In Marin, CURRENTS

8 QUESTIONS FOR
Dennis Bartels
America's Cup aside, the big news along the Embarcadero in San Francisco is the Exploratorium's expansion and relocation to Pier 15-17 from its familiar location in the Marina District.

Executive Director of Exploratorium
Novato

1. Do you have a favorite exhibit?
Colorful Shadows, which enables you to see your own shadow against the wall in color instead of gray.

2. How many visitors do you get each week?
We have 5,600 schoolkids per week on average and often triple that number on busy weeks. However, the majority of our visitors are adults.

3. What are you most excited about regarding your future new location?
Accessibility via all major public transit systems, not to mention bike paths, will be great. For my fellow Marinites, I propose every day ferry over to the farmers' market, visit the museum and stores, and then ferry home.

4. What is your favorite gift to buy in the Exploratorium gift store?
I personally love the super balls. They bounce and don't lose their momentum. Hours of fun.

5. What are your favorite geeky science websites?
Of course I'd love to say Exploratorium.org, given that we have over 40,000 pages of original science education content and have won five Webby Awards. Other sites I like: Wired, CNN and Boing Boing.

6. If you were an element, which one would you be? It really be any of the "oble" gases, but I'm actively working with neon as an artist, so neon would have to be at the top of the list. However, I'm also fascinated with mercury, because it's the only metal that's liquid, and it must be handled safely but is still mesmerizing by virtue of its physical properties.

The warm weather, great schools, easy drive to the city and the people. What's not to like?

8. What's your favorite drink and where do you like to drink it?
At the moment, I am into prosecco and enjoy pieces sans. My favorite place to consume a piece sour is at La Mar, just down the street from our future new Exploratorium home.