Fungus Fair* occurred at the end of the last mushroom season in February 2022 and welcomed nearly 1,000 mushroom lovers to the Museum. This event harkens back to the beginning of the Fungus Federation in Santa Cruz with the first-ever Santa Cruz Fungus Fair held at the Museum in 1974, where the annual event continued for many years. More recently the event has taken place at the London Nelson Community Center, but this year it returns to its original home at the Museum for an intimate outdoor display.

“The Fungus Federation is pleased to continue a long-lasting relationship with the Museum by supporting the *Mini Fungus Fair* and *Fungus February*. The principal charter of the Federation is education about fungi and mushrooms, so what better way for us to help further that goal than to participate in the Museum’s efforts to introduce more of the public to the magic of mushrooms,” said Richard Rammer, Fungus Federation Prime Minister.

While the London Nelson Fungus Fair will not occur this year, the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz will host a series of “forays” throughout the month of January, followed by the return of *Fungus February* at the Museum, featuring a series of events celebrating and examining the mushrooms of the region. Events include guided walks with experts, art workshops, and programs for youth.

Early rains have led to a promising start of the mushroom season in Santa Cruz, which is a renowned location for mushroom hunters. “Fungi are essential and vital to the health of the ecology of the world. It has been shown repeatedly that plants with fungal associates are healthier and grow better than those without. Mushrooms come in a myriad of sizes, shapes, and colors. It is rewarding to watch people discover the beauty and diversity of mushrooms. Besides being pretty and the important role they play in nature, there are many culinary delights to be experienced by eating mushrooms,” said Phil Carpenter, science advisor for the Fungus Federation.

***To learn more about the Mini Fungus Fair, visit***  
***[www.santacruzmuseum.org/12-10-mini-fungus-fair](http://www.santacruzmuseum.org/12-10-mini-fungus-fair)***

#### **About The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History**

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting people with nature to inspire stewardship of the natural world. Founded on the collection of naturalist Laura Hecox, it is the oldest public museum in Santa Cruz, founded in 1905. The Museum features hands-on educational exhibits and events indoors, outdoors, and online for people of all ages to discover and learn about the natural history of this region. Children are often seen climbing on the life-size gray whale model outside the Museum, a cherished Santa Cruz landmark created in 1982.

Learn more about the Museum and plan your visit at [santacruzmuseum.org](http://santacruzmuseum.org). We invite you to follow us on social media to see updates on current events, fun facts about nature, science, and local nature sightings.

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