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Leadership Sacramento Class of 2021 Unveiled Mack Road Valley Hi Community Center Project

Approximately \$100k in funds and donations raised helped to completely reimagine a South Sacramento safe haven for at-risk youth and families

Sacramento, Calif. (March 4, 2022) – The Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber Foundation’s [Leadership Sacramento 2021 \(LS21\) class](#) announced today the completion of their community betterment project - the renovation of the Mack Road Valley Hi Community Center grounds. The LS21 class was created with a compassionate spirit and a lofty objective: to make a sustainable, long-lasting and notable impact in the lives of our region’s most vulnerable residents. In early summer of 2021, the class chose [ReIMAGINE Mack Road Foundation](#) (RMRF) as this year’s class project beneficiary. Together, in partnership with project sponsors and donors, LS21 is proud to share that they have delivered on their promise to renovate and enhance the community center grounds, which serve as a safe haven for at-risk youth and families living in the under-served neighborhoods of Mack Road, Valley Hi, and Center Parkway in South Sacramento.

“We met early on in the process with the kids/teens that utilize the center and took note of their vision for this space that had so much promise,” said Yessenia Anderson, Leadership Sacramento Class 2021. “We are so incredibly grateful for all of the support our class received to bring those ideas to life - from donations to volunteer hours - it all has culminated in a space that will be enjoyed for generations to come.”

Approximately \$100k was raised in funds and in-kind donations from various local businesses and residents, and more than 1000 volunteer hours were dedicated to the project. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place Wednesday, February 23, 2022, to officially commemorate the completion of the various outdoor renovations. Among the many enhancements were the removal of a large tree, new concrete pathways, a new fence, a deck, a gazebo, and the 10th ROOT Garden presented by the Sacramento Kings and Raley’s. Donors and supporters gathered Wednesday to celebrate and tour the new outdoor space. Notable attendees included Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Supervisor Patrick Kennedy (District 2), Councilmember Mai Vang and the Sacramento Kings’ very own, Slamson.

“I would like to thank the Mack Road Partnership Board of Directors for their vision and commitment to our community. This Community Center is only possible because of their unwavering support and dedication,” said Bill Knowlton, Executive Director, The Mack Road Partnership. “I am also very grateful to LS21, sponsors and donors of this project for their help in enhancing this critical community resource.”

As the first class to form in the COVID-19 ‘recovery phase,’ LS21 faced unique challenges and barriers. However the class was still incredibly successful in their goal and presented a \$33,000 check to the foundation with extra funds left over so they can continue to make this sacred space theirs.

“Despite the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic, the Class of 2021 forged ahead in their civic responsibility to identify a need and execute on a solution,” shared Andrea Ollanik, Executive Director of the Metro Chamber Foundation. “Beautifully aligning with the mission of Leadership Sacramento, the renovation of the outdoor area of the Mack Road Valley Hi Community Center reflects the intersection of vision and action.”

FULL LIST OF PROJECT SPONSORS

Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation
Intel
AGC of California
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Raley's
Councilmember Mai Vang
Swinerton
Yolo County Children's Alliance
Green Acres
Unleashing Leaders
Five Star Bank
West Coast Arborists, Inc.
Dignity Health

Downey Brand
Delta Print Group
HGA Sacramento
Sacramento Kings
Bonney Plumbing, Electrical, Heating and Air
Lucas Public Affairs
Teichert Foundation
Broadridge
Cunningham Engineering
Supervisor Patrick Kennedy
Sacramento Tree Foundation
Sacramento Region Community Foundation

[View images of the ceremony here.](#)

About Leadership Sacramento

Leadership Sacramento, founded in 1985, is a program of the Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation that develops community-minded business and civic leaders of tomorrow. This year-long interactive program provides a behind-the-scenes view of the issues that impact the region's economy. Leadership Sacramento is available to a select group of participants chosen through a competitive application process, hosting monthly day-long sessions and culminating in the completion of a community betterment project. Learn more at <https://metrochamber.org/foundation/programs/leadership-sacramento/>

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