

Valleyside Colleges



Los Angeles Pierce College

Child Development Academic Facility Project

Los Angeles Pierce College is modernizing how it trains tomorrow's early education workforce.

BuildLACCD is proud to announce the substantial completion of the new 11,020 square foot dedicated to the **Child Development and Early Childhood Education** - achieved on **August 6, 2025**. This milestone marks the end of construction and the beginning of a new chapter in student learning and workforce training.

Designed by **RACAIA Architecture and Interior Design**, the facility maximizes every aspect of the project site to create an enriching real-world inspired learning environment. Sited adjacent to the bond-funded Child Development Center, the new building offers unique learning opportunities for hands on learning. The indoor classroom labs feature direct views of the outdoor play area, supporting both supervision and academic observation learning.

The interior spaces are designed for maximum flexibility, allowing faculty to tailor the furniture and equipment based on the needs of the specific lessons. At the heart of the courtyard is a **new Southern Live Oak**, surrounded by four **Burgundy Desert Willows**, creating an inviting and shaded outdoor learning space. The landscaping incorporates native plants and shrubs local to the West San Fernando Valley and intentionally selected to foster early childhood development.



Groundbreaking, April 2024

The new facility advances the District's sustainability and decarbonization goals. The 100% electrified, Net Zero Energy building is powered by 3,200 square feet of total photovoltaics (PV). This system will generate approximately 51 KW in power, offsetting 100% of the building's average energy demand. Other features include highly efficient glazing and shade canopies to reduce solar heat gain, and a rain garden bio-retention and bio swales designed to treat approximately 3,100 cubic feet of storm water.

Over 16 months of construction, **Suffolk Construction**, the Design-Build ("DB") Entity, worked closely with the College Project Team and College Administration to minimize disruptions, for

example, scheduling utility shut offs during off-hours to stay on schedule without impact to operations. The team also identified opportunities to re-sequence construction activities and added additional crews to work on the three buildings simultaneously. An AV specialist was engaged early to ensure seamless integration with the District's design standards, laying the groundwork for the smooth installation of the equipment and commissioning.

The DB contract exceeded the 30% **Local, Small, Emerging, and Disabled Veteran (LSEDV) board goal** with a 58% spend of contract dollars on LSEDV-qualified firms. In partnership with the 24 building trades, safety was a top priority. In June, the project was presented with Cal/OSHA's Golden Gate Partnership Recognition.

Over the next month, approximately \$1.3 million furniture and equipment will be delivered and installed. Upon building occupancy in **Spring Semester 2026**, the bond program will begin to demolish the existing outdated bungalows, located an approximate 5 minute walk away. This area will be transformed into student centered space with new seating and drought-tolerant landscaping.

Los Angeles Pierce College offers 2 Associate Degrees and 5 Certificate of Achievement programs in early childhood education. Since the 2001, \$882 million in bond funding has been invested to transform LA Pirece College into the modern college known for diverse academic programs.

CDAF was made possible through funding from Measure CC. **Safework, Inc.** is the College Project Leadership Team, led by College Project Director, **Soufiane Boudiaf**, Design Manager **Pavan Bhatia**, Project Manager **JoseGabino Cortez-Ramirez**, Project Engineer **Gisselle Gonzalez** and the PMO Regional Project Director is **Dora Lorente**.

Photos Taken During Construction:



Site Preparation, April 2024



Framing Complete, September 2024



Aerial, March 2025



Landscaping Install, June 2025